



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

Nov. 18, 2014

Volume 35



Rev. Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

As I'm writing this I'm packing for a trip to Ethiopia. It will be an 11 day tour and I'm taking the same little carry-on suitcase that I use on my two-day trips when travelling around our Synod! "Travel light" was one of Jesus' pieces of advice to his disciples. But to be honest with you, that is not the reason why I keep my luggage light. The reason is that our tour in

Ethiopia is 1700 km long. We'll be staying in six different places while visiting development projects supported by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank and its partners. I will keep you posted on Twitter and Facebook with updates provided that I have internet access to do so. Twitter tweets can also be read on our website www.easternsynod.org

I owe thanks to Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Canadian Foodgrains Bank and our National Bishop Susan for giving me this opportunity to learn more about our collaborative efforts to make this world a better place for all people. I'm excited to go back to Africa where I had the privilege to live for six years a long time ago.

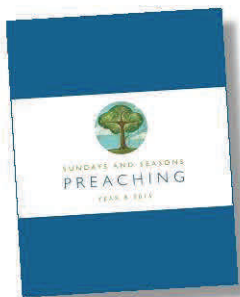
I will come back before Advent but since this is the last newsletter before the first Advent I would like to let you know that

there will be a couple of different Advent devotionals on the Eastern Synod website <http://easternsynod.org/ministries/worship/>; please check for them as First Advent draws nearer.

Speaking of Advent, which for many of us means Christmas parties and preparations, have you seen the CLWR's gift catalogue? You can find many meaningful gifts to your business partners, employees and/or loved ones. The catalogue can also be found online: <http://clwr.donorshops.com/products/giftsfromtheheart.php>

Let's keep in touch.

Pastor
Riitta



A new, annual resource for preachers

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NEW

Pastor Colin Cameron of Holy Cross, Burlington shares a new prayer rota with the Eastern Synod to support our partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

Prayers for ELCJHL

Every Week Bishop Munib Younan

30-Nov-14	The congregation of the Church of the Redeemer, Jerusalem
07-Dec-14	The congregation of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Amman
14-Dec-14	The congregation of the Church of the Reformation, Beit Jala
21-Dec-14	The congregation of the church in Beit Sahour
28-Dec-14	The congregation of Christmas Church, Bethlehem
04-Jan-15	The congregation of the Church of Hope, Ramallah
11-Jan-15	Pastor Sani Ibrahim Azar
18-Jan-15	Pastor Dr. Mitri Raheb
25-Jan-15	Pastor Saliba Rishmawi
01-Feb-15	Rev. Ashraf Tannous
08-Feb-15	Rev. Samer Azar
15-Feb-15	Rev. Imad Haddad
22-Feb-15	Women's Ministries in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
01-Mar-15	Youth Ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
08-Mar-15	The Lay Leaders Academy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
15-Mar-15	The faculty, staff, and students of Dar al-Kalima Evangelical Lutheran School in Bethlehem
22-Mar-15	The faculty, staff, and students of The Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour
29-Mar-15	The faculty, staff and students of The Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah
05-Apr-15	The faculty, staff and students of Talitha Kumi Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Jala
12-Apr-15	The participants in The Al-Mahaba Kindergarten on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem
19-Apr-15	The participants in The Environmental Education Center in Beit Jala
26-Apr-15	The participants in The Martin Luther Community Development Center in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem
03-May-15	Mr. George Awad, Church Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
10-May-15	Mrs. Ikhlas Siriani, Administrative Assistant of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
17-May-15	Ms. Antoinette Karam, Print Director of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land Prayers for ELCJHL
24-May-15	Mrs. Bassimah Jaraiseh, Women's Work Facilitator of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land
31-May-15	Mr. Adeb Mreib, Chief Accountant, Mrs. Doris Emil Atik, Accountant, Mr. Nader Nassar, Accountant of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
07-Jun-15	Rev. Carrie Smith, English-Speaking Pastor and Special Assistant to the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
14-Jun-15	Rev. Rolf Pearson, International Ecumenical Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
21-Jun-15	Dr. Charlie D. Haddad, the ELCJHL Director of Education
28-Jun-15	Mr. Salameh Bishara, Resource & Curriculum Development Officer, Programs/ Projects / Activities Coordinator of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
05-Jul-15	Ms. Georgette Hazboun Rabadi, Educational Development and Liaison Officer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
12-Jul-15	Ms. Danae Hudson, Communications Coordinator of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and Holy Land
19-Jul-15	Rodny Said, student at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

 Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

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Challenging poverty
Changing lives



www.clwr.org

Report of the Treasurer (To October 31, 2014)

It is wonderful to see that Canadian Lutheran World Relief and ELCIC Praise Appeal offerings are tracking nicely ahead of 2013! Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for regular (undesignated) benevolence as these offerings are tracking 5% behind 2013 on a "year to date" basis.

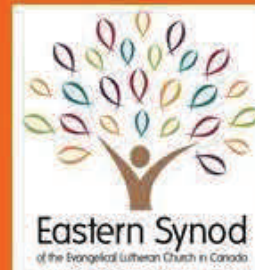
How can you respond to this financial challenge? Bishop Pryse and I encourage your congregation to prayerfully consider the requests that we outlined in a letter that was sent recently to all congregational pastors, chairpersons and treasurers. With every congregation doing its part, balanced budgets for 2014 and 2015 are attainable!

Your offerings to regular (undesignated) benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the ELCIC Praise Appeal and other synodical/church-wide causes are both urgently requested and much appreciated. With each of us doing our part, we can ensure that these important ministry needs are fully funded!

For details on offerings received to date refer to [The Report of The Treasurer](#) or to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the Treasurers/Financial Info button.



Biennium Reconciliation Initiative



FROM *Bishop Michael* +

In the last issue of *The Eastern Synod Lutheran* I highlighted our Assembly 2014 motion ES 14-08 that addressed homelessness and affordable housing strategies. Since poverty reduction goes hand-in-hand with affordable and adequate housing the Assembly again passed a motion about **poverty reduction strategies** (ES 14-17). It speaks for itself:

“That the Eastern Synod and its churches and ministries study, discuss, and take action regarding the issue of poverty in Canada as it relates to their specific communities and this should include coming together at the 2016 Synod Assembly with a focus on poverty reduction strategies.”

I want to share a quote from *Canada Without Poverty*, a federally incorporated, non-partisan, not-for-profit, charitable organization dedicated to the elimination of poverty in Canada. They write:

To live in poverty in Canada is to live with insufficient and often poor quality food. It is to sleep in poor quality and/or unaffordable housing, in homeless shelters, or on city streets and parks. It is on a daily basis to have to make difficult and painful decisions involving trade-offs, such as whether to “pay the rent or feed the kids,” pay the electric bill or go to the dentist, buy a new bus pass or forego inviting friends for dinner. To live in poverty is also to be at greater risk of poor health, family or neighborhood violence, and a shorter lifespan. It is to be unable to participate fully in one’s community and greater society. And it is to suffer great depths of anxiety and emotional pain.

Our Assembly theme, *Together: For the Love of The World* calls us to be about Jesus’ mission in and for the love of the world – I encourage you to study, discuss, and take action regarding the issue of poverty in Canada.

With all best wishes,

+ *Michael*

Bishop Michael J Pryse

Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Vacancies

St. Peter’s, Cambridge, ON

Trinity, Ayton, ON

Maynooth/Raglan Parish,
Raglan Twp. ON

For more information regarding vacancies please contact Pastor Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop.
dreble@elcic.ca

Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, a federated college of Wilfrid Laurier University is offering a new BA program: the Honours Bachelor of Arts in Christian Studies and Global Citizenship.

“In this program you will learn to think about your faith, the world, and your place in it” according to Dan Phillips, Student Advisor & Admissions Coordinator.

To read more go to:

<http://www.easternsynod.org/story/november-12-2014-honours-bachelor-arts-christian-studies-and-global-citizenship>



Ministry Changes

Rev. Christian Schweter finishes at First Lutheran, Toronto on Nov. 30 and begins at St. Paul’s, Magnetawan on December 1.

thirdspace_

Sharing...the story.the meal.the journey.

Pastor Anne Anderson, community pastor at thirdspace_ Waterloo Lutheran Seminary recently wrote an open letter explaining a bit about thirdspace_

Anne reminds us that many high school students are right now making choices about what their next steps should be.

"Have you spoken with students in your context about where they are headed?" asks Anne.

To read the whole letter, go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/story/november-12-2014-thirdspace>



Ebola Aid For Liberia

Praise Band Concert

Trinity Lutheran Church in collaboration with Liberian Community in London

Trinity Lutheran Church

746 Colborne St (at Oxford St.)
www.trinitylondon.ca

6th December 2014, 7pm

Featuring local praise bands and talent from:

Trinity Lutheran Church

Liberian Community

London Christian Fellowship International and others

Free Will Donation

Proceeds directed through Canadian Lutheran World Relief - CLWR

Also accepting bars of unscented soap, hand sanitizer, medical gloves and masks

Nemo dat quod non habet, "You can't give what you don't have," which means before anything else, we who lead must actually embody the Spirit-saturated, Christ-following, God-loving way of life we hope to pass on through our churches. To become like Christ, we need to have the Spirit of Christ within us, among us, before us, beside us, as the old Celtic prayer says. We need to be Spirit-saturated people. – Brian D. McLaren

It is in this need to be Spirit-saturated leaders that the Seaway Area of the Eastern Synod hosted a clergy retreat at Camp Lutherlyn from Nov 2 to 5. They used Barbara Brown Taylor's book "An Altar in the World" to engage in different spiritual practices throughout the retreat.

Here they are practicing "groundedness - the practice of walking on the earth" with a hike in Shaw Woods, near Eganville, ON.

Pictured from left to right, Pastor Doug Reble, Pastor Bruce Thompson, Pastor Anette Smith, Pastor Norine Gullons, and Pastor Rob Weisner. Taking the picture is Pastor Steve Hoffard, Dean of the Seaway Area and retreat leader.

Submitted by Pastor Steve Hoffard



Eastern Synod
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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Canadian Lutheran
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Gifts
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