

# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

Dec 16, 2014

Volume 36



## A Northern Nativity Bishop Michael Pryse

The late Canadian artist William Kurelek, a man of deep faith, created a series of paintings published under the title A Northern Nativity. Each painting depicts a Christmas Eve image of the Holy Family in a contemporary, Canadian, equivalent of the Bethlehem stable. We see Mary, Joseph and Jesus huddled in the corner of a service station, a prairie grain elevator or an abandoned fishing cabin. But while the settings change, the human context remains the same. In each image the world is largely unaware of the family's presence. Around them life continues, oblivious to the great miracle which has come to pass. And the same thing happens for us today.

How, for instance, will you experience Christ on Christmas Eve when you arrive at church and find your regular pew inhabited by someone who might only worship this one, single day of the year? How will our children be helped to make time for Jesus in the rush to open gifts and compare them with what their friends got and with their own secret desires? What new reality is Christ working for you – what special gifts is he offering you – building and bringing to completion for you in this huge, mad, marvellous monstrosity that we call Christmas?

Yes, I love Christmas and everything that comes with it; the trees, lights, carols, full churches, gifts, parties, friends, candles and family. But sometimes I wonder whether something, or *someone*, is missing.

The miracle of the incarnation is more than something we remember. It needs to be part of our lived reality today! For if the babe does not again take flesh, the Bethlehem star is but an optical illusion leading to nothing. If we are not empowered to offer a gift to the one in need, then there are really no wise men searching. If there is no praise or joy within our hearts, then there are no angels singing; no shepherds watching.

Please join me in praying that the coming Christmas season might be a time of renewal wherein we are blessed to experience, and merely commemorate the One whose birth we await. Join me in praying that Jesus might

be born anew within us all!

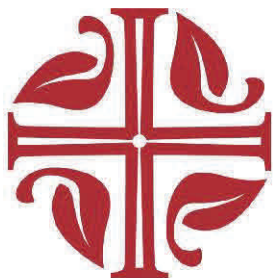
Follow this link to see some of the images from A Northern Nativity  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKK\\_uvnph08](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKK_uvnph08)



All of the staff at the Eastern Synod office wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.

May you feel God's presence in the candles, that softly spread their glow at Christmas and may you experience the wonder of His abiding love, as He guides you, through each day of the coming year.

May God's Blessings be with you.  
At Christmas and New Year!



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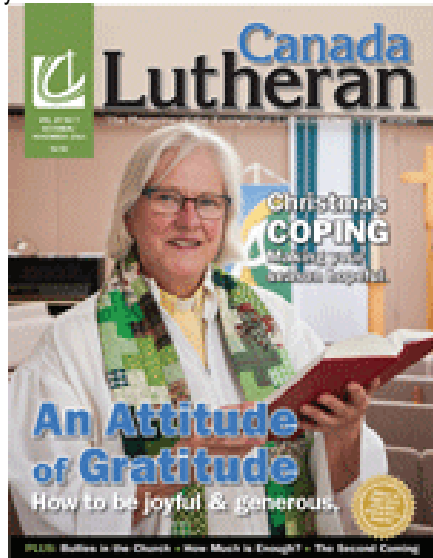
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### Church Administrators' Workshop



The response to our first workshop was so good that we're doing it all over again!

Thursday, April 16, 2015

9 am – 3 pm

Eastern Synod Office

74 Weber St. W. Kitchener

No cost, lunch included

To register contact Liz either via email, [ezehr@elcic.ca](mailto:ezehr@elcic.ca) or call 519-743-1461.

Space is limited so please register early.

### Report of the Treasurer (To November 30, 2014)

As was the case in October, offerings remitted for Regular (undesignated) Benevolence as of November 30<sup>th</sup> continue to track behind those received for the same period last year, while offerings for Canadian Lutheran World Relief and the ELCIC Praise Appeal are running nicely ahead.

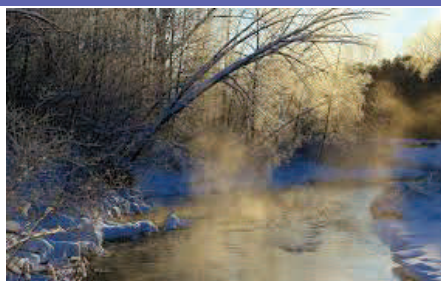
Please know your gifts are appreciated beyond measure, and are doing good works across the Synod and around the world. We hope you will continue to give generously to support this important work. Thank you!

#### How to Give to the Benevolence Fund

Some congregations provide offering envelopes with a separate line for Benevolence. If your congregation is one of these, you can add a special gift to your regular offering and mark the amount on the Benevolence line. If you give through pre-authorized remittance (known as PAR or POP) ask your congregation's financial secretary how to make a special gift.

Some congregations build a congregational Benevolence commitment into their annual budget. When you increase the total amount of your regular giving, whether by envelope or by PAR/POP, your congregation will be able to make a more generous benevolence gift to the wider church.

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



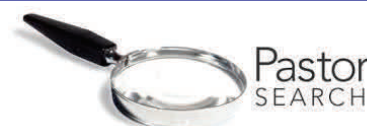
Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Susan Climo and her husband Chris as they mourn the loss of her father.



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### Vacancies

#### Current Vacancies:

St. Peter's, Cambridge, ON  
Trinity, Ayton, ON

#### Upcoming Vacancies:

Grace, Eganville, ON  
St. Timothy's, Pembroke, ON  
St. Paul's, Richmond Hill, ON  
Mount Calvary, Ottawa, ON  
Augsburg-Bonnechere Parish, ON

### Ministry Changes

Rev. Annette Smith finishes at Grace, Eganville Dec. 28 and begins at St. Mark's, Kitchener on Jan 1.

Annette will also finish as Dean of the Ottawa Valley Ministry Area on Dec. 31.

Rev. Paul Roellchen-Pfohl begins as Dean of the Ottawa Valley Ministry Area on Jan. 1.

Rev. Svante Olsen finishes at Zion, Pembroke on Dec. 31.





*Elections will be held at the 2015 Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) National Convention in Edmonton, AB, July 9–12, 2015 for vacant positions on the ELCIC National Church Council, the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services, Inc. and the ELCIC Court of Adjudication.*

The positions for officers on National Church Council are pursuant to ELCIC Administrative Bylaws, Part VIII, Section 2:

"The election of officers shall proceed without oral nominations, except that the National Church Council shall nominate a person for the office of treasurer. If the first ballot does not result in election, it shall be considered a nominating ballot. The officers shall be elected in the following order: bishop, secretary, treasurer, and vice-president."

For National Church Council, the historical practice for election;

"The Executive Committee of the council shall consist of the officers of this church. In addition to the officers there shall be sixteen (16) elected members of National Church Council: one rostered minister and one lay person from each of the synods of British Columbia and Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario, one rostered minister and two lay persons from each of the synods of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and three rostered ministers and three lay persons from the Eastern Synod."

For ELCIC Group Services, Inc., ELCIC GSI Inc. Bylaws Section 4.03.1;

"At each annual meeting of the member held every fourth year after the 2011 annual meeting of the member, the member shall elect two individuals to replace the two directors whose term of office has expired at such meeting. Such individuals must be nominated by the ELCIC Convention held prior to such annual meeting and must be members of the ELCIC Pension Plan. One such individual must be on the ELCIC Roster and the other individual must not be on the ELCIC Roster at the time of nomination by the ELCIC convention."

And for ELCIC Court of Adjudication, ELCIC Constitution Article XVIII Section 2.

"The Court of Adjudication shall consist of seven members, four lay and three rostered, who shall be elected by the convention for a term of four years. No member may hold a position on National Church Council, synod council or a synodical committee for theological education and leadership. No member shall serve more than two consecutive terms. A vacancy occurring *ad interim* may be filled by the National Church Council until the next regular convention, which shall fill the unexpired term."

The Committee on Nominations is required to nominate two persons for each position to be filled on National Church Council, ELCIC Group Services Inc. and Court of Adjudication. All nominations should include the name, address, telephone number and a brief resume of the nominee, clearly identifying the specific position. For a copy of the "Biographical Data Form," look on the home page of the ELCIC web site located at [www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca) for the drop down box "What we do" and then choose the option "National Convention." Look for the "Elections" link. Nomination for the officers is done at convention.

**The following list indicates each position, the synod to be represented, whether the nominee is to be a layperson or a rostered minister, and the length of the term. The incumbents are listed indicating (e) eligible for re-election and (i) ineligible for re-election.**

#### Officers

National Bishop	4 years	Susan C. Johnson (e)
Secretary	4 years	Murray Walter (e)
Treasurer	4 years	Ken Day (e)

#### National Church Council

BC Rostered	4 years	Kathleen Martin (e)
ABT Lay	4 years	Allyn Langager (e)
SK Lay	4 years	Cindy Hoppe (i)
SK Rostered	4 years	Christopher Bishopp (e)
MNO Lay	4 years	Jeffrey Buhse (e)
EAST Lay	4 years	Pat Lovell (e)
EAST Rostered	4 years	Heather Spencer (e)
EAST Rostered	4 years	Jeffrey Smith (e)

#### ELCIC Group Services Inc.

Lay Plan Member	4 years	Pamela Giles (e)
Rostered Plan Member	4 years	Mark Van House (e)

#### Court of Adjudication

Lay	4 years	Tim Kurbis (e)
Lay	4 years	Glen David Tait (e)
Rostered	4 years	Patricia Giannelia (e)
Rostered	4 years	Allan Grundahl (e)

#### Synod

BC	British Columbia Synod
ABT	Synod of Alberta and the Territories
SK	Saskatchewan Synod
MNO	Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod
EAST	Eastern Synod

**Deadline for submission of nominations is Friday, January 30, 2015.**

Email the Biographical Data Form to: [nationalconvention@elcic.ca](mailto:nationalconvention@elcic.ca) or mail to:

Office of the Secretary  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
600 – 177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg MB R3B 0W5

Murray Walter, Secretary

#### Waterloo North Ministry Area Worship

submitted by Rev. Elina Salonen

Member faith communities of Waterloo North Ministry Area worshiped together on the Feast of Reign of Christ, Sunday, Nov 23rd at St. James, Elmira. We poured water from the Grand River of the former KW conference into water of the Conestoga River of our new Waterloo North Ministry Area. Water symbolizes our baptism and this day reflected, as well, the birth of our ministry area. We intend to work together in ministry, strengthening each other and our Lutheran witness. Our area ministry leadership team was installed, following a message by our dean and two members of the congregation she serves.

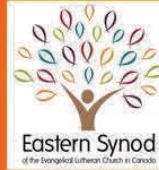
As Paul explained, each part of the body of Christ is vital to good health and functioning and is valued. All were encouraged to let love flow to where it is needed in our community! Each 11 faith communities received some of the water and seeds to be planted. Seeds take root in good soil, such as our congregations offer. And so we began with thanks to God! The symbolic acts done this day and enacted later in our faith communities reflect the hope we intend with Christ's help to make real in our lives and in those of our neighbours.



Leadership team from I-r-Barb Finn, Rev Elina Salonen, Rev Monica Weisner and Jackie Nunns



Biennium  
Reconciliation  
Initiative



FROM Bishop Michael +

Resource extraction is of unique importance to Canadians since Canada headquarters over 70% of the world's mining companies and all Canadians, through the investments of our Canada Pension Plan, are joint investors in these mining and resource extraction companies. With **Together: For the Love of The World** as the theme of The Fifteenth Biennial Convention of the Eastern Synod this summer in Toronto, Ontario, passing a resolution (ES 14-10) addressing **resource extraction** continued the challenging call for us to be about Jesus' mission in and for the love of the world! My intent as I write these articles for **The Eastern Synod Lutheran** is to seek your resolve to make these ministries your own.

In that motion The Eastern Synod resolves, over the next biennium, within our congregations and area ministries, to learn more about the contemporary economic, environmental, and social issues related to:

- \*Fracking as a technique for oil and gas extraction;
- \*Resource extraction on the territory of Canada's indigenous peoples and the right to free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) for our First Nations people in Canada;

\*The need for an independent extractive sector ombudsman to help negotiate national and international conflict resolution involving Canadian mining and resource extraction companies; and

\*The need for Canada to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system;

Again, I have already written to the Prime Minister of Canada encouraging him to establish such an independent extractive sector ombudsman and to bring forward legislation to create a legal framework for resolving international mining disputes in the Canadian justice system. Now I encourage all our faith communities to learn more about these important economic, environmental, and social issues so that we can be better equipped to be about Jesus' mission for the love of the world.

With all best wishes,

Bishop Michael J. Pryse  
Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

A Christmas Greeting from  
The Rev. Susan C. Johnson,  
National Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada -  
*In Mission for Others*



Grace to you and peace in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It gives me great pleasure to write to you in order to send you my best wishes for a blessed Advent and a joyous celebration of Christmas.

In a world where there is much conflict, we give thanks for the birth of the Prince of Peace.

In a world where there is much division, we celebrate the unity we have in Christ.

In a world where many are in need, we ask to be given generous hearts and willing hands.

In a world where many are alone, we rejoice in the richness of our relationship with sisters and brothers across our Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

My hope and prayer for each one of you is that you will be able to join me in proclaiming with the hymnist : *Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.*

+ Susan

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