

The Eastern Synod Lutheran

Jan 20, 2015

Volume 37



Rev. Douglas Reble
Assistant to the Bishop

The beginning of a new calendar year is often a time to resolve to do things differently, to do better. It's a clean slate, tabula rasa, a fresh start, a time to reinvest oneself. Just ask the gyms and the weight loss industry.

We vow to exercise more, eat less, abstain from our vices, and become the people we hope and want to be. By early February, our good intentions have been tested and, too often, found lacking. Just ask the gyms and weight loss industry. But those failures - both major and minor - rarely stop us from striving to be better year after year.

So I wonder. Can a church have New Year's resolutions? Perhaps they would not be as

simple to tack to one's refrigerator as reminders, but we, as members of the Body of Christ could certainly aim for some goals. Here's a few I came up with:

1. We will not concentrate only on the number of people in our pews but in the number of people we help outside our church doors. Maintaining and increasing, when possible, our church membership is, of course, critical for all churches, but we turn God's church into a members' only club if we are insular, serving our own members and celebrating only ourselves. The Body of Christ exists beyond our doors.

2. Hence, we will work, as the Body of Christ, with and for people who are poor, hungry, and homeless.

3. We will not be afraid to talk about financial stewardship. Our gifts to the church are our gifts to God. They make ministry happen and if we are only giving enough to keep the lights on in our church buildings, it will only be a matter of time before those lights are extinguished. May each of us learn to be good financial stewards and may we see the awesome potential of our gifts, both large and small.

4. We will resist ascribing impure motives to those whose beliefs are markedly different from ours. We will assume, unless absolutely proven otherwise, that their motivation is their faith and core beliefs.

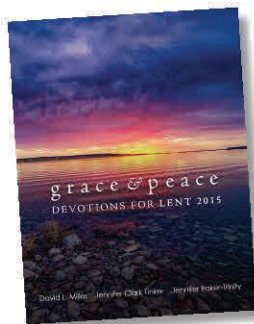
5. We will communicate clearly and "always speak the truth in love" as St. Paul encourages in his letter to the Ephesians. We will say what we mean and mean what we say. When we have not been clear in our communications, we will admit our errors and resist blaming others for misunderstanding us.

6. In these times of change we will continue to keep Word and Sacrament at the centre. We all need to keep eating and drinking from the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

7. We will be more welcoming.

What do you think of these resolutions? Feel free to let me know. I'm sure you have a few suggestions of your own. One resolution we can all agree on is to be the loving, serving, worshipping children of God that we are called to be in our baptism.

A blessed 2015 to you all.



A New Lenten Resource for Your Congregation

For each day in Lent 2015, *Grace & Peace* offers an evocative image, a reading from the letter to the Ephesians, a quotation to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. Ephesians is the New Testament letter read most frequently in worship during Year B of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Regular Print

ISBN 9781451493030, \$2.50
(\$1.75 each for 100+ copies)

Large Print

ISBN 9781451493047, \$6.00

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NEW!



Do you use social media?

We all know that when it comes to social media there is a right way and a wrong way to do things but did you know that the synod has put together some guidelines to help you out? Whether you're posting and tweeting for your congregation or personally, please take a few minutes to check them out.
<http://www.easternsynod.org/resource/policies>

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

For more information please contact
 Rev. Doug Reble, Assistant to the Bishop.
dreble@elcic.ca

Ministry Changes

Darlyne Rath began at St. James, Williamsford
 January 18.

Rev. Deborah Ann Taylor finishes at Mount
 Calvary, Ottawa on Feb. 1

Rev. Gundars Berzins finishes at Trinity Latvian,
 Montreal and Peace Latvian, Ottawa on
 Feb. 10.

They're Back!

Healthy Leadership Workshops will resume soon.

The following is not a final list- some dates and locations are still to be determined.

Toronto- Saturday March 7

Sudbury- Saturday September 19

Ottawa- Saturday October 24

New Denmark- Saturday June 13

Nova Scotia- TBD

Check our website- easternsynod.org for more information as it becomes available.



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Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. David Hammer and his wife Sue as they mourn the death of his father.



We also remember Dolores Martin, former vice-chair of Eastern Synod Council who passed away recently and we pray for her family and friends as they deal with their loss.

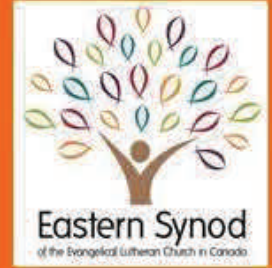


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faithlifefinancial.ca





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



2015-2016
Scholarship Information is now
available on our website.

[http://www.easternsynod.org/
story/january-07-2015-
scholarship-applications-2015-
2016-now-available](http://www.easternsynod.org/story/january-07-2015-scholarship-applications-2015-2016-now-available)



Our National Magazine

To subscribe email

bwiebe@elcic.ca



Generous Giving at Bethesda

Unionville, ON

A total of \$38,526 has been sent to Canadian Foodgrains Bank headquarters in Winnipeg thanks to Bethesda's support of the 2014 Sharecropper project.

Many thanks to Arthur Schickedanz (Galten Farms), St. John's United Church in Oakville, FaithLife Financial, a private donor and all the congregation members who contributed. This \$38,526 translates into \$192,630 of aid when matched with funding from CIDA. An amazing achievement for a small congregation.

Bethesda has been sponsoring their Sharecropper Project since 2002. Over these 13 years they have sent a total of \$305,000 to the Canadian Food Grains Bank. When matched by CIDA this extends to over \$1,500,000 in Food Aid. **Outstanding**

Bethesda has one of the 14 York Region growing projects, one of the 113 in Ontario and one of the 216 growing projects across Canada. This year the York Region Foodgrains Bank Project has raised \$135,108 for a total over the past 14 years of \$1,445,660. When matched by CIDA this represents \$7,228,000 food aid around the world. This is a wonderful Christian response to end world hunger.

Bethesda is also recognized for the contributions to CLWR of over 150 We Care Kits, \$75 to Gifts of the Heart and over 10 quilts.

Thank you Bethesda for helping many in need.

Photo Credit to Lorne Smith



Canadian Lutheran World Relief

CLWR 2013-2014 Annual Report is now available.

To read the report go to
<http://www.clwr.org/Get-Involved/documents/AnnualReport2013-14.pdf>

Eastern Synod Women's Ministry
Presents...

Singspiration!



Making a Joyful Noise

A Weekend Retreat for Women of All Ages

May 29—31, 2015

Cambridge Hotel and Conference Center, Cambridge, ON



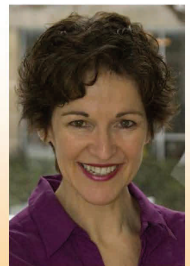
Eastern Synod Women's Ministry

Registration forms and informational brochure have been mailed out. To get your electronic copy, email Cathy Calvin, Women's Ministry Director at calvin1980@bell.net.

Keynote Speaker

Debbie Lou Ludolph

Dean of Keffer Chapel, WLS
Director of Worship
Ministry, Eastern Synod



Gentle Reminder

Annual meetings are coming soon and along with them come changes.

Some of these changes are things the Eastern Synod office staff should be told.

Please remember that we need to keep the names and contact information for church leaders and congregations up to date in order to ensure a smooth flow of information to and from this office.

A quick call, or email to any one of our administrative staff is all it takes.

One more reminder.....

A quick check of the ELCIC website tells us the link for the 2014 Online Parochial Reports will be live on January 30, 2015 and the Congregational Reports for the Year Ended December 31, 2014 will be coming soon.

Please ensure these get filled out accurately and in a timely manner.
Thanks everyone for your help !