

The Eastern Synod Lutheran

March 16, 2015

Volume 39



“DAD, YOU BOILED EM “

It was a life ago. I was visiting my family and friends in southern Ontario during the spring of the year. I was on vacation from my job which at the time was in Yellowknife in the Northwest Territories. For a few days, I stayed with a childhood friend, his wife, and their seven year old son, David was his name.

During my time there David did what many a child has probably done at least once during the spring of the year. He brought home a bird's nest-complete with eggs.

"I'm just sure the mother bird has left them," he said. "I saw her go. We just have to take care of these eggs so they'll hatch."

Then my friend's wife made the mistake that every parent, I've since learned, makes in response to such a situation. She tried to

explain that his plan wouldn't work, especially since they had not had time to prepare.

One of the beautiful characteristics of a child is that he or she doesn't know what won't work. So the world is full of possibilities. I suspect that many of the major discoveries in history have been made by people who have not thoroughly lost that child-like quality of discovery and action.

Since David's mother's explanations didn't work, experience was going to be the only teacher in this case.

The nest was arranged safely in the corner of the countertop in a backroom and a heat lamp was positioned above it. David was sure this would do the trick.

By the time a day or two had passed and there was no action from the eggs (a day or two is about all the time most of us can wait for positive results), David figured it was time to check one out. He cracked it open and found the foul smelling remains of a little bird. You can probably guess the smell.

With a mixture of anger and sorrow he rushed into the kitchen to show us his discovery. Then came his explanation, "Dad, you boiled 'em!" My friend didn't know what to say.

Now there's a characteristic that adults

and children share. When something goes wrong, blame someone else!

Variations of this occurrence happen every day in our lives and in the lives of those around us. We are not so sensitive to what might be best for others involved (like birds and little boys). We may have a tendency to stifle another's creativity and excitement because we know so much more and it is sometimes easier for others to take the rap for the results of our actions.

The Holy Spirit can help us err on the side of graciousness, love, caring, and sensitivity toward others.

Robins' eggs are one thing (and I'm not minimizing the concern we should have for God's creation) but when it comes to our relationships with other people we want to be especially sure not to "boil 'em."

Peace be with you,
Rev. Douglas Reble
Assistant to the Bishop



colaborate

Colaborate is an innovative **Lutheran confirmation curriculum** that invites students to ask their toughest questions, and work together to find answers.

Colaborate is easy to lead, and is designed to change the way students think about their faith. Students **expand and deepen their understanding** through projects that range from handbook-based questions to offsite explorations.

Colaborate is **trustworthy**, designed by theologians, practitioners, and artists who know the Bible, Lutheran doctrine, and young people.



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ELCIC Women Of Faith Fund

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund, created in recognition of the "significant contribution of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), provide grants annually for the purpose of encouraging and facilitating the Christ-centered ministry of women within the ELCIC and In Mission for Others.

Grant applications must be submitted no later than May 1, 2015 by email to womenoffaithfund@elcic.ca

Proposals should support the following goals:

- To nurture faith and spiritual growth
- To foster supportive communities
- To develop leadership skills
- To work towards justice and peace

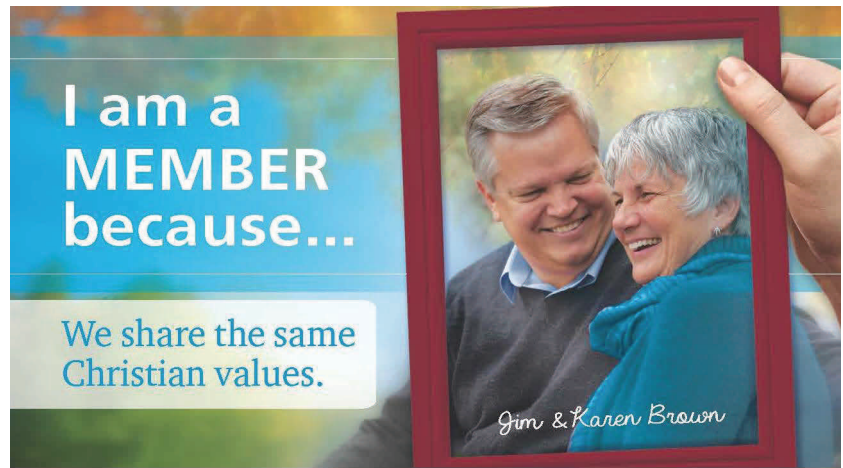
Preference will be given to proposals that maximize the potential of touching the lives of many women.

Projects approved in 2014 included quilt making to provide support, warmth and shelter to families in crisis, retreat for abused women, LAMP VBS in the North, rural area women gathering, harp therapy project, and a fundraising dinner for inner city women.

For more information, go to the [Women of Faith Fund](#) page on the ELCIC website.

[Women of Faith Fund Grant Application Form](#)

Submitted by
Marie-Laure Collet
NCC Liaison Women of Faith Fund



To learn more visit faithlifefinancial.ca



Best wishes to Rev Adam Snook and his wife Holly on the birth of their son Nathaniel.

We also congratulate Rev Dr. Peter Kuhnert who is being honoured as a Person of Distinction by The Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region.

Your support this Lent fights hunger and brings hope to families in Ethiopia. Please make a gift today.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief
clwr.org/donate



Workshop of Wonders

Children from St. Matthew's, Welland made numerous stuffed animals and dolls at their July 2014 VBS with the theme **Workshop of Wonders**.

These "stuffers" (49 in total, both handmade and purchased) were taken to Nicaragua this past February by Kurt Christie from St. Paul's, Guelph and given to children in hospitals, schools and churches. Kurt has volunteered in Nicaragua for many years as part of PAN Missions Canada, a multid denominational group of volunteers. Submitted by Jennifer Allcorn





DUBRICK
SUMMER
INSTITUTE
for Ministry

Waterloo, March 2, 2015 — There is nothing novel in suggesting that the church in Canada is facing a time of unparalleled challenge. With the landscape of Canadian religion changing, it is no wonder that many congregations are reeling as they seek to understand and negotiate the new realities that confront us. It is also no wonder that pastors often find themselves unprepared or ill-equipped to help their congregations to navigate these turbulent waters.

It is precisely in response to such needs that Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, in partnership with the Eastern Synod, is launching the **Dubrick Summer Institute for Ministry** this June. Replacing **LutherHostel**, which had run its course over its 12 year history, the Summer Institute will take the form of a three-day intensive

course in June seeking to assist pastors in further developing their leadership capabilities.

This year's inaugural course, **Embracing Transformative Leadership**, is designed for ordained ministers who are in their first calls, are in transition, or are interested in upgrading their skills and education in the service of their communities. Participants will advance their personal leadership journeys during sessions on topics including: emotional intelligence; team dysfunction; developing effective church councils; managing paradox; dealing with resistance, and many more. In the ecumenical environment, participants will also support each other by sharing valuable experiences they have gained while working in various ministry roles.

The course will be facilitated by Jerry Hogeveen, a member of St. Philip Lutheran Church, Toronto. Jerry has more than 30 years of global experience in leadership training. Jerry was also the chief facilitator for the Eastern Synod's *In Mission for Others* leadership development initiative.

The course can be taken for credit in the seminary's new post-graduate **Diploma in Theology**. There are also several spaces available for participants to audit (non-credit) the classes.

Location: Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, 75 University Ave. W., Waterloo, Ont.

Dates: An evening reception will be held on June 8. Classes run 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., June 9-11.

Instruction: The event will include approximately 8 hours of pre-class work in addition to the three days of seminars at the seminary.

Course/post-grad diploma details: Contact Rev. Dr. Mark Harris at mwharris@wlu.ca or 519-884-0710 ext. 3493.

Cost: For credit, \$624 tuition + applicable [fees](#). For audit, tuition is at half price.

Deadline: May 15, 2015

To register: Contact Dan Phillips at dphillips@wlu.ca 519-884-0710 ext. 3498.

Accommodation: To be arranged by each participant. Check [Hotel Laurier](#) for options.

2014 FINANCIAL REPORT (PRE-AUDIT)

The synod ended 2014 with an operating fund deficit of approximately \$44,000, an amount that will need to be absorbed by small surpluses that have accumulated and held in reserve from prior years.

Although total expenditures were well under budget, these savings were not sufficient to offset congregational benevolence offerings that were \$73,000 (4.8%) under budget and that decreased 3.7% compared to those received during the prior year.

In spite of income challenges, it is notable that the synod was able to meet in full its \$356,000 commitment to the National Church, its \$416,000 commitment to Waterloo Lutheran Seminary as well as allocate almost \$180,000 towards various Youth and Young Adult Ministries initiatives in support of the synod's three camps; campus ministries in seven locations in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario; and half a dozen other ministry programs involving youth and young adults across the synod.

It is important to understand that expenditures associated with running the synod office were fully covered by income that the synod earns on invested funds that were generously donated by our parents and grandparents many years ago. As a result, the offerings that you give to benevolence are not used to pay for office infrastructure (e.g. utilities, maintenance, computer hardware/software/networking, office supplies, mailing, insurance, auditing, legal and other similar types of expenses). Rather how exciting it is to know that your offerings are allocated to support congregations, to nurture leaders and to pursue compassionate justice in response to our call to be a synod "In Mission for Others"!

The continual, gradual decline in congregational benevolence offerings, combined with the impact of inflation, makes budget setting more challenging every year. Synod Council will be addressing this challenge when it considers revisions to the 2015 budget at its spring meeting April 23 – 25.

Maintaining the synod's existing ministries at their current level will require an enthusiastic, ongoing financial response from each congregation.

Has your congregation:

- Made a commitment to increase its 2015 support for synodical and ELCIC ministries?
- Communicated its 2015 benevolence commitment (via the parochial report)?

I look forward to your continued partnership in the year ahead!

Keith Myra, Treasurer

For further details on 2014 financial results as well as an outlook for 2015, click on this link: [2014 Financial Summary](#)

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



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Kristine Lund as she mourns the death of her mother. We also mourn the passing of Peter Schmidt, a prominent lay leader and former ELCIC Director of Resource Development.

Reminder

Registration for Singspiration— A Weekend Retreat for Women ends March 31, 2015.

For registration information go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/event/2015-05-29-220000-2015-05-31-220000-singspiration-making-joyful-noise>

No Elephants In This Room: Tough Conversations Build Better Neighbours

by Pauline Finch (condensed)

Most neighbours aren't willing to take on issues that could generate misunderstanding. Just try mentioning "terrorism," "radicalization," or "jihadist" as topics for a friendly discussion.

But for Sheikh Abdul-Mannan Syed Nadwi, Imam at the Waterloo Masjid since 1999, recent national and international terror events are a shared concern among all of us. "Neighbours should talk about this," he said.

So Pastor Philip Mathai, the Imam and I recently found ourselves in a basement classroom where youngsters normally study the Qur'an sharing our thoughts over that most Canadian of social rituals – coffee and doughnuts. It didn't take long to begin probing questions on how international terrorism and domestic radicalization are affecting interfaith relationships.

For months now, we've been deluged by headlines detailing atrocities committed by organizations with names, like Boko Haram and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) who use the global reach of social media to portray brutal hostage killings, mock western culture, and entice alienated youth to embrace ideologies of violence and hate.

"People ask us, 'why aren't you condemning these acts?'" Imam Abdul said. "We do; we condemn them all the time in talking to our congregations. But often, we are as shocked as you when someone pops up from nowhere, claiming to be Muslim and attacks innocent people."

He's not alone in believing that social and mental illness, combined with poor or non-existent education in the true teachings of Islam, have been significant factors in the emergence of so-called homegrown "jihadists." Others have taken their dissatisfaction and anger overseas as volunteer fighters with groups like ISIS.

At a time when governments have cut back on mental health resources, spiritual leaders and clergy like Imam Abdul and Pastor Philip are increasingly the first contact people for those in mental distress, or for concerned parents who see disturbing behavioral changes in their teen and young adult children.

"I am always concerned when I hear about Imams who have dismissed 'crazy' people from their congregations and don't do anything else about it," Imam Abdul said.

"Fortunately, that is not the norm ... I work as much as I can with disturbed people who come to me, but there is a point when their talk becomes too irrational and I must refer them to professionals, such as a psychiatrist."

Because of negative media and social stereotyping it has been easy for unscrupulous recruiters to exploit vulnerability in those who feel powerless; especially those who find escape by converting to Islam without having studied its teachings. In other parts of the world, rewards are promised to impoverished or illiterate youth born into Islam, but without the benefits of the broad Qur'an-based education received by Muslim students in places like Waterloo.

Unlike the Bible, with its many segments, moral commandments, and acknowledged

inconsistencies, the Qur'an allows Muslims fewer excuses for ignorance about relating to other faiths and cultures, Imam Abdul explained. Revealed to Prophet Muhammad more than 1400 years ago, Islam's holiest scripture contains guidelines for conduct throughout its pages; there is no "short list." Among the teachings frequently emphasized are that one's faith is not to be imposed on others by coercion; believers can only resort to violence in self-defence; the faith and deities of others are not to be mocked; and those who mock your own faith are to be forgiven. But you won't find these core precepts cited in a "jihadist" propaganda video. In fact taking statements out of context for personal gain or a secular political agenda is considered abhorrent. This is why an Imam's training includes memorizing the entire Qur'an. "You can't pick and choose," Imam Abdul affirmed. ". . . You try to live your life with all of the Qur'an in mind." Having come originally from India he feels Muslims in Canada's progressively multicultural society are far better equipped to counteract terrorism, radicalization and occasional backlash – even when it emerges on our own soil.

"I tell my congregation not to be crybabies, not to complain that everything bad that happens to them is because they are Muslims; it is simply not true," Imam Abdul emphasized. "I do not even believe in marginalization. If someone says they are marginalized, they are marginalizing themselves ... Instead, we should be talking about solving real social problems and here in Canada we can do that; this is the very best place in which to practice Islam."

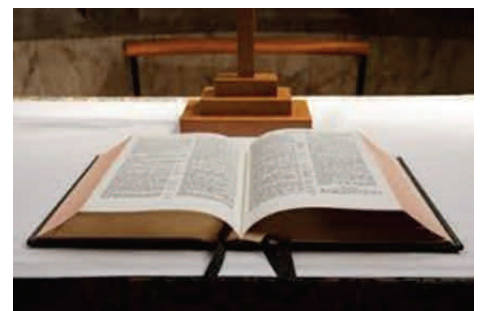
Have you registered yet?

Church Office Administrators' Workshop



Thursday April 16, 2015
Eastern Synod Office

To register contact Liz ezehr@elcic.ca
or call 519-743-1461



Vacancies

St. Timothy's, Pembroke
St. Paul's, Richmond Hill
Mount Calvary, Ottawa
Peace Latvian, Ottawa
Eganville/Augsburg/Bonnechere Parish

Hope Changes Everything: Liberia Now

A Benefit Concert for former Child Soldiers Liberia, Africa

Liberia experienced close to twenty years of civil war and the fragile peace is challenged today by the ebola crisis and it's aftermath. Young children and adolescents spent their childhoods caught in the turmoil of war. Warlords forced them to become addicted to drugs and alcohol, traumatized them with rape and made them watch the movie "Rambo" before putting a gun in their hands and sending them out to kill.

The proceeds from **Hope Changes Everything** will support an initiative, uniquely designed by the **Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Program** (THRP) to provide former child soldiers with their first opportunity to build a future through a **vocational training program** that includes trauma healing and skills development. These youth are the key to a stable and secure Liberia.

The THRP believe;

**"We have the responsibility
to give them life back"**



Location:

TSP Centre
427 Bloor St W
Toronto ON
M5S 1X7

Time: 3:30pm – 5:30pm

Date: Sunday, April 19th, 2015

Admission:

\$55.00 main seats

\$30.00 side seats

Order tickets online:

www.brownpapertickets.com

Performances by:

Lillian Allen

Waleed Abdulhamid

Inshallah Choir

Kenny Kirkwood

DJ Mohjito

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