

The Eastern Synod Lutheran

June 18, 2015

Volume 42



"WORSHIP ALL THE TIME"

June is the month in which the shepherds of most Christian congregations begin to sense their flock wandering away. As the weather improves, outdoor activities and travels lure folks away from worship. The warmer weather also turns Sunday into a good time to take care of outdoor chores around the house. As well, the soon-to-end school year places extra demands on weekend schedules with soccer and baseball tournaments and other activities. All of these conspire to affect our church participation as summer approaches. We all know this.

The nice weather does not mean, however, that worship has to take a back seat. As one theologian has noted " ...every human action and desire, whether overtly religious or not should take on the colour of worship."

So, here's my question for you. How will the colour of worship be seen in your activities over these coming weeks and summer months? When you are not in church on a Sunday morning or really, anytime, what form of worship will your life become?

Worship, of course, is not confined to a specific hour on a Sunday morning. It can happen anywhere and anytime. Worship happens whenever we act in ways that honour and give glory to God. It can occur in ways that are carefully thought out or it can happen spontaneously. It can be made real through word or by deed. Life, you see, is full of opportunities to honour and serve God and the people of God. The sacredness of life can be found in every moment and in every corner. What we need to do

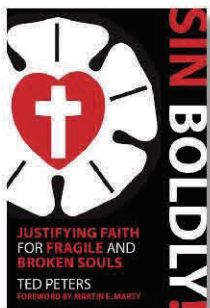
is affirm this every time it is encountered.

Please don't get me wrong. I am not providing you or me with an excuse for skipping Sunday morning worship now that the weather is warmer. I firmly believe that we all need to join together in praise and prayer and sharing God's word, no matter what the season. I also believe, however, that we dare not limit our worship to a couple of hours one morning each week.

I used to retreat at Madonna House in the beautiful Madawaska Highlands. Father Pat, one of the priests who lived there, always said : "Let our lives be answers to the prayers we make." I like that. This is the challenge and privilege of being followers of Christ. Our faith should be integrated into our daily lives that living itself becomes an act of worship.

Something to think about. In the meantime, I look forward to worshiping with you, over the summer, in church - or wherever!

Rev. Douglas Reble,
Assistant to the Bishop.



Sin Boldly

Justifying Faith for Fragile and Broken Souls

How can the gospel of grace provide transformation for both fragile and broken souls? Ted Peters' new book proposes that trusting in the God of grace relieves anxiety and provides a divine vocation that transcends our moral universe with the promise of forgiveness, renewal, and resurrection.

ISBN 978-1-4514-8768-8

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NEW

Everyone is a'buzz at Bethany!

Submitted by Mary Moore

Members of Bethany Lutheran, Woodstock, Ontario, have created a Pollinator's Garden, the first of a three-part project. Our intention is to create a safe haven for pollinators; to educate our community on pollinating insects; to make the best use of our green space.

Both honeybees and the monarch butterfly are on the decline in our country due to loss of habitat, loss of food sources and pesticide use. In association with a local beekeeper, we have planted varieties that attract bees and butterflies. We have and will continue to educate our parishioners and the surrounding community about pollinators – their importance to our earth, how we are hurting them and how we can help them. We are called to be good stewards of this earth and this project, in its small way, has a potentially vast impact on the people and land in the surrounding area.

Part 2 and 3 of this project will be an expansion of the garden into a shaded area where members of the community may pause to meditate and commune with nature. Plants appropriate for attracting bees and butterflies will be planted in this space as well. We plan to use the remainder of the property for vegetable and flower community gardens, all of which will attract pollinators. These gardens will be available to the community of Woodstock/Oxford County and will be barrier free.



Congratulations

We congratulate Rev. Catherine Barley and Rev. Herbert Harms who are both retiring. Enjoy this new phase in your lives.



We also congratulate Rev. Joanna Miller and her husband Raymond on the birth of their son, Spencer.

Report of the Treasurer (To May 31st, 2015)

Offerings to Benevolence are running marginally ahead of those received for the corresponding period in 2014. Primarily as a result of contributions to the Nepal Earthquake Relief Appeal, Canadian Lutheran World Relief offerings reflect a 30% increase. In addition to those Nepal donations that were made directly to CLWR by individuals and congregations, \$13,200 has flowed through the synod office, almost all of which was eligible for matching government grants.

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



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

- Provide **rainwater harvesting** to a school in need of clean water.
- Give a family a **safe place to use the washroom**.
- Send **seeds and tools** to feed a family.

clwr.org/donate



Vacancies

St. Paul's, Richmond Hill
Mount Calvary, Ottawa
Peace Latvian, Ottawa
First Lutheran, Toronto
Agricola Finnish, Toronto
St. Mark's Anglican-Lutheran,
Midland
Grace, Eganville along with the
parish of Augsburg/Bonnechere



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Matthew Anderson as he mourns the loss of his mother.

KAIROS May 29
to June 3



On Truth and Reconciliation

Written by Bishop Michael Pryse

I don't remember Lois and I having a lot of hard rules for our children when they were growing up. One firm rule we did have – and for the whole family – is that we tell the truth. Telling the truth is the basis of any whole and healthy relationship.

In early June I participated in the closing ceremonies of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. There was a lot of truth; very hard truth. Seven generations of children abducted over the course of a hundred and twenty years; almost 150,000 children in total. Of those, as many as six thousand never came home. They died, either while housed in the schools – some of which had cemeteries but not playgrounds – or during desperate attempts to escape the horror and run away home. But so many never came home to their moms, dads, grmmas and grandpas. Can you imagine?

This terrible truth – previously unknown to many of us – exposes a moral wound – which must be exposed, cared for and tended if Canadians have any hope of re-claiming the noble and honourable identity to which most of us rightly aspire. We need to “tell the truth” if we are to have any hope of achieving reconciliation.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “The test of the morality of a society is what it does for its children.” The exposure of the terrible legacy of the residential school system has painfully presented us with what, I believe, is the most pressing moral challenge facing Canadian society today. And this is particularly true for Christians, whether our churches were direct parties to the residential school system or not. Sadly, to our great shame, Christian doctrines, traditions and worldviews were wrongly and destructively used to inflict great harm and violence upon our indigenous brothers and sisters. This truth, in itself, demands deep, considered and repentant reflection from us all.

In 2014 our synod launched a Biennial Reconciliation Initiative that challenged “our Synod Ministry Areas and their congregations, assemblies and members to seek out opportunities to deepen our understanding of indigenous rights, to participate in the ongoing work of Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation process, and to renew relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in our varied contexts.” It was a good first step. But we have made just a small beginning and there is so much more for us to do!

In conclusion, I will share three very brief quotes from the presentation which accompanied the presentation of the TRC report and recommendations, one from each of the three very wise and inspiring Commissioners who led this process.

From Justice Murray Sinclair, “The eyes of the world and the gaze of history are upon us.” From Dr. Marie Wilson, “We cannot un-know what we now know.” And from Chief Wilton Littlechild, referencing the most important six words as taught to him by the residential school survivors, “I’m sorry. I love you. Thank you!”

Their words – and the many, many words spoken in the six year TRC process – speak for themselves. They tell the truth. And they carry seeds of reconciliation. They call for our careful and diligent attention. None are easy words; but they are faithful and holy ones. Are we listening? Are we willing to respond?



You Are Invited: To a Worship event of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada

Location Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario

Date July 24-27, 2016

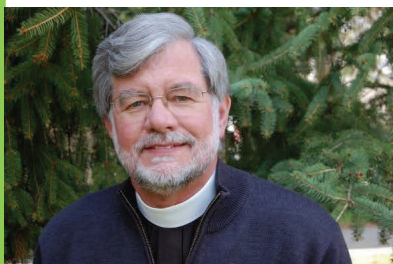
Website www.nationalworshipconference.org



Join

The Rev'd Dr. Bruce Jenneker, Rector of All Saints, Durbanville, Cape Town who has provided leadership in the renewal of liturgy and worship through the Liturgical Commission of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa, the Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission, and the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation.

And



The Rev'd Dr. Stephen M. Larson is an ELCIC pastor who co-authored "Liturgy, Justice and the Reign of God: Integrating Vision and Practice." Stephen is chair of the International Worship Planning Team for the Lutheran World Federation's 2017 Assembly in Windhoek, Namibia.



The Eastern Synod recently donated a large print bible to St. Thomas Lutheran Church in Lochaber, Guyana. Pastor Vivian S. Roberts is pictured left, dedicating the book which will be used as a pulpit/lecturn bible. At right, some of the members of St. Thomas Lutheran.



Eastern Synod Mission Committee

Who Are We?

The Eastern Synod Mission Committee is a group of eight people, both lay and clerical, plus our Bishop, who meet twice a year to visit some of the parishes of our Synod who are doing creative ministry, and to process the grant applications for new and creative mission initiatives submitted by both congregations and Ministry areas of the Eastern Synod. We approved nearly \$200,000 worth of grants for ministries which are taking place in 2015. In general, long-term grants support our Mission congregations; short-term grants support projects such as Sunday children's services program start-up; Compassionate Justice grants support start-up projects like breakfast programs, good food boxes and other community ministries.

The best news is that we have new additional funding worth about \$200,000 to be spent over the next three years and we want you to use your imaginations. We want to hear about the exciting things you hope to do within your churches, ministry areas and in and with your communities. We want you to try new things, to experiment, to explore what it means to participate in God's mission in the world today. Be bold! Maybe you want to update a current program that was successful in the past and needs a facelift for 2015 and beyond. Don't be shy! Once your grants are approved, we want you to let everyone know how your initiatives are going.

We are excited to introduce a revised and more useful application form for grants, and the focus for our new additional funding will be on creative initiatives. Letters have been sent to all congregations, pastors and leaders, so put on your thinking caps and send us your creative initiative grant applications by September 25.

Submitted by Peggy Read, Chair ES Mission Committee

Committee members:

Anne Drouillard, Windsor ON

Dorothy Froom, Walkerton ON

Rev. Jun Gao, North York ON

Rev. Stan Johnstone, Kinburn ON

Rev. Sebastian Meadows-Helmer, Thornhill ON

Rev. Tanya Ramer, Woodstock ON

Peggy Read, Burlington ON

Lynn Slack, Oakhill NS

Bishop Michael Pryse – Synod Liaison

From Luther Hostel to Dubrick Summer Institute for Ministry

They say that the only real constant is change. One of the big changes for us this year is the Dubrick Summer Institute for Ministry

We asked a few of the participants to give us their reactions to this year's course Embracing Transformative Leadership:

"Last week I attended the advance studies in leadership and I was inspired what Jerry had presented to us. I now have a bunch of tools that I can use to better explain to members of council on what visioning is all about and how important it is to have a mission for the future." Rev. Ralph Weigold.

"As a freshly minted pastor out in the pastorizing world, I quickly got into the rhythm of care-giving and care-taking to the point of neglecting myself. This is not unusual for me. The Dubrick Summer Institute and lessons taught by Jerry and Bishop Michael quickly reminded me that my call is both to care and to lead and that I was neglecting the leadership aspect. They also reminded me that unless I care for myself, the analytical and intentional work of leadership will always be beyond my grasp. So for me, the timing and content were invaluable." Rev. Janaki Bandara

The course offered at The Dubrick Summer Institute for Ministry was a refreshing change. An inspiring three days of learning, helping pastors to lead effective change in the church. This is an opportunity no one should miss.
Rev. Bruce Thompson.



15th Biennial ELCIC National Convention

July 9-12, 2015

Edmonton, Alberta

Shaw Conference Centre

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) has the mandate of submitting the names of two candidates for each available position on National Church Council, the Court of Adjudication and the Board of Directors of ELCIC Group Services Inc.

The following represents the report of the Nominating Committee which will be presented to the ELCIC in Convention, July 9 - 12, 2015 in Edmonton, AB. The committee expresses thanks to all who were willing to participate in this process.

Murray Walter
National Secretary

Note: (e) eligible for re-election

National Church Council			
Positions Required: BC - 1 Rostered, AB - 1 Lay, SK - 1 Lay & 1 Rostered, MNO - 1 Lay, EAST - 1 Lay & 2 Rostered			
Synod	Type	Term	Nominee
BC	Rostered	4 years	Jane Gingrich
	Rostered		Erik Bjorgan
ABT	Lay	4 years	Wayne Street
	Lay		Les Pearson
SK	Lay	4 years	Ed Miller
	Lay		Cole Guenter
SK	Rostered	4 years	Christopher Bishopp (e)
	Rostered		Stewart Miller
MNO	Lay	4 years	Jeffrey Buhse (e)
	Lay		Jennifer Jantz
EAST	Lay	4 years	Pat Lovell (e)
	Lay		Judy von Wahl
	Rostered 1	4 years	Heather Spencer (e)
	Rostered 1		Susan Climo
	Rostered 2	4 years	Jeffrey Smith (e)
	Rostered 2		Steve Hoffard

Court of Adjudication		
Positions Required: 2 Rostered and 2 Lay		
Type	Term	Nominee
Lay 1	4 years	Tim Kurbis (e)
Lay 1		Stephen Thornton
Lay 2	4 years	Glen David Tait (e)
Lay 2		Joan Meyer
Rostered 1	4 years	Patricia Giannelia (e)
Rostered 1		Eric Krushel
Rostered 2	4 years	Allan Grundahl (e)
Rostered 2		Richard Pryce

ELCIC Group Services Inc.		
GSI Positions Elected at Convention: 1 Lay Plan Member and 1 Rostered Plan Member		
Lay Plan Member	4 years	Pamela Giles (e)
Lay Plan Member		Darla Wildfang
Rostered Plan Member	4 years	Mark Van House (e)
Rostered Plan Member		Sebastian Meadows-Helmer