



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

April 15, 2016

Volume 51



Fish And Tend

Some time ago I had a privilege to visit an elderly member of one of our congregations. We talked, prayed, sang and had Holy Communion. Many tears were shed. This elder had lost two family members in short time, hadn't been able to go to church for a long time, didn't get a pastor from the home congregation to bury the loved one, and hadn't been visited for years. For some reason this person had been dropped out from the pastoral care list. Even the person's regularly mailed offerings haven't got the pastor's attention. (This shows again how important it is that pastors know who is supporting the church by offerings.)

We are encouraged to find a renewed sense of mission to live out more fully our call to be the Church in mission for others. I remember praying in one of the Assembly services in 2014 with these words:

For the ministries of these congregations that have served you for years and now close their doors, we give you thanks. Walk with those who are finding new

faith communities. Embrace them when they feel a sense of loss. Bless their new ministries and service with a lively sense of call in mission for others. We pray in Jesus name, Amen.

Ideally the church is reaching out into the community, helping people who are in need, being voice to the voiceless, and serving those at the margins. The reality, however, is that we use maybe 90% of our time for inward services – on ourselves in other words.

This year, in part through a special grant from the ELCIC Church Extension Capital Fund, the Eastern Synod Mission Committee was able to significantly expand the breadth of its support for new congregational outreach ministries. *"We have lots of money we want to give you for creative and new mission initiatives!"* the mission committee proclaims on their webpage. <http://www.easternsynod.org/content/mission-committee> This year the Synod sponsors 40 new mission projects through this fund. Good news indeed!

When calling Peter and Andrew

to follow him, Jesus said "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." If we want to catch fish, we have to **go** to fish, whether it's a lake, sea, river or pond. Fish don't come to our door to be caught. So, we are called to go out to meet people where they are.

At another time, at the breakfast on the beach Jesus again calls Peter – this time to take care of his flock. "Tend and feed my sheep", Jesus said.

While we are encouraged to seek new ways to do our ministry, actively "seeking other seas" as the song says, we should not neglect the ones who already are among us. Pastoral care in its very traditional form is still needed. Home, hospital, nursing home, prison visits are as important as they've always been.

A congregation which focuses solely on itself has no future. On the other hand, a congregation which does not lovingly care for its members is not attractive either. The challenge is to find a right balance between these two- inward and outward ministry.

Rev. Riitta Hepomaki
Assistant to the Bishop

Congratulations

We congratulate Rev. Paul F. Bosch, retired Eastern Synod pastor, on being named a Distinguished Alumni Award Recipient.

To read more about Paul and his award go to

<https://ltsp.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni-award-recipients/>

Congratulations Paul, may God continue to bless you.

GOD'S BACKYARD



Outdoor Ministry Is Alive

When Nobel Laureates are asked for the secret of their success, there is one common factor that seems to come up more than any other. It isn't smarts, although certainly they all have that in ready supply. It isn't perseverance, although they couldn't succeed without that, either. It's a person. A mentor. Someone who stood up for them along the way. Often it was a teacher. A chemistry teacher who left the lab door open so they could experiment after school hours. Or who encouraged their parents to send them to a faraway university to study at a higher level.

We all might name a similar person, who took us under their wing and made us better, more confident, and provided more opportunities for success. I've had several myself, experienced voices who have taught me how to be a better servant in the life of the Church, how to weather trials. One of those people was a camp counselor from my youth. I could always count on him to be there for me, and to accept me for who I was. He taught me that we all understand God in our unique way, and that we build a lasting faith out of that individual expression.

I am not alone in that camp experience. When I talk to people in our larger church family I am struck by the number of individuals who have mentors they have had to opportunity to meet through outdoor ministry. Each summer, I see that refreshed vision of faith playing out again in a new generation of campers.

Our camps, Edgewood, Lutherlyn, and Mush-a-Mush all provide that safe space for our youth and young adults to experience that voice of praise and acceptance. All three of our camps are gearing up for what will be an incredible summer. A place where mentors are found and lessons are learned. Lessons like tolerance for difference; openness to the possibility in others; kindness to strangers; the folly of hubris; the cost-and the gift-of sacrifice. These are important lessons taught by our first and foremost mentor—Jesus.

Give your youth and young adults the stillness of God's Backyard to find their mentor—to find themselves.

Camp Contacts

Lutheran Camp Mush-a-Mush: www.campmush.ca

Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre:
www.edgewood-camp.on.ca

Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre:
www.lutherlyncamp.ca

*Please donate to our camps through your church offerings
or directly to the Eastern Synod.
Thank you for your support!*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Elina Salonen and her husband Rev. Ed Bastien as they mourn the loss of her son Mikko.



Report of the Treasurer (To March 31st, 2016)

At the end of the first quarter of 2016, offerings remitted to the synod office for Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and The ELCIC Praise Appeal are all running ahead of remittances for the same period in 2015. For details refer to [The Report of the Treasurer](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the Treasurers/Financial Info button.

We Care...



Attention We Care Network! Find new kit and quilt instructions at clwr.org/WeCare.

Vacancies

First, Toronto
Faith, Port Elgin
Christ, Waterloo
Grace, Oakville

St. Matthew's, Sudbury
St. Timothy's, Copper Cliff

All Saints, Newcombville
St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner
Mount Olivet, Upper LaHave

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



Deadline for Scholarship Applications Fast Approaching

The *Murray Scholarship* was established in 2012 through a donation made by the congregation of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Hamburg, Ontario in honour of their long-time organist, Ms. Murray. The purpose is to support students who are either studying music or are otherwise musically oriented. These funds are available for the school year 2016-2017.

Ask your pastor for an application or contact Stephanie at synod office, sclayton@elcic.ca or call 1-877-373-5242.

Have you registered for Synod Assembly yet?

Clergy, Lay Delegates and Visitors must register online by May 1st in order to take advantage of the **early bird fees**. Payment can be made either by credit card or by cheque made payable to Eastern Synod of ELCIC.

<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/assembly-2016>

St. John's, Hamilton
is celebrating its
60th anniversary.
May 31 at 10 a.m.



A cordial invitation is extended to former members.

THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!

April 23 is the deadline for submission of nomination forms for those desiring to be on the ballot for election to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention.

Keep the following in mind:

- No signature is required for an endorsement (a contact number of the endorser is required, however).
- Each congregation may NOMINATE one person (in addition to a youth delegate, if applicable)
- an individual may ENDORSE more than one nominee
- One does **not** need to be a delegate to this year's Synod Assembly in order to be eligible for election to be a National Convention delegate. **All members of Eastern Synod congregations are eligible.**
- **The Eastern Synod will bear the cost of delegate fees etc;** the congregation does not need to take care of them.

Go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/story/february-23-2016-nomination-and-election-eastern-synod-delegates->



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Arab-Israeli Cookbook

Inshallah, the seminary's spirited community choir, will be singing at the Kitchener Public Library as part of a local presentation of the play the Arab -Israeli Cookbook. Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. Main branch, 85 Queen St. N. in Kitchener. Click [here](#) for more details.

Kanata Centre

Inshallah took their worship and song to Kingston recently to help raise funds for Syrian refugees sponsored by area churches, including St. Mark's Lutheran. For videos, visit [St. Mark's Facebook page](#).

Centre for Public Ethics

We had the pleasure of hosting Mo-hammad Ali Shomali (pictured at left) in late March. The Iranian scholar, director of the Islamic Centre of England, delivered a public [lecture](#) on world peace and Christian-Muslim relations. We co-sponsored the event with the good folks at the Kitchener-based Islamic Humanitarian Service.



Glebe Centre

The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre, a community outreach project to help strengthen emotional and spiritual well-being, continues to grow. In March, our therapists served a record 132 clients! It's not only a resource for the broader community, but for the Eastern Synod family as well. See [glebecounselling.ca](#) for details.

Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, dkrugerallen@wlu.ca
Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca



About 250 students played board games, munched on snacks and listened to live music in Keffer chapel on St. Patrick's Day. It was the second year for the Shamrock Café. See [more photos](#).

thirdspace_ creates a great space on a difficult day

As an estimated 5,000 student gathered on Ezra Avenue just a block away from the seminary for St. Patrick's Day, about 250 students had a quieter, alcohol-free party in Keffer Chapel thanks to Laurier campus Christian clubs, a local church and the seminary based thirdspace_ community.



Rev. Anne Anderson

Rev. Anne Anderson, leader of thirdspace_ and our community pastor, says the café was a safe and fun space on a day that was diffi-

cult for many students.

Co-ordinating the alternative party is just one of the many ways Anne's ministry provides an emotional and spiritual haven for students and, in turn, helps fulfil the Eastern Synod's mission priority of practising spirited discipleship.

For more information, visit the [thirdspace_ web page](#) or contact Pastor Anne at ananderson@wlu.ca

Tom O'Connor honoured for research career



We're delighted to announce that the Society for Pastoral Counselling Research recently honoured Tom O'Connor, a professor emeritus at the seminary, with a Distinguished Career Research Award.

Patricia Berendsen, the society's president and seminary alumna, said the award is bestowed on someone who has exemplified ongoing research and has made significant changes to pastoral counselling, which is now known as spiritual care or spiritually integrated therapy. Our heartfelt congratulations to you, Tom!



July 24-27, 2016

Wilfrid Laurier University
75 University Ave West, Waterloo, Ontario



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**KEYNOTE
SPEAKERS**

The Very Rev'd Dr. Bruce Jenneker from Durbanville, Cape Town

The Rev'd Dr. Stephen Larson from New Hamburg, Ontario

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