

# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

June 16, 2016

Volume 53



## Synod Assembly Plans Ready— Are You?

I can very clearly remember attending my first ever synod convention. I was not a delegate, but a teen who had been enlisted to assist in making a presentation about our synod's outdoor ministry programmes. It felt like a very big deal; an important event in the life of our church. And today, I still consider these gatherings to be "big deals"; important events wherein we assemble as an ecclesial community to meet and do the things that are essential to the maintenance and deepening of our ministry partnerships.

In just a few weeks, some 400 delegates and visitors will gather in Toronto, Ontario for this year's Eastern Synod Assembly from June 23 to 26, 2016.

Some anticipated highlights include:

\*Welcoming and engaging with our theme speaker, The Rev. Munib Younan, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and President of the Lutheran World Federation. It is a very great honour and privilege to have this

pre-eminent global church leader with us to explore the assembly theme, *Liberated by God's Grace*.

\*A review of our synod's Biennium Reconciliation Initiative. Opportunities will be provided to share the ways in which we have lived out our synod's commitment to seeking renewed and right relationship with our indigenous neighbours. We will consider "things done and things left undone" and prayerfully consider next steps.

\*Election of delegates to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention. This will be our first experience whereby the synod will elect delegates to an ELCIC National Convention. You can find information on the nomination and electoral process at <http://www.easternsynod.org/story/february-23-2016-nomination-and-election-eastern-synod-delegates-elcic-national-convention>

\*Election of a new Vice Chairperson of the Eastern Synod. At the 2015 ELCIC National Convention, Ms. Linda Grainger was elected to serve as the Secretary of the ELCIC, necessitating her resignation as Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Synod.

We will elect her successor at this year's Synod Assembly.

\*How are we living into the Covenant Concerning the Life of the Eastern Synod? Over the course of the last 18 months, 52% of the Eastern Synod's congregations have reviewed and affirmed our synod's covenantal partnership. We will conclude our assembly business session with an extended committee-of-the-whole conversation about our life together.

All this will take place in the context of an Assembly agenda that will be filled with rich worship experiences, presentations from our wider-church partners, consideration of resolutions that delegates will bring for our consideration and important decisions about our synod's mission and ministry.

Over the course of these special days we will celebrate, nurture and care for the life of our Eastern Synod faith community. This is holy and good work and I pray that God would grant us the grace and willingness to be its faithful agents.

Bishop Michael Pryse



## See you at Assembly

## Dedicated Service Celebrated

submitted by Lynn Perrin

About 25 years ago, Lazaro and Ana Maria Escobar and their two children Sara Maria and Lazaro Jose came to Canada from war-torn El Salvador via the United States. Here they were reunited with their large extended family. At that time it was the privilege of this faith community, St James Lutheran Church Mannheim and St James New Dundee, and the Lutheran Refugee Committee to meet the Escobars and to offer support. The two churches put forth monetary support, drove them to appointments and helped them to get set up and settled. Soon the Escobars were hired as caretakers of St James Mannheim, an arrangement that continues to this day and now includes mowing the lawn and caring for the cemetery on that beautiful piece of land.

When the Escobars arrived in Canada, Lazaro Jose was 9 and Sara Maria was 11. Now Lazaro Jose is a detective with Waterloo

Regional Police Services and Sara Maria is a Community Outreach Worker for The Working Centre in downtown Kitchener. Lazaro Sr. works in construction and Ana Maria completed Early Childhood Education training at Conestoga College and retired from working for 25 years in childcare at English at First. Lazaro Jose is married to Katy, a teacher, and they have brought a new generation into this world, Emmet and Catina with a new baby on the way. This makes Lazaro Sr. and Ana Maria grandparents and Sara Maria an auntie! On Sunday May 15 the members of St James Mannheim celebrated the many years the Escobar family have served their congregation and everyone gave thanks to God for their dedication and service.

Pastor Nancy Kelly, a member of the Lutheran Refugee Committee and the churches' liaison when the Escobar family came to Canada, led the worship service. A pot luck lunch and fellowship followed the service.



The Escobar Family

 Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief



Pray | Learn | Give  
**Make Room at the Table**

*A group activity for World Refugee Day*

Find this resource and more at [www.clwr.org/WRD](http://www.clwr.org/WRD)

## Deconsecration Service

The congregation of Faith Lutheran, Deep River invites friends and former members to the Deconsecrating Service of the church building.

Sunday, June 19, 2016  
3:00 pm

Come and share your memories of the past and celebrate with them their future.

All are cordially welcome.

## Vacancies

Oakville, Grace  
Petawawa, St. John's  
Sudbury, New Hope  
Waterloo, Christ

Williamsburg, South Dundas  
Newcombsville, All Saints  
St. Luke's, Rhodes Corner  
Upper LaHave, Mount Olivet

For more information please contact [Rev. Douglas Reble](mailto:Rev. Douglas Reble), Assistant to the Bishop.



## Three Days, Two Blanket Exercises, One Lutheran

Submitted by Bonnie Weppler

Have you ever experienced the Blanket Exercise? If you have, it's an experience you won't soon forget. If you haven't, find out if there's one near you and go!

The Blanket Exercise is a participative way to learn or be reminded of Canada's history with Aboriginal Peoples. Turtle Island (North America) is quite literally represented by blankets. Most participants play the role of Aboriginal Peoples with a minority representing the settler role. Different points throughout our shared history are highlighted, resulting in different actions being taken by participants.

St. Peter's Ottawa hosted the Blanket Exercise on Sunday, May 29. Almost 40 participants came from a number of Ottawa congregations, including St. Peter's next door neighbour, the Anglican Christ Church Cathedral. A smattering of non-church friends also came out to learn. Three elders were in attendance and shared personal stories as we traveled the blankets together.

Three days later, on Tuesday, May 31, the second Ottawa Mass Blanket Exercise was held at the

foot of the steps of Parliament Hill. It was opened with the smudging of participants and this healing and purifying tradition continued during the exercise. The truth-telling began and Aboriginal elders circulated to comfort participants whose emotions overcame them.

I've now participated in four Blanket Exercises. However, with an evolving script there is always something to learn and remember. For example, this time around I learned that rates of tuberculosis are 185% higher than those for non-Aboriginal, Canadian-born people. I was also reminded of the process of enfranchisement where Aboriginal people who became doctors and lawyers and other professionals were made to give up their legal Indian status, something which alienated them from their communities.

The Mass Blanket Exercise ended with a performance by an Aboriginal hoop dancer and a mass round dance, led by Theland Kinkosway, the 12-year old who led Justin Trudeau's new cabinet into Rideau Hall in November 2015.

For more information:

[www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise](http://www.kairosCanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise)



## The Trail of Martin Luther

October 12-22, 2016

Join Pastor Rasma Caune from Epiphany Lutheran Church Toronto



2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation



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### Report of the Treasurer (To May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016)

As we approach mid-year, benevolence receipts for 2016 are continuing to track slightly ahead of amounts received for the same period in 2015. Thanks for your continued support!

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief are slightly behind last year's pace due primarily to the 2015 response to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal.

More details about 2016 receipts to date, as well as the synod's 2015 audited financial statements are posted in the [Treasurer-Financial Information page](#) on the Eastern Synod web site ([www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)).

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of Sydney Weatherall, husband of the late Rev. Barbara Weatherall who passed away June 5, 2016.







## Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

### Our first (under)grad!

Congratulations to **Sydney**

**Marshall** — the first graduate of our BA in Christian

Studies and Global Citizenship program. Sydney,

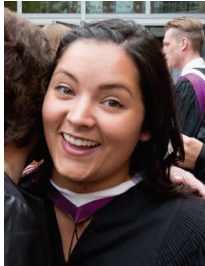
who was featured in [TESL](#) in February,

also graduated with a BA in Spanish. You can

watch the undergraduate (2 p.m. June 13) and graduate

(2 p.m. June 17) ceremonies [online](#).

The CSGC program, launched four years ago, is growing tremendously. About 20 students will be enrolled by September.



### Glebe Centre

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#), a community outreach project to help strengthen emotional and spiritual well-being, is pleased to announce that **Janet Howitt**

will begin her role as executive director on June 20. Our thanks to Eric Pierni, the centre's outgoing executive director, for putting

the centre on a solid financial footing with a sound business plan. Janet is a seminary alumna (MSW-MTS 2010) and gold medal recipient.



### Kanata Centre

Drop into the seminary to see the current art exhibition by **Shwetha Subramanya and Manu Pallapa**. [Dances of India](#), paintings, runs to the end of June.

### Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, [dkrugerallen@wlu.ca](mailto:dkrugerallen@wlu.ca)

Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, [mpetricevic@wlu.ca](mailto:mpetricevic@wlu.ca)



This is [MontgomerySisam](#)'s rendering for the new Bricker Avenue entrance to the seminary. We hope to complete the \$9-million renewal and modernization project by September 2018.

## \$9-million plan for renewal, modernization

More than 50 years after our seminary building opened for a student body composed of young men, it needs to be renewed and modernized

to serve students today and well into the future.

The \$9-million project will increase the building's

footprint only slightly, but boost its capacity from 180-260 students. Almost all of the changes will take place inside its walls (reconfiguration of classrooms, offices, and gathering spaces). Asbestos will be removed from Keffer Memorial Chapel, but the worship space will remain largely unchanged.

A small addition to the south wall along Bricker Avenue will serve as a new main entrance which will face the community.



The southern wall: The seminary renewal plan calls for the mechanical room (bottom right) to be replaced with a new entrance.

We expect the installation of energy efficient materials, electrical, heating and cooling systems will reduce ongoing

operating costs.

To pay for the project we are exploring a number of options, including a fundraising campaign directed at specific potential donors.

[View the architect's plan.](#)

## Laurier honours David Pfrimmer for lifetime service



Wilfrid Laurier University is honouring **David Pfrimmer**, principal-dean of the seminary from 2005-2015, for a lifetime of service to the university, to the seminary and to the broader community. David is scheduled to receive the Order of Wilfrid Laurier University at convocation on June 17. Our heartfelt congratulations to you, David!



## Refugee awareness at mealtime

To help “bring home” the needs of the world’s 60 million refugees, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) has introduced [Make Room at the Table](#). The meal-oriented promotion asks families, churches, schools and businesses to set a place at the meal table for a refugee, learn about what life is like for refugees, then suggest everyone around the table donate the average cost of a restaurant meal – about \$15 – to support CLWR’s world-wide refugee relief programs.

“For many, mealtime is a tremendously social gathering,” noted CLWR executive director Robert Granke. “With [World Refugee Day](#) on June 20 we wanted to create a way to build awareness of refugees’ needs and at the same time provide an opportunity for conversation around the issue.” The program information is at [www.clwr.org/makeroom](http://www.clwr.org/makeroom)



*Make Room at the Table*  
A group activity for World Refugee Day

To help focus the meal-time event, CLWR’s *Make Room at the Table* resource site and booklet provides refugee stories for participants to read aloud at the meal and a prayer asking God to provide comfort and encouragement to the refugee and offering thanks for the food. The organization has even [provided recipes](#) for meals typically prepared in refugee camps and homes.

“In our Lutheran circles we often pray Luther’s Table Prayer before our meals. It begins ‘Come Lord Jesus, be our guest.’ With *Make Room at the Table* we are also inviting refugees into our thoughts, prayers and conversations,” explained Granke.

Along with many other organizations world-wide CLWR is focused on creating awareness of refugees on Monday, June 20 which is designated World Refugee Day. Additional resources are available at [www.clwr.org/WRD](http://www.clwr.org/WRD).