



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

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The Challenge Of September

I don't know about you but when September rolls around, a predictable battle surfaces in my life. It is the battle associated with re-engagement. Summer is over - more or less. The fall schedule starts to move into high gear. Responsibility begins tugging at my sleeve and I want nothing more than to resist. I want to hold onto the illusion that I can remain on holidays permanently and be answerable to nothing and nobody. I want to avoid living under any external claims upon my life.

Usually there is enough space in the summer months to find opportunity to "kick back" and enjoy some of those lazy, hazy days associated with this time of year. And it is possible, when this happens, to think we are most alive in these moments. What is more, we get plenty of affirmation from the culture that tells us this is the way it should be. So, when September and the fall schedule call us back

to our roles and responsibilities, the internal battle begins.

But the battle has even larger implications. One of the writers I have been reading over the summertime pointed out that one of the great fictions of our age is the notion of a person without a role. It is the idea that we are most fully moral when we have divested ourselves of all external claims upon ourselves. But, the writer argued, this is fiction. The liberal self, detached from any history or any claim upon the self other than the claims one has personally chosen, does not exist. All of us are busy being determined by something. Even the claim that I am living only "for myself" is an externally imposed claim fostered by the current culture. So, he argued, the question is not, "Will I serve some purpose larger than myself?", for freedom from such determination is impossible. The question is, "Will the master whom I serve be true or false?"

So when it comes right down to it, my little battle associated with September has far greater implications. The challenge of September is actually calling me back to the realization that as a baptized Christian, I have been grasped by something greater than myself. I am owned, claimed, commandeered, if you will, for larger purposes. I am called to speak and enact the word of God among God's people and in the world. It is a reality that never goes on holiday. It is a reality that gives meaning and purpose to my life. When I am en-

gaged in this vocation I am most fully alive. I might suggest that the same is true for you.

What is more, when all of us in the church allow our lives to be so grasped by this external claim upon our lives as the community of the baptized, then the church also comes alive and the work of the Holy Spirit can begin once more to work the marvelous deeds of the kingdom through us.

Yes, summer is nearly over, the fall schedule is heating up and the call of the Word of God is anxious, once again, to lay its claim upon our lives. How shall we respond?

Peace be with you,

Rev. Douglas Reble
Assistant to the Bishop
Eastern Synod, ELCIC



Help ensure children around
the world have what they
need to go back to school

Please donate today at clwr.org/donate

Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev. Matthew Anderson and family as they mourn the loss of his father Rob, and also with Rev. Calvin Diegel and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife Elizabeth.



Reformation 500

The six LCC and ELCIC Lutheran Churches in London On. through their Foundation, Lutheran Social Services (London) are sponsoring a festival event to celebrate Reformation 500.

The event will be held at St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral in London on **Sunday October 22nd 2017 at 3.30pm.** Organ and brass with timpani, and a senior youth choir will lead the singing of topical hymns/tunes by the various Reformers and Psalm paraphrases from various sources. Many will be based on Psalm 46. All will have familiar or quickly picked up tunes! This is not a worship service; it is a Festival of song with a presentation on Martin Luther.

The presentation will be by Lutheran scholar Dr. Christine Helmer. Dr. Helmer is the Arthur E. Andersen Teaching and Research Professor at Northwestern University. She is also Professor of Religious Studies and German. She is one of the leading scholars of Luther in the world. She has published widely in the area of the historical Luther and the global Luther, and is currently completing a book entitled *The Revisionist Luther*. Her MOOC (massive open online course) on "Luther and the West" will launch (for free) with Coursera on Oct. 3, 2016. In this talk she will speak of Luther and his relevance to us at this time.

We expect to arrange for dedicated parking near the Cathedral. Full details will be sent to all congregations within about 2-hours of London, nearer the time. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Putting Legs on a Dream

Submitted by Jeff Pym

In the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical *South Pacific*, Bloody Mary sings:
You gotta have a dream, if you don't have a dream,
How you gonna have a dream come true?

There is undoubtedly some good advice in that song, and not just for the young lovers in the story. While dreaming carries the risk of disappointment, it also bears the promise of lifting us up out of the everyday into something far more fulfilling.

Do you have a dream for your church? Do you wish that your congregation could sustain a program that reaches out to people in your community? Do you wish that you could employ a pastor on a full-time call? Do you wish that your building could be restored to good repair or made fully wheelchair accessible? While daring to have a dream is the first step, most dreams could use some financial help to become reality.

Making a gift to the church in your will can put legs on a dream. It's surprisingly easy to turn a vision for the future of your church into a legacy of faith.

To learn more about how to put legs on your dream for the church, contact Jeff Pym at jpym@elfec.ca or 1-888-308-9461.

The following Friends of **Lutheran Planned Giving** have come forward within the past year, told us about their gift, and given us permission to publish their names. Our hope is that you, after seeing a familiar name on the list, might be inspired by their example to make a gift of your own.

Mary Adam	Toronto, ON
Jamie and Cindy Courtney	Kitchener, ON
Norm and Ella Freund	Kitchener, ON
Brian and Ann Koivu	Sudbury, ON
Keith and Cheryl Myra	Waterloo, ON
Paul and Joan Roelichen-Pfohl	Pembroke, ON
Hans and Debbie Van Vehmendahl	Sudbury, ON

In addition to these donors there are eight others who have chosen to remain anonymous.

Our church is blessed by the presence of all givers—known and unknown—and the abundance of their gifts. We give thanks to God for their inspired dreaming and generous giving.



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**Confirmation Camp
submitted by Charles Nolting**

It was early July when the confirmation class of New Hope Lutheran in Sudbury met for confirmation camp at Hannah Lake Bible Camp. During the next five days they would be bringing together all that they had been learning at their monthly classes for the past six months. Now they would bond together through class time, meals, sauna and swims, worship, games, and *trailblazer time*. Trailblazer time is a way to give back to the camp, this year reopening the overgrown trail that leads up the hill to the south cross, as well as some brushing along the entrance road.

We were blessed with many adult volunteers who looked after meals, supervision, and clean up. A huge thank you to all who donated of their time, those who donated food and snacks, and Pastor Glenda Morrisette who came to teach some of the classes. The camp ended Friday afternoon and our confirmation service was the following Sunday.



Youth Wanted for CLAY 2018 National Planning Committee

The National Planning Committee for CLAY 2018 is seeking two youth who would like to be part of the planning team! Interested youth can apply by filling out the form found through this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2018CLAYyouthapplication>. Application deadline is October 11, 2016. Youth must be available to attend the first planning meeting in London, ON from Nov. 17-20, 2016. We are looking for individuals who are passionate about being involved in youth ministry and having previously attended a CLAY event is an asset.

EUROPEAN REFORMATION TOUR 2017



Oct. 28-Nov. 9, 2017

Join Kevin & Gail Baglole in Wittenburg on Oct. 31, 2017 for the

500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

We will travel over 11 days from Berlin to Munich, following the development and the lives of the the 16th Century Reformers in their cities and notable sites including being in Wittenburg, Germany on Oct. 31, 2017.

\$3419 per person with a 10% discount if you book **BEFORE** Oct. 15, 2016.

Includes: 11 breakfasts, 7 dinners, guided tours, luggage transfers and many opportunities for free time to explore on your own.

Excluded: flights*, meals not specified, gratuities, and items of a personal nature.

CONTACT Kevin – kbaglole65@cogeco.ca or call 905.865.4686 for more information or to book



**Group Flights may be arranged in January 2017*

Vacancies

New Hamburg, Trinity
Petawawa, St. John's
Pickering, Peace
Sudbury, New Hope

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

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

Images for ELCIC Worship Bulletin Covers

2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the day Luther nailed his theses on the church door in Wittenberg calling for the Church to reform itself. The ELCIC Program Committee for Worship (PCW) has put out a call for door images evoking reformation from across the church to be used on worship bulletin covers for the 2016-2017 liturgical year.

The images can be of doors of any sort. The church door in Wittenberg was the bulletin board of the day. Doors combined with other symbols of the church or the reformation can carry the reformation to us too. Images of doors with notices attached, crosses emblazoned, trinity celebrated or doors that invite us into the light, into contemplation of stability and beauty and into transition and change are all welcome.

Please send images attached to an email to ELCICcross@gmail.com indicating the *PHOTOGRAPHER* who took the image and the *LOCATION* where the picture was taken. *Tell the STORY: say something about why you took the image. Include the name of the congregation if appropriate.*

The PCW has asked David Solheim who provided bulletin cover images for three years and prepared the cross images last year to select and prepare the set of images for the bulletin covers again this year. Since the bulletin covers require a square image (like Instagram), Dave will crop your image as need. Dave says that from a practical point of view any jpeg (.jpg) image that is 2.6 MB or more in size can work.

All images for the first half year need to be submitted before October 7, 2016.

Trinity, Windsor Sunday School Help At-Risk Windsor Youth

submitted by Michael Lees

For the past couple of months the Sunday School children of Trinity, Windsor have thought up, organized, and run a fundraiser and benefit for the Windsor Youth Centre.

The Windsor Youth Centre is a drop in centre for at-risk and homeless youth of Windsor / Essex County between the ages of 16 through 25. From 5 pm to 10 pm Mondays through Saturdays youth can drop in, join in a home cooked meal, help clean up, share stories and events happening in their lives, get help with a resume, and share in community. Ashley, the Assistant Administrator explains that on any given day they see a mix of repeat clients as well as new faces. The centre does have a three year grant from Ontario's Trillium foundation but other than that they rely

totally on donations and help from the community.

Trinity's Sunday School found out from the centre what Windsor's at-risk and homeless youth needed, and then asked the congregation to bring in those personal hygiene and household goods items that were required.

The congregational response was amazing, with many people bringing in everything from shampoo to canned goods to cash. The monetary donations were matched, up to \$250, by a generous member of Trinity. The money was then used to purchase items on the list that had not yet been donated.

On 12 July 2016 I was privileged to join the Sunday School teachers, along with a few of the children, to make the presentation to the Windsor Youth Centre. We found a vibrant group of people, including a few engaging toddlers, who were happy to have a place to go.

In all Trinity donated goods and Walmart gift cards totalling about \$1,000.00. I joyfully congratulate Trinity's Sunday School on an excellent effort helping Windsor's at risk and homeless youth community!

Pictured left: Ashley, with teachers Debbie, Kristen, & Donna



From the National Office

Take the Reformation Challenge!

ELCIC members are encouraged to give expression to being *Liberated by God's Grace* through the ELCIC Reformation Challenge. Our goals are to:

- Sponsor 500 refugees to Canada
- Provide 500 scholarships for ELCJHL schools
- Plant 500,000 trees in Canada, Palestine and Ethiopia
- Give \$500,000 to the LWF Endowment Fund

Let us know your commitment by telling us what you, your congregation, your family and your community pledge to do. Please [click here](#) to get more information on how to get started!

Reformation Theme Reflections

Here's some great continuing ed material! Theological reflections for study groups are contained in four booklets which are the work of authors and scholars from across our global Communion of Churches. Topics include the migration of peoples (including refugees), climate change, land expropriation, the prosperity gospel and sustainable human existence. These are excellent resources for ministerial study groups and ecumenical conversations. Consider planning a spring or fall study with area colleagues!

Reformation Reflections:

<http://2017.lutheranworld.org/content/reflecting-131>



Welcome to our 22 undergrad students and new incoming MA students who gathered at Creeff Hills Community from Sept. 9 -11 for an orientation retreat weekend. At this point, our total enrolment is 171. For more pictures and a fun campfire video, [visit the album on our Facebook page](#).

A school year packed with learning and service

A new school year has begun and our classes are brimming with students. But that's only half the story at the seminary: Much of the learning here takes place outside of the classroom as we present public lectures and forums, gather for meals, and assemble for worship. Here are highlights of our major events taking place during the fall term:

Sept. 28 [Public lecture](#) by Jonathan Kuttab, a human-rights lawyer who practises in the Holy Land.

Oct. 1 Women's Auxiliary [annual meeting](#) at St. John's Lutheran Church, Waterloo.

Oct. 2 [Sing Fires of Justice](#) with

New Settlers: an annual festival of song and word to promote peace and justice.

Oct. 28 Fall convocation.

Nov. 2 We're holding an interfaith service (5 p.m.) followed by soup and bread supper (6 p.m.) and Abrahamic Faiths Forum (7 p.m.).

Nov. 5 The [Inshallah choir](#) marks its 10th anniversary with a public celebration during which they will reveal a commemorative songbook. Stay tuned for details.

Nov. 13 [thirdspace](#) art journaling workshop in Keffer Chapel, 1 p.m.

Visit our [online events calendar](#).

UW architecture professor lauds seminary renewal plan

Thank you to Rick Haldenby, professor at the University of Waterloo's School of Architecture, for supporting our \$9-million [renewal and modernization plan](#)! In a [letter](#) to The Waterloo Chronicle, he wrote: "The Waterloo Lutheran Seminary has taken its responsibility to preserve this important piece of Waterloo's history, urban landscape and architectural culture extremely seriously. They deserve our gratitude and support."



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Spirituality and mental health

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) presents a breakfast gathering at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery, in Waterloo, 7:30 - 9 a.m., Thursday, Oct. 20. Drawing from decades of experience as a therapist and researcher Dr. Kenneth Parment, professor emeritus at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, will share his stories and insights on the bond between spiritual beliefs and mental health. **DEADLINE is Oct. 10.** [See the flyer](#) or [contact](#) the Glebe centre for details or to register.



Contact us

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