



# The Eastern Synod Lutheran

[www.easternsynod.org](http://www.easternsynod.org)



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Volume 61



**Rev Riitta Hepomaki**  
Assistant to the Bishop

We were studying the book of Acts. In the beginning of the book there is a story about a man whom John and Peter met at the gate of the temple, and who Peter healed. It was a miracle. So we talked about miracles in the bible study that night.

“Those who can heal, have a special gift”, one said.

“They have stronger faith”, added another.

“How?” asked the third one.

The group shared their thoughts and experiences about the mysteries of faith.

“I’ve never healed anyone. So, I cannot say for sure whether or not stronger faith is needed”, said a

person who had quietly listened to the conversation. “I don’t have a gift of healing, but I have a car, and I can drive. I may not be able to say to someone with a disability ‘get up and walk’, but I can offer them a ride. That is my gift.”

When Jesus healed people, their lives changed. First of all, they could move, they could go different places. It also meant that they weren’t isolated anymore. They could belong to a community. They could participate. If I offer a ride to a person who cannot walk or who cannot afford to take a taxi, it has the same effect: It nourishes that person’s faith. I believe that to be as valuable as to say “stand up and walk”.

You may say that miracles must be extraordinary and supernatural and that an everyday act cannot be a miracle because anyone can do it. But while any of us could offer a ride, a meal or shelter, the fact is that many of us don’t. It is also a fact that a random act of kindness can be seen as a miracle by those who receive it.

Open your eyes to see your gift. An everyday gift is as good as a charismatic, special gift. Ordinary gifts are what we need here at this time in this age. And they work. Trust me.

*One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, at three o’clock in the afternoon. And a man lame from birth was being carried in. People would lay him daily at the gate of the temple called the Beautiful Gate so that he could ask for alms from those entering the temple. When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked them for alms. Peter looked intently at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you; in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk.” And he took him by the right hand and raised him up; and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong... (Act 3)*

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## Reformation 500 event London On.

Submitted by Hugh Drogemuller

Planning is well under way for the Reformation 500 event to be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London ON. at 3.30pm Sunday October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2017.

The event will feature a presentation by Dr. Christine Helmer on what Martin Luther has to say on matters relevant to today's society. Christine Helmer (Ph.D. Yale) is Professor of Religious Studies at Northwestern University, Evanston Ill. She is also the current holder of the Arthur E. Anderson Teaching and Research Professorship. Professor Helmer's area of research and teaching is Christian theology with primary interest in the theology of Martin Luther.

The assembly will sing hymns which emphasize the theology of the Reformation. Care has been taken to include hymns that are set to tunes familiar to most. An effort has been made to include some hymns that originated within the various Reformation traditions.

The highly acclaimed 70 voice Amabile Youth Singers will lead our songs accompanied by organ and a brass quintet plus tympani. The choir will also perform two items one of which will be a chant version of Psalm 46.

Entrance and parking are free. Arrangements have been made for free parking in The London Life parking lot on the east side of Clarence Street between Queens Ave and Dufferin Street. For the east end entrance of the Cathedral you just walk across Clarence Street and through another parking lot.

The event is being sponsored by Lutheran Social Services (London) a public Foundation owned by the six ELC and ELCIC churches in London ON. This is not a worship event. It is a lecture and hymn sing. Any questions, please email Hugh Drogemuller at [hughdrog@gmail.com](mailto:hughdrog@gmail.com)

## Apple Tree Workshops

Two workshops are scheduled for the upcoming weeks:

March 25 at St. Paul's, Neustadt  
April 1 at Christ the King, Whitby

Contact Liz to register [ezehr@elcic.ca](mailto:ezehr@elcic.ca) or call 519-743-1461



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## Vacancies

Faith, Brantford  
St. Matthew, Fredericton  
St. Matthew's, Kitchener  
St. Peter's, Ottawa  
Advent, Toronto

For further information please contact Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop, [dreble@elcic.ca](mailto:dreble@elcic.ca) or call 1-877-373-5242.

## H.U.G.S. Helping Us Grow Spiritually

A weekend retreat for women of all ages. Sponsored by Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod.  
**May 26-28, 2017**



The event takes place at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre located just off Hwy 400 in Innisfill, ON (Just outside Barrie). Two guest speakers will be featured; Ruth Smith Meyer, an inspirational writer and speaker and Brenda Byers, a story teller by profession.

The conference centre, on beautiful Lake Kempenfelt, is situated perfectly for outdoor activities which are included in the weekend (weather permitting).

For registration information check the calendar on the Eastern Synod website at [easternsynod.org](http://easternsynod.org)

The cost for the weekend including meals is \$250.00 per person based on double-occupancy. If you do not wish to share a room you can elect to have a single room for an additional \$100.00 for the weekend.

Every woman welcome.



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## Mark Your Calendar!

Earlier this year, Bishop Susan Johnson sent out a letter advising of proposed changes to the **Letters of Call** and of new documents that better clarify the relationship between rostered ministers and congregations. These documents are posted on the ELCIC website.

<http://www.elcic.ca/Leadership/lettersofcall.cfm>

The letter stated, "It is our hope and expectation that these proposed changes will enhance the quality of our vocational relationships and deepen our bonds of mutual care and accountability."

We invite Congregational Council Chairs, Congregational Treasurers and Rostered Leaders to a 75 minute presentation to review the content of these documents, chaired by Bishop Michael Pyrse and facilitated by Lisa Thiessen, ELCIC Group Services Inc.

Please choose one of these options to attend at

**Christ Lutheran Church**  
**445 Anndale Rd,**  
**Waterloo, ON N2K 1P8**  
**Monday June 19, 2017**  
**at 1:30 pm (EST) or**  
**at 7 pm (EST)**

or join us via Facebook live stream.

You can find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ESynodELCIC/>

Would you like to receive updates on the ELCIC's Reformation Challenge directly via email?

If so, please send an email to [info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca) with "Subscribe - Reformation Challenge" in the subject line.

## Report of the Treasurer 2016 Final (Pre-Audit)

Last month Eastern Synod Treasurer Keith Myra provided a high level summary of 2016 offerings that were remitted to the synod office for Benevolence, Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the ELCIC Reformation Challenge and various other causes.

In this issue Keith has included a more comprehensive view of 2016 from a financial perspective, including an analysis of operating fund income and expenditures, the good news of a small year-end surplus as well as a number of other financial highlights. Click on this [2016 Financial Summary](#) link for details.



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## ELCIC Women of Faith Fund

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund provides annual grants that encourage and facilitate the Christ-centred ministry of women within the ELCIC and In Mission for Others. This fund was established in 2011 in recognition of the "significant contribution of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)". The fund came from the monies remaining after the dissolution of the ELW. Individuals or groups may make additional donations to the fund. Grants from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund will be available on an annual basis.

**The deadline for applications is MAY 1.** Applicants will submit their proposals to the Women of Faith Fund Advisory Committee which is appointed by National Church Council. Examples of ELCIC Women of Faith Funds Approved in previous years.

- Prayer Shawl Ministry, SK - \$1,500
- Mustard Seed Family Support, BC - \$9,800
- Happy Hearts Quilters, SK - \$2,000
- Lutheran Women's Retreat & Spring Connection - SK - \$1,500
- Adopt a Room - Hope House Loft Retreat Area, MNO - \$2,000
- Peer Partner Programme, ABT - \$3,000
- If You Plant A Seed - Putting An Idea Into Action, Eastern - \$5,000
- East-West Community Outreach, Eastern - \$7,690
- Women in Leadership - Cameroon Companions, MNO - \$5,000

Twenty-eight projects were approved in 2016 (\$42,638 distributed).

Further information and the application forms are on the ELCIC website, [FaithFund](#)



# Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

March 2017

## Singing with our Neighbours

Inshallah is partnering with Indigenous friends and newcomers to Canada for the choir's annual winter event dubbed [Singing with our Neighbours](#). Includes Inshallah Kids, [Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak](#) (Good Hearted Women Singers), [Crossing Borders](#) newcomers' youth arts troupe. From 3 -4:30 p.m., Sunday, March 26. Free-will offering. Waterloo Collegiate Institute, 300 Hazel St., Waterloo.

## People of the Book

Our thanks to Mohammad Ali Shomali, director of the Islamic Centre of England, for visiting us again and for sharing his fascinating talk on People of the Book: Christians, Jews, Muslims, Zoroastrians and others pursuing God's teachings. View [photos](#) and his [lecture](#) on Facebook.



## Glebe Lunch & Learn

All welcome to the [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre's](#) lunch and learn series. Heidi Ahonen speaks on music therapy. Tuesday, March 21, noon-12:50 p.m., seminary Room 201. Bring your lunch. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Office closures

In order to help us prepare to vacate the seminary building by the end of April, ahead of construction for our \$9-million renewal and modernization project, we will be closing the seminary office at noon on Fridays until further notice. For more about our renewal project, see the June 2016 [TESL](#).

## Contact us

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

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



## Adolescent, child and play therapy

Although WLS has long been educating clergy in pastoral counselling for adults, we also strengthen the emotional and spiritual well-being of children. About 15-20% of students want to work with children or adolescents. Children naturally respond with play when dealing with crisis. A child's attention span is much shorter than an

adult's, so play is a natural way for children to communicate. The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre has a child/play therapy room (above photo) stocked with tools to encourage symbolic play which helps them increase confidence and heal trauma from bullying, divorce, or the death of a loved one. Click [here](#) for more details.



Bryan Larkin, chief of the Waterloo Regional Police Service, was our keynote speaker at a [leadership forum breakfast](#) on February 22 organized by the Centre for Public Ethics.



Members of the [thirdspace](#) alternative worshipping community, a seminary based project funded by the Eastern Synod's [Mission Committee](#), prepare meals for members and needy students.