



Eastern Synod Newsletter

www.easternsynod.org



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Dear Colleague and Partners,
Grace and peace be with you!

In the most recent series of meetings that I have convened with the rostered ministers of our synod, we have discussed potential scenarios by which in-person worship might begin in our churches as provincial restrictions begin to be lifted. Many of us, while mourning the absence of in-person worship, have grave concerns about our congregational capacity to ensure a safe and healthy environment in which to gather should current government restrictions be relaxed anytime within the next few months.

Early last week the Anglican House of Bishops in the Province of Ontario decided that their churches will not re-open for in person worship until September 2020 at the earliest, regardless of where the Government of Ontario is with its reopening plan. This decision was made in consultation with public health experts, with the

well-being and safety of parishioners and the communities they serve uppermost in their hearts and minds. I have also clearly heard that our pastors and deacons would welcome a directive of this kind. As such, it is my strong recommendation that our synod's congregations not contemplate initiating in-person worship experiences within our church buildings until the beginning of September at the earliest.

I fully recognize that the four provincial jurisdictions that our synod encompasses will each establish different schedules for the easing of restrictions. In addition, it is possible that regional distinctions might be established within individual provinces. Still, I believe that there is great value in all of us anticipating a more distant horizon for potential reopening than we might be hoping for.

For almost three months now we have been physically distancing from one another for the love of our neighbour. That same motivation needs to be paramount as we plan for the future. I encourage you to use these coming months as an opportunity to plan and put in place comprehensive plans for what in-person worship will look like once we have decided that it is both prudent and safe to physically gather in our church buildings once again. It is my intention to provide our rostered and congregational leaders with resources to help in that process in the

coming weeks.

I am also hoping that our rostered leaders will take much needed vacation time over these summer months and be encouraged to do so by their congregational leaders. Our ELCIC Bishops and Assistants to the Bishop are preparing a series of video and text sermons that can be accessed for each Sunday from June 14 through to September 13 to help ease the burden.

I have been profoundly moved and deeply inspired by the faithful witness that our leaders and congregations have provided during these immensely challenging days. You have responded to the pandemic with dexterity, generosity and deep faithfulness. You have made it abundantly clear that although our church buildings are not open for public worship, the church has not closed. In many ways, it has never been more open! The Spirit, whose descent we marked just days ago on the feast of Pentecost, is alive and active and is working among and through us.

May God continue to bless us with abundant gifts of hope, forbearance and patience as we navigate the significant decisions and choices that will need to be made going forward. Peace be with you!

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Hello!

My name is Kristina Kuhnert. Emily Savage and I are young, Canadian, Eastern Synod Lutherans doing synod-wide and synod-supported Youth and Young Adult Ministry on the internet (for now!). You may have seen us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram (@ELCICyoungadults), on YouTube (on the "Young Canadian Lutheran" channel) or perhaps you have heard of the "35 Under 35" project about Young Adults in the Church.

****Here's some of what's happening for YOUNG ADULTS (17-35)**

"35 Under 35"

There are way more Lutheran Young Adults across the Church than we think there are. I (Kristina) have been talking to young adults and introducing people to 60 (and counting!) Young Adult Lutherans from across the National Church. In each bio YA's share who they are, what they do, how they are involved in the Church, and what they are hopeful for. You learn about what is important to the growing Church of right now, and of the future.

To read these 60 bios and maybe find a new friend go to @ELCICyoungadults on FB, Twitter or Instagram, or to <https://esyouth-elcic.ca/>.



Email me kristinakhn@yahoo.ca to be involved! I would love to meet, include and hear about more Young Adults,

"Young Canadian Lutheran" YouTube Channel

What actually happened on Maundy Thursday? Imagine being the Chair of your church Council at 26! What does a Bishop even do? On this channel, I (Kristina) interview Young Adults about their REAL church and faith life, retell and investigate the church stories we've always heard, ask hard questions about church, and create space where we can worship and strengthen our faith together. We have so many questions about church and faith, and we're going to keep asking. See: <https://bit.ly/3etu6GN>

****Here's what's happening for YOUTH (13-17)**

Youth Hang Tuesdays 5-7pm EST

Sometimes, the best times in your life are just "chillin' with your peeps". That's what this is. Come for the whole time, come for 5 minutes, come and go as you can, but come hang with us, check in with your friends, chat about faith, life, and play some games.

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID 76559994876

Campfire Night Every other Friday (June 5, 19, etc) 7pm-9pm EST

Missing camp? Missing CLAY? Every other Friday we are sharing stories, songs, and silly games, and toasting marshmallows (safely!!) Bring your cozy clothes and your fave camp snack.

Join Zoom Meeting: Meeting ID: 898 5175 0750

Please read, and then share this with Young Adults (17-35), Youth (13-17), Young Adult and Youth Ministry leaders, even your whole congregation! You never know who is connected to someone missing community.

Follow our social medias for regular updates And send us an email, dm, etc. about what you're doing in your congregation/Area and what support you might be looking for!

Congratulations Robb Wilson

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and [The Anglican Church of Canada](#) announce the 2020 recipients of the Companion of the Worship Arts: <https://www.elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=573>



“Robb’s liturgical leadership within the life of our church has been both profound and significant,” says Eastern Synod Bishop Michael Pryse. “He exercises the gifts of that craft to exceptional effect within the life of the church and expresses a keen sensitivity to integrating the particular liturgical context, the needs of the worshipping community and the broader needs of the world.”

2020 Benevolence Offerings Show Slight Decline Financial Update (as of May 31st, 2020)

Given the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it’s not overly surprising that 2020 benevolence offerings have declined compared to the same period for 2019. However, the 7% year-to-date decrease that shows in our books as of May 31st is relatively small when viewed in the context of the drastic changes that we as individuals and congregations have experienced in our lives over the last three months.

Offerings designated for Canadian Lutheran World Relief have been impacted much more significantly, decreasing by 24%.

We as a synod are blessed! Thank you for continuing to demonstrate your faithfulness allowing the ministries of the synod to continue during these unprecedented times!

For details, refer to [Financial Update](#) or go to <http://www.easternsynod.org/> and click the orange Treasurers/Financial Info button.



ELFEC
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ELFEC Appoints New Executive Director

ELFEC announced the appointment of Mr. Lee Gould as Executive Director (E.D.) of ELFEC, effective June 1, 2020.

Jeff Pym, E.D. since the foundation was established in 2007, announced in 2019 that he would be retiring effective June 30, 2020. Since January the ELFEC Board of Directors has been engaged in a thorough search for a suitable successor, and in Lee Gould they believe they have found the leader who can guide ELFEC through the future phases of its growth, development and service.

Lee is an accomplished and experienced not-for-profit executive, having spent three decades working in the sector. For the past seven years he was President and CEO of the Canadian Medical Foundation. Prior to that he held senior leadership positions at Lakehead University and several hospital foundations.

Lee has already begun a period of orientation with the ELFEC staff. Kathryn Smith, Krista Kuehnbaum and Jeff will spend the next few weeks introducing Lee to the programs and people who make ELFEC’s mission both exciting and rewarding.

You can continue to reach ELFEC staff at 1-888-308-9461.

Lee Gould: lgould@elfec.ca

Kathryn Smith: ksmith@elfec.ca

Krista Kuehnbaum: kkuehnbaum@elfec.ca

Jeff Pym: jpym@elfec.ca

Justice Storytelling Quilt

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections is so very excited to announce the creation of the online, interactive Justice Storytelling Quilt. It can be found here: <https://ccjc.ca/current-projects/>

The original quilt was created in 2005 and debuted during National Restorative Justice Week at the Ottawa Courthouse, Ottawa City Hall and Saint Paul University. We couldn’t wait to debut this version of the quilt until National Restorative Justice Week!

The 40 quilt blocks tell the stories of victims and offenders in two minute clips.

We would appreciate receiving comments about your experience with the quilt; there is a pop-up feedback form on the quilt site but you can also email me at info@ccjc.ca

Help us to promote this meaningful project by sharing the link with your networks. The original quilt remains available for events in Canada. Contact info@ccjc.ca for more information.

Bonnie Wepler
Executive Director

The Church Council on Justice and Corrections



Welcome incoming students!

Incoming MA students met with faculty and staff on June 12 to chat about registering for their classes. We're delighted to see new faces! Almost all fall term courses will be delivered online, but we look forward to having everyone back on campus in a manner that doesn't risk the health of the Luther community. (Note: Students' surnames in this photo have been removed digitally to respect their privacy.)

Beaded mask exhibit

The Kanata Centre for Worship and Global Song is pleased to announce that the debut exhibition of [Breathe](#), a collection of gorgeous Indigenous beaded masks inspired by the novel coronavirus pandemic and created by artists from around the world, is scheduled for Luther's campus in April 2021.

In-person counselling

The [Delton Glebe Counselling Centre](#) has resumed in-person counselling sessions which were suspended in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The centre continues to offer telephone and secure online chat therapy. Call 519.884.3305 or email glebecentre@wlu.ca. If in crisis, please call 1.844.437.3247

Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund, interim principal-dean

Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund will begin serving as the school's interim



principal-dean after the retirement of Rev. Dr. Mark Harris, current principal-dean, on July

15, 2020. Lund, a senior faculty member who has served as Luther's assistant principal since 2008, will retain some of her teaching duties in addition to serving as the school's top administrator. Although her term is set to end April 30, 2021, the board has made provisions for her to step aside earlier if a new full-time principal-dean is appointed. For more details, see the full [announcement](#).

Class of 2020

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Class of 2020! Given the pandemic protocols under which we are operating, Laurier has postponed convocation ceremonies for this year's graduating class. As is our custom, we will hold (albeit, online this year) a convocation ceremony on July 9. Invitations have been sent to graduands and guests.

Meet the Prof videos

Given that students and prospective students are not able to meet our faculty in person at this time, we have launched a new series of Zoom meetings dubbed "Meet the Prof @LutherWaterloo." Students can join the live conversation or, if they're not able to participate in the meeting, can view the video later on our [YouTube channel](#). Meet the Prof sessions are scheduled for Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. For details and a schedule, visit the project's page at bit.ly/meetlutherprof

Virtual worship

If you're searching for connection on Sunday mornings, join Rev. Anne Anderson as she leads 10:30 a.m. liturgy for the alternative worshipping community [thirdspace](#). Participate by visiting the community's [Facebook page](#) or through the Zoom video chat platform. You can access Zoom chats using a web browser — you don't need special software. To join through Zoom, email Anne.

Vol. 3 Issue 6 Luther is a collection of news from Martin Luther University College in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada.

Website: luther.wlu.ca Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen dkrugerallen@luther.wlu.ca Stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@luther.wlu.ca



DONOR RECOGNITION

As I am writing this, we are at the two-month anniversary of social isolation and our personal experiences with the coronavirus, COVID-19. We have witnessed great sacrifice, and seen people helping each other. We have learned to be patient with the situation and with each other. We have re-connected, and we have re-evaluated what is important to us. It has been an unexpected journey and it is difficult to know where we will be in the next few weeks. You may be in an area that is slowly opening up, or you may be in a situation where it is still vitally important to maintain physical distancing. Whatever your circumstances, may you find comfort and peace, knowing that God cares for each one of you and is living these days with you.

During this time, our congregations have been thrown into the job of re-imagining how to be the church. As individuals, we may find ourselves re-evaluating our lives and what is important – what connections are important, who do we want to spend time with, where do we see ourselves in the future? Lawyer Katherine Crighton notes that people “have been contacting the law office to update their wills and powers of attorney in light of COVID-19.” She says it is because “people want to be prepared.” (Waterloo Record, March 31, 2020) I would think that many of us were Not prepared for COVID-19, but understanding the severity of the situation, we may have looked at our Will and Power of Attorney documents to confirm that they were up to date and accurately reflected the legacy we want to leave.

If you are like me, you have a new appreciation of what your church is doing during this difficult time and understand that they are doing it with limited resources. Would it not be nice if each church could have a pool of funds that they could access in these situations, so that they could quickly respond to changing circumstances? The good news is, there is a way and it begins with you. By remembering the church through your will, you will be supporting your church so that in the future, it does have the resources it requires in order to keep providing ‘essential services’ during changing times.

Since our last update, ELFEC has recorded 64 gifts from 39 individuals or families. These gifts have a realized amount of \$676,972, with additional \$167,740 in gifts expectancies (meaning that these are gifts that have been arranged, but no cash has been received yet). Many of these are second or third gifts from people who have been on our donor list for years.

I’d like to thank and recognize the following who are new Friends of Lutheran Planned Giving, who have remembered the church with a planned gift through a gift in their will, a gift of investments, or in another way.

John Milloy	Conestogo, ON
Christel Mikelic	London, ON
Marie Kemp	Edmonton, AB
Claude and Liz Mongeon	Brantford, ON
Paul and Erin Zorzi	Southampton, ON
Patti Eix	Burlington, ON
Nancy Kadatz	Edmonton, AB
Peter and Sherry Mikelic	Toronto, ON
Kevin and Brenda Luscott	St. Jacobs, ON
the late Melitta Bumeister	Toronto, ON

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

Right now, I am not able to visit your church or meet with you in person, but I am available to meet by phone or online. If you have already left a gift in your Will, please contact me so we can express our gratitude and add you to the list of Friends of Lutheran Planned Giving. If you are wondering what it takes to leave a gift in your Will, please call or drop me a line so we can discuss your questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kathryn Smith | Giving Advisor | ksmith@elfec.ca | 1-888-308-9461