



ANNUAL REPORT 2021

A stop at Stations of the Cross during Easter 2021 at Trillium, Waterloo, ON.





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National Bishop Susan C. Johnson

Message from the National Bishop

Dear members of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ!

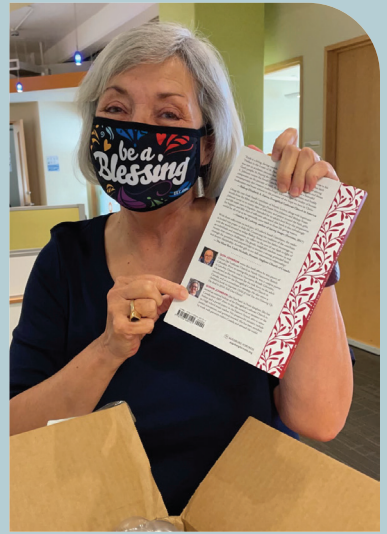
I'm excited to share with you the 2021 ELCIC Annual Report. This has been another year like no other. More than any other time in our church, this last year has been a time of courageous innovation. In addition to online worship services, this past year all five synod conventions were held online, as were the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering and the Anglican Lutheran National Worship Conference. In so many ways across our church we have learned to be flexible and find new (and safe) ways of coming together.

Even though it may mean an abundance of Zoom meetings, this technology is allowing us to draw closer together. Bishops have been meeting more regularly. National and Synod treasurers have been meeting monthly to help congregations wade through information around government support that was made available. Anglican and Lutheran staff are meeting more regularly over shared areas of work. And we have been working closely with our partners.

I hope you will enjoy this year's Annual Report—a reflection on the ways we have come together and the many partnerships that help enable this work to be carried out.

Thank you for your faithfulness and for your partnership. As we continue to navigate the realities of COVID-19, please know that I am united with you in prayer and in affirming together our common faith and hope in the Risen Lord. *Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Cor 15:57).

Yours in Christ,



Our Mission & Vision



ELCIC Mission Statement

The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word, the administration of the sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

ELCIC Vision Statement

God's grace and unconditional love calls us to be a diverse, inclusive community that celebrates all and upholds life-giving relationships.

Our Vision Priorities

In September 2017, the ELCIC's National Church Council began the work of developing a new *Strategic Plan* for the National Church. This five-year plan helps us to focus our work at the National Office.

COURAGEOUS INNOVATION



We are called to not be afraid.
(Luke 12:32)

- Addressing systemic change
- Innovative interaction with the community
- Encourage experimentation
- Accompaniment
- Acknowledge our anxiety
- Flexibility in sharing and deploying financial resources
- Ongoing evaluation of mission priorities
- Ongoing evaluation of barriers to innovation

RECONCILED RELATIONSHIPS



We are given the ministry of reconciliation.
(2 Corinthians 5:18)

- Vision of an inclusive church
- Indigenous justice and reconciliation
- Ecumenical and interfaith partnerships
- Challengers of racism and privilege
- Work with diverse allies
- Healthy relationship with the earth
- Striving for peace
- Work to end poverty in Canada

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER



We are one body in Christ.
(Romans 12:5)

- Shared vision across all expressions of the church
- Mutual credibility, trust and transparency
- Sharing of necessary resources
- National and international partnerships
- Connectedness to local ministries
- Support CLWR's mission
- Mutual support between synods and National Church
- Focused priorities
- Good communication

EMPOWERED DISCIPLES



We are to equip the saints for the work of ministry.
(Ephesians 4:12)

- Faithful gospel witnesses
- Baptismal vocation
- Leadership development for a changing world
- Engaged and empowered youth and young adults
- Worship that nurtures disciples

2021 Highlights from the National Office

JANUARY

6 – National Bishop Susan Johnson lifted up “our siblings and neighbours to the south” in prayer as protestors attacked the Capital Building in Washington, D.C. “We pray for the safety of Congress, for law agencies seeking to restore calm, for protestors that they would disperse, and for all who are troubled by this disruption in the democratic process.”

14 – National Bishop joined the Anglican Church of Canada’s Archbishop and Primate Rev. Linda Nicholls and the National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Rev. Mark MacDonald in writing to the church encouraging members to observe the United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW).

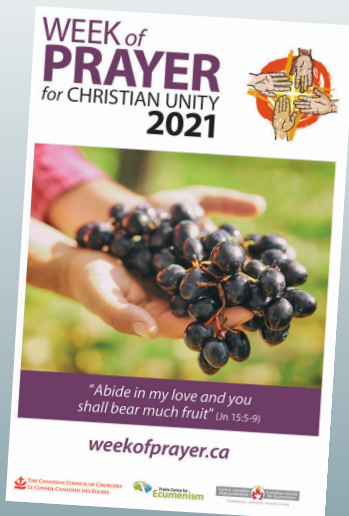
“Together we wholeheartedly endorse the global celebrations of WIHW, and encourage the members of our churches to embrace its vision and aims as a faithful expression of their love of God turned outward into love for all others,” the leaders wrote in their letter, which also included resources and daily prayer invitations.

18–25 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The 2021 theme was “Abide in My Love...You Shall Bear Much Fruit” (from John 15:1–17).

JANUARY

“For our siblings and neighbours to the south...

We pray for the safety of Congress, for law agencies seeking to restore calm, for protestors that they would disperse, and for all who are troubled by this disruption in the democratic process.



25 – In observance of the final day of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, staff members from the National Office participated in the World Council of Churches’ global ecumenical friends and family livestreamed public prayer service.

FEBRUARY

1 – The Eastern Synod’s Racial Justice Advisory Committee shared an engagement and learning challenge to its members on Black History Month. The January/February issue of *Canada Lutheran* also focused on storytelling and experiential education from members of the BIPOC community.

7 – Global Mission Sunday. A bulletin insert, letter and video from the National Bishop were developed and shared.

17 – National Bishop began posting daily prayers and hymns on social media through the time of Lent.

28 – The ELCIC lifted up Diaconal Sunday to raise awareness of diakonia as a vital dimension of the church’s witness and of rostered diaconal ministry

FEBRUARY



as a valuable expression of church leadership. Resources were created for congregational use.

MARCH

4 – ELCIC National and Synod bishops wrote to the church, expressing ongoing concern for domestic violence in Canada and within the church during pandemic times.

“We know that this is an uncomfortable subject for some people to discuss and too often this has stopped us from speaking out,” say the bishops. “But we must speak out and advocate for those who are living in these dangerous situations.”

17 – The National Bishop joined leaders of the Anglican Church of Canada, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church in a statement for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

21 – The ELCIC joined the Canadian Council of Churches in a cross-Canada day of prayer for Hong Kong, praying for justice and peace following the ongoing pro-democracy protests towards national security.

22 – ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson joined Archbishop Linda Nicholls, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelsetter,

executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, and Will Postma, executive director of Primate's World Relief and Development Fund in writing to express support for *Bill-S-216* and ending modern slavery.

22-27 – The ELCIC joined the World Council of Churches in observing A Week of Prayer Over the COVID-19 Pandemic, reflecting on both the hope and lament experienced worldwide during what has been a year of unprecedented suffering.

31 – The National Bishop tweeted her ongoing support for the transgendered community on Transgender Day of Visibility: “We affirm that transgender rights are human rights and that transgender people are beloved children of God.”

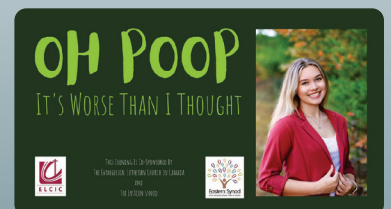
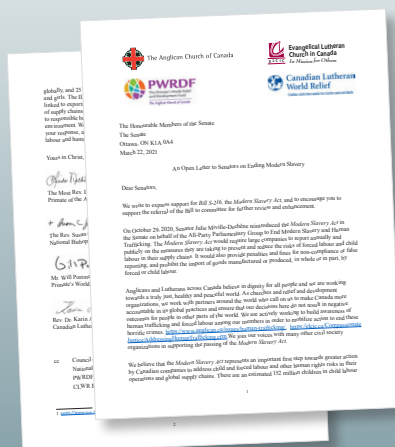
APRIL

20 – ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson, Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Linda Nicholls and Anglican Church of Canada National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Mark MacDonald share a joint Earth Day message with their two churches.

20 – The Eastern Synod hosted “Oh Poop, It's Worse Than I Thought”—An Earth Week webinar on the ongoing climate change crisis and how young Lutherans can get involved in their communities.

APRIL

MARCH



2021 Highlights from the National Office

23 – The Eastern Synod’s Racial Justice Advisory Committee released a statement on the one year anniversary of the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minnesota police officers.

23–24 – The Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod met in convention online.

25 – ELCIC members and congregations were invited to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter as a Day of Prayer for Vocations to Rostered Ministry. Resources were made available for congregations.

30 – The ELCIC joined with partner Canadian Lutheran World Relief in an emergency appeal assisting with the COVID-19 crisis in India. Donations went towards emergency medical support to those sick at home, while helping support critical advocacy and public awareness efforts in hopes of keeping as many people safe as possible.

MAY

5 – The National Bishop tweeted her support of Red Dress Day in honour of the missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. “We also need to remember the many families, friends and communities who still mourn their absence.”

16 – The ELCIC joined with The Anglican Church of Canada in lifting up the seventh Sunday of Easter as Jerusalem and the Holy Land Sunday. Resources and prayers were made available for use.

MAY



17 – The ELCIC recognized May 17 as International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. We celebrated the identity of LGBTQ2SIA+ persons and opposing hatred and discrimination. We give thanks for each unique child of God and pray for truly inclusive communities.

20 – In a letter to their churches, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Linda Nicholls shared their deep concern for the escalating violence in Gaza and central Israel.

23 – The ELCIC Summer Sermon Series began for the second year, with ELCIC bishops and assistant to the bishops coming together to provide congregations with sermons for use from May 23 to September 12.

JUNE

1 – ELCIC National and Synod bishops wrote to the church in a letter inviting members to join in prayer for the families of the 215 children from First Nations Communities found in mass graves across Canada in a renewed call to re-engage in the work of reconciliation.

“It has been devastating and heartbreaking to hear in the news that the remains of 215 children buried in unmarked graves have been found on the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds.”

JUNE

215



4 – ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson wrote to the church to ask members to lend their voice to support *Bill C-15*, an Act respecting the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

"*Bill C-15* is a critical step toward reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples," says Bishop Johnson. "...our support for *Bill C-15* is an expression of our commitment to reconciliation with humility. It is part of wider efforts by faith communities to decolonize our minds and hearts, work against racism, and develop just relationships."

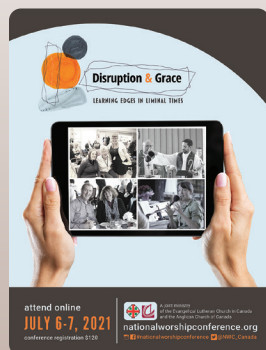
4-5 – The Saskatchewan Synod met in convention online.

19 – The ELCIC joined The Lutheran World Federation in welcoming Estonian theologian Rev. Anne Burghardt as its new general secretary.

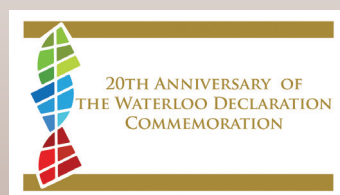
20 – The ELCIC joined its partner Canadian Lutheran World Relief in lifting up World Refugee Day, sharing resources for prayer, meditation and action about the plight of displaced people around the world, and God's call for us to respond.

25-26 – The Eastern Synod met in convention online.

30 – In a letter to the church in advance of Canada Day 2021, National Bishop Susan C. Johnson invited ELCIC members to join her in reflection, "on how we got here as a country and what we need to do to move towards reconciliation." She provided suggestions on how to mark the day in a different way following the horrific discoveries in June.



JULY



JULY

6-7 – The joint Anglican Lutheran National Worship Conference was held online. The gathering included the Conferral of the Companion of the Worship Arts to Robb Wilson, Toronto (ELCIC) and Thomas Roach, Vancouver (ACC).

8 – The ELCIC reflected back upon the signing of *The Waterloo Declaration* exactly 20 years ago. The signing, "officially established a full communion partnership between the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC. Much hard work followed as the two churches cemented their partnership through shared ministry."

16-17 – The Synod of Alberta and the Territories met in convention online.

AUGUST

17 – ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson urged members to pray for all who have been affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti and to support relief efforts.

"With sadness and a heavy heart, I invite you to join me in praying for the people of Haiti and in supporting relief efforts for those affected by the devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake that hit the region on the morning of August 14."

20-22 – The CLAY Gathering *En Route* was held virtually.



AUGUST



2021 Highlights from the National Office

SEPTEMBER

7 – National Office staff officially returned to working in-person at the office for the first time since October 2020.

8 – ELCIC and ACC leaders wrote to members of their two churches in advance of the Canadian Federal Election.

21 – The ELCIC encouraged its members to observe the United Nations International Day of Peace as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and ceasefire. The theme for 2021 was “Recovering Better for an Equitable and Sustainable World.”

23 – Leaders from the ELCIC, Anglican Church of Canada, The Episcopal Church, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America wrote to their churches as a sign of their commitments to the work toward truth, healing, justice and accurate education.

26 – ELCIC congregations celebrated CLWR Sunday in honour of CLWR’s 75 years as a grassroots movement of Lutherans in Canada with incredible global impact. Worship resources from CLWR and its partners around the world were provided to churches for use.

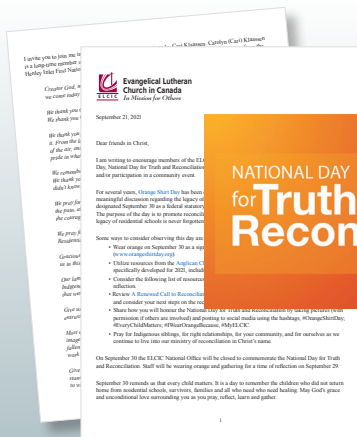
30 – In a letter to the church, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson encouraged members to observe Thursday, September 30 as Orange Shirt Day, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

“I invite you to make this a day of quiet reflection, learning and/or participating in a community event,” she said in the letter. The ELCIC National Office was closed to commemorate the day.

OCTOBER

5 – Bishops from the ELCIC joined with Anglican Church of Canada bishops and archbishops in a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the climate crisis. Their calls for action come in advance of the United Nations COP 26 event in Glasgow.

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



Bishop Kathy Martin

21–24 – The British Columbia Synod met in convention online. As part of their business session, Rev. Kathy Martin was elected as bishop to succeed retiring Bishop Greg Mohr.

NOVEMBER

8 – The United Nations annual 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign inspired the Churches Beyond Borders 2021 devotional, written by laity and clergy.

19 – The ELCIC joined with its partner Canadian Lutheran World Relief in supporting those affected by the devastating flooding in British Columbia.

DECEMBER

1 – Leaders from the ELCIC participated in an online webinar entitled Churches Beyond Borders, to hear authors reflect on their contributions to a 16-part series of devotional reflections for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

10 – CLAY announced that the 2022 gathering will be postponed to August of 2023.

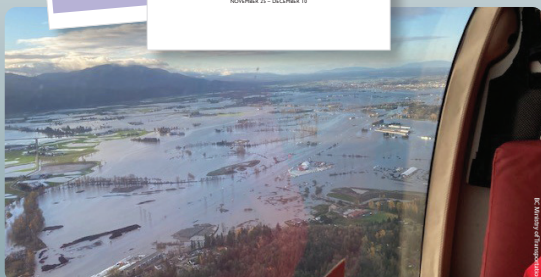
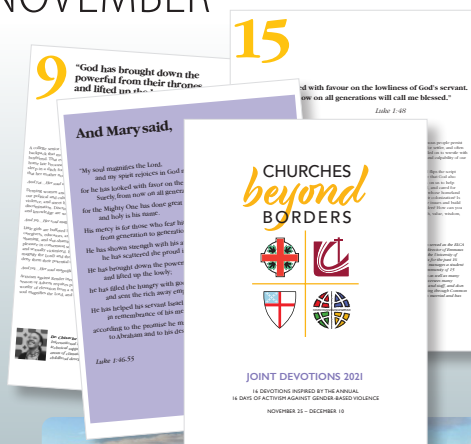
“This will give time for youth groups to reconnect, for our leaders to get the rest they need, and for our planning team to organize a gathering that is meaningful, impactful and a safe experience for all.”

14 – The task force addressing homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada invited people in the LGBTQ2SIA+ community to share stories and experiences in order to help form the task force’s report and recommendations.

20 – ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Linda Nicholls share a Christmas message of “hope, joy, peace and love birthed in Bethlehem” with our two churches. 📺

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER



Anglican Church of Canada Archbishop Linda Nicholls and ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson



Taking it online: CLAY, children's messages and conventions

With cancellation no longer an option, participation has shifted to virtual technology.

When it came to deciding how to hold the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering in 2021, it was clear to organizers postponing again wasn't an option.

So the biennial national youth gathering met online in 2021 instead, shortening its usual four-day in-person meeting to a three-day virtual event.

"We had already not done a big thing in 2020

so we really wanted to do it well," recalled Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the bishop, youth and leadership for the ELCIC National Office.

After cancelling the 2020 event, planners knew they had to present something innovative in 2021 for youth who had already spent most of the pandemic without in-person programming.

Instead of travelling to Calgary by car, bus or air-



Youth from St. Paul's, Ellerslie, AB, participate remotely during the 2021 CLAY online gathering.



The CLAY 2021 online gathering involved lots of planning, tech and co-ordination.

plane, about 120 youth met on the PheedLoop conferencing platform for a three-day weekend, Aug. 20 to 22, holding virtual events from 3:30 to 9:00 p.m. EST.

Many participants joined with others from their churches or synods to participate together in Home Team groups, attending workshops together or just hanging out together on the platform, said Sheila McGlynn, youth animator for the Anglican Church of Canada.

"I think the things youth groups really enjoyed was being together where they were," said McGlynn about how the virtual event prompted groups to meet closer to home, depending on public health restrictions.

"People were really engaging with this in their own way."

The platform offered fun components such as a selfie photo booth, scavenger hunt game with scores posted on a leaderboard, and late evening hangouts.

Moving to an online platform for primarily a teen-aged audience seemed like a risky venture, but with no possibility of an in-person event for 2021, CLAY planners decided to proceed virtually instead of cancelling again and creating a five-year gap between CLAY 2018 held in Thunder Bay, ON in 2018 and the next event scheduled for 2023.

"Because of the pandemic, we have lost an entire generation of youth who haven't experienced CLAY," said Peterson.



Brown bag lunch

Some months into the pandemic, after strictly isolating in our individual homes and as weather improved, some congregants from Mount Olive, Surrey, BC, gave careful consideration to required safety measures and came up with a plan to gather safely.

It started up slowly to ensure an adherence to protocols was possible. Although perhaps seemingly contrary to typical Lutheran shared communal potluck dining practices in large gatherings, a COVID-conscious plan for an outdoor distanced, bringing your own chair, food and beverage, was put in place for a lunch-time meal.

The only thing shared was the large parking lot and the much-welcomed, even if well-distanced social time of one hour each Wednesday. In this new way, the dozen or so willing participants continued to enjoy the pre-COVID times lunchtimes meal known as Brown Bag Lunch.

This social event began about 15 years before as an opportunity not only for staff to take time once a week for a sit-down meal during a busy workday, but also to enjoy that breaking of bread with any parishioners and their friends who wished to stop in for a lunchtime visit.

Even during pandemic times, our innate need for community can help create a safe and beneficial workaround sometimes.



Outdoor brown bag lunch and much-missed fellowship.

COOPERATION BETWEEN CONGREGATIONS

Whether planning national events or local church programs, the pandemic pushed everyone into innovating with courage and creativity. Although born out of necessity, some of those innovations may continue well past public health restrictions, such as the children's ministry shared by Messiah and Sherwood Park congregations in Winnipeg.

Early on in the pandemic, the two churches cooperated on their Sunday morning children's message while livestreaming their services. Instead of including a children's feature in the midst of an online service, married couple Rev. Erik Reedman Parker of Sherwood Park and Messiah's Rev. Courtenay Reedman Parker decided to record and post a short video for the children of both congregations. Rev. Erik worked on the technical side, recording, editing and posting the videos on the Facebook pages of both churches, while Rev. Courtenay spoke on camera about the day's scripture reading, current events, or a special event on the church calendar. The videos include a theme song, artwork from children in the congregation or an illustrated children's Bible, and seasonal content.

Posted at 8 a.m. on Sunday mornings, families could watch and discuss the six to 12 minute videos over their breakfast, said Rev. Erik.

"This could be something families do together to

connect church and faith at home," he said, adding that children didn't engage with worship during live-streamed or recorded services.

Although both congregations returned to in-person worship in the fall of 2021 (and then suspended it again for the early part of 2022), the couple continued the online children's ministry, finding it resonated with their own congregations and others beyond Winnipeg.

"It was meant to be a thing separate from worship," Rev. Erik said of the videos, which have up to 200 views each.

"I think it fit what families needed."

PODCASTING PASTORS

Since the fall of 2000, Rev. Erik and Rev. Courtenay have also collaborated on another online venture: a podcast called The Millennial Pastors. Aided by a \$4,800 grant from the Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, the pair has produced one series of 11 podcasts, and started their second season in November 2021. Describing themselves as "iPhone pastors for a typewriter church," the couple explore ministry in the midst of the pandemic and the digital revolution.

The pandemic has hurried along technological adaptation, said Rev. Erik, as congregations moved to virtual programming and worship services. Lutherans can look back to the beginning of their history as a church for navigating this type of upheaval, following the example of Martin Luther who employed the recent invention of the printing press to get out his message, said Rev. Erik.

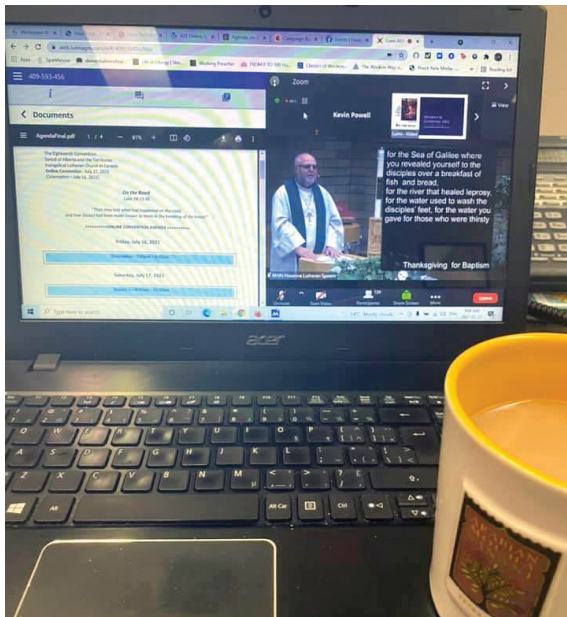
"As a church we have to figure out how to live in the 21st century and be 21st century people," he said.

SYNODS MEET ONLINE

In 2021, all five regional synods moved their annual conventions online due to travel restrictions and public health guidelines created to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Although delegates were already accustomed to virtual meetings a year into the pandemic, what was harder to recreate virtually was the spontaneity of break time, where small groups of people recon-





A view of the ABT Synod Convention from Rev. Kevin Powell's perspective; and a copy of the printed materials distributed ahead of time to the participants.

nect or meet each other for the first time.

Using the conference platform Lumi, the Synod of Alberta and Territories found they could recreate some of those informal connections through breakout rooms and chat functions.

"The one thing we knew we were going to miss was coffee time," said Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, of moving to a virtual synod.

"This (virtual) breakout room could connect people and there was some opportunity for conversation."

With a tech support from Lumi and an Edmonton church livestreaming music and worship, the one-day virtual event went off smoothly, said Rev. Kochendorfer.

Like all pandemic pivots, moving to a virtual format had some unintended benefits: more people could participate, no one had any travel or hotel costs, and guests from other jurisdictions could participate equally.

"It also enabled us to have the Bishop of Colombia with us for the whole convention," he said.

"Those things happened because of the technology."


With sessions online held to 90 minutes before

giving delegates a break away from their screens, Kochendorfer and his team of convention planners knew they couldn't squeeze in all the business from a traditional four-day synod meeting into just one eight-hour day. They offered delegates the opportunity to attend one of three pre-convention Zoom meetings dealing with the budget, synodical priorities, and constitution and bylaw, topics that could otherwise eat up large chunks of the one-day meeting.

Those hour-long sessions helped delegates get familiar with the issues, ask questions, and streamlined the business meetings, said Kochendorfer, and may be used to prepare for future events.

"I think there will be quite a significant push for a hybrid event next time," he said of planning for the 2024 convention.

Kochendorfer is pleased with the running of the virtual event—despite a bit of panic when the power was off just before the synod started—but understands that many delegates and visitors still prefer the energy of worshipping and meeting in the same physical space.

"There's a real longing to be together face-to-face," he said. 



Our climate crisis

Bishops, leaders and Lutheran scholars express concern over human-caused climate change

Care of creation and stewardship of the Earth have long been areas of priority for the ELCIC. Congregations and communities are invited to register as a Greening Faith Community and identify annual stewardship of creation goals and encourage one another in seeking climate justice.

On October 5, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson joined with Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) Archbishop Linda Nicholls in writing to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to call for immediate action on climate justice as the Canadian government prepared to participate in the United Nations' Climate Change Conference (COP26).

"As Christians, we are called to care for the



**FOR THE LOVE
OF CREATION**

whole of creation and to be responsible to our neighbours and communities," the letter reads. "We are already seeing the impacts of climate change in our communities, and in communities around the world. From increased wildfire activity to extreme flooding to

stark decreases in food security—particularly for Indigenous communities who rely on the land—the health, safety and security of many continues to be threatened."

Expressing concern over the ongoing impact of human-caused climate change in communities of Canada and around the world, the national and synodical bishops called the Canadian government to action on reducing greenhouse emissions, while mitigating the dire impacts of climate change.

Earlier in the year, ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson joined again with Archbishop Nicholls and Anglican Church of Canada National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald in releasing a shared Earth Day message on climate change. This letter referenced *For the Love of Creation*—a joint initiative that provides resources for Canada-wide education, reflection, action and advocacy for climate justice (www.ForTheLoveOfCreation.ca).

"Perhaps more than at any time in our modern era, we are recognizing the moral urgency of the spiritual and living relationship between humanity, Creation and Creator," the three leaders say in their letter. "Earth Day is a time to claim these insights, renew relationships and act on commitments to care for God's world."



Climate scientist and ELCIC member Katarina Kuhnert.

One ELCIC member deeply immersed in the ongoing pursuit of fair and just climate action is circumpolar climate scientist Katarina Kuhnert. Transplanted from her Eastern Synod home of Waterloo, ON, the fully-licensed remotely operated aircraft pilot resides north of the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Territories, where she works to monitor ecosystem change, survey water and permafrost levels, while mapping the landscape of the Beaufort Delta Region of the western Arctic.

In October, Kuhnert served as one of four youth representatives from The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) at COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. She collaborated with the Interfaith Liaison Committee, the World Council of Churches, the ACT Alliance and the Climate Action Network of Canada, before presenting at the People's Summit for Climate Justice on the topic of energy transitions. The experience was something the young scientist will not soon forget.



**UN CLIMATE
CHANGE
CONFERENCE
UK 2021**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

"It is very important that we maintain this work from a place of radical hope," Kuhnert says. "Since I've come back from COP, I've been saying that my hope is greater than my despair. My hope has legs; my legs have accountability. That is a great place to ground this work. If we believe that we have the possibility to make significant change with respect to things like our oceans—one of the highest greenhouse gas emitters in the world—if we believe that things can be different, then that's the way to make them different."

Kuhnert sees the ELCIC's commitment towards a

greener tomorrow as a big step in the right direction. Also serving partner organization KAIROS through their rights and ecological justice circle, she has seen the Canadian charitable organization bring forth a number of important resources, including its work with the Mother Earth and Resource Extraction program. Kuhnert has also been a proponent of the Eastern Synod's push towards educating its members on the many issues surrounding climate change.

"There has been some really great work that has been going on across the church," she says. "*For the Love of Creation* had an online delegation to COP26, while the Youth and Young Adults Committee of the Eastern Synod has been building a youth climate justice movement. They also screened the 2018 documentary *Youth Unstoppable*. I am also looking forward to seeing the report of the ELCIC's Task Force on Carbon Neutrality at convention in 2022. There is just so much good work happening within the ELCIC and the LWF. We are not alone in this work, and we are held to greater accountability when we do this work together."

Back in April, the Eastern Synod's Youth and

Young Adult Committee hosted the online event, "Oh Poop! It's Worse Than I Thought" as a virtual webinar, highlighting the many ways that young people within the ELCIC can advocate for change. The LWF sponsored the event which saw a large number of participants tuned in to hear from 17-year-old environmentalist and author Stella Bowles. The youngest-ever recipient of the Order of Nova Scotia spoke passionately on her science fair project that prompted a \$15 million cleanup of the LeHave River in Atlantic Canada.

"Climate change is an intersectional and an inter-generational issue, and we need to respond in a diversity of ways across generations," Kuhnert says. "This affects everyone from youth and children to adults, elders and leaders in the church. The potential for challenges of the current climate crisis impacts so many elements in our lives. Attending events like this, building our understanding of what's happening and our networks of support, our community resilience improves greatly by having these conversations together. When we hold the burdens of challenge and change together they become a little bit lighter." 📖



I am a child of God

What does it mean to be a member of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community and a leader within the Lutheran community in the MNO Synod?

Through my lens, I don't feel that I am different than anyone else in the heterosexual community. I am not one dimensional and don't define myself by my sexuality alone. I appreciate if others don't define me by that one dimension as well.

Assumptions make it difficult to be ourselves, and always require ourselves to explain. Allowing a person to tell you about themselves can help learn who they are.

I certainly appreciate the National Church in 2011 deciding to align with Jesus (accepting everyone and not leaving anyone out) and accept us as deserving of being married in the church, and our sexual orientation not being a barrier to the call process whether we are in a relationship or not.

My own church, Erickson Lutheran Church, Erickson, MB, became an affirming church in 2014 where Sue, my partner of 29 years, and I gave testimony, along with others to support our inclusion.

Being a leader in the MNO has been a wonderful experience, and I feel that I am not treated differently. I have been comfortable being myself with our council, our bishop and many other leaders. Being fully accepted as any other child of God unleashed my potential, created a healthy self-esteem, and confidence to use my voice and know or feel that it will be heard on its own merit.

The Lutheran introduction to Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, & Gender Expression (SOGIE) is a good place to start for anyone who is unsure of what this community is all about. And www.reconcilingworks.org is a good starting place to help your learning journey.

Come and sit with us



Lutheran Urban Ministry Corp. (the Urban), Winnipeg, is a partner ministry of the MNO Synod.

Come to the Urban and sit with us. When the pandemic is over please drop by to sit with us in our sharing circles.

The time has never been more crucial for individuals and pastors in our MNO congregations (primarily in Winnipeg because of distance to travel) to have true connection with the people who struggle here in the West End and with these people who call the Urban their church.

The Urban exists because of the financial support toward operating expenses from individuals, churches and synod; the donations of food items that we equitably distribute; the sandwich makers and cookie bakers; the mitts & toque knitters; the volunteers; and the prayers.

Our bagged meal program has resulted in approximately 1,000 bagged meals per month, four times a week distributed outside the door since mid-March 2020. The overwhelming enthusiasm, love and support by our meal teams for this “food for the body” program ensure the continued success of this when the pandemic is over.

Our sharing circles are such a wonderful way to meet many of those who attend the Urban and hear the voices of marginalized and vulnerable people who struggle.

It’s a different experience than drinking coffee and visiting in the narthex but I can confidently assure you that you will love our sharing circles.

The only way to truly “see us” at the Urban is



Sharing circle attendees who live at Winnipeg's Arms of the Cross Housing Inc.



A regular visitor to the Urban when he was young stopped by and asked “remember me”?

by coming by to sit with us. Everyone feels welcomed into our sharing circles. Eighty percent of our Urban community is Indigenous. Our circle experiences of their generous spirit and welcoming nature are a gift to all of us. We are all blessed by getting to know each other.

Give us the gift of listening, of sharing feelings and new understandings. Laugh with us, sometimes wipe away a tear. See us.

Sometimes the circle topic is “How was your day today or how has your week been going”? It might be a topic such as “What do you think worries you the most?”

Or when you drop by you might hear a facilitator leading discussions in our former Trauma, Grief and Loss Program, our Strength within Community Program, or our Mental Wellness Program.

The Urban is a ministry standing with Winnipeg’s urban community to support physical, mental and spiritual needs. Our sharing circles, worship services and a planned drop-in for women (with children too) feed the greatest hunger, even more than the food for the body.

“All my relations”—the Indigenous reminder that we are all in relation and that all parts of creation are interconnected. When this pandemic is over I implore our MNO congregational members to truly see our Urban community through fellowship and listening. When the pandemic is over, let’s sit together.



ONE BODY
WORKING
TOGETHER

A partnership like none other

Lutherans and Anglicans continue to thrive.

For two churches located in Coquitlam, B.C., combining their youth groups seemed like a logical and necessary step.

St. Laurence Anglican Church had staff but few teenagers, while Good Shepherd Lutheran had teenagers but no leaders, recalls Jason Wood, minister of youth and families at St. Laurence.

Just before the pandemic hit, the two congregations decided to merge youth ministry under the name ignYte.

“This really did feel like it emerged very organically and the spirit was in it,” said Wood.

“We had a need, and they had a need and because of that similarity and because of our context, it was a natural fit.”

That context, of course, is the two-decades-old full communion relationship between the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada. Formalized with the *2001 Waterloo Declaration*, that relationship has resulted in many levels of cooperation and



Anglican and Lutheran youth carve pumpkins together during an ignYte event at Halloween.

collaboration between the two denominations.

"It was something brand new. We had never been in a full communion relationship with anyone else," Bishop Susan Johnson says of the agreement. "There was so much promise and excitement."

Now with 20 years of working together on joint council and staff meetings, joint assemblies, issuing common statements, the relationship remains fluid and dynamic as congregations and denominational leaders discover new ways of working together and pursuing common goals, says Anglican Primate Linda Nicholls.

"It doesn't require us to be identical but can show us working together and having a stronger voice because we do work together."

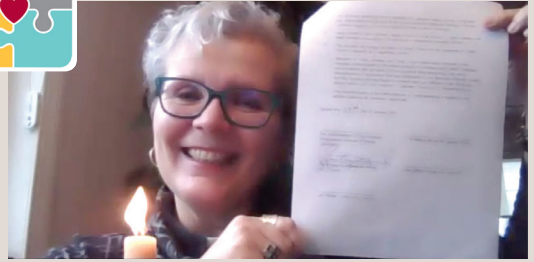
WATERLOO MINISTRIES DIRECTORY

These relationships are documented and shared annually in the Waterloo Ministries Directory, updated annually and posted on www.anglicanlutheran.ca. Running to 45 pages in 2021, the directory includes the ways congregations share facilities, programs, worship services, priests, pastors and deacons or have merged and combined their programs. By far the most common relationship is a shared clergy arrangement between two or more congregations, or one congregation hiring clergy ordained by the full communion partner.

At an institutional level, some Anglican and Lutheran bishops share office space, resulting in daily interactions and conversations. Nearly a decade ago, MNO staff moved into the Winnipeg office owned by the Diocese of Rupert's Land, now renamed Anglican Lutheran Centre. The Diocese of Qu'Appelle offers Saskatoon-based Bishop Sid Haugen of Saskatchewan Synod office space in their facilities when he visits Regina.

STUDYING TOGETHER

Dr. William Harrison, an Anglican priest and academic, serves as president of Lutheran Theological Seminary Saskatoon, which operates from St. Andrew's College, a United Church of Canada insti-



Pastor Brenda with the document, Jan. 14, 2021.

Full Communion

After 20-plus years in a shared ministry, Trinity Anglican + Lutheran Church, Port Alberni, took its final, historic step as a Full Communion parish. On Jan. 14, 2021, leaders from the two church bodies gathered online via Zoom to sign the legal document finalizing Trinity's commitment to "Becoming One" congregation as set out in a Dec. 1, 2019 memorandum of agreement.

Beginning in 2000, the people of St. Alban's Anglican and Christ the King Lutheran crafted a covenant to function together as a parish, sharing a building and a priest/pastor. From its inception, the two congregations found themselves functioning as one. There was one Sunday morning Eucharist/Holy Communion service, Bible studies, and more. The liturgies of both traditions were rotated. The two women's groups decided to work together as All For One. In short, mission and ministry were done together.

Three years later the members of All Saints Anglican asked to become a part of the covenant as well. In 2004 the two Anglican congregations merged to become Trinity Church and Christ the King was re-named Trinity Lutheran Church. Trinity Anglican Lutheran Parish was born.

Says pastor Brenda Nestegaard Paul, "With this signing, together with the people I serve, I am celebrating what can happen when we as Lutherans and Anglicans fully embrace the gift we have in each other when our focus is simply to love as we have been loved, welcome as Jesus welcomed, serve together as our baptismal wash identifies and calls. Thanks be to God!"

tution on the campus of the University of Saskatchewan. Those two colleges, along with the Anglican College of Emmanuel and St. Chad, form the Saskatoon Theological Union, offering graduate courses to students from all three traditions.

"In our context, both Lutherans and Anglicans are small in numbers," says Harrison.

"Full communion gives our students—and graduates—a sense of belonging to a larger family."

Lutheran students are also trained in Anglican liturgy and professors incorporate Anglican readings and perspectives in the classroom. Students have opportunities for internships in shared Anglican-Lutheran settings, supervised by people who make a point of fostering cross-denominational skills, says Harrison.

"We're in conversation with our Anglican and United Church partner seminaries about a more integrated program that will include perspectives and faculty members from all three churches in our classes," he says about ongoing initiatives.

"Lutherans and Anglicans will graduate ready to serve in both contexts."

COMMON GROUND, HOLY GROUND, COMMON GOOD

Congregations can mark this longstanding relationship between Anglicans and Lutherans with liturgical resources compiled in a 50-page document titled *Common Ground, Holy Ground, Common Good*, available on the new website <https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/>.

The resource integrates worship materials from previous joint assemblies, including the signing of *The Waterloo Declaration* in 2001 and the Joint Assembly held in Winnipeg in 2007.

The worship materials include land acknowledgements, prayers, scripture readings, communion liturgies, sending prayers and hymns, intended for use in blessing intentional relationships, joint celebrations, and significant days on the calendar such as Reformation Day, All Saints Days, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January, Transfiguration Sunday and Pentecost.

"We envisioned congregations and communities would pick and choose what would work best in their context and do it throughout the year," says



Visiting bishop



Bishop Marianne Gaardner of Denmark and her husband, Michael Schelde, toured several Danish congregations in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. As part of Bishop Gaardner's responsibilities in the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church, she oversees and supports Danish congregations abroad. This was her first visit to Canada. They are pictured here with (left) Synod of Alberta and the Territoires Bishop Larry Kochendorfer and Bishop Michael Pryse of the Eastern Synod.



Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the bishop, youth and leadership for the ELCIC, and Sheilagh McGlynn, youth animator with Anglican Church of Canada.

committee member Kathryn Smith of Guelph, ON.

So far parts of *Common Ground*, *Holy Ground*, *Common Good* have been used in online meetings of committees and small groups as well as in congregations.

After a year of studying Anglican and Lutheran hymnbooks, prayers and liturgies, Smith sees much overlap between the two traditions, and appreciates the opportunity of learning new songs and prayers through her work on this committee.

"There's a strong understanding there may be differences in how things are said, and there's a strong understanding we are saying the same things," says Smith, who attends All Saints Anglican Lutheran Church in Guelph.

"We are celebrating God's mission and understand we are part of humanity and all of God's creation."

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Learning from the other's experience and leaning on their expertise on each other's strengths has been a significant benefit to the full communion relationship over the last 20 years. After an Anglican cohort attended the 2008 Lutheran youth conference in Whitehorse, the two denominations decided to offer a joint youth event biennially, renaming it Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering.

Lutherans provided the framework for the event, which dates back to 1966, and Anglicans benefitted from their expertise, says Sheilagh McGlynn, youth animator with Anglican Church of Canada.

"They know how to run a youth event. They have it down to a science. We didn't have to do all that exhausting learning to get to a really great product, and CLAY is an incredible product," she says.

Working together over the years has been beneficial to both groups, says Deacon Gretchen Peterson, assistant to the bishop, youth and leadership for the ELCIC.

"To take the good from each other and figure out how to work together on that is something that is so unbelievably amazing."

Anglicans in turn have taken the lead on issues such as Indigenous self-determination and reconciliation as they come to terms with their history of running Indian Residential Schools. Lutherans are learning from that history, as well as offering their theological perspectives, which has the potential for a shared path to overcome trauma, says Anglican National Indigenous Archbishop Mark MacDonald.

"The full communion relationship and the Lutheran understanding of baptism will not only help us to explore what happened in the residential schools," says MacDonald.

"It will also point toward the future. I think we might be able to say something good about what this country will be, what this land will be, if we could begin to see this through [that] lens."

FURTHERING RELATIONSHIPS

Lutherans and Anglicans on both sides of the Canada/United States boundary are co-operating on a partnership called Churches Beyond Borders, working on issues common to both countries. This arrangement offers the advantage of denominations speaking with one voice, and learning from each other's experience, says National Bishop Susan Johnson.

"We're asking what's speaking to us in a North American context that we can do together rather than four churches working alone," she says. 📖





A year of worship

Finding a daily devotional practice can be easy with the click of a mouse.

National Bishop Susan Johnson's vision of Living our Faith—a four-year program to pray, read, worship and love—continued even despite the pandemic.

"Because of the pandemic, we have focused more on the devotional side, the personal side," she says of the theme of worship, running from September 2021 to September 2022.

"I would hope people would take on a daily devotional habit."

Living our **FAITH**
PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

LUTHERANS CONNECT

Long before congregations moved online during the pandemic, Deacon Sherry Coman of Waterloo, ON, was exploring the possibilities and advantages of an online devotional community.

As the main author and curator of Lutherans Connect for more than a decade, Coman posts a multi-media devotional six days a week on selected themes during the major seasons of the church year.

"I just caught a wave because people were turning to online spiritualities," she says of the origins of the online devotional, which date back to 2008 when she was employed at Lutheran Campus Ministry Toronto.

The project is now funded jointly by Eastern Synod of ELCIC and the Centre for Media and Spirituality at Martin Luther University College, where Coman works as a professor.

During several seasons of the church year, such as Advent, Lent, Pentecost, and around Thanksgiving—Coman creates a daily blog post on a theme, except for Sundays. The focus for Advent 2021 was Love, Our Guest and the 2022 Lenten theme centred on the sixth day of creation and climate change under the banner Tending the Vineyard. Coman creates a unique blog on the Blogger platform for each series of devotionals, leaving them up for about six months, supporting the main devotional with daily posts on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

The daily meditations follow a similar format, with an image under the title, followed by a greeting, a reading, a short music video from YouTube, a meditative verse or prayer, a reflection, verse of the day, another image or video, and then a short meditation, followed by an image.

Living our FAITH PRAY READ WORSHIP LOVE

Online devotional apps can be very helpful. I created one, but I also follow several and try hard to begin and end my day with them, both times in bed. That way you meet God as you enter the day and as you leave it!

I recommend these three options:

- Pray As You Go
- Lutherans Connect
- Lectio (from 24/7 Prayer, but only available on cell phones)

- Deacon Sherry Coman



Following the theme of Worship, the Living our Faith program offered weekly devotional suggestions and examples on social media, submitted by pastors and lay people from across the ELCIC.

Several thousand people interact with these postings, reporting to Coman by email or Facebook comments how they are drawn into the theme by the images or music or her meditation, or some combination of the elements.

"For me, the images are meant to draw people to the space of solitude with God and creation," she says of format.

"The meditation verse is the transition between the gathering words into the reflective piece."

Inspired by the ancient Christian tradition of praying the hours and Ignatian spiritual exercises, the daily meditations are meant to engage Lutherans in current topics in a prayerful and thoughtful way.

Each of the blog posts requires four to six hours of preparation on Coman's part, usually done the day before posting, including sourcing images and music in the public domain and writing the short meditation. She has a small team of consultants who provide feedback on ideas or forward resources to consider.

"The main reason I do this the day before is the topicality and the need to be able to respond to events," explains Coman, who was able to respond to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting



Joining God in the neighbourhood

At Mount Zion, New Westminster, the education team is always looking for ways to encourage the children in sharing their thoughts and ideas. Doreen Fleury, a member of the quilters group and a Sunday school teacher, along with others, helped the children bring their ideas to life in a quilted banner.



The God in the Neighbourhood Quilt displays their ideas and drawings about where God might be found in the world around them; both within the walls of our church and in the lives of the people around us in our community.



Ministry in Saskatoon hospitals

The Lutheran Ministry in Hospitals of Saskatoon (LuMinHoS) Vision Statement reads, “LuMinHoS presents the comfort of Christ to all Lutheran patients admitted to Saskatoon hospitals.”

“God has richly blessed and affirmed us in our calling,” says Hospital chaplain Rev. Richard Engel. “The Holy Spirit reminds us how significant the word ‘all’ is in our vision. To love and serve in a pan-Lutheran ministry is to understand the Holy Spirit is moving through all of our churches, while God patiently gathers us into the precious and life-giving body of Christ.”

With the Spirit as his guide, Engel hopes that at the end of each day he was able to minister to patients as compassionately as their own pastor would.

In each visit, Lutherans are asked about their congregation. With their permission, Engel will inform the pastor of their home church. If a patient has no congregational connection, or has lost their connection, an offer is made to help (re) connect them. Engel aims to connect with at least 35 to 45 patients per week.

COVID-19 reshaped how LuMinHoS does ministry, yet God’s grace has been abundant. Gord Martens, chair of the LuMinHoS board, comments, “God has blessed our ministry by allowing our chaplain continued access to the hospital wards. The comfort of Christ through Word, Sacrament and prayer has been especially important to our brothers and sisters in Christ during COVID-19, when patients have limited visitors.”

“A hospital stay is an anxious time and often finds us in an extremely vulnerable state” explains Engel.

“The opportunity for prayer, the proclamation of God’s Word (oftentimes combined with Holy Communion), and the offer of a small wooden cross reminds patients God has not forsaken them. Patients are so appreciative of this.”

Martens continues, “We rely on the prayers and donations of our Lutheran Communities to continue our serving. Please consider becoming a Prayer Supporter. Check our website (www.luminhos.org) for prayer requests.”



Chaplain Richard Engel visits a hospital patient.

migration of millions of Ukrainians early in her Lenten series.

“That kind of versatility allows for deeper engagement.”

Coman has closed comments on the blog posts to allow users to focus on the materials instead of other people’s reactions to them, but readers who want to engage with others studying the same material can post on the Facebook group Lutherans Connect or other social media accounts.

Ordained a deacon in 2020, Coman views her digital ministry as one that engages, inspires and connects people in an online devotional community in a 21st century version of a monastic community which would come together to pray seven times a day.

“The idea I have is that although it’s devotional, it’s the liturgy for the soul.”

PRAYING THE CATECHISM

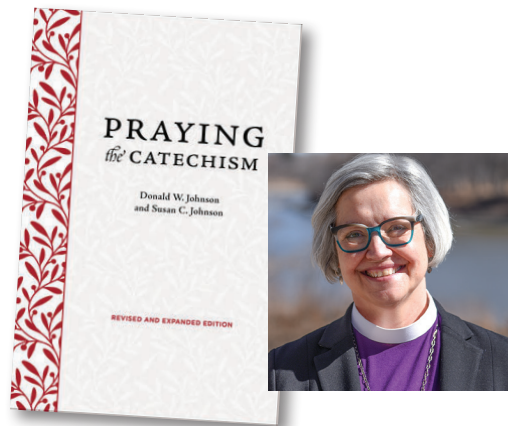
Another tool to guide people in their daily devotion is the revised and expanded edition of *Praying the Catechism*, released by Augsburg Fortress in 2021. The original book of 90 meditations on Martin Luther’s *Small Catechism* was written by Rev. Don Johnson, father to Bishop Susan Johnson, in 1996 when he was pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in North Vancouver.

The bishop re-read her father’s words after his funeral in 2018 and realized with a few updates, the book could serve a new generation of Lutherans.

She updated some references, omitted a few, added in pieces reflecting issues such as reconciliation, inclusion of LGBTQ2SIA+ community and the climate crisis. Johnson also added prayer petitions at the end of each of the 90 day devotions.

“What was wonderful for me is it felt like a conversation between me, my dad, Martin Luther and God,” she says of the experience of revising and expanding her late father’s book, last reprinted in 2008.

Rev. Don Johnson originally conceived of the book as a way to introduce newcomers to the



In 2021, Bishop Susan Johnson updated *Praying the Catechism*, originally written by her father in 1996. She updated references, added pieces to reflect current society, and included new prayer petitions at the end of each devotion.


teachings and doctrines of the Lutheran church in preparation for baptism at the Easter Vigil, divided into two sections, with the first 40 days intended to be read before Easter and the remaining 50 after their baptism.

“It is intended to bring new people to the faith and also for people to deepen their faith and deepen discipleship,” says Bishop Susan Johnson of the purpose of the book.

Throughout the 90 days, users will go through the six sections of *Luther’s Small Catechism*, including the Ten Commandments, the Apostle’s Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, baptism, holy communion and confession. Each meditation includes a quotation from the catechism, several paragraphs of reflection, and concludes with a prayer.

“This is a way to reflect on the basics and to refresh and revive their faith,” says Johnson of the book’s format, intended both for people to use individually each year or to study in a small group.

MOVING TO LOVE

Beginning in September 2022, the Living our Faith initiative will call on Lutherans to focus on the theme of love for the last year of the program. Love includes living generous lives and focusing on how we can serve our community. 

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU *Give...*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) functions through *three* major expressions:

NATIONALLY

As the ELCIC

REGIONALLY

As SYNODS

LOCALLY

As CONGREGATIONS

Each expression of the church has unique ministries as well as ministries which are shared with the other expressions.

When you give to the ELCIC, you help support ALL the expressions of the church!

In 2020, ELCIC members gave over

\$66,426,066

in regular offerings to support the call to be *In Mission for Others* through these three expressions of the ELCIC...

CONGREGATIONS



\$63,231,908

was used by **CONGREGATIONS** to fund local ministries.

Your weekly offering supports the work of your congregation and its ministry.

SYNODS



\$3,194,158 was shared to support the ministry done through **ELCIC SYNODS**. This includes supporting congregations and leaders within your synod.

THE ELCIC



\$812,343 was sent through the synods to the **NATIONAL CHURCH** to support the wider mission of the ELCIC.

2021 SUMMER SERMON SERIES AT A GLANCE...



**Almost
400**
congregations

signed up for access to use as
WORSHIP RESOURCES



17 weeks
of sermons provided by
BISHOPS & ASSISTANTS
TO THE BISHOPS



Videos were downloaded
over 1500x for use
in CONGREGATIONS

Videos were previewed VIA LINKS DIRECTLY TO BOX **over 5500x**

Congregations used **THESE** platforms
for online worship:



On **AVERAGE**, the
videos were used by
90 congregations
every Sunday



37% Youtube
28% Zoom
13% Facebook
Live



22% OTHER:
Radio; Instagram live;
Pre-recorded sent out
by email; Vimeo; Not
doing online services
but sharing sermons
via Box links.

OVERALL FEEDBACK

**A lifeline during
this crazy time.**

Feeling connected to bishops and staff!

Thank you!

Connected to wider church.

Inspirational.

**Helpful and greatly
appreciated!**

*Enjoyed hearing
different voices
each week.*

Heartfelt thanks.

Such a gift.

Very well done.

Well received by our congregation.

Thank you and God Bless your efforts!

A great resource!

A truly awesome resource.

Deep appreciation.

Available in a very timely fashion.

A huge help.

*Allowed others in congregation
to lead worship.*

#myELCIC



Whether you're on posting on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, make sure you click on the **#myELCIC** hashtag and see what others are doing across the church!



Adam Snook @eastcoastpastor
So wonderful to be with Deacon Scott and the folks of St. Matthew's, Kitchener! Happy 92nd Anniversary of your Golden Hour Ministry!! #myelcic



Christ Lutheran Church @CLCRhein - Congratulations to our 2020 and 2021 confirmands and their families! #myelcic #confirmation #clcrhei



Vida Jaugelis (she, her) @Vida_Jay - Prayer boats from the children of Gloria Dei Church in North Vancouver — Canada — ready to set sail to #COP26 #risetothemoment - Here's what it's all about.



Eastern Synod-ELCIC @ESynodELCIC
More snapshots of our life together in worship at Christmas 2021: St. John's, Mahone Bay NS; New Hope, Sudbury ON. #christmas2021 #myELCIC



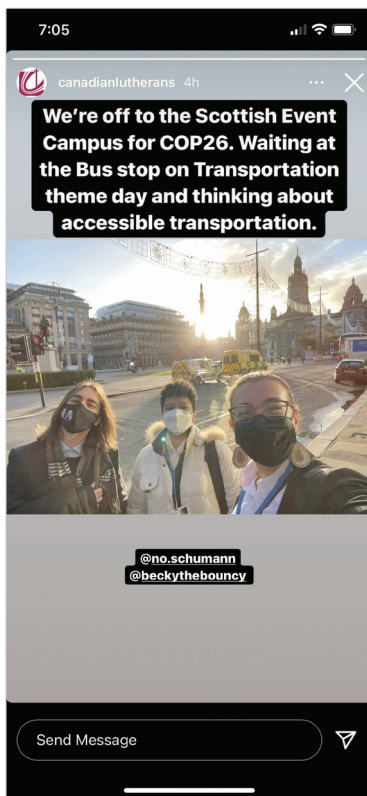
Nadine @nschroederkranz
Pleased with our response.



E Salonen @Pastori_Elina - And so the Eastern Synod Assembly begins for 2021 - with Bishop Pryse, good coffee, and my faithful companion...the computer! #myELCIC #ESynodELCIC @Trillium_Luthrn God is creating a new thing! Come Holy Spirit, come! Amen!

Instagram TAKEOVER!

Members and churches took over our Instagram feed for a peek inside their congregations and activities.



Katarina Kuhnert



Abundant Life, Winnipeg



Gloria Dei, Vancouver



Lutheran Church of the Cross, Victoria

National Office

There are six full time, seven part time and one casual staff working for the National Office.



YOUR NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF:

- 1) Rev. Susan C. Johnson, *National Bishop*
- 2) Carter Brooks, *Communications Specialist*
- 3) Norman Coull, *Proofreader, Canada Lutheran*
- 4) Catherine Crivici, *Graphic Designer*.
- 5) Trina Gallop Blank, *Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Resource Generation*
- 6) Rev. Paul Gehrs, *Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Leadership*
- 7) Kyle Giesbrecht, *Director, Finance and Administration*
- 8) Rev. Lyle McKenzie, *Assistant to the Bishop, Worship*
- 9) Desiree Mendoza, *Meetings and Communications Co-ordinator*
- 10) Deacon Gretchen Peterson, *Assistant to the Bishop, Youth*
- 11) Lucy Randa, *Accountant*
- 12) Rev. Ali Tote, *Assistant to the Bishop, Faith, Order and Doctrine*
- 13) Rev. Kenn Ward, *Editor, Canada Lutheran*



"Ugly Christmas Sweater Day" at the National Office.

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**“I am united with you in prayer
and in affirming together
our common faith and hope
in the Risen Lord.”**

- National Bishop Susan C. Johnson



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