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# Canadian Lutheran History: Remembering Today, for the Sake of Tomorrow

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## Canadian Lutheran History: Remembering Today, for the Sake of Tomorrow

Karen Kuhnert

**T**his Issue of *Consensus* is about Canadian Lutheran history and identity, past, present and future. It is about Acknowledging legacies that began more than 400 years ago and recognizing Canadian Lutheran legacies that launched from that moment in July of 1619 when Lutherans and Inuit met on the shoreline of the Hudson Strait.

At this liminal place, the shore line, new stories were begun when and where land and waters, First Peoples and arriving Lutherans, all met one another. The stories from there and then are still revealing themselves here and now. These stories are not in the past, they are part of the *now* and *not yet of being and becoming*. In this reading, and our responses, we too are part of the legacy.

It is my honour to greet you as the Guest Editor for this Issue, and so also my honour to send you off into the contents of this issue with an introduction to the contributors to this *Consensus* 44:2, 2023. The contributors to this issue can be seen as individuals, and also as one collectivity as they share context/s with each other, and also with you the reader. My hand in this issue is admittedly heavy with more extensive adding to footnotes and to endnotes than cutting off of parts and pieces. My aim as both Guest Editor and as an Archivist (Story-keeper) in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada since 2009, is to help preserve stories that should be remembered and to assist people to find, connect, share and contribute to *and from* these life-giving stories. As such, I dare not say too much in this Foreword about the submissions lest my own enthusiasms get in the way of your exploring, encountering and engaging. Instead, let me direct you immediately to the brief biographies included below.

Please do take time to read these brief biographies, and to marvel at the diverse intersectional interests and giftedness of the contributors. The Conference Proceedings section includes content from the three-part Webinar Series called “For the Sake of the Gospel,” which is followed by Studies and Observations includes the requested submissions from the Webinar Series Call for Papers.

In this Issue you will find contributions to the Webinar Series from Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund and Rev. Dr. William Harrison called “Insights” from Martin Luther University College and Lutheran Theological Seminary. These two presentations are reflections on Lutheran history and identity and these include updates from these two schools that regular readers and occasional visitors alike will not want to miss. In addition, readers will find herein works prepared by Sermon Editor Rev. Janaki Bandara and by Book Review Editor the Honourable John Milloy, Assistant Professor of Public Ethics; Director of the Centre for Public Ethics; in the Department of Political Science, Wilfrid Laurier University. Within these virtual pages there are Sermons and poems and book reviews, as well as scholarly papers, classic presentations, video transcripts, Zoom dialogues, content from the more than thirty oral history interviews we’ve completed to date, a book chapter of chronological history, a Selected Bibliography of Canadian Lutheran History and a comprehensive but still incomplete list of global missionaries totaling eighteen pages that is just waiting for your additions.

Featured in the Studies and Observations Section are contributions from Atlantic Lutheran historian Peter Oickle, PhD Candidate Danika Jorgensen-Skakum, Missionaries Rev. Peter Mathiasen and Ray Blacklock, Deacons Rev. Sister Michelle Collins, Rev. Sherry Coman, Rev. Scott Knarr and Rev. Dr. Sister Anne Keffer and a Selected Bibliography of Canadian Lutheran History source material from the Lutheran Council in Canada up to 1982. Also in this Section, readers will find a submission briefly called, “A Powerful Story I Had Been Set Free to Tell,” by Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum. This writing was not self-titled. The title was assigned from a line within the presentation that Rev. Lindsey made to the 900+ participants at the CLAY 2018 gathering that I will reference again in a few paragraphs. I trust you will be wowed, curious and inspired by all these contributions.

Readers will discover in exploring this Issue, that our Webinar Series and the Submissions highlight protocols of respect and hospitality. Comparing “Acknowledging” (in the three forms presented) and “Gathering and Sending: Welcome, Greetings, Blessings (in the two forms) yields interesting content for reflection. These works invite more consideration of the essential question, “How do people form and maintain real and reconciled relationships?” Surely one aspect of this has to be knowing and telling the truth about one’s self - to one’s own self - at least. That has to be part of the answer, doesn’t it? The problems of not “knowing who you are” and telling the truth about who you are, appears throughout the Issue. One clear cut case for consideration (in the safe distant past) is presented in the Issue by Peter Oickle. In his work “Called to Serve” some people intentionally, repeatedly, mistakenly misrepresented having clergy credentials, and in so doing, they did harm to congregants, a congregation and a community. The theme presents itself less safely and less clearly in more recent examples throughout the Issue. It shows up, for example, in cases where people at margins are over-looked by those with access and influence, see the “Deacons Dialogue” for examples.

There is also some *unexpected* and fascinating companioning conversations in this Issue. As Guest Editor and Story-keeper I have attached to the “Gathering and Sending” conversation between the current ELCIC National Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Bishop Susan Johnson, and the first national ELCIC Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Bishop Donald Sjoberg, the citations for the ELCIC actions in Truth and Reconciliation that began in preparation for the 2014 TRC Event in Edmonton - as this was a key part of their conversation together. This important source material can be difficult to locate since it is not yet preserved in a history book. Alongside this TRC Reconciliation material, readers will be interested in the recent paper by PhD (Political Science) candidate Danika Jorgensen-Skakum who presents her insights into “A Decolonial Vision of God: Relationships Between Indigenous Peoples and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,” and this sits alongside the Acknowledgement included in Webinar 3 by Hanne Kuhnert of Young Canadian Lutheran (YCL) who equipped and encouraged Webinar participants to better understand the Canadian Lutheran legacy of privileges built upon colonialisms. Next to these is situated the complex intersections of Global Service, Mission and colonialism thoughtfully taken up by Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson of Martin Luther University College (MLUC) and Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen of Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) as they introduce and reflect upon the legacy of Canadian Lutheran Missionaries presented in this Issue. And proximate to all of these, are the Greetings from the Staff of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) presented in the “Transcript” of the webinar on the Lutheran Immigration Board of Canada and CLWR. These greetings raise questions about one-ness, world Lutheranism and identity connected to

rootedness and uprootedness. Jorgensen-Skakum's valuable paper proposes a reorienting to land, community and Peoples in the present reality of a "Decolonial God." This sensibility intersects deeply with work by Rev. Dr. Allen Jorgenson of MLUC (and especially as Jorgenson articulates his own insights in his text *Indigenous and Christian Perspectives in Dialogue: Kairotic Place and Borders* (see also *Consensus* 37:1). Jorgensen-Skakum reminds the Church and Public that Indigenous-Lutherans in Canada go unrecognized in their presence, and for their contributions. As a female pastor, and a member of communities of Inuit-Lutherans and Caribbean-Canadian Lutherans, I took up this theme of the Church looking-past BIPOC Lutherans and women in my three-part presentation for Webinar 2 (November 15, 2022). The three parts are first "Sources and Resources", then "Mid-Century Concord and Discord" and finally "Coastal Compassion" as these three uplift lesser-known stories and peoples that connect to the Canadian Lutheran legacy and also identity challenges as I first point out in *Consensus* in 2012 and 2022.

How do we today think about and talk about real and reconciled rootedness and identity in mixed communities when our reality admits the need for very different relationships with one another, with creation and creature-kind, and also the need for digital-placeless communities, while admitting our identity dislocations and inter-generational traumas connected to forced displacements and migrations. In every generation Canadian Lutheran living has been compounded by war: North American continental wars, European wars, World Wars, and more recent global conflicts. In this Issue of *Consensus*, there is a lot to think about.

The three-part Webinar Series called "For the Sake of the Gospel," began with two teaching sessions and then a participant engagement webinar. In *Webinar 1 (October 25, 2022)* participants gathered around the topic of "Confessional Lutheran Identities." This was followed by a "Panel Discussion" on the *Affirmation and Appeal* of 1970, a consensus that for a brief moment in time united all Lutherans in Canada theologically and doctrinally. The consensus functionally lasted three years. Foundationally, the agreement still holds and offers us opportunities for the future - should it be possible for Lutherans to start talking to one another again.

In *Webinar 2 (November 15, 2022)* participants convened to extend Webinar 1 learnings into the topic of "Living Out" *relationally* Confessional Lutheranism for the sake of the gospel. Examples of Living Out included reflections on Campus Ministry from contemporary times all the way back to the 1950s with contributions from coast to coast Campus Ministers Rev. Dr. Paul Bosch, Rev. Walter Goos, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Kuhn, Rev. Dr. David Pfrimmer, Rev. H. Paul Schmidt, and Rev. Richard Reimer. Stories of these incredible ministries were told - starting at the beginning - as told by Phoebe Voigts who was there on the very first day when Lutheran Campus Ministry in Canada began in 1956. Stories moved forward with the remembrances of one of the first two Lutheran Campus Ministers in Canada, the Rev. Dr. John Vedell, now only days away from his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Article from this video features the Friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry - Edmonton, with thanksgivings for the first Chaplain Don Voigts and current Chaplain Rev. Richard Reimer. Don't miss the Appendix writing by Rev. Donald W. Johnson, who was at the time of writing the Campus Chaplain at the University of British Columbia in 1979. And similarly, don't miss the "Afterword: With Thanksgiving for the Life and Life's Work of Richard Reimer" as he enters his 33<sup>rd</sup> year at the service at the University of Alberta.

In *Webinar 3 (May 15, 2023)* participants gathered around the topic of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR, 1946). The Project Coordinators were honoured to have Words of Greeting and engagement from four current staff leading CLWR, Executive Director Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter, Refugee Resettlement Manager Jennifer Ardon who is an Immigration Historian who earned a Master of Arts Degree in History from the University of Waterloo, Director of Refugee Resettlement Senait B. and Refugee Resettlement Assistant Rachael Manyon who are both from the BC Office and who bring a wealth of knowledge from their lived experiences to their work and community service. The focus presentation for Webinar 3 was the “Lutheran Immigration Board of Canada: a Forerunner of Canadian Lutheran World Relief” (CLWR, 1946) prepared and presented by former Director and President of CLWR Marcus Busch. This participant engagement webinar once again included synodical bishops, students, and Lutherans at large including former CLWR Executive Director Robert Granke.

After you look over the biographies and the Index titles, be brave enough to consider your own intersectionalities, your giftedness, your past and present- plan out how you might move through these submissions from across the geographies and generations of Canada from coast to coast to coast or simply enter in. However you move forward - remain open to making your own contributions from your contexts and connections. Your contributions are welcome here.

My personal thanks are owed to William Harrison of Lutheran Theological Seminary based in Saskatoon (LTS or LTSS), and to Kristine Lund and Joy Philips of Martin Luther University College in Waterloo (MLUC, LUTHER) for the opportunity to Guest Edit this Issue and to advance my own work in *Consensus* from Articles in 2012 and 2022. The thanks of myself and the Project Coordinators goes as well to Associate Editor Greg Sennema and the team of people who bring *Consensus* together that we might remember together and share these stories and resources.

And finally, my deep thanks goes particularly in this Issue to Rev. Dr. Bishop Donald Sjoberg, now in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year of life, for initiating the launch of what has become the Remembering Today for the Church of Tomorrow Project. As Issue readers will learn, in March of 2021, Bishop Sjoberg phoned Rev. Dr. Rebecca Larson and Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson to talk about uplifting Canadian Lutheran stories. Within one month, Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen and I were added to the group. We are together - the Coordinators for the Remembering Project. To all of these colleagues and friends, I will be forever grateful that we have had the blessings of the journey of recalling memories in Canadian Lutheran History for the sake of the Gospel. May there be many more years to come. Contributions by each of the Project Coordinators appear in this Issue. Contributions we receive following from this Issue will be considered for our website [CanadianLutheranHistory.ca](http://CanadianLutheranHistory.ca) or for a later Issue of *Consensus*.

We also join with the wider academic, Inter-faith, Ecumenical and Inter-Lutheran communities world-wide in eager anticipation of next year's *Consensus festschrift* in Lutheran Theology in celebration of the ministry of Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen, now Emeritus William Hordern Professor of Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon and his lifetime ministry of service to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and predecessors. Dr. Jensen's next book, *Experiencing Gospel: The History and Creativity of Martin Luther's 1534 Bible Project* will be available December 2023. Jensen's text, *The Wittenberg Concord: Creating Space for Dialogue* is a recommended reading for further studies into the webinar

themes, particularly so the Call for Canadian Lutherans to begin to talk to one another again – for the sake of the Gospel - through which all are already united.

To send us into the submissions now, I call your attention once again to the contribution of Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum, (they, them, theirs), who was asked to be a Story-Weaver at the 2018 national CLAY Youth Gathering. Their multi-layered, multi-contextual inter-weaving presentation at CLAY Thunder Bay brought together so many of the themes in this Issue, and I do mean – brought them together. I commend Rev. Lindsey's submission to you particularly and offer here now but a few of Rev. Lindsey's words, ... what I have learned about sharing and holding other stories throughout my life is that there is an important story behind everything. How a picture got on a wall. How a scar got on your face. Sometimes the stories are simple, and sometimes they are hard and heart breaking to hear - but every story has an important and celebrated place with us here – because every story has been fearfully and wonderfully made by God for us to share in this place.

The meta-theme for this Issue is: History AND Future together in the Present. In short, the content of the whole Issue is inter-woven, intersecting, inter-connecting – meeting - in a liminal time, place and space of now and not yet, being and becoming. I appreciate with deep gratitude that Rev. Lindsey brings it all together, as they did with other Story-Weavers at ThunderCLAY and they set our stories (our lives, our work, our purposes) at the foot of the Cross where people are Called to share their truths in hope and trust in grace that is exceedingly, abundantly more than we could ever ask for or imagine.

Soli Deo Gloria,

### **Contributors to this Issue of Consensus**

**Rev. Dr. Karin Achtelstetter** is currently the Executive Director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). She was previously the General Secretary of the World Association for Christian Communication and the Deputy General Secretary and Director of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Office for Communication Services. Achtelstetter earned a Master of Arts Degree in Women's Studies from the University of Kent (England), a Master of Theology Degree from Friedrich-Alexander University (Germany), and a certificate in Humanitarian International Strategy from Fordham University (USA). She was granted an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree from the Academy of Ecumenical Indian Theology and Church Administration (India). In 2020, Achtelstetter completed a certificate in International Refugee Law with the International Institute of Humanitarian Law. Achtelstetter is the author of numerous publications in the area of religion, communication and ecumenism, she has been a lecturer with the Friedrich-Alexander University (Germany) for more than 25 years.

**Jennifer Ardon** is currently a Refugee Resettlement Manager and Waterloo Office Coordinator for Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). Ardon, holds a Master of Arts Degree in Canadian History (specializing in Immigration History) from the University of Waterloo where she served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant and a Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Julia Roberts. Prior to CLWR, Honduran born Ardon, was making powerful community-based impacts as an advocate for asylum seekers in the Kitchener-Waterloo area

alongside Eunice Valenzuela of the Mennonite Coalition for Refugee Support, a partner of the KW Lutheran Refugee Committee and the KW Sanctuary Committee.

**Senait B** is the Director of Refugee Resettlement for Canadian Lutheran World Relief, a position she has held since 2021. To date, Senait has served the communities connected to CLWR for over 25 years. She has a deep commitment to helping refugees find a safe home in Canada, and a profound knowledge of the systems that work to make that happen. Senait came to Canada as a former refugee, and from her personal and family experiences, she has a wealth of valuable knowledge to share in the care of humans in need.

**Raymond T. Blacklock** was a Lutheran missionary to Papua New Guinea from 1962 to 1981. With his wife, Norma (nee McCoomb), the Blacklocks were members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada from the time of the ELCC's founding as the autonomous Canada District of the American Lutheran Church. Ray and Norma's first tour of service, along with one six-month old child, began in 1962, and two more children followed. Ray served as a classroom teacher of Papua New Guinean children in a Lutheran school at Finschhafen for five years, and then was Mission Education Officer at the Lutheran headquarters in Lae until a Papua New Guinean was appointed to the position. Ray has been active since their return to Canada in keeping Jesus' call to "Go" as in Matthew 28:16-20 before their current congregations, Outlook Lutheran Church, and subsequently Messiah Lutheran in Camrose.

**Rev. Dr. Paul Bosch**, Professor Emeritus of Liturgy from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary, was ordained in 1956 and had a lengthy distinguished career in both Campus Ministry and Liturgics right into his 90s. Paul Bosch died in early 2023. Bosch was one of the most prolific writers in North American Lutheran history. He wrote about an article a week for his "Worship Workbench" series beginning in the 1970s in the United States and continued to do so throughout his years in Canada.

**Marcus Busch** graduated with a BA in History before going on to complete a Master of Social Work Degree. His writings include *Angkar L: A Short History of LWF Cambodia* 1979 to 2007 (2008) and *Parsonage People: The Family Story of Rudy and Emma Busch* (2022). Busch was a Director and then President of Canadian Lutheran World Relief from 2009 to 2018. Busch was raised in the Ohio Synod and American Lutheran Church (ALC) tradition. Later in life, as a member of the ELCIC, Busch and his partner Margaret Sadler (writer, editor and instructional designer) served as global Volunteer in Mission (VIM) in northern Japan, Mauritania, West Africa, and Cambodia under the leadership of the Lutheran World Federation Department of World Service.

**Rev. Deacon Michelle Collins**, holds an MA in Educational Leadership from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. She is currently Assistant to the Bishop at Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod, ELCIC, and is a proud member of the Deaconess Community. With the ELCIC's MNO Synod, Collins works in the areas of Synod-wide youth ministry, congregational leadership formation, discipleship and congregational mission, visioning, and strategy.

**Rev. Deacon Sherry Coman**, MTS (MLUC), MTh (Regis College, TST - University of Toronto), MFA. (American Film Institute), BA (McGill) is the founding Director of the Martin Luther University College (MLUC) Centre for Spirituality and Media. Coman currently works jointly between MLUC and the Eastern Synod of the ELCIC serving as Deacon for Spirituality and Internet Outreach. To these positions, Coman brings her experiences in teaching and leadership from Humber College and the University of Toronto.

**Rev. Walter Goos** is descended from founding families of the Lutheran seminaries and colleges in Waterloo, and Spruce Grove/Edmonton and Saskatoon. In short, supporting students to live lives of meaning and purpose was the Goos family business. In his undergrad at the UofA, Walter Goos was a leader in the Lutheran Student Movement in Canada, after graduating from Saskatoon he became the Lutheran Chaplain at USask and then a member of the chaplaincy “God Squad” in Montreal at McGill and Sir George Williams universities. Upon retirement, Goos was a respected youth counsellor in the Alberta public school system.

**Rev. Dr. William H. Harrison**, (he, him) is currently the President of Lutheran Theological Seminary based in Saskatoon. Harrison earned a PhD in Systematic Theology from Boston College. He also holds degrees in English Literature (MA, UBC), Political Science (BA Honours, Carleton), and Theology (BTh, St. Paul’s University, Ottawa). Harrison is the author of two books: *In Praise of Mixed Religion: The Syncretism Solution in a Multifaith World* and *Frequently-Asked Questions in Christian Theology*. Recently, President Harrison was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for outstanding services in education.

**Rev. Dr. Gordon Jensen**, (he/him) is the Emeritus William Hordern Professor of Theology at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon. He earned his PhD in Historical Theology from St. Michael’s College at the University of Toronto. Jensen was co-Editor-in-Chief of this *Consensus* Journal beginning in 2014. An accomplished Luther scholar and ecumenist in the world church, Jensen has served the ELCIC and Lutheran World Federation in a range of capacities from National Church Council to international ecumenical conversations. He served on the Canadian Anglican-United Church Dialogue for 17 years. He is the author of two books: *The Wittenberg Concord: Creating Space for Dialogue* and *Experiencing Gospel: The History and Creativity of Martin Luther’s 1534 Bible Project*.

**Rev. Dr. Bishop Susan C. Johnson**, (she/her) is the National Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. Johnson was elected four times to the position of national bishop, beginning in 2007 following one election to the Office of Vice-President beginning in 2001. She is the longest serving national bishop for the ELCIC, and among the first women to serve as Head of a national Church in church history. In 2012 Johnson was awarded an honorary doctorate from Huron University College. In 2019, Johnson was awarded a Doctor of Divinity *Honoris Causa*, Ecumenism, from the Atlantic School of Theology. In 2022 she was elected to the Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the World Council of Churches. Johnson began international church-wide leadership in 1998 as an Advisor to the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Council and served one term as Vice-President of the LWF North America Region.



**Danika Jorgensen-Skakum** (she/her) is a PhD student in Political Science at the University of Alberta where she also completed her MA in Gender and Social Justice in 2018. She is a queer Métis scholar interested in questions of data, posthumanism, climate justice, disability studies, and the so-called Anthropocene.

**Rev. Lindsey Jorgensen-Skakum**, (they, them, theirs), is an MDiv. graduate of Lutheran Theological Seminary, Saskatoon currently serving in ordained ministry in Edmonton, Alberta with their wonderful wife Dani (Danika) and daughter Georgia. They received a rare invitation to be a Large Group Gathering Story Weaver for the more than 900 Youth and additional participants at the national CLAY (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) gathering in 2018. Jorgensen-Skakum is now the Chair of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's (ELCIC) Taskforce addressing Homophobia, Biphobia, and Transphobia.

**Deaconess Rev. Dr. Anne Keffer**, MEd and BEd (UWO, London), earned her Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction from the Graduate Theological Foundation (Donaldson, Indiana) in 2001, yet proudly asserted before her death in 2023 that the title she held most dear was that of Sister. An accomplished academic, educator and theologian, Sister Anne left her beloved role as the Director of the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism in Saskatchewan (1998-2004) to become the Directing Deaconess of the ELCA Deaconess Community centered in Chicago. Sister Anne, a descendant of the undeterrable Lutheran lay-pioneer Adam Keffer, earned her Pre-theology BA from Waterloo Lutheran College in Waterloo as the foundation for her completed studies at the Lutheran Deaconess House (Lutheran Church in America) Baltimore in 1963. Sister Keffer served as Directing Deaconess until her retirement and return to Canada in 2011.

**Rev. Deacon Scott Knarr**, (he/him) is a Diaconal Minister of Music with an MA in Theology (MLUC). For nine years Deacon Scott has been asked to support the youth-led, grassroots organization called "Music for the Spirit" on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, the location of his diaconal ministry internship and consecration service (2014-2023). Knarr continues to use his studies in organ and choral conducting in his congregational context at St. Matthews Lutheran, Kitchener and in community ministry with the Faculty of the Wilfrid Laurier University and Martin Luther University College. He serves on the Eastern Synod Circle for Reconciliation and Justice, and Knarr was an initial Member of the Racial Justice Advisory Committee. He currently serves on the advisory group for Feather & Cross, a local ministry to build relationships in an urban context between Indigenous and Lutherans neighbours in Kitchener-Waterloo. Deacon Scott was a writer on the ELCIC's Faith Order and Doctrine report: *Reimagining Our Church*.

**Rev. Dr. Kenneth C. Kuhn** is a retired ELCIC pastor and sociologist, living in Winnipeg. As an undergraduate at the University of British Columbia, 1957-61, Ken was an early leader in the Lutheran student movements. He was the first editor of the Lutheran Student Movement in Canada magazine *Nimbus*. Ken wrote an article about the early history of the Lutheran Student Movement in Canada (Kuhn, Kenneth C. (1979) "The Lutheran Student Movement in Canada: a brief history and analysis," *Consensus*, 5, no.2, Article 3, <https://scholars.wlu.ca/consensus/vol5/iss2/3> . While studying at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC Maywood campus) he also edited *frontiers*, a publication of the

Lutheran Student Association of America. In his final year of seminary, Ken joined the march into Montgomery, Alabama on the final day of the historic Selma Civil Rights March. (see <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/manitoba/2-winnipeggers-just-realized-they-were-both-at-1965-selma-march-1.3004547>.) He served in the national ELCIC office as the Executive Director of the Division for Church and Society, and Director of the Millennium Study of Pastoral Leadership Needs. He completed his pastoral service as a chaplain in the Correctional Service of Canada.

**Hanne Kuhnert**, (she/her) is a BA Honours Psychology and Honours Arts and Business graduate from the University of Waterloo with a Peace and Conflict Studies Minor. Kuhnert is a member of the Young Canadian Lutheran movement, a Member of the Eastern Synod's Circle for Reconciliation and Justice and a trained volunteer for the Racial Justice Advisory Committee's *Community Conversations* initiative. At fifteen years of age, Kuhnert was chosen by KAIROS to speak at the national and Inter-generational KAIROS "Time for Reconciliation" Event held May 29-June 3, 2015, in Ottawa, an advance event for the national Walk for Reconciliation at the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner's Executive Report at the end of the TRC Public Hearings. Videos of this event are available at: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcZ\\_8zgFT55r7SKpI0Xla4NhMibDB3-D](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcZ_8zgFT55r7SKpI0Xla4NhMibDB3-D) Continuing from that time, Kuhnert has been a regular participant in On-Reserve Reconciliation activities including the Haldimand Tract Ecumenical Partnership with Six Nations Polytechnic week-long event called Stronger Together, in 2017, and the on-reserve youth-led program, *Music For the Spirit* (2015-2023).

**Rev. Karen Kuhnert**, (she/her) MDiv, Archivist for the Eastern Synod, ELCIC. Kuhnert has had two Articles on Canadian Lutheran history and identity published in *Consensus* (2012, 2022). Her 2005 Clinical Pastoral Education research was published in *The Spiritual Care Giver's Guide* (2008, O'Connor, Lashmar, Meakes) and she was awarded the 2007 Student Research Award for this work from the Society for Pastoral Counselling Research. From 2011-2018 Kuhnert served as the ELCIC Lutheran on the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle (KIRC) in the transitional "KAIROS: With NOT For" era at the launch of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Survivor Testimony Hearings (National Event 2) in Inuvik, NWT. Kuhnert lived in Inuvik, NWT, from 1993-2000. With fellow KIRC member Deborah Tagornak, Kuhnert was part of presentations and statement writing for the World Council of Churches pre-COP 21 (Paris, 2015) conference held in Sami Territory, Sweden (*Future of Life in the Arctic – The Impact of Climate Change. Indigenous and Religious Perspectives*) and pre-COP 23 (Bonn, 2017) *Towards Just Peace With The Earth* written with His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I for presentation at the Arctic Circle Assembly, Reykjavik, Iceland. Kuhnert is co-published with Adrian Jacobs, Keeper of the Circle at Sandy-Saulteaux Spiritual Centre in Steve Heinrich's *Yours, Mine, Ours: Unravelling the Doctrine of Discovery* (Intotemek, 2016).

**Rev. Dr. Stephen Larson**, (he/him) chaired the International Worship Planning Committee for the Twelfth Assembly of the LWF in Namibia with its Commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Larson both received and earned Doctorates from St. Stephen's College at the University of Alberta (1987 DMin, Liturgy and Justice, and 2000 Doctor of Divinity *Honoris Causa*). Larson has served in parish and campus ministry in the

LCA, ELCIC and ELCA in Canada and the USA. He was pastor at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva's English-speaking Congregation in Switzerland (1988 – 2003; and interim pastor 2012-2014). Dr. Larson is an Adjunct Faculty at Martin Luther University College.

**Rev. Dr. Kristine Lund**, (she/her) is Principal Dean and Professor of Spiritual Care and Psychotherapy at Martin Luther University College, Wilfrid Laurier University. Lund was the driving force for the establishment of the Glebe Counseling Centre in Waterloo (2013). Lund is a distinguished teacher, mentor, Supervisor and author in the Canadian Association for Pastoral Care and Counselling. An ordained Lutheran clergy (MDiv, LTS, 1980), Lund also had a private psychotherapy practice that included Supervised Pastoral Counselling of students and the position of Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Pastoral Psychology and Psychotherapy at St. Stephen's College in Edmonton, AB (1998-2005). During this time Lund completed her PhD in Secondary Education from the University of Alberta (2004) with a Dissertation on "The Pastoral Counselling Students' Experience Of Learning To Be Present With Their Clients." That work was recognized with the Society for Pastoral Counselling Dissertation Award.

**Racheal Manyuon** is currently a Refugee Resettlement Assistant serving out of the CLWR regional office in British Columbia. Since her arrival in Canada as a Refugee from Uganda and South Sudan, Manyuon has been very active volunteering at the community level, and also with CLWR. Prior to leaving Juba, Racheal had studied Economics at university. With her combined academic skills and life-experiences as a settling Refugee, Manyuon offers much to the work of CLWR at local, national and international levels. She has a heart for people and appreciates opportunities to provide support and assistance to others.

**Rev. Peter Mathiasen** served as a Lutheran missionary to Brazil from 1958 to 1975 under the United (Danish) Evangelical Lutheran Church (UELC 1896-1960), Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC 1917-1960) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada (CD-ALC then ELCC, 1961-1986). After retiring from the foreign Mission field in Brazil with his wife Elna Mae (nee Nielsen), Mathiasen became the Executive Director for the Division for World Mission in the merged ELCIC (1990-1995) and Assistant to ELCIC National Bishop Sartison (1995 to 1997).

**Peter C. Oickle** is the author of *St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia: A history of Lutheran Faith in Lunenburg County*. He is a member of St. Paul's congregation and served as archivist and historian for their 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. Oickle is also a historian for the town of Bridgewater and conducts guided walks of Brookside Cemetery and the town. He has also conducted guided walks of the "Bog" Cemetery, Dayspring, and Fort Point Cemetery, Fort Point Lunenburg County. For years he wrote historical articles for the local paper. He began his adult career as an educator, school administrator, and school board staffer. He retired from the Dayspring Children's Center.

**Rev. Dr. David G. A. Pfrimmer**, (he/him) is currently Professor Emeritus for Public Ethics at Martin Luther University College on the campus of Wilfrid Laurier University. An ordained Lutheran Pastor, David is the former Principal Dean at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (now Luther College). David continues to serve as a Fellow at Luther College's Centre for Public

Ethics. Previously, David was a parish pastor, Executive Secretary for the Canada Section of the Lutheran Church in America, and later, the Director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy. For over 25 years has represented the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada on numerous ecumenical, multifaith and government organizations working on public policy and a range of justice, peace, and ecological issues. For ten years he chaired the Canadian Council of Churches Justice and Peace Commission and represented the ELCIC on the governing council of the Lutheran World Federation. He was frequently a member of numerous election observer, human rights, and ecumenical delegations. David's writing and research has focused on a history of Canadian ecumenical/multifaith social justice movements in Canada since World War II, reclaiming the vocation of government and developing a new understanding of what he calls "public ethics."

**Rev. H. Paul Schmidt** was born and raised in Minnesota, U.S.A. He is a fifth-generation Lutheran pastor. Paul earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Missouri, and a Master of Sacred Theology Degree from Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago (SemineX). During his studies as a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod seminary student, Schmidt was a Campus Chaplain Intern (Vicar) at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. His first call upon graduation from the seminary in 1965 was "Chaplain at the University of Alberta, Calgary (U of A – Calgary) and Missionary-at-large to Northwest Calgary." In October 1965, through agreements in The Canadian Lutheran Council (precursor to The Lutheran Council in Canada), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, The Lutheran Church in America-Canada Section and The American Lutheran Church-Canadian District all joined in commissioning him to be Lutheran Chaplain at University of Alberta-Calgary (soon to become The University of Calgary). Schmidt was the first inter-Lutheran Campus Chaplain in Canada. He served the Lutheran Council in Canada with distinction in a critical era in Canadian Lutheran history.

**Rev. Dr. Bishop Donald W. Sjoberg** is the first Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada serving from 1986 to 1993. He was elected President/Bishop of the Western Canada Synod of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) from 1970 to 1985 and held office as President of the Canada Section of the LCA with responsibilities for all three (Western, Central and Eastern) synods in that time period. Sjoberg was a Member of the Lutheran Council in Canada and the Joint Commission on Inter-Lutheran Relationships (JCILR). The Degree of Doctor of Divinity *Honoris Causa* was conferred upon him by St. Stephen's College (Edmonton) in 1983. Sjoberg proudly served as Pastor of Augustana Lutheran Church, Edmonton, and as the Regional Director for Canadian Missions with the Augustana Synod and the Lutheran Church in America.

**Rev. Dr. John Vedell** is one of the first two pioneers in spreading Lutheran Campus Ministry across Canada. John Vedell was recruited to Canada by Otto Olsen from Vedell's Augustana Seminary in the United States. After a time of congregational ministry and youth leadership in the Kenora area, Vedell was again recruited by Olsen to serve as the first Eastern Regional Secretary for Campus Ministry for the Canadian Lutheran Council, with Don Voigts as the first Western Regional Secretary. These two were responsible for the advancement of inter-Lutheran student services and they related to student groups in Canada and the US that

included the Lutheran Students Association and the Lutheran Student Movement. Their Calling agency, the inter-Lutheran Canadian Lutheran Council (1952) formed anew in the 1960s with the participation of Canadian Lutherans of the Missouri Synod to form the Lutheran Council in Canada. Vedell launched Campus Ministry at Hart House at the University of Toronto, in London, Ontario and Montreal, Quebec and he advanced Campus Ministries from Thunder Bay (MNO Synod) to Halifax (Eastern Synod).

**Phoebe Voigts** is the Founding Artistic Director of the Saskatoon Children's Choir (SCC), chosen as the *Choir of the World* at the XIX International Choral Kathaumixw in 2023. Voigts is widely recognized for her integrated pedagogy in which children grow as artists and extend through their music and related projects their understanding of their role in a global community. The Saskatoon Children's Choir performs in Canada and throughout the world.