



This coming October, the East District will be holding their last district convention. The big national changes have arrived for our synod. The question remains how will the new structure help the congregations of Lutheran Church—Canada remain effective outposts of Christ's message of hope, love, and forgiveness in a hurting world? The new synodical Board of Directors is working hard, making sure nothing gets lost in the shuffle, and we will keep them in our prayers that they do not lose energy and ability to do the task before them.

As a circuit, the Kitchener-Waterloo and area congregations have been figuring out what we can do together to help supplement and even increase our work in the mission our Lord Jesus gave His Church, to be His witnesses throughout all the world. The good news is so much is already going on, and even more is being planned!

We already have circuit organized Divine Services for the minor festivals of the Church Year. We take our part by hosting the Reformation Divine Service this October 28th, and there are more services in the church year, such as the Easter Vigil and Ascension Day, which are held at other area congregations. These are opportunities we have to meet our fellow brothers and sisters, enjoy a time of fellowship together, and even encourage one another in meeting together with Jesus in Word and Sacrament.

Our area youth have been gathering monthly at the various churches around the circuit as well on one Friday night per month. They gather for a time of devotions and fun fellowship time, getting to know other Lutheran youth. High school can be

tough on Christians to maintain the Faith when they are challenged in class by conflicting worldviews and by peers who are experimenting with life, these

youth gatherings are a great time to encourage our youth in Christian love, remind them of Christ's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's counsel to make it through life.

This fall we're going to expand this with another gathering for our confirmands, those who are not quite in youth group yet. The area pastors are going to host pizza parties after service four times in the coming school year to quiz them on the Small Catechism and give them opportunities to meet other catechumen just like them from other congregations! We are hoping this will be a big hit with our confirmands.

Discussions in our circuit are continuing to see if there are more things we can do together, whether it be with youth, with our retirees, or in other areas that perhaps even haven't been thought of yet, all with the purpose to encourage one another. These Christian bonds are so important to build across congregational walls in a world that seems to be so against our Christian Faith. If you have ideas to share, please do! The more we can do together, the more we all benefit!

If you're interested in any of these circuit events, do take advantage of them, for the encouragement of others, and also for your own encouragement! We're all members of one body, Christ Jesus! We live in Him because He is in us through His wondrous Word and Sacrament!

“And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly,” (Colossians 3:14-16a ESV).

In Christ's service,
Rev Joel V. Kuhl, Pastor