

## Convention Essayists for Lutheran Church–Canada’s 2014 Convention



**Rev. Kurt Reinhardt** is in his fifteenth year of serving the people of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran just outside the little hamlet of Kurtzville in South Western Ontario. This was his first call out of seminary and he rejoices in God’s grace in giving him such a blessed place to serve His Lord in the care of this rural flock. He attended Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines after completing his undergraduate degree at Queen’s University in Kingston. He has been married to his dear wife Tammy for 22 years and they have four children together.

Being born and raised in the city of Ottawa country life was quite a change, although a welcome one. Pastor Reinhardt has raised chickens behind the parsonage for many years now and has installed his own apiary in the back corner of the church’s cemetery, with a yearly fall gift of honey to each family of the congregation being the bees tithes to their forbearing landlords. In addition to his agricultural activities, Pastor Reinhardt also enjoys creating things out of stained glass and dabbles in poetry and hymn writing. The last two summers Pastor Reinhardt has been blessed to spend some time with Lutheran brothers and sisters in Scandinavia who are struggling for the truth of the Gospel in the midst of state churches that have turned their backs on their former good confession. He was the plenary speaker at the Corpus Christi youth conferences in Sweden and Finland speaking on the Holy Spirit and Life in Christ. He is deeply humbled to have been asked to speak to our synod convention this year on the topic of prayer and is counting on the church’s prayers as he prepares for it.

A brief summary of Pastor Reinhardt’s presentation:

### **Come to Him Who Answers Prayer, “As Dear Children Ask Their Dear Father”**

Prayer is often a misunderstood aspect of the Christian life. Many approach it from the viewpoint of the demands of the Law rather than the gifting of the Gospel. In his *Small Catechism* explanation of the introduction to the Lord’s Prayer, Martin Luther firmly roots our understanding of this key element of our Christian lives in the grace of the Gospel. Touching on the baptismal origins of the Christian’s prayer life, he describes our approach to God in prayer with the words “as dear children ask their dear Father.” This insightful Lutheran truth will provide the basis for our reflections on Christian prayer. Beginning with the family foundations of this precious gift of the Christian life, we will ponder its purpose and use in the lives of God’s children.



**Deacon Jennifer Shack** grew up on the Canadian prairies with family roots both in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. She spent most of her growing-up church years at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Winnipeg, Manitoba. She graduated from Concordia University College of Alberta in May, 2003 with a BA in Religious Studies (applied emphasis) and was consecrated to the Lutheran Church–Canada diaconate as a Director of Parish Services in September 2004, after completing her internship year at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fisherville, Ontario. Jennifer continued to serve that congregation for the next five years. Jennifer has a love for learning and teaching and

returned to Concordia in the fall of 2009 to pursue a MA in Biblical and Christian Studies. Her master’s thesis focused on the diaconate of LCC and its relation to the diaconate of the New Testament church. Jennifer was part of the first graduating class of this new degree and earned the Governor General’s academic gold medal for the highest academic standing of all graduate students in the school. After completing this degree, Jennifer taught in the church work programs at Concordia part-time and served part-time as Director of Children’s Ministry at Riverbend Lutheran Church in Edmonton. In the fall of 2012, Jennifer began PhD studies at McMaster Divinity College in Hamilton, Ontario as a biblical studies major. She studies under Stanley Porter and Christopher Land and plans to write her dissertation in the area of New Testament organizational structure

and leadership. She is a member at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Simcoe, Ontario and served briefly as part-time DPS at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Burlington, Ontario. She continues to teach part-time at Concordia from a distance (using the wonders of modern technology) and was appointed as Coordinator of Applied Religion (Church Work) at Concordia in August 2013. In addition to her academic pursuits, Jennifer loves outdoor adventure in the form of camping and hiking, as well as music, handicrafts, and reading fiction.

A brief summary of Deacon Shack's presentation:

### **The history and biblical foundation of the diaconate in LCC**

The official diaconate of Lutheran Church Canada was established in 1999. This presentation will briefly review the reasons for the establishment of this office and the process by which it was done. It will also discuss the idea of "diaconate" in the New Testament and show how the office of diaconate in Lutheran Church–Canada is in keeping with the spirit of the idea of diaconate in the New Testament. Finally, this presentation will also highlight the important contributions the diaconate has made to our church body in the last twenty-five years and the kinds of contributions we can expect in the future.