



Report of the Treasurer

2016 Final (Pre-Audit)

“Thank you”, congregations of the synod and members, for the partnership you have demonstrated through your generous offerings to the Eastern Synod throughout 2016! Your offerings support a variety of vibrant and important ministries of the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, extending the reach of your congregation’s mission across Canada and the world.

This month’s report provides a high level summary of offerings designated for various causes that were remitted to the synod by congregations and individuals in 2016. Next month’s report will provide a more comprehensive review of the synod’s 2016 operating fund (income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit) as well as other financial highlights from the past year.

Benevolence Offerings

Benevolence offerings received in 2016 declined by 2% or approximately \$30,000 compared to those that were remitted in 2015. The 2016 budget had anticipated a 1% decrease (\$15,000) after accounting for several “one-time” amounts that were received in 2015.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Total offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) declined 13% in 2016 compared to the previous year. Although undesignated CLWR offerings increased marginally, there was a steep decline in giving to designated causes. The designated cause attracting the most donations in 2016 was the Fort McMurray Wildfire Appeal (~\$66,000).

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

In addition to Benevolence and CLWR, congregations and individuals also designated lesser amounts to support a variety of other ministries (see Summary of Offerings Received section for details). Due to donations that totalled in excess of \$118,000 for the ELCIC Reformation Challenge (an appeal that started in 2016), total offerings for these other ministries increased 37% in 2016.

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Total offerings remitted to the synod decreased ~\$22,000 (1%) in 2016 compared to the previous year:

	2015	2016	% Change
Regular Benevolence	1,488,270	1,458,021	-2.0%
CLWR Undesignated	220,012	222,081	0.9%
CLWR Special Appeals	148,161	99,137	-33.1%
ELCIC Global Mission	15,876	11,582	-27.0%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	0	108,334	
ELCIC Praise Appeal	10,389	10,460	0.7%
Camps	46,977	28,122	-40.1%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	5,757	6,378	10.8%
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary	10,063	13,010	29.3%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	59,264	25,484	-57.0%
TOTAL	2,004,769	1,982,609	-1.1%

A detailed listing, [2016 Congregational Remittance Report](#) showing amounts that were remitted by each congregation to each of these causes is posted on the synod web site.

Keith Myra

Eastern Synod Treasurer