



## **Report of the Treasurer**

### **2017 Final (Pre-Audit)**

Measured in terms of total offerings that were remitted to the synod for regular (undesignated) benevolence and various designated causes, 2017 wasn't a banner year. Rather, 2017 remittances were consistent with the slowly declining trend that has been evident in the synod's financial statements over the past twenty years or so.

During these challenging financial times, it is especially important that I convey my deepest thanks and appreciation to 184 congregations and to numerous individuals across the synod for the most generous gifts that you have made over the past year. Through this partnership you fund 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. Your gifts are a blessing! And through your generosity we as a synod have been blessed!

This month my report provides a high level summary of offerings designated for various causes that were remitted to the synod by congregations and individuals over the past year. Next month's report will provide a more comprehensive review of the synod's 2017 financial picture - income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit in the synod's operating fund, as well as other financial highlights from the past year (including several large gifts and bequests that were designated for synodical ministries).

### **Benevolence Offerings**

Benevolence offerings received in 2017 declined by 1.5% or approximately \$22,000 compared to those that were remitted in 2016. Furthermore, the 2017 budget was based on a 1% increase (\$14,000) resulting in a total shortfall of approximately \$36,000. Fortunately we were able to offset this shortfall through under-spending in several areas of the budget and through returns on investments held by the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada that exceeded budget expectations.

I would like to offer a special thank you to those congregations that added to their benevolence offerings by including a special amount to help cover the synod's cost of sending delegates to the 2017 ELCIC National Convention, an expense that

in previous years was a congregational responsibility. You have set a great example of leadership!

### **Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings**

In total, undesignated and designated offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) declined by 10% in 2017 compared to the previous year. 70% of all CLWR offerings were undesignated while the large majority of the remaining 30% of designated offerings were directed towards African famine relief and related causes.

### **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 below for details). In total, offerings to these other causes were virtually unchanged from 2016 to 2017.

With almost \$83,000 being donated to the ELCIC's Reformation Challenge in 2017, the synod's total over the past two years falls just shy of \$200,000, an amount that excludes funds that were retained by congregations in support of their own refugee sponsorship/resettlement projects. What a tremendous response! 70% of the Reformation Challenge donations that flowed through the synod office over the past two years were designated for scholarships for schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. The amount raised to date from our synod will fund scholarships for 95 students!

### **Summary of Total Offerings Received**

Total offerings remitted to the synod decreased ~\$57,000 (3%) in 2017 compared to the previous year:

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Regular Benevolence	\$1,458,021	\$1,435,590	-1.5%
CLWR Undesignated	\$222,081	\$201,086	-9.5%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$99,137	\$86,066	-13.2%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$11,582	\$14,438	24.7%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	\$108,334	\$82,922	-23.5%
ELCIC Praise Appeal	\$10,460	\$8,328	-20.4%
Camps	\$28,122	\$12,082	-57.0%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$6,378	\$4,013	-37.1%
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary	\$13,010	\$27,464	111.1%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	\$25,484	\$53,592	110.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,982,609</b>	<b>\$1,925,581</b>	<b>-2.9%</b>

A detailed listing, [2017 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