



Your Giving Supports Vibrant New Congregations

A few years ago, the corner of Bur Oak and Southampton in Markham was just an empty field.

Today it is home to Rhenish Lutheran Church, a vibrant congregation serving a fast-growing and ethnically diverse population on the north-east edge of Markham.

On any given day you will find the building bustling with mom-and-tot baby groups, youth activities, family and parenting classes, women's groups, men's groups, line dancing, Tai Chi, cooking classes and more. On Sundays, you can attend worship services in English or Cantonese, with simultaneous translation into Mandarin.

Rhenish is one of the ELCIC's newest congregations, and its success in ministering to the needs of this growing community lies partly in your hands. Supporting new congregations is part of the Synod work you fund through your generous bequests and benevolence offerings.

Historic Chinese-Lutheran partnership

The roots of this congregation stretch back to the eighteenth-century Rhenish missionary movement, which – among other things – sent missionaries to China. The Good News spread from China to Hong Kong, and was eventually brought back to Canada when large numbers of Hong Kong-Chinese immigrants began moving to Toronto and Vancouver in the 1980s and '90s.

Because the Chinese Rhenish Church had such strong historic ties with the Lutheran Church, the congregation eventually decided to become a member of the ELCIC. About the same time they were once again outgrowing the confines of the borrowed space they were using for worship. Looking for ways to help this newest member of the ELCIC family, the Synod was able to access Canadian Mission funding to help them establish a permanent home.

Your gifts made this possible

This is where your gifts came into play – benevolence giving supports the administration of Canadian Missions, while the bequests you leave to the church supply the lion's share of the actual money that funds such projects.

This funding gave Rhenish's leaders the opportunity to take their church and their mission where it was most needed – in this case a newly established community in Markham, north of Toronto. This is just one of the ways your Synod is working to grow and nurture new congregations, and we simply couldn't do it without your faithful giving. Thank you for your help in nurturing Rhenish Lutheran Church in faith and ministry!

How to give

You can support the Eastern Synod's Canadian Missions work in two ways:

1. Continue giving to your congregation's Benevolence Fund
Some congregations ask that you designate your Benevolence giving by marking an amount or percentage on your offering envelope. Others set an amount or percentage in their annual budget, and you approve that at your annual meeting. Ask your Pastor or Church Council Chair which method your congregation uses, and please give generously as you are able.

2. Make a bequest to the Church
Lutheran Planned Giving is a ministry that helps people arrange gifts to the Church in their wills. For further information contact Jeff Pym at 1.888.308.9461 or jpym@elfec.ca.



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