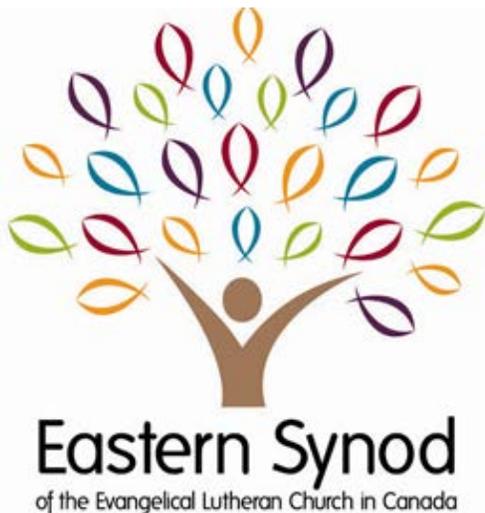


Eastern Synod of the ELCIC Newsletter



January 23, 2013

To find tools and resources for worship, missions, and ministry, visit the Eastern Synod website: www.easternsynod.org

EVENTS:

Visit the Eastern Synod website for more info on all these events

“Bishop’s Spiritual Retreat for Clergy”
February 3rd to
February 6th 2013

Poverty Reduction Strategies – With Open Discussion
January 28th, 2013

John Bell “Big Sing” and Workshops
February 15th –
February 17th, 2013

Nurturing Generous Giving Workshop
February 23rd, 2013

Canadian Council of Christian Charities: New changes to the Clergy Residence Deduction Form T1223

The Canadian Council of Christian Charities would like to inform us about new changes to the Clergy Residence Deduction Form T1223 by Canada Revenue Agency.

To view the article by the CCCC visit the Eastern Synod Website or go to www.cccc.org

Prayers & Best Wishes

Rev. Joe Williams entered into eternal life on Friday, January 11th, 2013 at Toronto General Hospital at the age of 63. Beloved husband of Daphne, loving father of Kirk (Alison) Ryder, and Stephanie Williams. Cherished grandpa of Jonathan, Samantha and Kaleb.

Congratulations to **Stephanie Clayton**, Eastern Synod Office Staff, and Tim Clayton on the birth of their new daughter Hanna Charlotte Clayton born on Saturday January 19th.

To find more information on upcoming events, worship resources, mission and ministry tools, visit the Eastern Synod website: www.easternsynod.org

Memorandum

The summary of important financial activities from Keith Myra, Eastern Synod Treasurer can now be viewed on the eastern synod website:

www.easternsynod.org

Epiphany Resources The Reign of Christ

View the letter on the Eastern Synod website at: www.easternsynod.org
All Epiphany PDF's are available for download.

Congratulations to Ontario Region Recipients of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medals

We wanted to say a special congratulation to

Pastor Sylvia Poetchke

for receiving a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal!



Ministry Changes

May God bless you in all your new beginnings!

Klages, Becky - Started as an Interim at St. James, Mannheim on December 1st
Rev. Maj. Gary Barr retired on Nov. 21st, 2012 from the Canadian Forces Support Unit
Rev. Jouko Jyrkama is retiring Feb. 1st, 2013 from Zion, Sault Ste. Marie

Pastoral Opportunities

The following
Congregations are seeking
a pastor. For more
information, please contact
Rev Riitta Hepomaki,
Assistant to the Bishop
Phone: 1-877-373-5242

Atlantic Conference

New Germany District
Parish - includes St Paul's,
Trinity and St. Matthew's,
New Germany, NS

Georgian Bay Conference

St Peter's, Sullivan, ON
St. James, Williamsford

Kitchener/Waterloo Conference

St. John's, Waterloo, ON

Toronto Conference

St. Paul's, Richmond Hill,
ON

Ottawa/St. Lawrence Conference

Zion, Pembroke, ON

Northern Conference

Zion, Sault Ste. Marie, ON

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The following two documents are regarding the **Eastern Synod 2013 Budget from Jeff Pym**; “Eastern Synod Narrative Budget” and “It’s a Wonderful Synod”. We encourage congregations to make both of these documents part of your annual meeting package.

Our Ministry Story: Eastern Synod, 2013

Like any organization of its size, the Eastern Synod uses a budget to manage its financial affairs. Synodical budgets are approved by the biennial Assembly of the Eastern Synod, to which each congregation may send at least two voting delegates. Full financial information is distributed to delegates before the Assembly, and it remains on the Synod’s website for anyone to view.

Most of us aren’t too interested in the details of budgets or audited statements. We want to know the story behind the budget, the priorities on which we plan to spend a total of \$2,185,000. Here is our story for 2013.

Capable Leaders – \$1,010,000 (46%)

Almost half of the annual budget is devoted to developing a corps of leaders who will provide vision and energy to meet the challenges of ministry in the 21st century. Specifically, we will:

- Support Waterloo Lutheran Seminary’s theological formation of lay and ordained leaders
- Sustain outdoor ministry and leadership development for children, youth and adults at Camp Mush-a-Mush in Nova Scotia, Lutherlyn Camp and Conference Centre in eastern Ontario, and Edgewood Camp and Conference Centre in southern Ontario
- Create opportunities for youth and young adults to grow in faith and action, at national and synodical youth events
- Nurture and guide candidates through the process leading to ordained and diaconal ministry
- Underwrite health benefits for retired pastors
- Facilitate networks of chaplains in prisons, hospitals and the military
- Foster continuing education for lay and clergy leaders through Luther Hostel

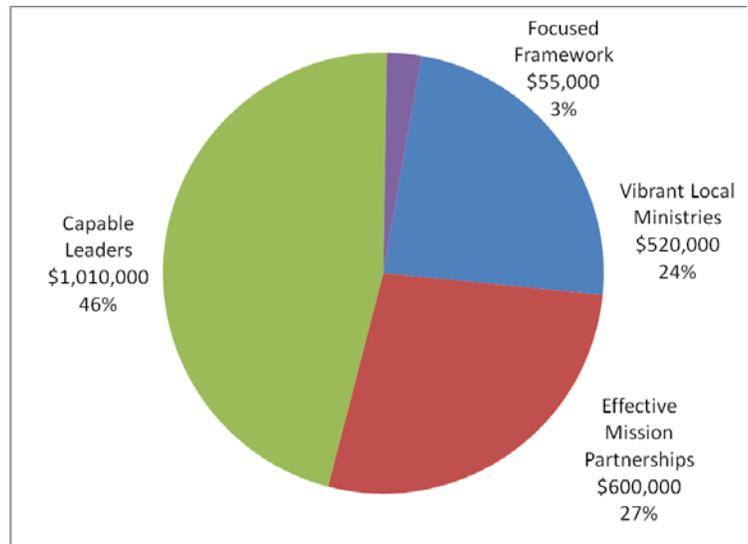
Effective Mission Partnerships – \$600,000 (27%)

As a synod we know we can’t do everything by ourselves; we need partnerships with other organizations to maximize our effectiveness. Our major partner is our national church, the ELCIC, which coordinates global mission, ecumenical efforts and ministry rosters. The ELCIC’s partners thereby become our own, including:



Support KAIROS
Become a Companion

- Canadian Lutheran World Relief
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Anglican Church in Canada



- Kairos: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives
- and other ecumenical partners

In addition, we maintain a companion synod agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana for mutual learning and assistance.

Vibrant Local Ministries – \$520,000 (24%)

Most local ministry is carried out by congregations, organized into ministry areas. Synodical personnel will devote the largest proportion of their time to supporting congregational ministry. In 2013 they will:

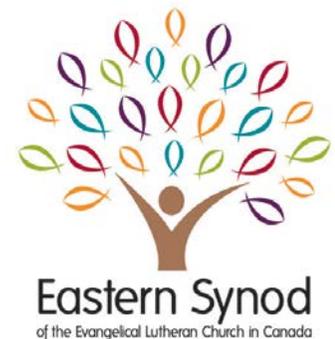
- Nurture newly-planted mission congregations
- Help congregations find pastors well matched to the needs of their specific situation
- Encourage local community outreach
- Lead discussions with congregations interested in collaborating in new forms of ministry
- Mediate when congregations are in conflict or crisis
- Provide workshops and materials for congregational ministry

Local ministry includes creative ways to link congregations with students on post-secondary campuses in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Kingston, Toronto, Waterloo, and London.

Focused Framework – \$55,000 (3%)

The Synod's infrastructure supports all of the programming priorities listed above. In addition, it serves to:

- Communicate with members and the general public via the Synod website and Eastern Synod Lutheran newspaper
- Govern the synod through Synod Council, standing committees and task forces
- Ensure efficient administration of the Synod office



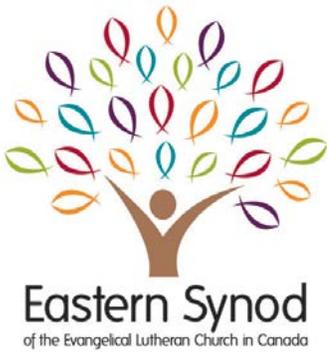
If you're interested in seeing financial results from previous years, budgets for 2013 and 2014, audited financial statements and reports of congregational remittances, visit www.easternsynod.org and click on the Assembly 2012 button. Financial information is in section 8.

It's a Wonderful Synod

The movie *It's a Wonderful Life* is a Christmas favourite in many households. The unlikely hero, George Bailey, finds himself in a crisis and contemplates suicide. His guardian angel grants George's wish never to have been born and together they visit a Bailey-less version of his community. After seeing this dark alternative world George renounces his suicidal wish, decides that his life has had value after all, and returns to present reality.

Individuals and congregations donate one and a half million dollars annually to fund the work of the wider church. People sometimes ask: "What good does that money do? Couldn't we get along just fine without a synod or national church?"

Let's imagine what congregational life would be like if the wider church had never been born.



Congregations

Without the Synod, there would be no funds to buy land, pay a mission pastor's salary or subsidize a newly formed congregation in its early years. Is your congregation less than 100 years old? If so, there's a strong likelihood it might not even exist today if the Synod hadn't been there to act as midwife at its birth. How would congregations worship? Without the ELCIC and our sister church in the U.S. there would be no distinctly Lutheran worship books. Without the Synod there would be no seminars introducing church musicians and worship leaders to new hymns, liturgies, sacramental practices or church art.

If the Synod had never been born, there would be no outside resources for youth and young adult ministry. There would be no church camps, no youth gatherings, no programs on university campuses, no websites connecting Lutheran students. There would be no scholarship programs to assist students entering post-secondary education. How many of today's clergy and lay leaders give credit to these programs for nurturing and forming their faith? Without these programs, where would congregational leaders come from?

Pastors

Congregations would have pastors, but they would not have been shaped in the Lutheran tradition. Without a wider church, who would establish standards for ministry? Who would maintain programs to recruit and support pastoral candidates? Where would pastors be educated? Waterloo Lutheran Seminary was created by the Synod in 1911 and to this day a significant proportion of its operating budget comes in the form of a synodical grant. No Synod, no seminary.

In the absence of a wider church, who would ordain pastors? Who would assist congregations in the process of calling a pastor suited to fill a ministerial vacancy?

Without the Synod there would be no ongoing professional development for clergy, no retreats or conferences. And if a pastor encountered a personal or vocational crisis, who would be there to provide counseling or financial assistance? When a congregation sought health, dental, life insurance or pension benefits for its pastor, the costs would surely be higher for an individual person than for a group of several hundred.

Impact in the World

Public institutions such as hospitals, social service agencies and universities can all trace their origins back to the church. (Both Wilfrid Laurier University and the University of Waterloo have their roots in the Eastern Synod.) Social movements that started in the churches include the abolition of slavery, civil rights and the end of apartheid, the concept of socially responsible investing, and the treaty banning land mines, in which a

graduate of our seminary played a key leadership role not many years ago. Advocating and organizing on behalf of the wider social good is something that churches have always done. Could congregations accomplish these things acting on their own? Not likely. Strength and influence come from many individuals and organizations banding together. Without a wider church there would be no ecumenical movement drawing us closer to other denominations. We would not have relationships with Lutherans and Anglicans around the world. Canadian Lutheran World Relief might exist, but it would not be nearly as effective without the Lutheran World Federation. Who supports the LWF? National denominations. Who provides the resources for the ELCIC? The Synods. Without benevolence offerings to sustain the Eastern Synod the dominoes would fall across Canada and around the world.

What You Can Do

We are called to engage in God's mission to the world, and most of us do that largely through local ministry. But local ministry cannot do everything, and it will not survive in its present form without a wider church. Regional and national expressions rely on money and leadership from individuals and congregations. We depend on each other.

The amount you give in benevolence offerings will determine whether the Eastern Synod and its ministries will exist in the future. Please give generously to maintain not just the institutions and programs, but the many supportive relationships that allow us to be a church in mission for others.