



Report of the Treasurer

2018 Final (Pre-Audit)

This report includes offerings for various church-wide causes that were remitted to the synod office by congregations and individuals during 2018. Next month's report, "*The Synod's 2018 Financial Story*" will provide a more comprehensive picture of the past year (e.g. income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit in the synod's operating fund, other financial highlights).

Comparing 2018 to the previous year, total offerings to synodical and other church-wide causes declined by 8%. Although a portion of this decrease is due to several special appeals that ended in 2017, it is likely that another contributing factor is the financial challenges that a number of congregations throughout our synod are experiencing.

In spite of the declining trend, there is much for which we are most grateful as God continues to bless us with an abundance of riches! On behalf of the Eastern Synod Council, "Thank You" to you, the members and friends of 184 congregations that comprise our synod, for your generous gifts 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.

Benevolence Offerings

Benevolence offerings represent the primary source of funding for the synod's operating budget. In 2018 these offerings declined by almost 3%, resulting in a budget shortfall of approximately \$28,000. Negative investment returns added further to the shortfall in operating fund income.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Total Canadian Lutheran World Relief Undesignated (General) offerings of \$224,000 (an 11% increase) painted a brighter picture. Unfortunately, this positive result was more than offset by the fact that CLWR offerings designated for specific causes declined by 76%. This decline was likely attributable to less media coverage and visibility related to various world-wide and domestic disasters in 2018, compared to 2017 (e.g. African famine relief). On a combined

basis, 2018 undesignated and designated CLWR offerings totalled \$244,000, a decrease of 15% compared to the previous year.

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 (refer to “Summary of Total Offerings Received” section below for details).

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Total offerings remitted to the synod decreased ~\$156,000 (8%) in 2018 compared to the previous year:

	2017	2018	% Change
Regular Benevolence	\$1,435,590	\$1,393,315	-2.9%
CLWR Undesignated	\$201,086	\$224,150	11.5%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$86,066	\$20,202	-76.5%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$14,438	\$9,412	-34.8%
ELCIC Reformation Challenge	\$82,922	\$16,418	-80.2%
ELCIC Praise Appeal	\$8,328	\$3,263	-60.8%
Camps	\$12,082	\$9,947	-17.7%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$4,013	\$1,553	-61.3%
Martin Luther Univ College	\$27,464	\$27,654	0.7%
Other Misc Designated Gifts	\$53,592	\$63,732	18.9%
TOTAL	\$1,925,581	\$1,769,646	-8.1%

A detailed listing, [2018 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