

# STATISTICS ARE **STORIES!**

A few “by the numbers” examples of how your generosity makes a difference



## Social Justice Ministries:

- **8** pride events, **6** congregations reconciling in Christ program, monthly queer committee meetings
- **25** participants cycled 200km from Montreal to Ottawa to form a group of over 100 demonstrators on Parliament Hill
- **\$7,852.29** raised in 1 month for Grassy Narrows

## Youth and Camp Ministry:

- Funds to camps = **\$61,580**
- Funds to support YAYA (Youth and Young Adult) ministry = **\$26,600**

## Pathways for Ministry:

- Engaged in **12** diverse settings, involving **over 50** congregations



Eastern Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

## Congregational Presence:

- **345** connections through Sunday morning visits and other ministerial meetings – that’s almost once a day!
- Every ministry area received at least **1** connection point in 2025. Here’s how often we’ve visited your area:

<b>18</b> Atlantic	<b>23</b> Northern
<b>62</b> Toronto	<b>22</b> Ottawa Valley
<b>26</b> Georgian	<b>9</b> Ottawa
<b>12</b> Grand River	<b>8</b> Seaway
<b>21</b> Huronia	<b>16</b> Thames
<b>15</b> Montreal	<b>7</b> The Bay
<b>13</b> Niagara	<b>18</b> Two Rivers
<b>17</b> Nith Valley	

## Faithful Use of Church Space:

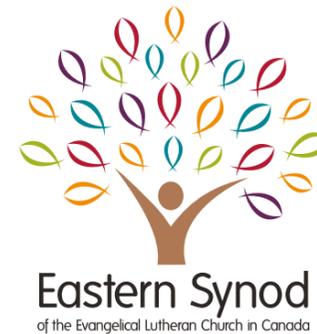
- Hosted **3** workshops with **33** congregations
- **12** active engagements on space usage
- **9** title holders considering/working on a housing development
- **3** governmental grant application support projects

## Mission Funds:

- **33** grants totalling **\$412,015.72**

## Fostering New Leadership:

- **17** connection points with individuals considering a call to ministry or already in the candidacy process
- **12** contact points with others already ordained and are seeking to join the Eastern Synod roster, including **8** pastors from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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# Our Ministry STORIES

The Impact of **Your** Generosity

## WRAPPING YOU IN LOVE: Stories of Impact

By: Bishop Carla

**Welcome! This Impact Report shares a few stories you make possible with your generosity.** Thank you for your kindness, compassion, for your faith and your service. Your gifts, combined with other amazing people and congregations, lift up our neighbours, communities and spirits. You are God’s Love in your communities.



It was delightful to invite our community to the first ever Bishop’s Table at the updated office in Kitchener. We are so pleased with the response that we are hosting another one on February 14<sup>th</sup> in the Atlantic Region (Mahone Bay) and in the Northern Region (soon to be announced!).

**I am pleased and proud to update you on our Bishop’s Discretionary Fund that raised an incredible \$20,307!** Thank you! I want to give thanks for our deep traditions, past leadership and rich history over the years. We are deeply grateful and truly cherish your support. Through the fund, we are able to provide urgent support in critical situations, with direct ways to take care of each other. I can offer my experience that sharing these gifts with our community is God’s love at work.



# LISTENING MORE DEEPLY:

## Your impact through social justice ministries

**Rooted in the gospel's call to love our neighbours and seek justice, here are stories about your support of critical social justice issues. These projects are supported by our vibrant and energetic synodical committees!**

Our commitment to climate justice was front and centre at the **Pilgrimage for the Planet**, a two-day, 200 km biking event culminating in a peaceful demonstration on Parliament Hill calling on the Canadian government to adopt the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Our dedication to racial justice was reflected during **Black History Month 2025** by listening to and amplifying voices of people of colour.

Our queer committee is a beacon of inclusion on a range of issues from preserving synodical queer history through a **travelling art exhibit** to supporting congregations Reconciling in Christ (RIC) and more.



■ Lutheran youth delegation canoeing

Our community deepened relationships with land and peoples through **Two Row on the Grand River**, a ten-day canoe journey embodying the Two Row Wampum treaty between the Dutch and the Haudenosaunee. Our youth participants were supported by a YAYA Fund.



■ Cyclists and demonstrators gather on Parliament Hill



■ Bishop Carla welcomes Rev. Ali Tote, Rev. Marie Bessong, Rev. Dr. Philip Matha and Leo Johnson to Black History Month worship at Mt. Zion, Waterloo



■ "It was with great pride and joy that at the age of 85, I could march in the Toronto Pride Parade with my Bishop and Church as a gay man." – Walter

# A LIVING LEGACY:

## Grace Lutheran Church's remarkable gift

After 70 years of faithful witness, Grace Lutheran Church in Oakville, Ontario, made the difficult and prayerful decision to conclude its ministry. They chose to ask a deep theological question: **'How can our final chapter still proclaim the Gospel?'** When the church property was sold, some of the proceeds were directed to the Eastern Synod with the clear mandate of supporting students who are endorsed candidates for ministry.

In December of 2025, the first recipient of the Grace Oakville Award was Iris Mak. In accepting the award, Iris reflected on its deep spiritual impact, writing:

*"This legacy gift was a stunning surprise and a concrete sign of God's guidance. From a congregation that has closed, it represents incredible hope, that their final act of stewardship is now releasing me from financial burdens and funding my continued education as I begin my pastoral call. They planted seeds so that I can now plant more, carrying their legacy of love forward in my ministry. I am humbled to be a link in the chain, using this gift to extend the Gospel further, ensuring the love and mission of that church community lives on through new ministries."*

# PATHWAYS FOR MINISTRY:

## Walking with you

Together with you, we are reimagining pathways for ministry. Here is our vision for reshaping how we witness to the Gospel in a changing world.



### Freedom to Dream

*Where do you feel the Spirit leading you?*  
Pastor Adam Snook will meet with you to dream about alternative and sustainable models of ministry. Anything is possible!

01



### Rostered Leadership

*What kind of Rostered Leader is needed?*  
Pastor Christie Morrow-Wolfe will help you find the type of leader to support your new model of ministry.

02



### Lay Leadership

*How can we support Lay Leadership?*  
Pastor Katherine Gohm will meet with you to determine how we can best support and encourage the Lay Leaders in your setting.

03



### Corner Stones

*Why is your building an asset?*  
Katja Brittain will meet with you to talk about how our buildings can better be engaged as a tool for ministry!

04

# LAY MINISTRY UPDATE:

## By Living Waters

In September 2026, a new ministry school called **By Living Waters** at Martin Luther University College will provide education rooted in Lutheran theology and practice. The start of this new ministry school is being supported by Luther (Waterloo) and our Synod with a generous grant from the Lilly Endowment. The goal is to support lay leadership in our congregations as we listen, learn, collaborate, and adapt to our local contexts for God's mission in the world.



■ From left to right: Mark Pederson, Claire Mavis (ELCA), Etienne Eason, Alison Looper