



Report of 2023 Synodical Offerings

This report provides a pre-audit summary of offerings for various church-wide causes that were remitted to the synod office by congregations and individuals throughout 2023. In next month's report, "The Synod's 2023 Financial Story", we will provide a more comprehensive financial picture of the past year, including operating fund details (e.g. income, expenditures on synodical ministries and the resulting surplus/deficit), as well as other financial highlights.

Total offerings of approximately \$1.5 million that were remitted to the Synod in 2023 were approximately 7% less than the amount that was received in 2022. There were, however, increases and decreases for some specific designated causes.

On behalf of the Eastern Synod Council, **"Thank You"** to you, the members and friends of the 173 congregations that comprise our synod, for your generous gifts over the past year. Through this partnership, you fund a variety of vibrant and vital ministries within the Eastern Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, thus extending the reach of your congregation's mission across Canada and the world. Once again, in 2023 it was clearly evident that as a synod, we have so much for which to be grateful!

Benevolence Offerings

General Benevolence offerings represent the primary source of funding for the synod's operating budget. In 2023 these offerings decreased by slightly more than \$37,000, representing a 3% decline compared to 2022, compared to the 2% decrease that had been anticipated in the budget. We understand that many of our congregations are facing financial and other challenges, so we are grateful that the decline hasn't been steeper. Thank you for your generosity!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief offering consist of gifts to general/undesignated CLWR and donations to CWLR special appeals/projects. The giving to CLWR's General/Undesignated fund increased slightly by \$4,000 (3%) in 2023 compared to 2022. The donations to the CLWR Special Appeals decreased dramatically in 2023, down more than \$91,000 from 2022; in 2022 there was a very generous response to the Ukraine Appeal when it was initially

launched, that perhaps understandably, was not repeated to a similar extent in 2023, even though the need remains high.

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

2023 remittances to other designated ministries were generally higher (\$70,540 vs. \$63,473) as compared to the previous year (refer to “Summary of Total Offerings Received” section below for details).

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Giving to various designated causes was as follows:

	2022	2023	% Change
Regular Benevolence	\$1,234,019	\$1,196,669	-3%
CLWR Undesignated	\$ 150,281	\$ 154,561	3%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$ 155,214	\$ 63,715	-59%
	\$ 305,495	\$ 218,276	-29%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$ 6,052	\$ 6,677	10%
ELCIC Other	\$ 3,417	\$ 1,750	-49%
Outdoor Ministries -Camps	\$ 9,626	\$ 11,298	17%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 500	\$ 140	-72%
Martin Luther University College	\$ 8,565	\$ 9,343	9%
Other Misc. Designated Gifts	\$ 35,313	\$ 41,333	17%
Total	\$1,602,987	\$1,485,486	-7%

A detailed listing, [2023 Remittance Report](#) showing amounts that were remitted by each congregation to each of these causes is posted on the synod web site. Should you notice any discrepancies between this report and your congregational records, please contact Danielle Arsenault (Email: darsenault@elcic.ca Phone: 519-743-1461; Toll Free: 1-877-373-5242, Ext 217).

May God continue to bless the all of the church-wide ministries that are made possible through our offerings to these most worthy causes!

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