

Report of the Treasurer – 2024 Synodical Offerings

April 14th, 2025

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 2024.

On behalf of the Eastern Synod Office, I want to thank you all for your generous gifts over the past year. Thanks to your contributions, the Synod can be an effective partner in mission and ministry, both locally and worldwide. Through your support, the Synod is able to implement key strategic priorities: providing vision, leadership, and support to congregations and the Synod community, developing capable leaders, connecting the Synod with the wider Church, and living as a healthy synod through an emphasis on reconciliation as well as social, racial, and climate justice. Thank you for the part you play in making these ministries possible.

To learn more about how these offerings are utilized by the Synod, I encourage you to visit the [Eastern Synod website](#).

Benevolence Offerings

General Benevolence offerings are the main source of funding for the Synod's operating budget. In 2024 these offerings decreased by ~ 7% compared to 2023. This is a continuation of a declining trend seen in the last past several decades. We remain incredibly grateful to all congregations who continue to submit regular benevolence remittances, and we thank you for striving to rise to this challenge, under sometimes difficult circumstances.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Offerings to Canadian Lutheran World Relief offering consist of undesignated gifts and donations to special appeals and projects. The giving to CLWR's General/Undesignated fund increased slightly by ~\$10,000 (7%) in 2024 compared to 2023. The donations to the CLWR Special Appeals decreased in 2024, by approximately \$40,000. In 2023, the Synod showed a very generous response to a number of appeals including work in the Gaza, Turkey and Syria, and Ukraine - a level of giving that was not seen in 2024.

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

2024 remittances to other designated ministries were quite higher (\$91,004 vs. \$70,540) as compared to the previous year (refer to "Summary of Total Offerings Received" section below for details).

Summary of Total Offerings Received

Total offerings of ~ \$1.4 million that were remitted to the Synod in 2024 were ~ 6% less than the amount that was received in 2023. There were, however, increases and decreases for some specific designated causes.

Giving to various designated causes was as follows:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Change (%)</u>
Regular Benevolence	1,196,669	1,118,574	-7%
CLWR Undesignated	154,561	165,582	7%
CLWR Special Appeals	63,715	23,991	-62%
CLWR Total	218,276	189,573	-13%
ELCIC Global Mission	6,677	11,638	74%
ELCIC Other	1,750	3,415	95%
Outdoor Ministries - camps	11,298	10,878	-4%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	140	2,370	1593%
Martin Luther University College	9,343	14,098	51%
Other Misc. Designated Gifts	41,333	48,605	18%
Grand Total	1,485,485	1,399,151	-6%

A detailed listing, 2024 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 myself or Danielle Arsenault at the Synod Office.

Frederick Mertz
Eastern Synod Treasurer