



2021 Eastern Synod Offerings Remain Steady During Pandemic

Eastern Synod congregations were no strangers to the continued uncertainty of 2021. Our church doors continued to open and close throughout the year which had many pivoting between virtual and in person worship. With pandemic routines continuing into another year, many felt even wearier and wondered if this up and down year would ever end. Within the Eastern Synod office, we realized we needed to continue to rally together to maintain our support to congregations, just as they have so faithfully supported us. We were extremely grateful to receive the generous financial gifts that our congregations provided, especially considering they were edging towards two years of challenges themselves. There is light at the end of this pandemic tunnel. Here's hoping that by the time 2023 rolls around we no longer have words in our vocabulary like 'stay at home order', 'outbreak', 'social distancing', and 'self quarantine'.

Benevolence Offerings

General Benevolence represents the primary source of funding for the Synod's operating budget. Although total benevolence offerings received by the Synod in 2021 declined by 5% compared to the previous year, 3% of the decline was attributable to a large one-time donation in 2020 from the windup of a private foundation. We are thankful for the amazing support of those individuals and congregations who continued providing to the Synod in such an uncertain time. We feel truly blessed!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief Offerings

Offerings to the Canadian Lutheran World Relief organization consist of gifts for general/undesignated causes and gifts for special appeals/projects. For the year ending 2021, remittances to CLWR general causes were flat compared to the previous year while gifts to CLWR special appeals increased significantly, due primarily to the floods in British Columbia, the crisis in Haiti and the Myanmar appeals.

Offerings to Other Eastern Synod and ELCIC Ministries

As is shown in the table below, most of the remittances to the remaining ministries increased in 2021 over 2020.

Summary of Total Offerings Received in 2021 (Pre-Audit)

	2020	2021	% Change
Regular Benevolence	\$ 1,369,044	\$ 1,303,252	-5%
CLWR Undesignated	\$ 166,342	\$ 165,648	0%
CLWR Special Appeals	\$ 9,382	\$ 47,010	401%
ELCIC Global Mission	\$ 6,231	\$ 12,536	101%
ELCIC Other	\$ 410	\$ 470	15%
Outdoor Ministries -Camps	\$ 10,571	\$ 4,643	-56%
Lutheran Campus Ministry	\$ 300	\$ 2,295	665%
Martin Luther University College	\$ 13,240	\$ 18,600	40%
Other Misc. Designated Gifts	\$ 39,797	\$ 47,248	19%
Total	\$ 1,615,317	\$ 1,601,702	-1%

A detailed listing, [2021 Congregational Remittance Report](#) showing the breakdown of each congregation's remittances is posted on the Eastern Synod website.

Thank you for your generous support of the Synod. We are truly grateful! Without you, we would not be able to maintain and grow our ministries. We pray that everyone stays safe and realizes that we will get through this challenging time together as a team.

Kim Marcy,
Director, Finance and Administration