



Eastern Synod Newsletter

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Report of the Treasurer 2018 Final (Pre-Audit)



Keith Myra
Eastern Synod Treasurer

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.

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Want to read more about what happening across the synod.

Check out the narrative budget available on our website.

[Click here.](#)

Our Ministry Story 2019



OUR VALUED PARTNERS INCLUDE: Canadian Lutheran World Relief, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Georgia, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, Evangelical Lutheran Foundation of Eastern Canada, ELCCIC, Lutheran Worker, Lutheran Workers, Lutheran World Federation, Martin Luther University College, World Council of Churches.

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



Rhenish Church in Markham, Ontario celebrated the grand opening of the Dorcas Community Centre on Feb. 10th. Rev Riitta Hepomaki, Assistant to the Bishop was on hand to help cut the ribbon and to join in celebrating this exciting new chapter.

The Dorcas Centre partners with other charitable organizations to collaborate expertise, service and programs in serving the community together. These partners include Hong Fook Mental Wellness Association; Living Water Counselling Centre; TAC Sports; Life with a Baby and Welcome Centre Immigrant Services.

Grand Opening of the Dorcas Centre



The opening of the community centre was acknowledged by many local dignitaries including MP Jane Philpott and MPP Paul Carandra.

Above: Pastors David Thin and Mavis Fung are shown receiving a plaque from City Counsellor Andrew Keyes.

Left: Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop had a great time at the Dedication of the Dorcas Centre held in January.



The Dorcas Community Centre four main focuses are:

- Healthy Family
- Healthy Physique
- Mental Wellness
- Building a healthy community and transformed life.

Images for ELCIC Worship Bulletin Covers

People in Mission – Where do you see ‘people in mission’ in our community? In our churches, on the playground, at work, at rest or in recreation, we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ. The ELCIC Program Committee for Worship (PCW) is putting out a call for images of people in mission, to be used on worship bulletin covers for the 2018 – 2019 liturgical year.

The images of people in mission can be as diverse as your imagination. How do you see people in mission in the world around you? Are you surprised by what you see, or maybe encouraged? Are there any images that challenge us and let us see mission in a different way?

Please submit images for the second half of the bulletin series by March 18, 2019 in an email to: BulletinPictures@gmail.com and include the following information:

- Photographer who took the image(s)
- Location where the photo was taken
- Story behind the photo – why did you take this photo? How does it show people in mission to you? Include the name of the congregation, if appropriate.
- Completed Copyright Transfer and Confirmation of Consent to use Images, available on the Canadian Church Bulletin website at churchbulletins.ca.
 - As needed, there are also Consent to use Image forms available at churchbulletins.ca – both for youth under 18 years old and adults.
 - Consent is only needed for images where the main subject is recognizable. Images of a crowd in a public place (for instance, a worship service) do not require consent. Consent can of course be verbal, but a signed form is best.

The PCW has asked David Solheim, who prepared the current bulletin series, to select and prepare the set of images for the 2018-2019 bulletin covers. Since the bulletin covers require a square image, Dave will crop your image as needed. From a practical point of view, any jpeg (.jpg) image that is 2.6 MB or more in size can work. Images must be submitted by March 18, 2019.

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Our sympathy and prayers are with the family and friends of Deaconess Edna Monk as they mourn her loss.



We also mourn the loss of Rev Kevin Baglole and ask that you hold his family and friends in prayer.



If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.
Romans 14:8

Upcoming Events

Bishop's Spiritual Retreat
for Clergy
February 24-27, 2019

Lay Spiritual Retreat
March 29– 31, 2019

K-W Women of Faith Event
April 27, 2019

Joy in the Journey Women's
Retreat
May 24-27, 2019

For more information and to see
further events click [here](#).

Opportunity to join GSI Board of Directors

GSI is looking for people interested in joining their Board of Directors. The GSI Board is a fantastic place to get involved in a unique aspect of the ELCIC. Consider using your professional skills to provide governance, oversight and strategic direction to the pension and benefits plans provided to ELCIC employees.

There are four positions with terms beginning in fall 2019.

Two of those positions are reserved for plan members: one Rostered and one non-Rostered. This is a great way to provide input to your pension and benefits plans.

The other two positions are open to non-plan members. If you have experience in accounting, finance, investment or have a medical background please consider this opportunity. Alternatively, if this describes someone you know, please encourage them to step forward.

If you are interested, please complete the board form found [here](#) on our website and send via e-mail to info@elcicgsi.ca. The board would like to review responses at their March 11 2019 meeting. Feel free to call the GSI office with any questions or to discuss this opportunity in further detail. You may also find out more about becoming a board member on our [website](#).

Thanks so much for your consideration.



LUTHER

February 2019



Winter wonderland

Luther and Wilfrid Laurier University were closed for two days in February due to severe weather. To see what freezing rain, snow and a little sun do to our campus, check out the photos on [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#). In the meantime, Luther's librarian Greg Sennema (right) flew the school's flag while on holiday in Jamaica. However, there is no truth to the rumour that we're starting a campus in the Caribbean.



Religion in the Qur'an

Lecture Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. by Dr. Mohammad Ali Shomali, the founding director of Islamic Centre of England. "[Reflections on the Concept of Religion in the Qur'an](#)." Talk to be preceded by an Open Door service at 5 p.m. followed by soup supper (by donation) at 6 p.m. All welcome.

Open House

Do you know of any young folks exploring their options for a university education? Bring them to Luther on Saturday, March 9 at 10:30 a.m. for information on our BA in [Christian Studies and Global Citizenship](#). Information on Laurier programs will be

available on Laurier's campus.

Circle of Dialogue

We are pleased to welcome elder and actor Edna Manitowabi as our keynote speaker for the Circle of Dialogue. Manitowabi played Na-



Photo: Elevation Pictures

omi in the film *Indian Horse*. She will present a talk at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19. Topic: [Respecting Indigenous Spirituality in its Own Right](#).

Glebe workshop

The Delton Glebe Counselling Centre

is holding a two-day workshop April 26 -27 for therapists wanting guidance in treating betrayal trauma and sexual addiction. Workshop leader: Dr. Kevin Skinner. Registration deadline: March 31. Details are in progress. Check [Glebe Centre](#) and [Luther](#) websites and social media in the coming days.

Events calendar

Are you interested in keeping up to date on the dozens of public events Luther hosts each year? Visit our [web-site](#) and scroll to the timeline at the bottom of the home page, or go to our [events calendar](#).

Vol. 2 Issue 2 Luther is a collection of news from Martin Luther University