



The Eastern Synod Lutheran

www.easternsynod.org



Apr 13, 2018
Volume 73



Are we a Generous Synod?

There are few congregations in the Eastern Synod that don't have financial troubles. If worried conversations about money are the norm in your church, take some consolation from the fact that you're not alone.

Since the vast majority of congregational revenue comes from what people give in their offerings, it is logical to assume that our financial problems stem from inadequate giving.

Logical, but wrong. The numbers tell a completely different story. Even after being adjusted for inflation, per capita giving in congregations was 44% higher in 2016 than in 1986! This is a story of ever-increasing generosity by members of Eastern Synod churches.

So if we don't have a per capi-

ta giving problem, why do our churches have problems balancing the budget? Quite simply, too few capitas. We can see just by looking around on Sunday morning that attendance at worship has dropped significantly in the last few decades.

If total membership had held steady at the 1986 level, our churches in 2016 would have had almost 50% more money than they actually did – and no worries about deficits! There are fewer of us, but those of us still in church are giving more, on average, than we ever have.

That is not to say that some of us couldn't do better. The familiar 80/20 rule applies to church giving: 80% of the money is given by about 20% of the people. And that isn't necessarily the 20% with the highest incomes. In many

cases the most generous supporters include people who are living on income from a combination of pensions and retirement savings.

The other thing we know about charitable giving is that most people who support their church also make donations to other charities. In fact, Statistics Canada reported in 2015 that people who participate in religious activities at least once a week are considerably more generous than other Canadians in total giving to *all* charities in Canada.

We thank God for the faithful giving of our members who make it possible to conclude that yes, we are a generous Synod.

Jeff Pym
Director, Stewardship and
Resource Development

Every two years, the ELCIC and the Anglican Church of Canada host



a national gathering of youth and their leaders. CLAY 2018 will take place on August 15-19, 2018 in Thunder Bay, Ontario. To register for threads, please visit:

<https://www.eply.com/clay2018>.

General information surrounding CLAY 2018 can be found at: www.claygathering.ca.

Lent Prayer Cards at Trinity

submitted by Rev Mike Lees

Out in front of Trinity Lutheran Church, Windsor, we have two big, beautiful evergreen bushes. This season of Lent they were put to good use!

For many years now, the congregation of Trinity has supported various charitable organizations in the city. We have supplied needed necessities for Hiatus House (a safe refuge for moms and children), StreetHelp (a drop-in centre for the homeless), the Downtown Mission (a local food bank), the Windsor Youth Centre (helping displaced youth), the Well-

come Centre (giving new arrivals a helping start), and the Unemployed Help Centre to name a few. Our congregation has always been very supportive of suggestions to help, welcoming the opportunity to outreach into the community, both locally and through the efforts of Canadian Lutheran World Relief.

For the season of Lent this year, our Worship and Music committee decided to reach out to our community in a different way. We printed cards with helpful, comforting Bible verses, wrote prayers to go with them, and stuck them to the bushes (you can see some in the picture beneath the snow).

Also included in a waterproof baggy was a piece of paper with our contact information, and a blank side inviting prayer requests be left in our mailbox.

To make it all work we put a message on the church sign inviting passersby to help themselves to a message. We refilled the bushes with messages through the season of Lent.

While it might be hard to measure the impact of outreach like this, over the season most of the messages we printed were taken, putting the word of God and a comforting message in peoples hands and, hopefully, hearts as well. Hopefully we can do this again next year, perhaps in Advent as well as Lent.



Lutheran Church delivers \$2,000 to support newborn necessities

submitted by Russell Garlough

For more than 10 years the South Dundas Lutheran Community Church has been successfully applying for a grant from the Eastern Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. That grant has been pivotal in helping the local Community Food Share successfully meet the needs of the youngest population it serves. Last week, representatives of the South Dundas Lutheran Community Church handed over a cheque for \$2,000 to Terry Triskle, chair of the Community Food Share board of directors. The donation is specifically for newborn necessities. "It can be used to purchase formula for mothers who may not be able to feed their babies," said Dr. Gerry Rosenquist who presented the cheque along with Rev. Moses Prashad. "We owe a great big thanks to all those involved in working to apply to get these funds," said Triskle. "It is such an excellent thing to do to help our young families."

Pictured right from l-r are Rosenquist, Triskle and Prashad



Money, Faith & You

You believe faith and finances go together. So do we. Let's start a new conversation about being wise with money and how generosity is an expression of your faith. To learn more, visit faithlifefinancial.ca.



PROTECTING FINANCIAL FUTURES • LIVING CHRISTIAN VALUES • BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



Spring Cleaning

Spring is here, a time when many of us begin cleaning up all the nooks and crannies of our homes. It's great to clear away all the clutter—and we all know the old adage about cleanliness.

I'd like to suggest one more task- more verification than beautification.

Please take a few minutes to check that the information we at synod office have in our data base is correct.

For congregations that means mailing address, phone and email as well as names and contact information for church leaders. Please also take a look at the information posted on our website, are the service times still correct? Have there been any other changes that should be noted?

For rostered ministers, and this is most important for our retired friends, please ensure that we have your correct address, phone number and email information.

We want to make sure that those wanting and needing updates and information from synod office receive them.

Thank you for your help.

Eastern Synod Office Staff

Upcoming Events

April 14– Bloom Where You Are Planted

April 15– 60th Anniversary Celebration

April 25– Waterloo Region Interfaith Community Breakfast

April 28– Liturgy Canada Conference

May 1– Prayer Shawl Ministry Gathering and Reflection

For more events check out the calendar at

<http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>

ELCIC Women of Faith Fund

The ELCIC Women of Faith Fund provides annual grants that encourage and facilitate the Christ-centred ministry of women within the ELCIC and *In Mission for Others*.

This fund was established in 2011 in recognition of the “significant contribution of the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)”. The fund came from the monies remaining after the dissolution of the ELW. Individuals or groups may make additional donations to the fund.

Grants from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund will be available on an annual basis. The **deadline for applications is MAY 1**.

Applicants will submit their proposals for review and consideration by the Women of Faith Fund Advisory Committee appointed by National Church Council.

[Women of Faith Fund Application Guidelines](#) (link)

[WomenofFaithFundGrantApplicationForm](#) (link)

[WomenofFaithFundReportingForm](#) (link)

Examples of ELCIC Women of Faith Funds Approved in previous years.

- Prayer Shawl Ministry, SK - \$1,500
- Mustard Seed Family Support, BC - \$9,800
- Happy Hearts Quilters, SK - \$2,000
- Lutheran Women's Retreat & Spring Connection – SK - \$1,500
- Adopt a Room - Hope House Loft Retreat Area, MNO - \$2,000
- Peer Partner Programme, ABT - \$3,000
- If You Plant A Seed - Putting An Idea Into Action, Eastern - \$5,000
- East-West Community Outreach, Eastern - \$7,690
- Women in Leadership - Cameroon Companions, MNO - \$5,000

Twenty-six projects were approved in 2017 (\$44,480 distributed).

To view the project list, go to elcic.ca/Womens-Desk/FaithFund.cfm

A reminder to those who received a grant in 2017, your reporting form is due May 1, 2018.

Report of the Treasurer 2017 Final (Pre-Audit)

In my role as Eastern Synod treasurer, although continually faced with the prospect of budget deficits and the need for all too frequent budget cuts, I am frequently reminded that as a synod we have been richly blessed with financial and other resources. Such was the case once again over the synod's most recently completed fiscal year!

Similar to 2016, both income and expenditures for the synod's operations in 2017 were less than budgeted. For 2017 the net result was a modest surplus (~\$14,000). Although this is a positive result, it is important to note that such an outcome would not have been possible without the benefit of exceptionally high returns from investments in combination with \$87,000 of budget cuts that were made at the beginning of the year.

For more details and the rest of the story, click on this link to [The Eastern Synod's 2017 Financial Story](#) .

Keith Myra
Treasurer

Training opportunities

Learning How to Grow Restorative Churches

A three day classroom training in growing restorative congregations. This training will be on April 27, 28 and May 12, 2018 in Ajax, ON .

This training is offered in partnership with the IIRP and the Eastern Canada District, Christian Missionary Alliance Church.

For more information please view this [flyer](#). To register, contact [Danielle VandenAkker](#).

Space is limited for the upcoming **Communications for Congregations Workshop**.

Trainer-Mirko Petricevic, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

Get all the information at www.easternsynod.org/calendar or [click here](#).

Liturgy Canada Conference— see page 8

National Worship Conference— see page 6



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Registration is now open

for the Eastern Synod Assembly
June 21-24, 2018

Early bird deadline is May 1

www.easternsynod.org/synodassembly



Vacancies

Conestogo, St. Matthew's
Port Elgin, Faith
Sudbury, Trinity
Thornhill, Thornhill
Toronto, St. Ansgar

For more information please contact
Rev Douglas Reble, Assistant to the Bishop.

dreble@elcic.ca



Election of Eastern Synod Delegates to the 2019 ELCIC National Convention will take place at Assembly 2018. A Nominating Package is available on our website (which includes a cover letter, a copy of the nominating policy, and two fillable PDF forms: the Biographical Info Form and the Endorsement Form).

The deadline for the return of the two forms is April 22.

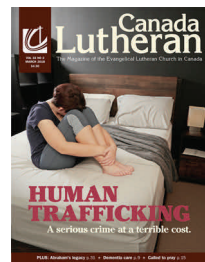
<http://www.easternsynod.org/content/assembly-2018>



Our thoughts and prayers are with Rev Barry Lang and his family as they mourn the loss of his wife Alice and with Rev Jeff Smith and his family as they mourn the loss of his brother.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves the crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18*

To find out about upcoming events around the synod check the [synod calendar](#) on our website <http://www.easternsynod.org/calendar>.



Canadian Lutheran World Relief



You can provide small-scale farmers in drought-stricken parts of Ethiopia with the life-giving water they need to grow healthy and nutritious crops.

Visit clwr.org/donate/seeds-of-hope to find out how



We are looking for an exceptional individual to join ELFEC's professional team as a part-time Lutheran Planned Giving Advisor. Deadline for application is 29th June 2018.

You will find satisfaction in this role if you:

- Feel comfortable working in the environment of a Christian denomination
- Can speak with confidence about money and giving
- Enjoy meeting people in churches and homes
- Are good at cultivating and maintaining professional relationships
- Can work in a coordinated team with minimal direct supervision

If you are interested, please find more [details here](#).



National Worship Conference

Responding to Disaster

Prayer, Song, Presence

July 16–19, 2018

Inn at Laurel Point, Victoria, BC

Registration opens March 1.

nationalworshipconference.org



Waterloo Lutheran Seminary

April 2018



SHOWing compassion

Inshallah Kids joined [Inshallah](#), the seminary's 130+ voice choir, at Knox Presbyterian Church in Waterloo last month for Singing With Our Neighbours. The house was packed! The event raised \$5,006 for Supportive Housing of Waterloo ([SHOW](#)). Photos: [Facebook](#) or [Google Drive](#).

Golf registration

Registration for our Friends of the Seminary Golf Tournament, taking place at Ariss Valley Golf and Country Club on Thursday, May 24, is now open! Click [here](#) to register online or contact Dorinda at 519.884.0710 x3241, or dkrugerallen@wlu.ca. If you don't golf but want to join the fun, you can register for just the BBQ dinner.

Communications workshop

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Thursday, May 10, at the Eastern Synod office. Mirko Petricevic, the seminary's communications director, will be presenting Communications for congregations: A workshop to help you tell your story. Lunch will be provided. Class will be limited to 18. Free, but please register. Click [here](#) for details.



St. Patrick's Day

Rev. Anne Anderson, of the [thirdspace_](#) community at the seminary, Patrick McMahon and Melissa Melick organized [Shamrock Cafe](#) — an alcohol-free party on March 17th for students at Wilfrid Laurier University.



Election workshop

About 30 people participated in a hands-on workshop designed to help faith communities get involved in the Ontario election. The [Centre for Public Ethics](#) hosted the event. Photos on [Facebook](#) and [Google Drive](#).

Spotlight: Student mental health

Our thanks to CTV News for featuring [the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre's](#) student-stress-relieving program Chilling With Dogs! [Click here](#) for the video.

Contact us

Events: Dorinda Kruger Allen, dkrugerallen@wlu.ca
Seminary stories: Mirko Petricevic, mpetricevic@wlu.ca

LITURGY CANADA

a Rediscovering Liturgy conference

Real Presence: Sharing the Meal

FOURTH OF FIVE CONFERENCES

ON RENEWING EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP, FROM *GATHERING* TO *SENDING*

Saturday, 28 April, 2018, 9:00 to 3:30

St John's, Dixie, Anglican Church

719 Dundas Street (at Cawthra Road), Mississauga



A Rediscovering Liturgy conference designed for parish worship teams — for all who serve in the liturgy.

To register and pay, visit <http://realpresence4.eventbrite.ca> and submit name(s) and the name of the parish. Cost: \$35 per person, or \$125 for a parish team (up to 5; \$25 for each person beyond the first 5); \$25 for students. Lunch is included.

For the list of workshops and directions to St John's, Dixie, visit us at www.liturgy.ca. Sign-in, coffee, & workshop registration at 9 am.