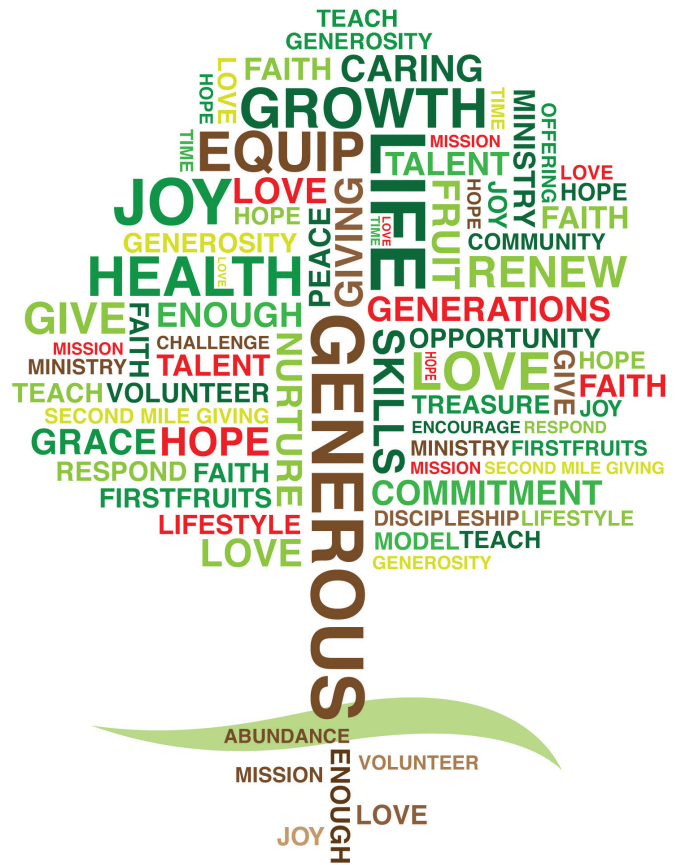


2011

# ANNUAL REPORT



Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
*In Mission for Others*



Saints Alive! Living Generously

-1 Corinthians 16:1-4

# Call to Spiritual Renewal

Join with others across the ELCIC striving for a deeper discipleship as we live out our baptismal covenants.

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Over the past couple of years, National Bishop Susan Johnson has been encouraging a call to spiritual renewal and deeper discipleship within our church which includes: regular attendance at worship; daily prayer and scripture reading; yearly involvement in a program of study; regular service in the community (not just the congregation); regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture; and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call to deeper discipleship includes: *Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell.*

We are called to be generous and joyful in our support of the work of the wider church through our congregations as well as in support of a variety of different church and other charitable agencies. While our consumer culture teaches us to look after our own needs first, we are called to respond to God's generosity and love with our "first fruits." Here are some ways you, as an individual, can deepen your discipleship in the area of giving.

- Give an offering each time you attend worship. Calculate what percentage that is of your income.
- Increase your giving by 1% of your annual income. See if you can work up over time to 10% or more.
- Join your congregation's Pre-Authorized Remittance program so your offerings go to church even if you can't.
- Talk with friends and family about why you give.
- Talk to your children about stewardship. Ask them to participate in your family's weekly offering by giving a percentage of their allowance.
- Make your gift for church, other ministries, and charities your first budget item.
- Offer one or two hours per week of your day job pro bono (for free) in community service.
- Try extra-mile giving in support of a new or different area of ministry such as campus ministries, outdoor ministries and youth ministries.
- Make a donation where you don't get a tax receipt.
- Say "yes" to every request to donate, even if it can only be a small amount.
- Contribute to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund to meet confidential community needs.
- Pledge to assemble one or two Canadian Lutheran World Relief We Care bags every year. (clwr.org)
- Participate in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's Gifts from the Heart program. (clwr.org)
- Have a Conversation on Gratitude and Generosity. (elcic.ca/stewardship/documents/ELCIC Generosity worksheet.pdf)
- Write a personal statement on why you give.
- Use the Year-Round Stewardship Ideas that are available on the Synod of Alberta and the Territories website. (albertasynod.ca)
- Check out [globalrichlist.com](http://globalrichlist.com) to see where your income fits in terms of the whole world. Thank God for the blessings you have received.



We are called to be generous and joyful in our support of the work of the wider church through our congregations, as well as in the support of a variety of different church and other charitable agencies. Here are some ways to help individuals deepen their discipleship in the area of giving.

- Institute generosity conversations. ([elcic.ca/stewardship/documents/ELCICGenerosityworksheet.pdf](http://elcic.ca/stewardship/documents/ELCICGenerosityworksheet.pdf))
- In partnership with local agencies, set up one or more drop-off points for food, clothing, furniture...
- Create a congregational Pre-Authorized Remittance program and encourage membership beginning with Church Council.
- Create a Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help meet confidential needs.
- Organize once-or-twice-yearly participation in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's We Care program. ([clwr.org](http://clwr.org))
- Plan an every-member visitation program and invite regular commitments. Create congregational scholarships for the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering and/or the National Worship Conference.
- Organize Lent or Advent participation in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's Gifts from the Heart program.
- Plan a stewardship emphasis with a kickoff banquet. Celebrate giving instead of fearing it.
- Plan a stewardship retreat. Spend some time on the meaning of stewardship and giving.
- Host an estate planning workshop.
- Organize an ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday in your congregation.
- Utilize the Stewardship Resources that are available from the National Office. ([elcic.ca/stewardship](http://elcic.ca/stewardship))
- Use the stewardship resources (ideas, bulletin inserts, and more) that are available on the Synod of Alberta and the Territories website. ([albertasynod.ca](http://albertasynod.ca))

Use the resources above and those found on the ELCIC website ([www.elcic.ca/CSR](http://www.elcic.ca/CSR)) as you begin this journey.

Remember, don't overdo it! It's just like starting a physical exercise program. Start with one or two new practices and make them a habit before you start trying anything else.

***Things I can do:***

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