

Live Simply

TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE

1 TIMOTHY 6:18-19



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Your offering, *In Mission for Others*

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) functions through **three major expressions: NATIONALLY** as the ELCIC, **REGIONALLY** as synods, and **LOCALLY** as congregations. Each expression of the church has unique ministries as well as ministries which are shared with the other expressions. When you give to the ELCIC, you help support **all** the expressions of the church!

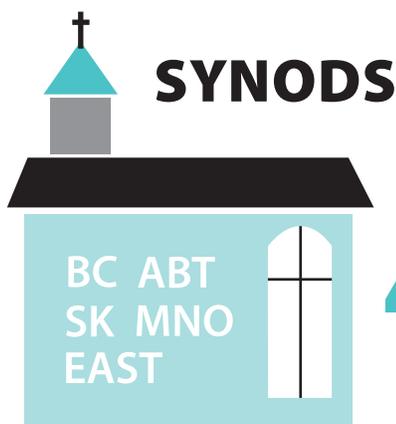
In 2014, ELCIC members gave over **\$63.1 million in regular offerings** to support the call to be *In Mission for Others* through these **three expressions** of the ELCIC:

CONGREGATIONS



94.4%

\$59,597,350 was used by congregations to fund **local ministries**. Your weekly offering supports the work of **your congregation and its ministry**.

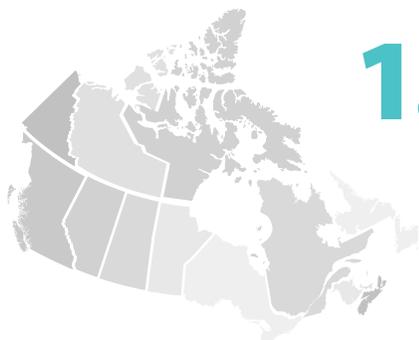


SYNODS

4.3%

\$2,703,538 was shared to support the **ministry done through ELCIC synods**. This includes supporting **congregations and leaders** within your synod.

NATIONAL CHURCH



1.3%

\$834,349 was sent through the synods to the **National Church** to support the **wider mission of the ELCIC**.

Your offering and the four areas of focus...

When you give through your weekly offering, you support the wider mission and ministry of the ELCIC.

In 2014, the **\$834,349 received by your National Church** helped support the following:

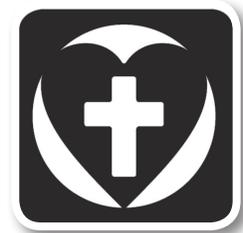
Spirited DISCIPLESHIP

- Develop and grow the Call to Spiritual Renewal.
- Speak publicly and witness for the gospel as a National Church.
- Undertake corporate leadership by encouraging energy for Spiritual Renewal for communities.



COMPASSIONATE Justice

- Challenge the causes and respond to the consequences of injustice through effective partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief.
- Continue to pursue right relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
- Continue and increase Stewardship of Creation initiatives.
- Promote responsible resource extraction.
- Support and work for justice and peace in the Holy Land.
- Address issues of homelessness and affordable housing.



Effective PARTNERSHIPS

- Enhance the church's ability to be *In Mission for Others* internationally, in the North American Region of the LWF, in Canada and through partnerships.



HEALTHY Church

- Articulating a common vision for the church.
- Develop and promote a culture of mutual trust and accountability.
- Improve the financial health of the church.
- Improve communications concerning the National Church.



Worship for a Congregational Annual Meeting

OPENING

ACKNOWLEDGE: We begin by acknowledging that we gather on Treaty _____ Territory that is the traditional territory of the _____ {Indigenous People} who have called it home for thousands of years.

READ: 1 Timothy 6:18–19

SING: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #692
We Are An Offering

LEADER:

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada lifts up the theme adopted by The Lutheran World Federation, *Liberated by God's Grace*. This theme "tells us of the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens up opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as healers and as people able to reconcile to a world torn apart by strife and inequality."¹

As we begin our Annual General Meeting, let us pray together using the response, *Liberated by God's Grace*, to remind ourselves of the grace, love, and care for all of creation that we

are called to together and our responsibility to be *In Mission for Others*.

PRAY:

Gracious and loving God, we give you thanks for this time to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family,
Liberated by God's Grace.

Creator God, you have equipped our church with a rich variety of gifts. Help us to be mindful of the needs of our neighbours, near and far, and remind us of our call to be *In Mission for Others, Liberated by God's Grace*.

We pray for guidance as we consider those matters before us today and ask that you would show us how to conduct our work with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm. Help us to encourage one another and come together to serve you with gladness,
Liberated by God's Grace.

All this we pray in the name of your son, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

¹ <http://www.lwfassembly.org/node/15>

CLOSING

SING: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #641
All Are Welcome

PRAY:

We give thanks to you, gracious God, for this gift you have given us to be able to come together as a congregation, as a community, as friends and family.

Strengthen and sustain those called to be leaders in our church. We include in our prayers, our National Bishop

Susan Johnson, our Synod Bishop _____, our congregation's rostered leader(s) _____, our congregation's staff, and all those called to be council members, committee members, Sunday School leaders, worship leaders, {insert other leaders in your congregation}. Empower your servants in their calling; help them to hear your call to be *In Mission for Others* and to serve with grace and gratitude.

Send us forth to be a blessing to others,
Liberated by God's Grace!

Amen.



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