

2013
ELCIC Praise
A P P E A L

Dear members of the ELCIC,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

We are writing to you today to thank you for your ministry in 2012, your participation in the Praise Appeal and to tell you about the 2013 appeal.

Many congregations around the ELCIC participated in the 2012 appeal, which focused on the theme, Ambassadors for Christ. I thank you for designating one Sunday this past year to highlight this appeal. And I especially thank those individuals and congregations that gave significant extra-mile giving to support the work of the wider church.

In 2013, we are once again asking for your support of the Praise Appeal and to designate a Sunday to highlight this appeal at a time that works best for your local circumstances.

The theme for the 2013 Praise Appeal, **Let the peoples praise you, O God** comes from Psalm 67 verse 3a. The psalm reminds us of God's graciousness, justice and bounty and calls on all of God's people to *"Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you."*

If you look at the Praise Appeal logo you will see a stylized human figure representing the letter "I". That "I" is you! You and me and others who say "I praise God for all the gifts I have been given". "I want to be generous in giving back to God from the bounty I have received" "I am proud of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and want to support its ministry and the ministry of the wider church".

Through your gift to the Praise Appeal you support our ministry with international and ecumenical partners. You reach out through Lutheran World Federation as the second largest provider of refugee services in the world, serving one and a half million refugees on a daily basis. You support ministry we are doing in indigenous communities in Argentina and Peru with our partner churches. You work to achieve better relationships with other denominations and faiths here in Canada, through the Canadian Council of Churches, and around the world through the World Council of Churches. You support the National Church in its call to Spiritual Renewal, working to deepen the discipleship of all of our members and learning new ways to reach out in faith to those around us. Your financial support of the National Church through the Praise Appeal helps us to accomplish all these things.

Resources will be available on the ELCIC website (elcic.ca/praiseappeal) in January.

We encourage you to partner with us in this way and to support the ministry of the wider church.

Yours in Christ,



Bishop Susan Johnson