



Dear members of the ELCIC,

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

I am writing to you today to thank you for your partnership in ministry and to share with you information about the 2018 ELCIC Praise Appeal.

Many congregations around the ELCIC have participated in the ELCIC Praise Appeal since it first began in 2011. We greatly appreciate the generosity of the many individuals and congregations that give significant extra-mile gifts to support the work of the wider church.

This year we are once again asking for your support of the ELCIC Praise Appeal by designating one Sunday, at a time that works best for your local circumstances, to highlight the work of the National Church.

This year's theme, *Members of One Body*, is based on Romans 12:4–5. Our emphasis this year is on the support of the ELCIC's Bi-lateral Partner Church Relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL), the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Unida (IELU), and the Iglesia Luterana del Perú (IL-P). These partnerships are built on an understanding of ongoing relationship and accompaniment. There are many differences between our churches and yet we strive to live out an understanding that we are all members of one body, each with different gifts to share.

- In the ELCJHL we continue to support tuition fees for students with limited financial resources who attend the schools of the ELCJHL. At least 50% of students require some kind of financial assistance.
- In IELU we support the ministry of Pastora Andrea Baez in her work with the congregations of Esperanza del Sur congregation in Esquel and San Juan Batista in Comodoro in the Patagonia region of Argentina.
- In IL-P we support the ministry of Pastor Yoli Zavaleta in her work with Congregacion Fiel es Dios Congregacion Fiel es Dios in Iquitos, a small city in the Amazon jungle in Peru.

Your support of the 2018 ELCIC Praise Appeal allows for these important ministries and relationships with our partner churches to continue.

To find resources to assist you in holding an ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday please visit: elcic.ca/praiseappeal.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan C. Johnson", with a cross symbol to its left.

The Rev. Susan C. Johnson

National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada