

# *In Mission for Others*

ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER



COURAGEOUS INNOVATION



EMPOWERED DISCIPLES



RECONCILED RELATIONSHIPS

## 2018 ANNUAL REPORT



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National Bishop Susan C. Johnson

## *Message from the National Bishop*

Dear members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada,

I am delighted to share with you the *2018 ELCIC Annual Report*. I hope that the stories shared in this report will provide insight on the work and ministry of our church, and a vision for how we respond together to the call to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

Within the ELCIC, we work together as one body. Each of the expressions of the church—congregations, communities, synod and national—fulfilling different functions. And at the same time, we function with and within other parts of the body of Christ—through our membership in The Lutheran World Federation, The World Council of Churches, through our full communion relationship with the Anglican Church of Canada, and in so many other partnerships and relationships—as part of the universal Church.

At the National Office, we live out this call to be *In Mission for Others* through our work in four areas of focus: *Courageous Innovation, Reconciled Relationships, One Body Working Together and Empowered Disciples*. As you read through this year's *Annual Report*, I invite you to reflect on the various ways we live out this call. This is the work you are doing!

It is an honour to serve as the National Bishop of the ELCIC. I love our church and I'm proud of what we do and what we stand for!

We pray fervently, we work for justice passionately, we face challenges head on and we embrace the future with hope.

We give thanks to God for the grace we have received and strive to share that grace with the world in great need. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Yours in Christ,

ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson





Photos by: Tina Gallop Blank; courtesy of CLAY, Bishop Sid Haugen, National Bishop Susan Johnson.



## *ELCIC Mission Statement*

The mission of this church, as an expression of the universal Church and as an instrument of the Holy Spirit, is to bring the gospel of Jesus Christ to people in Canada and around the world through the proclamation of the Word, the administration of the sacraments and through service in Christ's name.

# Our Vision Priorities

In September 2017, the ELCIC's National Church Council began the work of developing a new *Strategic Plan* for the National Church. This five-year plan helps us to focus our work at the National Office.

## COURAGEOUS INNOVATION



***We are called to not be afraid.***  
(Luke 12:32)

- Addressing systemic change
- Innovative interaction with the community
- Encourage experimentation
- Accompaniment
- Acknowledge our anxiety
- Flexibility in sharing and deploying financial resources
- Ongoing evaluation of mission priorities
- Ongoing evaluation of barriers to innovation

## RECONCILED RELATIONSHIPS



***We are given the ministry to reconciliation.***  
(2 Corinthians 5:18)

- Vision of an inclusive church
- Indigenous justice and reconciliation
- Ecumenical and interfaith partnerships
- Challengers of racism and privilege
- Work with diverse allies
- Healthy relationship with the earth
- Striving for peace
- Work to end poverty in Canada

## ONE BODY WORKING TOGETHER



***We are one body in Christ.***  
(Romans 12:5)

- Shared vision across all expressions of the church
- Mutual credibility, trust and transparency
- Sharing of necessary resources
- National and international partnerships
- Connectedness to local ministries
- Support CLWR's mission
- Mutual support between synods and National Church
- Focused priorities
- Good communication

## EMPOWERED DISCIPLES



***We are to equip the saints for the work of ministry.***  
(Ephesians 4:12)

- Faithful gospel witnesses
- Baptismal vocation
- Leadership development for a changing world
- Engaged and empowered youth and young adults
- Worship that nurtures disciples



## Highlights from the National Office

### JANUARY

The Canadian Mission Consultation met January 30–31 in Winnipeg, with the Church Extension and Capital Fund (CECF) advisory board meeting on February 1. The focus of the consultation was continuing to address the CECF Adaptive Challenge by reflecting on learnings from Synod Mission Initiatives Funding.

### FEBRUARY

Global Mission Sunday was lifted up on February 4. A bulletin insert, letter from the National

Bishop, and video from Bishop Susan were developed and shared ([elcic.ca/global-mission/global-missionsunday.cfm](http://elcic.ca/global-mission/global-missionsunday.cfm)).

The Program Committee for Leadership for Ministry met February 9–10 in Winnipeg.

On February 13, the National Bishop wrote to the Minister of International Trade expressing support for a new Canadian Ombudsperson for Responsible Business Enterprise as one step toward responsible resource extraction and respect for Indigen-

ous Peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent.

The leaders of the ELCIC, Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church prepared bulletin inserts for Lent on the theme of truth-telling and racial justice.

On the last Sunday of February (February 25), the ELCIC lifted up Diaconal Sunday to raise awareness of *diakonia* (service) as a vital dimension of the church's witness and of rostered diaconal

The Canadian Mission Consultation and Church Extension and Capital Fund (CECF) meet.



The leaders of the ELCIC, Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church jointly prepared bulletin inserts for Lent.

JANUARY



FEBRUARY



ministry as a valuable expression of church leadership. Resources were created for congregational use ([elcic.ca/leadership/forministers/diaconalsunday.cfm](http://elcic.ca/leadership/forministers/diaconalsunday.cfm)).

## MARCH

The ELCIC's *Inclusive Language Guidelines* document was reviewed and updated by a task-force of individuals from across the country. New guidelines, approved at the March NCC meeting, reflect sensitivity to: gender as a spectrum; race; sexuality; as well as differently-abled.

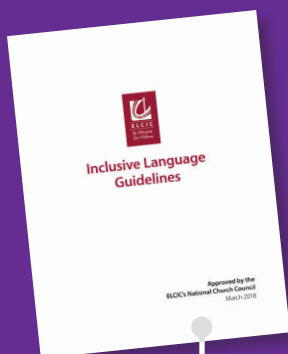
The leaders of the ELCIC, Anglican Church of Canada, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and The Episcopal Church met. These leaders meet annually and look for areas of common witness.

On March 28, the National Bishop wrote to the Minister of Justice asking that Section 43 of the *Criminal Code of Canada* be repealed, as per the Truth and Reconciliation Call to Action #6 ([elcic.ca/From-the-Bishop/documents/ELCIClettertoPrimeMinisteronpeaceinGAZA20140801.pdf](http://elcic.ca/From-the-Bishop/documents/ELCIClettertoPrimeMinisteronpeaceinGAZA20140801.pdf)).

*Public Ministry in the ELCIC—A Preliminary Draft* was widely circulated throughout the church and made available for review, reflection and response ([elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/ordersofministry.cfm](http://elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/ordersofministry.cfm)).

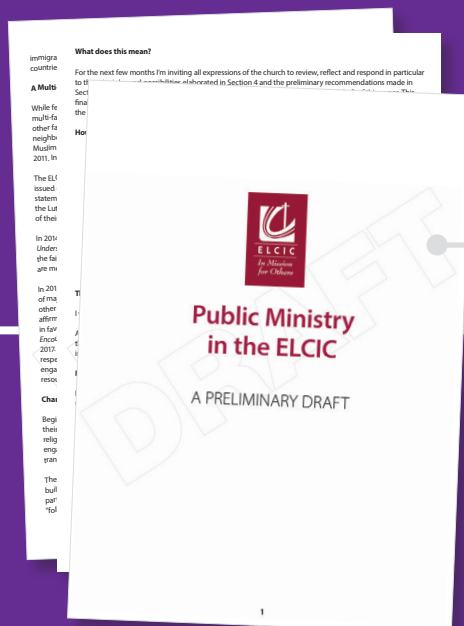
## APRIL

Program staff for the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC met for a joint staff meeting in Toronto on April 5–6, 2018. This is one of the many ways the two churches continue to live out their Full Communion relationship.



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The ELCIC's *Inclusive Language Guidelines* document was reviewed and updated.



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## APRIL



Photo by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Program staff for the Anglican Church of Canada and the ELCIC met for a joint staff meeting.

## 2018 Highlights from the National Office

On April 17, the National Bishop joined the Anglican Primate and the National Indigenous Bishop of the Anglican Church of Canada in issuing an Earth Day statement ([elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=502](http://elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=502)).

ELCIC members and congregations were invited to celebrate the Fourth Sunday of Easter as a Day of Prayer for Vocations to Rostered Ministry. Resources were available and can be found at [elcic.ca/leadership/vocational.sunday.cfm](http://elcic.ca/leadership/vocational.sunday.cfm).

### MAY

A sample of stewardship resources available from the National Office were mailed out to all ELCIC congregations. The National Of-

fice supports this ministry by providing a magazine of resources with a four-week stewardship series, bulletin inserts, time-and-talent sheets, annual report covers and offering envelopes, all at no cost to congregations ([elcic.ca/Stewardship/](http://elcic.ca/Stewardship/)).

On May 17, the National Bishop wrote to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs expressing concern about the situation in the Holy Land ([elcic.ca/From-the-Bishop/documents/NationalBishopLtrtoPMonPeaceinHolyLand20180517signed.pdf](http://elcic.ca/From-the-Bishop/documents/NationalBishopLtrtoPMonPeaceinHolyLand20180517signed.pdf)).

### JUNE

The National Bishop wrote a letter to the church for World Refugee Day, June 20 ([elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=505](http://elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=505)). In her letter, she invited ELCIC members to renew their commitment to upholding the rights of refugees, learn and raise awareness about refugee issues, and pray for peace, justice and safety for all people.

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### JULY

The 2018 Anglican Lutheran National Worship Conference, *Responding to Disaster—Prayer, Song, Presence* took place July 16–19 in Victoria, B.C. The Lutheran and Anglican recipients for the Companion of the Worship Arts were announced at the conference. Rev. Eric Dyck received the award on behalf of the ELCIC and Blanche Kate Gates for the ACC. Pastor Eric has contributed significantly to wor-



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### JUNE



### JULY



Companion of the Worship Arts award winners (above) Rev. Eric Dyck on behalf of the ELCIC, and (below) Blanche Kate Gates for the ACC.





ship in the ELCIC and beyond, teaching and mentoring seminarians, as the longest serving member on the PCW, and planning worship for Synod, National and LWF global assemblies. Ms. Gates, a member of the National Doctrine and Worship Committee in the early 1980s, helped interpret the work of the committee to prepare for the publication of the *Book of Alternative Services*. Nearing her 100th birthday, her contributions to worship and liturgy continue to influence Anglicans across Canada.

## AUGUST

The World Council of Churches (WCC) celebrated 70 years on August 23.

The 2018 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering

took place in Thunder Bay, Ont., August 16–19, on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory of the *Robinson Superior Treaty* of 1950. The theme *Threads* was about storytelling—personal stories, faith stories, and the story of the place the youth gather.

A new National Youth Project was announced at CLAY 2018. *Welcome...Home*, a two-year initiative, focuses on homelessness in Canada, and in particular youth homelessness. The hope is to inspire youth to learn about homelessness across Canada and in their own community.

## SEPTEMBER

The worship resource, *Where Two or Three are Gathered*, provides suggestions for simpler worship

orders and music for smaller communities without regular pastoral support, continues through the season after Pentecost and is available at [worship.ca/](http://worship.ca/). Developed by members of the Program Committee for Worship, it will include resources for the *Time of Creation* (September 1–October 4). The weekly sermon series also continues for congregations without a pastor/preacher. The sermons prepared by ELCIC rostered ministers are sent by email to congregations a few days before each Sunday for reading in worship.

National Church Council met September 6–8 in Winnipeg. The Rev. Vincent Solomon, Urban Indigenous Ministry Developer for the Anglican Diocese of Rupert's Land, led the members



70th anniversary of The World Council of Churches.

## AUGUST



The 2018 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering took place in Thunder Bay, Ont. A new National Youth Project was announced: *Welcome...Home*, a two-year initiative, focusing on homelessness, especially involving youth in Canada.

## SEPTEMBER



Photo by André Laveigne.

National Church Council meets in Winnipeg.

## 2018 Highlights from the National Office

in a time of learning on reconciliation and right relations.

On September 20, the National Bishop wrote a letter to the church affirming the commitment to upholding the dignity of all people, standing with our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings in Christ, both inside and outside the church ([elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=508](http://elcic.ca/news.cfm?article=508)).

September 24–27, a Joint Anglican Lutheran Commission meeting took place in Niagara Falls, Ont. Agenda items included: cross and joint appointments, the *Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer*, debriefing the joint gatherings of the National Worship Conference and the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth gather-

ing, Indigenous relations, reporting, and priorities.

### OCTOBER

On October 4, the National Bishop wrote to all senators urging support for *Bill C-262*. This is part of a wider ecumenical effort to support implementation of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. Earlier in April, Bishop Johnson joined other church leaders in supporting *Bill C-262* in a letter to the Prime Minister.

ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson, along with many other members of the ELCIC, participated in the Parliament of World's Religions event which met at the end of October in Toronto. Bishop

Johnson did several presentations, including a plenary address. The event was attended by 8,000 delegates and creates a global dialogue of faiths.

On October 17, the National Bishop wrote a letter inviting prayer and action in honour of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

### NOVEMBER

On November 6, the National Bishop joined with interfaith leaders to express the need for urgent support for the rights of the people of Myanmar.

On November 9, the National Bishop joined with ecumenical leaders in writing to the Prime



The National Bishop wrote a letter to the church affirming the commitment to upholding the dignity of all people, standing with our LGBTQ2SIA+ siblings in Christ.



Photo by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

### OCTOBER

### SEPTEMBER



Photo by National Bishop Susan Johnson.

The National Bishop and other ELCIC members participated in the Parliament of World's Religions

Minister in response to the Mikisew Cree First Nation v. Canada Supreme Court Decision and encouraging the Government of Canada to uphold Indigenous Peoples' right to self-determination.

On November 22, the National Bishop joined with the Anglican Church of Canada Primate Fred Hiltz and National Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald to observe National Housing Day and offer prayers for the courage to respond to this ongoing crisis.

On November 22, the National Bishop joined the National Council of Canadian Muslims and other interfaith leaders in calling for the designation of January 29 as a National Day

of Action Against Hate and Intolerance.

## DECEMBER

ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Saskatchewan Bishop Sid Haugen visited partner church Iglesia Evangélica Lutherana Unida (IELU) in Argentina. This provided for an opportunity to further the ELCIC's accompaniment with IELU as well as explore with them the viability of the partnership work we fund. Despite many challenges IELU faces, they remain hopeful, trying to hear how God is calling them into mission in their time and place.

On December 3, the National Bishop joined with church and civil-society leaders in writing to the Government of Canada cal-

ling for the development of Canadian legislation requiring companies to conduct due diligence and report on their efforts to address child labour, modern slavery, and other human rights issues in their operations and supply chains.

On December 5, the National Bishop joined with the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and other interfaith leaders in calling for a national strategy to combat online hate.

On December 10, the National Bishop joined with church leaders to express the urgent need to support the rights of Honduran and Central-American migrants who have walked to the Southern border of the United States seeking protection. 🏠



## NOVEMBER

The National Bishop joined Anglican Church of Canada Primate Fred Hiltz and National Anglican Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald in observing National Housing Day.



Photo by Bishop Sid Haugen.

## DECEMBER

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Photo by Paul McIsaac.

Deborah McIsaac and Rev. Dr. Jeanette Scott, Faith, Powell River, B.C.

Faith, Powell River, B.C., had been without a pastor for over a year before the congregation decided in 2017 that ministry was more important than bricks and mortar. So they decided to sell their church, rent space from another one and use proceeds from the sale to hire a full-time pastor. Selling the church and renting space would enable members to focus on ministry. It would also help them to continue joint programs with other churches, including a food cupboard and sponsoring Syrian refugees.



# Taking bold new steps

Encouraging experimentation and flexibility while building community.

**B**ased out of a single-floor bungalow in the heart of Victoria Island, B.C., the Shelbourne Community Kitchen continues to break barriers. Now in its fourth year of operation, the ever-popular community resource has seen its number of members rise to over 700, while recently adding just its second paid staff position.

"The kitchen is a registered charity that works with families and individuals living on low income to raise levels of food security, build food skills and foster a

sense of community belonging," said Kim Cummins, program coordinator. "People living on a low income often don't have enough money left over after paying fixed expenses to be able to afford nutritious food on a regular basis. Our programs and services offer opportunities to increase access to healthy, nutritious food and to practice the food skills required to prepare great meals, in a supportive and welcoming community. Essentially, we cook, grow, share and connect

in community."

On top of serving the community with their Pantry Program—a self-select grocery store-styled food bank—the kitchen also offers a variety of cooking programs where members prepare, share and take-home meals for their families. The garden programs are another outlet for learning, growing and making use of local resources.

To help assist with the Pantry Program, the kitchen is a part of a very diverse food sourcing net-



Photo by Paul Boisvert/Gravelbourg Tribune Weekly Newspaper.

Less than two years after a fire in Dec. 2016 destroyed the church building of St. Paul, Gravelbourg, Ont., the congregation broke ground for their new church building on Oct. 23, 2017. They sent a special thank you to the congregations of Southey and Birch Hills, Ont., for helping out with truckloads of things to replace what was lost in the fire. With these items they were able to continue with weekly services in rented space in the Jesus Marie Convent, Gravelbourg. The unwavering support they received from their Christian community was met with true gratitude.



work. Once a week the kitchen picks up hundreds of pounds of food from the local Whole Foods Market as part of their food rescue initiative. Food drives led by schools, churches and businesses also provide significant amounts of food for Shelbourne to redistribute.

Cummins says that one of the consequences of growing so rapidly is a lack of sufficient space for food storage. This is why a neighbouring congregation, Lutheran Church of the Cross, recently offered up a 2,000 square foot space, giving Cummins and the Community Kitchen the op-

Many of our congregations are finding innovative and creative ways to keep their ministries alive and active.

portunity to apply for a permit to utilize the area as a food storage location in order to increase their ability to source donations while streamlining distribution.

"We have tried to move away from the traditional charity model towards something that is more focused on community development," Cummins said. "By offering programs that meet people where they're at and get people cooking, building skills and hav-

ing fun together in a space of non-judgment and welcome, it really helps to build relationships and build support networks."

"Our job is to be a neighbourhood food resource, and the best way we can do our work is to network with the amazing organizations in Victoria, building partnerships in the community," she continued. "As we grow, we need to be strategic and stay true to our mission and values."



Photo by Alicia Becker.

Our congregations reach out to the community around them in many ways. Christ, Waterloo, Ont., hosted an outdoor series called "Yoga on the Lawn." They invited their neighbours to take part in the series and several did, of all ages, stages and abilities. Donations collected from the event were directed to a program locally called "Freeing the Human Spirit," which promotes and advances the physical, mental and spiritual development of inmates in Canada through the practice of meditation and yoga.

A big part of how we've been adapting and moving forward has been through program evaluation and doing some solid, strategic planning."

Out in St. Lambert, Que., the elderly congregation of Good Shepherd Lutheran continues to make a name for itself, despite only hosting worship twice a month for its handful of members. After selling their church property to help with a local start-up of an assisted living complex, and with the cumulation of continued offering, the members at Good Shepherd ended up with an abundance of additional funds.

At a similar time, the Orillia, Ont., congregation of St. David's Anglican-Lutheran had invited Riitta Hepomaki, assistant to the Bishop Eastern Synod, and Jeff Pym, ministry director, stewardship and resource development, to discuss the financial struggles of their church.

"St. David's is a thriving congregation with strong and passionate ministries and leadership, however, financial constraints threatened to close their doors," Hepomaki reflected. "The council asked if there would be a fellow congregation willing and able to support them through this crisis. I made the first connection with Good Shepherd, who after assessing the situation with prayerful consideration made the decision to support St. David's financially in a rather unique way."

It didn't take Good Shepherd Chairperson Flemming Rasmussen long to respond to the call.




Photo by Jocelyn and Greg Smith.

At Grace, Eganville, Ont., Soul Café is a worship experience for those who aren't typically comfortable with church. They meet in the church fellowship hall to provide a more casual environment. Childcare is provided during each service to facilitate families' attendance. Contemporary Christian music is led by an ecumenical worship team. Individual prayer time is offered after the service for anyone wanting it. Refreshments are also provided. Soul Café has two goals. It is designed to be denominationally neutral and seeks to make those uncomfortable with church feel like they do belong. They want the service to be a true community worship experience and are thankful that is happening.

"When we heard that St. David's Anglican-Lutheran Church was in dire straits and needed some cash input, we decided that we could easily offer up \$10,000 for assistance," Rasmussen said. "Through many letters of appreciation, we know that this funding helped them get over their immediate crunch. It was definitely prayerful consideration, nonetheless, but it was mainly to support their outreach program that we understood would be a little bit hard pressed to continue under those circumstances."

Despite downsizing, Good Shepherd Lutheran has not lost its ability to share and deploy its financial resources, helping its neighbours. The congregation

has been able to consistently offer financial support to fellow ELCIC partner organizations, as well as local projects.

"We have been able to expend some \$40-\$60,000 over the last couple of years in benevolence," Rasmussen said. "Whether that has gone to Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the Eastern Synod, seminary appeals, or the Reformation Challenge, we ensure that we use and maintain our investment amount, and then use all of the returns on those investments further. We try to help out with Our Harbour, the local homeless group in town for non-autonomous seniors, as best as we can, while also getting involved with the local Christmas basket program." 





# CLAY 2018

Largest blanket exercise event focuses on storytelling and reconciled relationships.



**T**he 2018 Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering will long be remembered for many reasons.

Held every two years in a different Canadian city as a joint youth gathering between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) and the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC), CLAY 2018 took place at Lakehead University Campus in Thunder Bay, Ont., on the traditional lands of the Fort William First Nation, Signatory of the Robinson Treaty of 1850.

With a focus on storytelling and reconciling relationships, the participants at CLAY took part in the largest KAIROS blanket exercise in the world. The emotionally moving activity helped participants gain a better understanding of colonization (or the shrinking of land/blankets) and the process of displacement endured by Indigenous Peoples in Canada.

Not only was the blanket exercise highly attended, but according to Planning Committee team member Rev. Philip Penrod, the period of discussion following the script lasted even longer than the hands-on exercise itself.

"It was truly a visceral experience," Penrod reflected. "If you were just reading the script, sure,

you'd see the facts and you might remember them tomorrow. But when you physically participate, and maybe you're one of the people who die off and have to sit out the rest of the exercise, it is very impactful and sticks with you over the long haul. There were groups that finished their sharing circles in about 25 minutes. But then there were groups that at the end of an hour-and-a-half we had to gently go along and say, "this is amazing, but your lunch is starting soon."



The blanket exercise room set-up before the CLAY participants filed in.



Photos by Chandon Photography - Mark Chandon

Left and above: The emotionally moving activities helped participants gain a better understanding of colonization (or the shrinking of land/blankets) and the process of displacement endured by Indigenous Peoples in Canada.





Photo by Chondon Photography—Patrick Chondon

**Discussions in sharing circles with elders following the script portion of the blanket exercise lasted even longer than the hands-on exercise itself.**

“Never in my life have I seen that many teenagers that quiet and that focused for such an extended period of time,” Penrod continued. “It was just incredible. And it’s not only about the large experiential process, but just as significant is the sharing circle and debrief that happens with the elders afterwards.”

Youth participant Emily Weidenbacher of First Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Man., said the KAIROS Blanket Exercise

served as a wake-up call to many of the youth in attendance.

“I have participated in blanket exercises before in school, but none of them have ever been anywhere near this big or impactful,” the 19-year-old said. “Previously, it was much harder to grasp how important this conversation is, but since this one was much larger and everyone was so willing to participate, I really understood the stories that were being told; it gave me much more of an

emotional reaction of sadness and disappointment.”

In the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, participants acted out the stories of the First Nations Peoples and their battles with the European settlers, the small pox epidemic and the residential schools etc., as KAIROS leaders Ed Bianchi and Dawn Maracle provided the dramatic readings.

“Through this experience, I learned that I should have more compassion,” Weidenbacher said. “A lot of people should have more compassion. I even have friends back home that are not so accepting, and that really hurts to hear friends not be accepting of others. It can be tough at times to stand up to those

This gathering showed me the importance of listening to what others have to say, and to respect the experiences they have witnessed.

~ Brad Kirkwood, St. Paul's, Edmonton



friends. But I definitely would recommend if you ever have the chance to do this with anyone, take it. Whether it's strangers, friends, or anyone you feel comfortable with, it is very enlightening—I really recommend it."

Fellow youth participant Brad Kirkwood also described the emotions the KAIROS Blanket Exercise had on him.

"I had learned about the decimation of the First Nations during the 1600s in school, but there it was just a statistic," the Edmonton, Alta., resident said. "At school it was easy to ignore, but it's something entirely different when you can see how it happened, and how abruptly families and communities were wiped out by disease. It's challenging to convey the emotion that seemed to sweep through the room at that moment. What I felt can best be described as horror and sorrow."

The treatment of Canada's Indigenous Peoples was beyond that which Kirkwood had ever before heard, and the blanket exercise served as an excellent teaching outlet.

"I had never heard the other side of history," the St. Paul's Evangelical member said. "All I had been told was what social studies class had taught me, and I naively thought that was enough. I never even considered that there might be more to learn. All in all, this gathering showed me the importance of listening to what others have to say, and to respect the experiences they have witnessed." 📷

The ministry of reconciled relationships has been lived out in many ways around the ELCIC in 2018.



From top: An interfaith service at Trinity, Edmonton, marking Reformation Sunday included Catholic, Lutheran, Anglican, Orthodox, Muslim and Mennonite participants; a Lutheran/Muslim curling funspiel at Our Saviour's, Thunder Bay, Ont., and a smudging ceremony at CLAY 2018.



Photos from top by Mahmood Mawani, Rev. Matthew H. Diegel; courtesy of CLAY 2018.





Photo supplied by Bishop Sid Haugen.

Gustavo Gomez, President of IELU, Saskatchewan  
Bishop Sid Haugen and "Luther" at the school.

# Walking alongside our partners



National, synodical global mission relationship highlights accompaniment and delivers a message of inspiration.

**I**t was early November 2018 when ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson and Saskatchewan Bishop Sid Haugen and his wife travelled down to Argentina for 12 days to observe, build relationships and help nurture the companion and bilateral relationships between the ELCIC National Office, the Saskatchewan Synod and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELU).

Although now in his fifth year of serving as Bishop of the Saskatchewan Synod, this visit to South America was Bishop Sid's first trip related to the global mission of the church.

"It was a very humbling and eye-opening experience," Bishop Haugen reflected. "I really didn't know that Buenos Aires was that big, but the makeup of the land and population is much different

than what I was used to. As a Saskatchewan resident, I found it strange to hear the locals mention a 'bitterly cold south wind', and 'going up north where it is warm.' It took me a little while to acclimatize myself to my new surroundings."

Both the ELCIC and the Saskatchewan Synod are in active partnerships with IELU. The ELCIC has bilateral relationships, or church-to-church relationships, with the Lutheran churches in Peru, Argentina and Jordan and the Holy Land. ELCIC synods have companion relationships with

IELU remains a vibrant and hopeful church, trying hard to hear how God is calling them into mission in their time and place.

*~ National Bishop Susan Johnson*

Enjoying a meal together with some of the members of the IELU congregations in the Patagonia region.



Photo supplied by Bishop Sid Haugen.



Lutheran churches in Peru, Argentina, Guyana, Colombia, Cameroon, and Jordan and the Holy Land.

"This was a time to further our accompaniment and explore with our partner church the viability of partnership work we have been funding," said Bishop Johnson.

Within IELU, the ELCIC helps support the work of Rev. Andrea Baez, pastor of Esperanza del Sur congregation in Esquel, an Argentinean town in the foothills of the Andes Mountains.

"We had some great dialogue with Rev. Baez," Bishop Haugen said. "We spent a fair bit of time in her house having meals together,

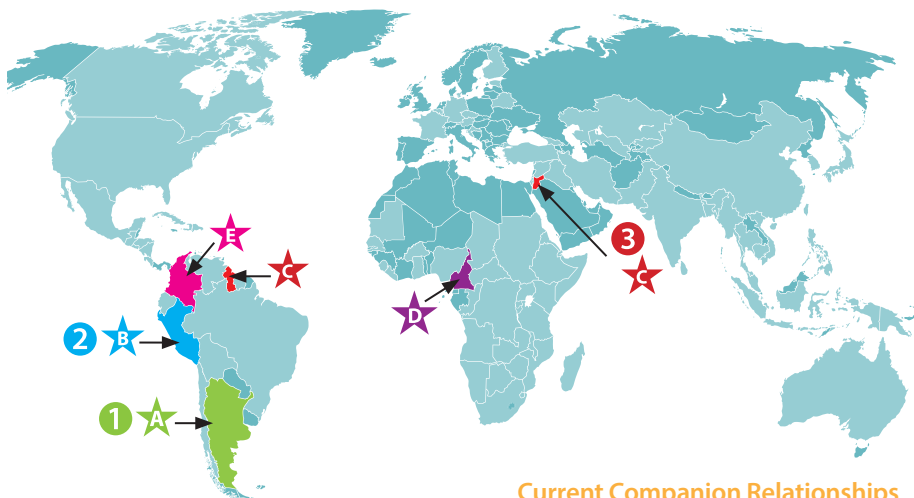
while engaging in conversation about the commonalities and differences between our churches."

The purpose of Global Mission companion relationships is to partner an ELCIC synod with a member church of The Lutheran World Federation so that together they can nurture and strengthen each other for life and mission together within the body of Christ based on a model of accompaniment.

Serving as a companion means, "to walk alongside each



# GLOBAL MINISTRY



## Current Bilateral Relationships

- 1) **Patagonian Mission:** Financial support for Rev. Andrea Baez in Esquel, Argentina
- 2) **Amazon Mission:** Financial support for Rev. Yoli Zavaleta in El Triunfo, Peru
- 3) **Partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land:** Part of this partnership includes scholarships for students of the ELCJHL schools

## Current Companion Relationships

- A) **Saskatchewan Synod:** United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina (IELU)
- B) **British Columbia Synod:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Peru (IL-P)
- C) **Eastern Synod:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana (ELCG) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)
- D) **Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario Synod:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon (EELC)
- E) **Synod of Alberta and the Territories:** Evangelical Lutheran Church in Colombia (IELCO)

other”, said Bishop Haugen. “We are not some colonial power that is coming in to teach somebody how to do things right. We are people who walk with each other to try to understand the world we are in and where God is leading us. Even though you are in different places geographically, you learn from one another and in many ways share the same mission.”

IELU and much of Argentina faces many challenges, including the unpredictable impact of inflation which can range from 35–55 per cent at any given time. As a result, the church is dealing with consecutive deficit budgets that have left them with serious financial concerns. “They have made the painful decision to cut pastors’ salaries by 50 per cent, including that of the president of the church,” said Bishop Johnson.

Despite these challenges, she continued, IELU remains a vibrant and hopeful church, “trying hard to hear how God is calling them into mission in their time and place.”

The message of inspiration was a constant theme both Bishop Johnson and Bishop Haugen mentioned in their reflections on the trip and their time together with IELU pastors.

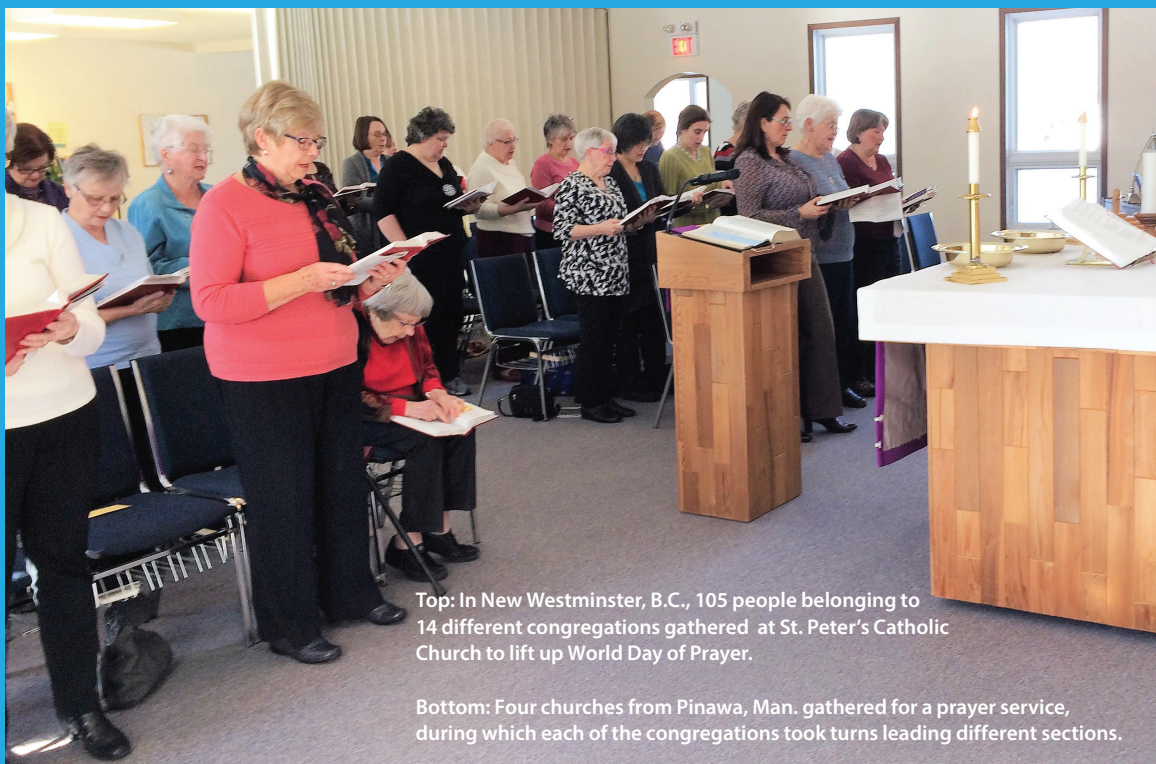
“I was inspired by the visit,” said Bishop Johnson, “and reminded again of the many resources we have been given to use for mission in our country and around the world. I hope to find more ways to share these stories with our church.” 📖



Top: meeting with IELU leadership. Middle: the school kindergarten. Bottom: eating together with the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) group.

Photos supplied by Bishop Sids Haugen.





Top: In New Westminster, B.C., 105 people belonging to 14 different congregations gathered at St. Peter's Catholic Church to lift up World Day of Prayer.

Bottom: Four churches from Pinawa, Man. gathered for a prayer service, during which each of the congregations took turns leading different sections.

Photos: top submitted by Marlys Moen, bottom by N. Peter Cliche.





# World Day of Prayer 2018

A glimpse into the many ecumenical gatherings held in March across Canada for the World Day of Prayer.

**W**orld Day of Prayer is recognized annually on the first Friday of March. An event co-ordinated by the Women's Inter-church Council of Canada, who provides a host country, theme and resource materials for worship planning.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada encourages individuals and congregations to lift up this important day in the life of the Church as an opportunity for community outreach, to look for ways to engage in worship and prayer in an ecumenical way.

World Day of Prayer 2018 was based on the theme *All God's Creation is Very Good*, and the host country was Suriname—a compact nation in northeast South America. Countless churches across the ELCIC participated in this commemoration, and did so in various ways—many of which honoured the ecumenical aspect and joined hands together with local congregations of other denominations.

For many years, Trinity Shared Ministry in Clearwater, B.C. has worked hard to ensure that World Day of Prayer occurs in the Eastern British Columbia community. The planning committee consist-

ed of members of four local churches—including Anglican, United and Lutheran congregations—while New Life Assembly, the local Pentecostal Church hosted the afternoon service.

"We've done this now for a number of years, so it's sort of a tradition in the community," said Susan Murray. "We must have had seven or eight different denominations under the roof for

for the same missional work.

"It definitely builds community, she added. "It's a very important thing to do and a good learning experience. Not only are we learning about the country in focus, but learning about our neighbours right here in town. The best part is during the worship, how everyone seems to know the hymns. We are all able to sing; the familiarity of the

It definitely builds community. It's a very important thing to do and a good learning experience. Not only are we learning about the country in focus, but learning about our neighbours right here in town.

~ Susan Murray, Clearwater, B.C.

that service. We always have people attend who don't normally attend any of the churches involved, so that's wonderful. They participate and seem to really enjoy it, joining in fellowship afterwards while learning about different cultures."

For Murray, the differences between the denominations are minuscule compared to the similarities. That is even more apparent when the congregations come together and unite as one

songs does not change between denominations."

Leslie Ross, also from Trinity Shared Ministry, says that the sense of coming together while worshipping and praying gives her a feeling of connectedness.

"The idea of World Day of Prayer is about coming together collectively and hosting an ecumenical gathering that works for everyone," Ross said. "Having an order of service can seem far too liturgical for some, so some adap-



In Clearwater, B.C., World Day of Prayer was an inter-denominational service hosted at New Life Assembly Pentecostal Church. The planning committee consisted of members of four local churches—including Anglican, United and Lutheran congregations.

tation is needed. While there are some minor differences in beliefs, we always make sure to discuss hymn selection, going over the words and ensuring each song works for the churches involved."

Nearby, in New Westminster, B.C., 105 people belonging to 14 different congregations gathered late in the day at St. Peter's Catholic Church to lift up World Day of Prayer.

"Because we have done this for so long now, it just feels so familiar," said Rev. Marlys Moen. "Everybody looks forward to getting together again, dressing

up in the colours of the country, while learning about the faith life and the circumstances of living in the country of focus. It's become a very treasured part of the ecumenical worship life in New Westminster."

In Manitoba, four churches from Pinawa gathered for a prayer service, which was, in turn, divided into four parts. Each of the congregations took turns leading their sections, with the message coming from Rev. Jack Frederick, who had travelled twice to Guyana missionally and spoke of his experiences there,

which would be very similar to those of neighbouring Suriname.

"We put a lot of time and research into preparing for the prayer service," said Shirley Cliche, who helped organize the ecumenical gathering in Pinawa. "At one point, I think I knew more about Suriname than I did about Canada!"

Rev. Matthew Diegel of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Thunder Bay, Ont., says that although the evening community gathering at Knox United Church only featured about 60 participants, he figured that eight-to-10 different churches were represented.

"Ecumenical outreach is a very important part of my ministry," he said. "Any time that we can get together like that it's a really spiritually refreshing event. The connections with the other

"The connections with the other congregations are very uplifting; you really get the sense that there's more that we can do together."

~ Rev. Matthew Diegel, Our Saviour's, Thunder Bay, Ont.



congregations are very uplifting; you really get the sense that there's more we can do together."

Further east, Marlene Wright and the congregation of Our Redeemer, London, Ont., gathered with six other churches for

their World Day of Prayer festivities, including two Anglican congregations, two United churches, as well as people from the Roman Catholic and Presbyterian traditions.

The service in London was

based directly off the material provided by host Suriname in the information package, including readings, prayers and an educational video. While a variety of hymns were selected from the United Church hymnal. 📖

## ELCIC youth demonstrate leadership, faithfulness and nurturing community as empowered disciples in 2018

Right: Celly Manirakoze, from the BC Synod, was selected to participate in a two-week long steward program at the World Council of Churches headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. Manirakoze built lifelong friendships, created networking connections and challenged some of her own stereotypes while serving, as one of 20 young adults from around the world, as a steward.

Below: The youth group at Trinity Lutheran in Starbuck, Man., hosted a curling funspiel for the Manitoba Northwest Ontario Synod Retreat in February 2018. Forty-five youth and chaperones enjoyed two days of sportsmanship, worship, food, fellowship and faithfulness.



Photostop by Kevin John Meddela; curling shots by Rev. Matthew H. Diegel.

# Your offering

**T**he 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 2017, ELCIC members gave over

**\$78 million**

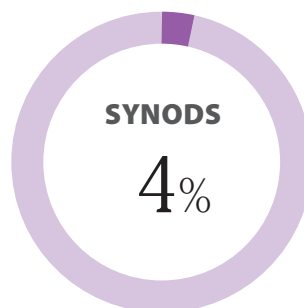
to support the call to be  
*In Mission for Others.*



**\$73,869,440** was used by congregations to fund local ministries. Your weekly offering supports the work of your congregation and its ministry.



**\$3,573,053** was shared to support the ministry done through ELCIC synods. This includes supporting congregations and leaders within your synod.

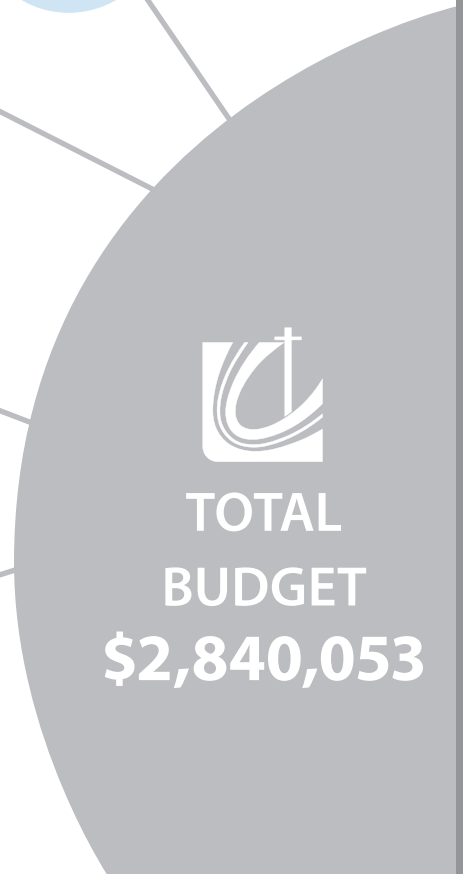
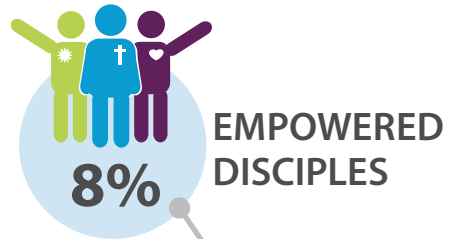
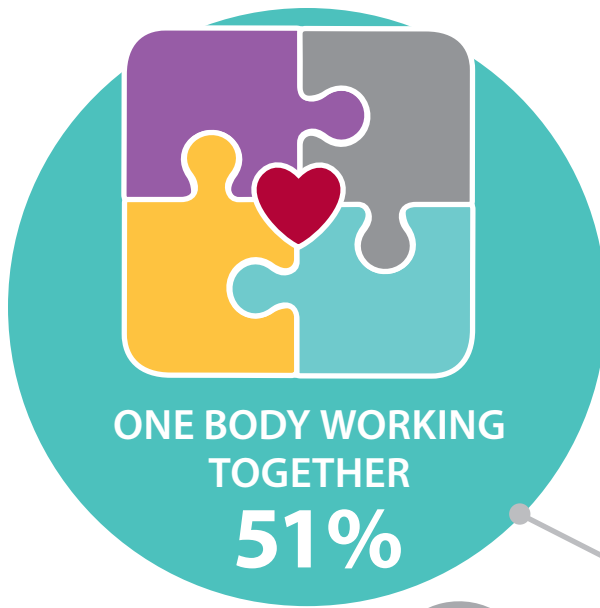


**\$838,033** was sent through the synods to the National Church to support the wider mission of the ELCIC.



# *A Focus on the Strategic Plan*

The 2019 ELCIC National Church budget supports ministries carried out through the four areas of focus set out in the National Office Strategic Plan.



# #myELCIC

Connect with others across the church and share your work *In Mission for Others* and what connects you to the ELCIC, being Lutheran and your faith!

Canadian Lutheran World Relief @CanLWR  
THANK YOU to all the youth, Home Team Leaders,  
Pastors, Bishops & @claygathering organizers for  
weaving your threads with ours this week! Until  
next time. #canlwr #thunderclay#myelcic  
#WithRefugees



Photo by CLWR.



Photo by Emily Savage.

Emily Savage @esavage3  
Catch us @SPLCOnline youth chilling with  
@MichaelPryse @claygathering #myELCIC



Photo by Nancy Hannah.

Sheila Hamilton @shamilton190  
St. David Orillia youth packing #CLWR We  
Care Learning and Living Kits. #MyELCIC



Photo by Bishop Larry Kochendorfer.

Larry Kochendorfer @abtbishoplarry  
Fall East and West Central Area Gathering  
hosted by Zion Lutheran, Bashaw, Alta.  
Meaningful conversation and discernment  
together. Thank you Area Leadership  
Teams. #abtsynod #myelcic



Photo provided by Rev. Martin Malina.



**Faith Ottawa** @FaithOttawa Practising radical hospitality, free nutritious snacks for exam-writing students at @AlgonquinColleg Woodroffe Campus #Ottawa; Proud of our #volunteers working w/ St Stephen's & Julian of Norwich Anglican #PauseTable @OttawaLutherans @OttawaAnglican @ESynodELCIC #myELCIC



Photos by David Malina.

**David Malina** @davejmalina Both inside and outside of Christ Church, Waterloo, Ont. transformed at our annual community BBQ. Great to see so many neighbours and friends of the church out this late summer evening! @ESynodELCIC #myELCIC

Photo provided by Rev. André Lavergne.



**André Lavergne** @ARLavergne #FullCommunion @generalsynod-@ELCICinfo #thursdaysinblack with @WICC\_CA at @CCC\_CCE Governing Board. @Oikoumene @wccWoMen @wccpilgrimage @NationalBishop #myELCIC #CCC #WICC

Share your selfies, photos and social media posts using the **#myELCIC** hashtag. Whether you're on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, make sure you click on the hashtag and see what others are doing across the church!



# National Office

There are six full time, eight part time and one casual staff working for the National Office for a staffing compliment of 10.5 equivalent full-time positions.



**Your National Office staff:** (1) Rev. Susan C. Johnson, *National Bishop*. (2) Carter Brooks, *Communications Specialist*. (3) Norman Coull, *Proofreader, Canada Lutheran*. (4) Catherine Crivici, *Graphic Designer*. (5) Trina Gallop Blank, *Assistant to the Bishop for Communications and Resource Generation*. (6) Rev. Paul Gehrs, *Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Leadership*. (7) Kyle Giesbrecht, *Director, Finance and Administration*. (8) Rev. André Lavergne, *Assistant to the Bishop, Ecumenical and Interfaith*. (9) Rev. Lyle McKenzie, *Assistant to the Bishop, Worship*. (10) Desiree Mendoza, *Meetings and Communications Co-ordinator*. (11) Rick Natividad, *Information Technology Co-ordinator*. (12) Deacon Gretchen Peterson, *Assistant to the Bishop, Youth*. (13) Rev. Kenn Ward, *Editor, Canada Lutheran*. (14) Barb Wiebe, *Office Assistant and Canada Lutheran Circulation*. (15) Dennis Wolochatiuk, *Accountant*.

## Contributors

We thank all those who assisted with this annual report.

### WRITERS

Carter Brooks  
Trina Gallop Blank

### DESIGN

Catherine Crivici

### PROOFREADING

Norman Coull

### PHOTOGRAPHY

Many thanks to all who  
shared their images with us.





Photos by: Trina Gallop Blank; Carter Brooks; courtesy of CLAY.



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

600–177 Lombard Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0W5

[www.elcic.ca](http://www.elcic.ca)

Ph: 204-984-9150 | Toll free: 1-888-786-6707 | Fax 204-984-9185

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**News releases:** [info@elcic.ca](mailto:info@elcic.ca) **E-Communiqué:** [elcic.ca/communiquer](http://elcic.ca/communiquer)

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