



2017 Mission & Ministry

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

“And thou shalt love the Lord with all thy heart, and with all they soul, and with all thy might.”
(Deuteronomy 6:5)

Every morning a little girl makes the trip to her school, she slowly and laboriously boards a certain school bus. Because of some of the disabilities she has, it usually takes her an extra long time to haul herself into the bus. However, the driver is always very patient about waiting for her to complete the operation.

On the first day of the new school year, this little girl was delighted to peer into the bus and see the same bus driver that she had the previous year. As she had done on every school day of the previous year, she boarded the bus as usual, went through the business of dropping her lunch and her back-pack, retrieving them once again, and made doubly and triply sure she had all of her belongings before moving forward. When she had painstakingly reached the top of the steps in boarding the bus on the first morning of the new school year she stopped abruptly right in front of the bus driver. And after searching in every pocket that she had, she pulled out a piece of paper. In her very labored, loud and shrill six year-old voice she read the words that were written on the paper, “Dear Mr. Bus Driver, thank

you for taking such good care of me.” Then the youngster gazed at the driver and added this un-rehearsed postscript, “God bless you!” “I love you!”

The encounter of this little girl and her bus driver strikes a familiar note with me. For you see, my mother-in-law often wrote a portion of this same postscript, “God bless you!” on the bottom of many of the letters she wrote or in responses to mail that she had received. Even at the bottom of bills that she received, in which she felt she was being over-charged and that she objected to, along with her statement of disagreement of what she was being asked to pay, she would always include the statement, “And God bless you!!” And it never ceased to amaze me, as to how many times she received notes back from those she had corresponded with, thanking her for the inclusion of her statement, sharing with them her sincere desire that her Lord and God would bestow His blessing upon them. I likewise think our heavenly Father must often yearn to have His children express their care for others in words such as hers.

So often we are reminded of what our Lord and our God has done and continues to do for us. There was a story some time ago of a man who

started on a shoestring, but whose business venture ended in success. Following an attack of polio, one of his arms was left dangling at his side, his leg was in a brace, and his back supported by another brace. For twenty years he could not sit up in a chair and the doctor said he would never walk again. But his faith in God, plus his own Spirit-guided will, enabled him to respond to others when they sympathized with his plight, “But I am walking today!” His daily “walk” in life served as an example of one who kept loving God in spite of the physical handicap that came upon him and gave to others the message that God had been with him and had never left him through it all.

As we, as congregations and people of the East District of Lutheran Church—Canada struggle to carry on the mission work and outreach that our Lord has given us to do — may we continue to “Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks,” that our Great God never fails in any promise that He has made to us. Our God is love. And as we know of this unending love that God has and continues to shower down upon us — may we make use of every opportunity that comes through the Mission & Ministry efforts of our church. That all those we encounter and support through our every day mission efforts hear and receive the message through our word and actions: “God bless you!” “I and God love you!”

In Christ,
Rev. Paul Zabel

God bless you!

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Department for Outreach (DFO)

THANK YOU!

To all members and congregations of Lutheran Church–Canada, East District, who, moved by the Holy Spirit, have supported, in whatever way they are able, Word and Sacrament Ministry and the sharing of the Good News of Jesus Christ in our corner of the world. Thank You!

Through your offerings and prayers, and God’s grace, the Department for Outreach acts on your behalf to facilitate the sharing of that Good News in the East District through the following Ministries:

- Francophone – Rev. Dr. David Somers in Quebec
- Sudanese & Arabic – Rev. Peter Gatluak in Hamilton
- Intercultural Missionary – Rev. James Luke in the GTA
- Kingston Mission – Rev. Al Maleske
- Sherbrooke, Quebec – Rev. Razafy Razfindrakoto
- Atlantic Circuit Rider – Rev. Mark Smith
- Windsor/Essex (WECLLO) – Lay Missionary Javed Khan
- Masih ki Awaz – Urdu Radio Broadcast Ministry, Mississauga
- Good Shepherd – Moncton, NB
- Redeemer – Sudbury
- Christ – Timmins
- Tri-Parish – Kincardine/Southampton/Hanover
- Holy Trinity & Korean Mission – Bradford
- Living Faith – Orangeville
- Faith, London/Grace, Strathroy
- Concordia – Fonthill (rec’d 2016 debt reduction grant)
- Our Saviour – Niagara Falls
- Our Saviour – London
- Tri-Parish – Buckingham/Inlet/Poltimore

We thank and praise God that He has provided willing and enthusiastic workers to proclaim the Gospel in these, “His harvest fields” and pray for their good health and well-being.

We thank and praise God for the financial resources He provides and pray that the Department would use these resources wisely for His purposes.

We thank and praise God that He has provided the East District with people willing to be His servants on the Department for Outreach and on behalf of the DfO, we thank and praise God for the opportunity to serve Him and His people this way.

*Paul Otterman
2016 Chairman*



Report of the Mission Encourager

As I'm preparing this year's Mission Encourager's Report, I have been asking myself the following questions:

1. What is the state of our district's missions and ministries?
2. What am I seeing as I visit congregations across the district?
3. What do our church workers and congregation members see as the state of their congregations?

The bottom line answer to #1 is that they are in a great state insofar as they are all fixing their eyes on Jesus, seeking to serve Him, one another, and their neighbours, by bearing His name, bearing witness to Him and His gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation by Word and deed in the contexts of their God-given vocations.

Where these things are happening, it is God's abundant and amazing grace, which He pours out on us in overflowing measure, covering our sins and our failings, clothing us with Christ and His righteousness, and using us, earthly vessels for His heavenly, eternal purposes.

But a more M&M-Report-like answer to the question varies from site to site. Our inter-cultural ministries are effectively reaching out with the life-imparting Gospel into various ethnic communities including South Asian, Eritrean, Sudanese, Arabic, Korean, Chinese, Oromo. And the desire is always to gather these folks into the fellowship of one of our established congregations. A few examples: Pastors Singh and Johnson are doing this through the Food Bank that happens weekly at Our Saviour and through their presence at community festivals and other gatherings. Pastor

Gatluak does this through his many connections within the Sudanese community and through his work with the Sudanese Lutheran Mission Society and is connecting people with Pilgrim, Hamilton. Pastor Luke does this through his many community connections and through Masih ki Awaz Radio Ministry and is connecting people with Christ Our King, Mississauga and Living Faith, Orangeville. Javed Khan does this through WECLO, which includes hospitality ministry, ESL and other teaching opportunities and sports camps, and connects people with First, Windsor and other Essex County congregations.

In our District's remote ministries we are seeing Christ at work as well. In Moncton, Pastor Milette continues to serve Good Shepherd, providing Word and Sacrament ministry each Sunday while holding down several Part-time secular jobs as well. He also continues to assist with the work in PEI, has a ministry on a local university campus, and is reaching out to the francophone and other ethnic communities in and around Moncton as well.

Pastor Smith is constantly on the road, as the Atlantic Canada Circuit Rider, serving the established mission sites in Halifax, and Middleton, NS and Charlottetown, PEI and developing connections with people in southern NS, western NB, and Newfoundland. Some of these are transplanted LCC Lutherans, some are disenfranchised ELCIC Lutherans, and some are people interested in catechesis in the Lutheran Christian faith.

In Quebec, our mission sites primarily serve an ever growing Malagasy population. Our MALs

— Pastors Somers and Razafy and those who assist them — Pastor Morgret and Padre Flor— continue to reach out to the Quebecois population. They are all seeking ways to use the interest in the 500th Reformation Anniversary to connect with the broader communities in which they serve.

In the north, Timmins is rejoicing at receiving their new pastor, Milton Lam. He is already connecting well with the congregation and will also be continuing a pastoral relationship with the folks in Kirkland Lake. He is also eager to make use of his language skills among the substantial French and Chinese communities in Timmins.

Sudbury is thankful that Timmins has a new pastor, because that means that Pastor Smilek will not be so stretched supervising a vicar and pastoring the folks in Kirkland Lake.

Our list of assisted congregations is growing and, thus, so is our financial outlay. Part of the reason for this is that worship attendance numbers are shrinking in many of our congregations. Another reason is that there are few people under 60, and even fewer people under 20 in many of our congregations. Another reason is that in some of our congregations, the pastors have been refusing raises for years, being paid under district scale (some way under), and thus, have been carrying the congregations, to a certain degree, on their own backs and the backs of their families. In other circumstances, our congregations are supported generously by older members who have a faithful understanding of good stewardship. When these members become shut-ins or pass away, there are few

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Report of the Mission Encourager

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younger people with the same stewardship commitment.

All this leads into the answer to the second question above. On the one hand, I've seen that many of our congregations have fewer than 50 in worship. Many of our congregations are struggling financially. Many of our congregations are wondering what is in store for them 10 years down the road. On the other hand, and with these situations in mind, I point you to our East District Vision Statement:

“Vibrant, growing congregations purposefully and joyfully reaching all with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

On the surface, that statement doesn't seem to fit with many of our congregations. Shrinking, struggling congregations often don't exhibit much joy or vibrancy. But look at that Vision Statement through the cross. The Life of a congregation doesn't rest in their cultural circumstances, but in Christ who is our Life. A con-

gregation is vibrant if a living Christ is present there. A congregation is growing if members are engaged in Sunday worship, study of the Scriptures, home devotions. Growth isn't only determined by attendance statistics and finances.

Are we church workers and we as church members seeing our congregations as shrinking and dying? Then it isn't surprising that there is little outreach happening in many of our churches. But the truth is that if that is our perspective of our congregations then we are looking at them from the world's perspective and not through Christ and His suffering, death, and resurrection. Christ is alive from the dead and alive among and in us, His people. Because Christ is alive in us, then we can see our congregations as vibrant, growing, and joy-filled places where Jesus is pouring out His gifts through Word and Sacrament, where Jesus is giving His life and salvation through the forgiveness of sins, where Jesus is giving the

blessings of His presence without fail in every moment of our lives, in and outside of our church buildings. Where Christ is alive, that is in our LCC East District congregations, there is joyful confidence, there is a living hope, there is the full assurance that He is fulfilling His gracious promises.

This perspective can motivate us to reach out to our neighbours and friends, inviting them to receive with us what we receive in God's house. Pastors and people working together, can encourage each other to joyfully share the good news that Christ is alive and that He will pour out His gifts on all who come to Him. We must be purposefully planting the seed of God's Word of salvation. We must be purposefully watering everywhere those Gospel seeds have been planted. We must be trusting God to give the increase, to give the growth when and where He pleases.

*Rev. Ron Mohr
Mission Encourager*

Department for Parish Services (DPS)

The Department for Parish Services (DPS) assists congregations, pastors, and deacons of the East District as they teach the faith to everyone from children to seniors, supporting them in areas of worship and music; instruction in doctrine; Christian life and vocation; service to their neighbour; and by sharing their gifts for the benefit of the church. The DPS strives to achieve this through the development and provision of resources and events to foster distinctively Lutheran practices for the building up and encouragement of the whole body of Christ.

Rejoice always, Pray without ceasing, Give thanks in all circumstances. The Department for Parish Services, or DPS, focuses on building relationships, support, fellowship and growth for those who belong to East District congregations. Our members represent the essential resource base, “The Church,” that is required in order for ministry to others to take place. The DPS strives to achieve this through the development and provision of resources and events to foster distinctively Lutheran practices for the building up and encouragement of the whole church body of Christ.

The DPS continues to promote the “*Our Free & Joyous Response*” Stewardship program, which helps members grow in discipleship so that, under the Gospel of Jesus Christ, people are empowered to manage time, talent, and treasures, for the fulfillment of God’s purpose in their lives. As of 2016, there have been more than nine district congregations take part in this program and all have had great success with it.

The DPS Worship Committee awards bursaries to support the development of church organists.

\$500 per applicant is typically awarded to help cover the cost of a year’s worth of lessons given by a qualified organ instructor. Organ Bursary Applications are available at the District website in the download centre.

The DPS also provides Lutheran students studying for full-time church work assistance with student aid. Applications for aid are available on the District website as a downloadable pdf.

The Department is encouraging fellowship among of the members of the East District by continuing the annual East District Camping Event under the Family Life Committee. This past June marked the second edition of this Camping Event. There were a lot of repeat campers and a number of newcomers as well. Overall, there were over 80 participants, About twenty-three family groups from eleven different East District Churches from as far west as Windsor and as far east as Ottawa. All in all, it represents a pretty diverse slice of East District life. The event strives to be a low key annual event that will have the feeling of an extended family picnic. Like those wonderful, wild, all-day picnics, the camping weekend is a chance to meet up as a larger body than that of our individual congregations and get to know our extended family in Christ. The third event is scheduled for Father’s Day weekend 2017 at Highland Pines Campground on Belwood Lake, near Fergus and is open to all members of the District — young or old, singles to large families (all ages / all stages). This campground was chosen for its central location and for its ability to accommodate all types of campers (i.e. has cabins to rent in

addition to RV and tent sites). Watch for more to come in the new year.

The DPS East District Lutheran Youth Committee cultivates, encourages and maintains a Lutheran identity among our youth while energizing and helping to build lasting relationships. This is done by arranging and coordinating youth retreats and training conferences including a Spring Youth Retreat, Fall BananaCram Confirmation Retreat, and Youth Leader Training Conferences. We are currently rebuilding this committee and have some new and exciting representation from within the District. Watch for more information to come in the near future.

EDLYA (East District Lutheran Young Adults) is committed to encouraging young adults (post-high-school and beyond) to grow in their relationship with God, each other, and all people. This group provides quarterly retreats and/or events for all Young Adults in our District.

This past August, the seniors of First Lutheran Church, Kingsville, hosted a gathering for Older Adults in the District. As the largest growing age group in the church and as the life expectancy for seniors is much higher than it used to be, it is important for seniors to seek opportunities to continue to contribute in helping our churches move forward. The gathering was very successful, with over 100 in attendance from as far away as St. Catharines and Burlington and a great time was had by all who attended. The plan is to continue this event every year but to have different Congregational Seniors groups do the hosting.

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Department for Parish Services (DPS)

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For 2017, Kingsville has graciously agreed to host the second annual event but will be looking for other groups to step in and take on hosting for 2018.

The DPS also continues to provide “Engaging the Aging” quarterly newsletter found by following the link on the East District Website or at www.wheatridge.org/resources/health-ministry-center/engaging-the-aging.

The Department for Parish Services also subsidises the registration fees of any East District Confirmand who wishes to attend the yearly Confirmation Camp at Camp Pioneer in Angola, NY where East District Pastors and young people spend a week studying the catechism in a camp setting. The DPS provides a \$50 bursary to anyone attending from an East District congregation. The

Camp Pioneer Director, Rev. Alex Knowles, would like to draw more participants from the East District and is willing to meet with any congregation, Winkel, or group to provide information about the Camp and what it offers. He is also able to help answer questions about border crossing or any other problems that Canadians may have in participating in camp activities. The Confirmation Camp is open to any year Confirmand and any in their first year post confirmation (1st year alumni). At \$260, the week is a real bargain, especially with the \$50 District bursary. On top of this the camp is now offering registration fees at par for Canadian registrants. What a great deal for a week of camp!

The focus for the Department for Parish Services is to guide our church away from the sepa-

ration into specific “age groups” that tend not to mix with each other and tend to view each other in a negative way. We need to revere and respect our age and experience differences to become the “Family” of God, not just the “Older Adults” of God; the “Youth” of God; the “Young Adults” of God; Etc. We do this by spending time together rejoicing, praying, and giving thanks as one body of Christ — a family, from the youngest to the oldest, to everyone in between. Looking to the future, the Department for Parish Services plans to continue supporting events such as Confirmation Retreats, Youth Retreats, Youth Leader Training Conferences, EvangelFests, Worship Workshops, Family Retreats and more.

*Mr. Karl Witzke
2016 Chairman*



Report of the Business Manager

Funding for the many projects, both new and existing, continues to be a priority. With congregational support somewhat declining or at best keeping par with the previous year, it places more pressure on the Department for Outreach and the District to find those needed resources elsewhere. We thank God for the many gifts we have received through such organizations like LWML, Partner to Partner, Church Extension Fund and other funds that the District has been able to utilize over the past years. Many of these funds are small in nature and have limited life spans. It is therefore necessary that we continue to pray that God will continue to bless each and every one of our congregations and that they in turn are in that financial position to continue supporting our East District.

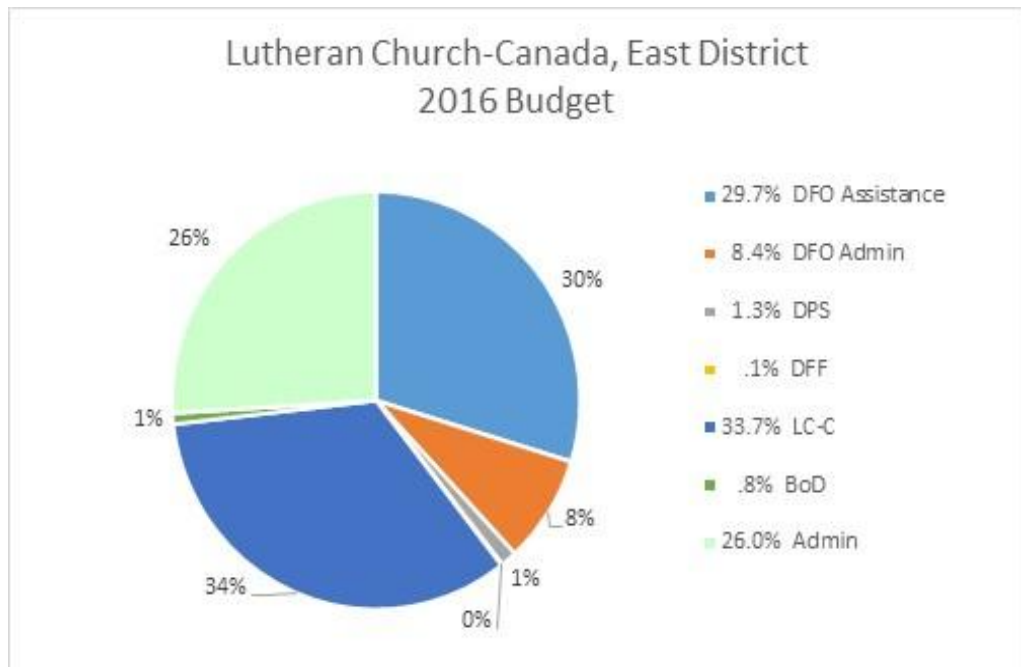
While our CEF was able to grant our DFO with a gift at the end of 2014, it was not in a position to do so at the end of 2015. As some of you may know, the markets declined towards the end of that year and subsequently impacted our CEF's return on its investments by way of a "market devaluation." Not a cash loss but simply a market value loss. Nonetheless, this resulted in a deficit in the CEF by the end of 2015 and no surplus was able to be distributed. Since that time, the markets have regained their position and our CEF has recouped all of that market devaluation to the point where combined with the current year's donor's interest and operating expenses, the CEF should be in a breakeven position by the end of 2016.

We have also seen other changes in our CEF in that our investment

portfolio will now be managed by a new firm who recently purchased our old firm. After several meetings and presentations, our CEF Committee is confident in the new firm's credentials and ability to provide excellent service.

As each congregation continues to address their own needs and opportunities, I would pray that they too will see the growing need for our District support and that through their good stewardship they too would be able to support the current "District" needs and those of the future. We continue to pray that our good and gracious God will continue to bless our congregations and enable them to "Go you into all the world, and preach the gospel."

*Mr. Darryll Holland
Business Manager*



2016 Budget *as at January 31, 2016*

Lutheran Church—Canada, East District Budget as at September 30, 2016

Description	Actual	Budget	Variance + (-)	Total Budget
RECEIPTS				
Congregational Receipts	586,623	704,667	(118,044)	1,057,000
Partner to Partner	48,345	90,667	(42,322)	136,000
CEF Partner to Partner Matching Grant	48,345	90,667	(42,322)	136,000
Legacies and bequests	0	16,667	(16,667)	25,000
Interest Income - Endowment	5,000	5,000	0	7,500
District Missionary Housing Grant (CEF)	33,333	33,333	0	50,000
Memorials	895	51,000	(50,105)	76,500
CEF Administration Services	50,660	50,660	0	75,990
Donations to ED Missions	2,455	3,333	(878)	5,000
Misc. Income	1,793	57	1,736	84
Non-cash depreciation		2,700	(2,700)	3,600
Total Budgeted Receipts	777,450	1,048,750	(271,300)	1,572,675
Expenses				
East District Gift Planner	50,000	50,000	0	75,000
LCC Synodical Support	259,958	303,600	43,643	455,400
Total LCC Synod	309,958	353,600	43,643	530,400
DFO—Administration	3,561	4,667	1,106	7,000
DFO—Mission Committee		2,000	2,000	3,000
DFO—Mission Assistance	264,982	311,743	46,762	467,615
Campus Ministry	0	500	500	750
Evangelism Committee	90	667	577	1,000
Social Ministry Committee	0	6,667	6,667	10,000
Mission Executive	70,818	73,208	2,390	109,812
Total Department for Outreach	339,450	399,451	60,001	599,177
Total Department for Parish Services	5,508	13,333	7,825	20,000
Department for Finance	786	1,000	214	1,500
President's Office	86,222	84,322	-1,900	126,483
Board of Directors	9,900	8,654	-1,246	12,981
Archives	2,893	4,333	1,440	6,500
Administrative	164,109	172,746	8,637	259,119
Building	10,942	11,010	68	16,515
Total Administrative Expenses	274,852	282,065	7,213	423,097
Total District Expenses	929,768	1,048,450	118,682	1,572,674
Surplus (Deficit)	-152,318	0	152,318	0



Report of the Department for Finance

The Department for Finance has had a good year this year in assisting a number of congregations with affordable loans to improve their church properties and further the outreach of the church in their communities. Also with many congregational members investing in the CEF, we have been able to give annual rebates to many of them in amounts of up to 2% off their borrowing rate.

The CEF has a very wide diversification of investments in Ontario for the funds that are presently not being used for church projects. We have limits in place for borrowing and investments we can participate in, so the fund is always protected in the case of a congregation who may have difficulty in meeting their commitments to us. We use commonly

accepted asset-to-loan ratios in all our dealings.

Over the past few years, your CEF has invested any excess cash in long term investments in the Canadian economy through the Toronto Stock Exchange. We have been quite successful in this area also. We have a conservative view to investing your money and we have accumulated good returns which have been reinvested into the East District through our mission outreach programs and support, to some extent, of our district office.

We offer rates of return to our church members that are better than local banking establishments offer. We are not covered under the deposit insurance act that other financial institutions are, but

we feel our conservative approach is sufficient to offset that need. On top of that our committee is oversighted by the Board of Directors of East District who must approve or decline our decisions. So we all take great care in the protection of our depositors.

*Mr. Hugh Weltz
2016 Chairman*



Report of the Board of Directors

The East District convention theme of “Pray, Praise and Give Thanks” from 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, is so appropriate for the work we all do in His harvest field.

Despite the trials and tribulations of this world and the challenges within our synod, God in His wisdom continues to bless us. In our East District we have a number of missions, all requiring work and attention. Our mission in Atlantic Canada has many challenges and rewards. The Lord blessed us with a devoted “Circuit Rider” to build on the work of past pastors and lay people. The Lord promised that His Word would not come

back empty and there has been fruit in this mission with potential for more.

Much work and effort is being put forward on the restructuring of our synod, and I urge all of you to participate in this process. However, we must not allow this to take our focus off Christ, our mission work, and the care of our congregations, pastor, and other church workers.

Therefore, continue to Pray, Praise and Give Thanks.

*Mr. Reg Tiegs
Chairman*



GOD'S WILL FOR US
1 Thess. 5:16-18