

# Section E – REPORTS OF OTHER MINISTRIES

## Report of the National Bishop

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

Very soon your synod will come together to meet for its 2016 Synod Convention. I'd like to take this opportunity to sharing with you a little more about the mission and ministry of the National expression of our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

The coming two years are especially exciting in the life of our church. Along with 72 million Lutherans around the world who are part of The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), we are in the midst of commemorations leading towards the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation. The theme adopted by the LWF and endorsed by our church is *Liberated by God's Grace*. There are also three sub-themes: *Salvation—Not for Sale*, *Human Beings—Not for Sale*, and *Creation—Not for Sale*.

You will see this theme and sub-themes at gatherings across our church leading up to the anniversary. I love the way the theme grounds us in the central aspect of our Lutheran identity—that we are saved by grace through faith alone and it lifts up the contemporary challenges that beckon us forward as a church that is constantly being reformed.

In the midst of this anniversary commemoration, we continue to implement our strategic plan. The work at the National Office is formed around the four strategic directions identified by National Church Council (NCC) and affirmed by our National Convention: Spirited Discipleship, Healthy Church, Compassionate Justice and Effective Partnership.

The following is a small glimpse of the work at the National Office around the four strategic areas and how we carry out our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*.

### Spirited Discipleship

*By living out our call to be In Mission for Others, we strive to share our faith through our everyday actions. Whether it's being involved in one of the ELCIC's ministries or sharing the good news in our own unique way, members of the ELCIC are signs of hope and of God's amazing grace.*

Pray, read, worship, study, serve, give, tell. If you have

heard me speak at any gathering across our church over the last few years or read my columns in *Canada Lutheran*, you are hopefully able to say these seven areas of focus from the Call to Spiritual Renewal along with me! If you and your congregation haven't done so already, I invite you to join me and with others across our church, individually and as congregations and specialized ministries, to strive for a deeper discipleship as we live out our baptismal covenants. If you are already involved with the *Call to Spiritual Renewal* then I encourage you to continue to find ways to further your engagement and consider how you might share this call to deeper discipleship with your friends, family, congregations and community. At the 2015 ELCIC National Convention we introduced a new resource: *Call for Spiritual Renewal: Ideas for Individuals, Congregations and Communities*. Find out more at [elcic.ca/CSR](http://elcic.ca/CSR)

Many congregations around the ELCIC participated in the 2015 ELCIC Praise Appeal. Thank you for the significant extra-mile giving to support the work of the wider church. In 2016, we are once again asking for

your support of the ELCIC Praise Appeal and to designate one Sunday, at a time that works best for your local circumstances, to highlight the appeal. The theme for this year's ELCIC Praise Appeal is *Liberated by God's Grace, Human Beings—Not for Sale*. Lifting up the theme of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation allows us to remember and reflect on the Reformation and what it means for us now, living as Lutheran people within the whole body.

### Healthy Church

*Being effective as a church body means articulating a common vision for our church that enables us to: develop and promote a culture of mutual trust and accountability; improve the financial health of the church; and align communication efforts with the strategic plan—all while having the courage to face the challenges of the realities before us.*

Delegates to the 2015 ELCIC National Convention passed a motion asking the National Church to look at more cost effective options for future National Conventions. At the fall 2015 meeting of NCC, council discussed and considered what this might look like moving forward. With changes to the number of delegates at convention and how often conventions are held, it presents an opportunity to shape our church conventions in a new way. NCC members

passed a motion recommending for 2017 National Convention planning we consider: a university setting, one less day, shared cost with National Church, and a celebration component in lieu of banquet.

*A Policy Regarding Authorized Lay Ministries* was passed at the 2015 National Convention (<http://elcic.ca/Documents/documents/LayMinistriesMotionFINAL.pdf>). Work has now begun to look at a study of Diaconal Ministry and Orders of Ministry. The Faith, Order and Doctrine committee provided an update at the fall NCC meeting and noted this work is well underway. A church-wide study guide will be prepared for distribution later this year with findings to be presented in 2017.

Two years ago we initiated the production of the first ELCIC Annual Report. This 28-page report highlights the work being done across all expressions of the church—congregations, synods, national, global, and how these expressions work together to fulfill our call to be a church *In Mission for Others*. This report has again been prepared for this year. The most recent publication will be shared with you at your Synod Convention (view online: [elcic.ca/about-the/ELCIC/overview.cfm](http://elcic.ca/about-the/ELCIC/overview.cfm)). Additional print copies are available from the National Office. Please consider how you might share this resource with members of your congregation, your church council, and even new members looking to find out more about the ministry of the ELCIC.

Are you on social media? Is your congregation? Share with others across the church what you connects you with the ELCIC, being Lutheran and your faith by posting your selfies, social media posts and photos using the #myELCIC hashtag. We LOVE seeing your #myELCIC posts and others across the church do to! Click on the #myELCIC hashtag (on Facebook, twitter and instagram) and see what others are doing across our church.

## Compassionate Justice

*The ELCIC, alongside our many partners such as Canadian Lutheran World Relief, KAIROS, and others, strives to be a church In Mission for Others by being a prophetic and public voice to actively address social, environmental and justice issues locally, nationally and globally.*

The ELCIC is committed to working towards Right Relationships with Indigenous peoples. At our 2015 ELCIC National Convention last July, we were honoured to welcome Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Marie Wilson to be our keynote speaker. Also at this convention

we passed a motion a motion to calling on the Canadian government to convene a public inquiry concerning missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

One of the resources we introduced at last year's National Convention was an online mapping of ELCIC congregations, First Nations communities, resource agencies and Residential School locations (<http://elcic.ca/Reconciliation/>). This resource is intended to be a first step in becoming more aware of the Territory where you live and Indigenous Peoples across Canada. By locating your congregation on the map, may you begin to identify pathways to growing and renewing relationships.

At the 2015 ELCIC National Convention, delegates passed a motion calling the National Church to review our current *Resolution on Decisions-at-the-end-of-life*. A task force will be working on this and part of the process will involve conversations across our church regarding the needs of people in times of death and dying. A church wide study guide will also be prepared for distribution later in 2016.

## Effective Partnerships

*Our work In Mission for Others is multiplied when we work together with our partners both within the Lutheran community and ecumenically. The ELCIC strives to be good stewards of the resources we have been given by working alongside our partners and rejoicing in the gifts we can share together.*

One of my main responsibilities as National Bishop is nurturing and maintaining the many partnerships we are so blessed with through the ELCIC.

- Our partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) continues to grow and strengthen. Through this partnership we are able to challenge the causes and respond to the consequences of injustice and poverty such as helping to support Syrian refugees who have fled communities in Jordan and Iraq. Within Canada, CLWR provide leadership in refugee resettlement.
- Our partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada also continues to grow and strengthen. Senior staff from the two churches meet annually to connect on areas of joint work, and planning has begun for a second joint assembly between our two churches to take place in 2019.
- The four leaders of the ELCIC, Anglican Church of

Canada, The Episcopal Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have been meeting annually for several years now. This allows us to connect with one another on areas of common mission and ministry, and look for opportunities to have a united voice on areas of mutual concern

- Our partnership with The Lutheran World Federation is so very important in the life of our church. LWF is a leader in refugee services, including those related to conflicts in Syria and South Sudan. As LWF prepares for its 12th Assembly in 2017 (in Windhoek, Namibia), we look to them as they take the lead in the 500th anniversary preparations of the Reformation.

I love our church, and I'm proud of the ministry we do. I know that the impact of our ministry together is greater than the sum of our separate parts. We may have fewer members and financial resources than when our church was formed back in 1986 but from what I observed at our National convention last summer and from what I have seen and heard from synods, congregations, and ministries across this church—there is a new and exciting spirit within our church. We are becoming a mission-focused church. We are becoming more spiritually grounded and vibrant.

We are uniting in common vision and aims. And we are learning how to respect and even rejoice in regional differences we experience throughout the church.

How else can you explain a church undertaking something as bold and exciting as the ELCIC Reformation Challenge? I'm so excited for our church to sponsor 500 refugees; raise funds for 500 scholarships in schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; plant 500,000 trees in Canada, Ethiopia and Palestine; and raise \$500,000 for the LWF Endowment Fund ([elcic.ca/reformationchallenge](http://elcic.ca/reformationchallenge))!

As Romans 5:5 reminds us: *"...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."*

Through your faithfulness, witness, creativity and hopefulness, I have learned that hope does not disappoint. We are liberated by God's grace. And we are blessed with a hope in Jesus Christ that will not disappoint us.

Yours in Christ,  
The Rev. Susan C. Johnson  
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

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## The Bethany Group

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While The Bethany Group separated formally from the Synod in 2012, our strong relationship with the Synod still exists and our report is a reflection of our relationship and history.

Our volunteer Governing Board continues to set the direction and future of the organization. They remain committed and faithful to the mission, vision, and values – principles that are at the core of what The Bethany Group does.

In keeping with the times and looking towards the future, the Board updated its values and added an important component to the overall statements.

- Our **vision** is an enhanced quality of life for vulnerable people.
- Our **mission** is to enhance the quality of life of the people we serve.
- We **believe** that all people we serve deserve to be treated with dignity and respect in an atmosphere of holistic care, cooperation, and integrity working from a Christian foundation that reflects God's love and caring.
- **The Bethany Lifestyle** encourages a friendly and inviting culture where everyone is secure and their needs are respected.

### Relationships

Starting in 1995, The Bethany Group developed unique relationships with other housing management bodies, assuming all the management and administrative functions and essentially becoming the CAO. With the local Governing Boards remaining in place, The Bethany Group reports and is accountable to these Boards.

The first relationships began in 1995 with the Camrose & Area Lodge Authority and the Wetaskiwin & Area Lodge Authority. In 2011, The Bethany Group was invited by the Boards of Flagstaff Regional Housing Group and Lacombe Foundation to take act as their CAO. These relationships are still going strong and have led to further partnerships with similar organizations including: the Red Deer Housing Authority (2012) and Parkland Foundation (2015).

The guiding principles behind these relationships is to pool resources and learn from one another to ensure the social welfare of clients and the communities in which they

operate. Together, the partners provide health and housing services in over 30 communities across central Alberta.

As a group, we have become leaders in social housing and health services offering our expertise and knowledge to other organizations. We believe that stronger organizations make for stronger and inclusive communities, regardless of affiliations.

## Snapshot of Services

As an integral component of a central Alberta partnership, The Bethany Group now manages services in over 30 communities.

### HEALTH SERVICES

- Continuing Care – 130 total spaces
- Rosehaven Provincial Program – 75 spaces
- Designated Supportive Living Level 4 D – 35 total spaces (Dementia)
- Designated Supportive Living Level 4 – 50 total spaces
- Designated Supportive Living Level 3 – 81 total spaces
- Adult Day Support Program – 70 total spaces

### HOUSING SERVICES

- Lodges – 470 total spaces
- Seniors Subsidized Apartments – 797 total spaces
- Community Housing – 435 total spaces
- Private Landlord Rent Supplement Program – 321 spaces (variable month to month)
- Direct Rent Supplement Program – 626 spaces (variable month to month)
- Affordable Housing – 153 total spaces
- Independent Living (non-subsidized) – 219 total spaces

## Capital Projects

During the past two years we have built Wetaskiwin Meadows, a new 38 -suite seniors' apartment facility made possible by an affordable housing grant, attached to the renovated 26 -room Designated Supportive Living facility. Also we have completed an extension to the Rosealta seniors lodge in Camrose.

We are also building an extension to the seniors' lodge in Forestburg and working with the Parkland Foundation & government to replace the lodge in Innisfail.

## Accomplishments

- We were pleased to gain our full accreditation from Accreditation Canada on June 19, 2015. This accomplishment is the culmination of two years' work towards meeting a comprehensive set of 625 measurement criteria. They commented in their report, "This is a growing and energetic organization with a strong management team and good support from a very interested and involved Board."
- At the same time all of our facilities are regularly inspected by government to ensure that we are compliant with all regulations, licensing, and standards for health care and accommodation services. We are proud that we have consistently met all of our accountabilities and responsibilities and are fully compliant.
- We have committed to ensuring our Chaplaincy remains a core part of our service and we now have three full time dedicated members of our Chaplaincy team
- We have achieved the highest satisfaction survey results from our residents, staff, and families throughout the organization.
- We have accomplished changes to facilities maintaining good relationships with residents and communities.
- Our Education department is continuing to provide required and optional training programs using standard and innovative computer based methods.

## Future Plans

- Denis Beesley, our President and CEO who has provided excellent leadership over the last 9 years, has announced his retirement at the end of this year. We have engaged Davis Park, an executive search firm to help us find a replacement.
- This January the Board has embarked on a thorough Strategic Planning process which continues as part of each meeting.
- A Quality Reporting System with a dashboard has been created to complement the excellent Financial Reporting and Review systems.
- We are embarking on a new Communication Plan to connect with our communities. This includes education discussion forums such as one conducted April 7, 2016 on Physician Assisted Death with Dr. David Goa of the Ronning Institute

and the Hospice Society of Camrose and District. We want the communities we serve to know more about who we are, what we do and what our values are.

As we move forward towards a new future we have never forgotten our faith based roots that go back to 1922 when we started in Bawlf, Alberta. We are proud of our heritage and the service and support that we provide to those most in need and to vulnerable people in our communities.

We appreciate your ongoing support and prayers.

Yours in Christ, Dr. Odell Olson, Board Chair

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## Camps

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### Camp Kuriakos

Kuriakos is here to serve your congregation. There are many exciting things underway at camp, and we'd love to hear your ideas. Outdoor Ministry provides an important supplement to congregational ministry. Following the biblical model, camping programs take us out of our everyday environment and put us in a natural space, provide a chance to ask questions, think deeply, learn activities, and build meaningful relationships within an intentional Christian community. Thanks to all the congregations who have supported Kuriakos by becoming Partners or Members, making donations, taking on service projects, or who have worked with us as part of the SHOUT OUT Team.

This past year has seen many changes, and we're excited to bring new projects to life. We were sad to say farewell to Lauren Wray who served at Kuriakos for over 11 years, and thank her for her many years of service. We are pleased to have Rev. Art Weiss serving as Executive Director for our ministry. Pastor Art has many years of leadership service in camp, retreat and parish ministry. He is driven to facilitate ministry connections between all three of these expressions of mission in Christ's name. We have appreciated having Charlotte and Sarah join our full-time team as Office Manager and Outreach Coordinator respectfully.

Our most exciting project has been Dana Lodge renovations, and we're grateful to the many volunteers who have given in excess of 2000 hours to this renewal ministry. This updated facility is perfect for groups up to 25 people, with space for meetings, meals, and 3 washrooms/2 showers.

We have seen an increase in Family and Adult program participation, and we also launched a new retreat program for Young Adults. Many more new programs are on the way for this summer, including a Grandparents/Kids Family Camp, a Dad+Kids Camping Retreat, Junior and Senior Adventure Weeks (with overnight canoe options), and a Leaders In Training program for preparing youth to lead at camp, at church, and in their community. We look forward to working with even more congregations to see as many people as possible have the chance to create lifelong memories at camp. Currently, Sylvan Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Association has 11 Partner congregations and 10 Member congregations.

#### 2015 Kuriakos Numbers Review:

- Summer 2015: Kuriakos served 573 campers for a total of 3170 camper days.
- Retreats 2015: Including Youth, Young Adults, Men's, Women's and Confirmation Retreats, we served 236 campers, for a total of 708 camper days.
- Kuriakos Outdoor School (KOS) programs 2015: Serving 16 groups for a total of 433 students and 733 camper days.
- Service events 2015: 32 people participated in our Bike-Walk-Run fundraiser in June and 101 people participated in work weekends.
- Rental Use 2015: Kuriakos served 67 groups over 196 days of use. These groups represent 2979 individuals

#### CURRENT CAMP BOARD (March 2016 – March 2017)

**Chairperson:** Barb Stolee (Calgary)

**Vice-Chair:** Marilla Farries (Red Deer)

**Treasurer:** Michelle Sorenson (Olds)

**Secretary:** Joel Berg (Edmonton)

**Vision Committee:** Katrina Dick (Calgary), Pastor Marty Tuer (Ponoka)

**Risk Management Committee:** Kathy Anderson (Edmonton), Mike Hoff (Calgary)

**Sustainability Committee:** Ingrid Parker (Edmonton), Marty Winchell (Rocky Mountain House)

Volunteer opportunities, in addition to the Camp Board include: serving on the Vision, Sustainability, or Risk Management Committees or additional working groups which are established to assist staff with duties, including Shout Out Team, Program, Property, and Fundraising Work Groups. These committees are generally short-termed and focused on a specific task or event.

## Hastings Lake Lutheran Bible Camp

Hello to All of you in support of Hastings! **Thanks be to God for your caring support.**

Spring is a great time, to remember and awaken. The nice weather is God's way of inviting us into the great outdoors to enjoy and be inspired by all of his creation. We remember that God kept his whole creation safe through the winter and that the fresh scents of spring awaken and revive us. Hastings has been awakening for some time in its preparations for a new camping season. We dearly hope you will be part of summer at Hastings directly yourselves or at least you will specifically invite and encourage family and friends to attend Hastings this summer.

We have a challenge this year to meet or exceed our all-time recorded amazing record of 639 registrations that occurred just this last year. Everyone who comes has had great things to say about our new Solomon's Lodge and how it has improved the camping experience for many of our campers. Financially our contingency fund in our operating budget was able to handle any unanticipated needs last year, Praise God. Therefore, the Board is breathing a sigh of relief and is grateful to be feeling that we are in a good and solid position to begin this camping season.

Now is the opportunity to make sure our future needs are being planned for and addressed with good stewardship. We are aware that our West Campground being on the other side of the athletic field is not being utilized very often because it seems so far from the main buildings. So we are taking steps to enlarge the number of and the size of sites in our main East Campground, so that we can pursue annual rentals of West Campground sites in a similar way to how Mulhurst Camp has been doing it. Therefore, by building a revenue stream of West Campground annual rentals we can further stabilize our annual budget to handle much needed upgrades and improvements. Our Future Planning Committee and our Maintenance Committee concur that Noah's Ark needs desperate attention as soon as we can develop a plan and a funding strategy. Please help us to find the ways and means to improve Noah's Ark in a similar way that Solomon's Hall transitioned into the amazing new facility called Solomon's Lodge.

As God has always led us through all of the difficult transitions in the past, we will hold high our mission of **Making Christ Known** as our steadfast guiding light. We gather in prayer with you as we prepare for our camping

season 2016. We give thanks for all that God has very lovingly accomplished in our facilities and more importantly in the hearts of every camper who attends.

Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers for the ongoing ministry of Hastings

Respectfully submitted with God's Most Abundant Blessings,

*Dale Swanson*  
HLLBC Board Chair

## Mulhurst Lutheran Camp

**Looking back** at the past 12 months it has been both busy and exciting for our camp ministry. We celebrated our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June and we had an amazing summer camping season which included the start up of a single family camp and a record number of high school volunteers. Fall events and retreats were also well attended and there were many stories to come out of the attendees.

The board also worked hard during the summer and fall along with Les Stahlke as we moved to a relationship governance model. With that we also updated our strategic plan and refined our mission and vision statements (see below). "The first order of business under the new governance model" wrote Sherry Knull, board chair, "was to appoint Marg Daly as our Interim Chief Executive Officer." Marg began with Mulhurst in 2012 and at that time agreed to serve five summers which will conclude in 2016.

**Where are we now?** By the time you read this we will have announced our summer staff, be hosting canoe and kayak training at Mulhurst June 15 and 16 and be soon welcoming our staff and also the staff of Hastings and Kuriakos starting June 21<sup>st</sup> for our annual joint staff training. The theme for this summer is the life of Jesus and the call placed upon each of us to follow him. To date we have had more requests for financial sponsorship for summer 2016 than we have had and we hope that in spite of economic conditions we will see more great campers this summer as we seek to serve God.

**Looking ahead** we will face many of the same challenges as other non-profits in Alberta. We have raised over 60% towards the capital campaign to expand our lodge, and are hoping to see the remainder of funds and construction move along soon as we continue to upgrade facilities and become more handicap accessible. With the construction we will

have an interruption of programs and rentals, but until we have contractors in place that schedule is a mystery.

We have had stable year round staffing since 2013 for which we have been grateful. As you will have noted above Marg has given September 30<sup>th</sup> as her last day working with us in a full time capacity so we are in the process of discernment for the next CEO. With a small camp our staff need to be able to wear multiple hats so please pray with us as we prepare for the next year of camping.

**In closing** we are grateful to the support of the synod through grants, attendance at events, PR through Wednesday word, website visibility etc. We are also grateful to our 21 member congregations and remind others who may wish to join that we exist for ministry and would like to expand our network further. We have also been blessed with grants from federal and provincial governments for summer staff. Thanks to all who make Mulhurst the amazing place it is.

*Gracious God, we thank you for the 70+ years of ministry at Mulhurst Camp: for changed lives, for the honour of developing leaders who yearn to follow Christ, and for the many staff and volunteers we have had the privilege to work with. As we move forward, bless us with funds to complete the lodge expansion and wisdom for staffing and programming as we seek to share the love of God with all those who come to camp. May all glory and praise be to you God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen*

**OUR VISION:** *to be a community where all have the opportunity to reach spiritual awareness and experience leadership*

**OUR MISSION:** *for all to experience God's love in a natural setting through servant leadership and personal growth*

Report submitted by  
Marg Daly, Interim CEO

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## Canadian Lutheran World Relief

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On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, I wish to thank the leaders, congregations and members of the Alberta and the Territories Synod. We are thankful in the Lord's name for your trust and confidence in CLWR. We value your partnership as we seek to fulfill Christ's mission together.

CLWR is now in its 70<sup>th</sup> year of service on behalf of Lutherans from coast to coast to coast. Our vision remains focused on challenging the causes of human suffering and

poverty so that people may live in peace and dignity and are empowered to achieve their universal rights to basic needs and quality of life.

As the executive director of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, it is my pleasure to bring greetings to the people of the Alberta and the Territories Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

CLWR has made an intentional decision to renew its emphasis on the needs of forcibly displaced persons in the world. This makes sense since as an agency with vast experience in sustainable development, humanitarian assistance and refugee sponsorship, CLWR understands the full cycle of the refugee experience and is committed to bring about actions that result in better protection and treatment of forcibly displaced persons as well as the fulfilment of their human rights.

This includes supporting programing that addresses the longer-term needs of forcibly displaced persons. To do so, requires a stable and sufficient funding base that transcends the traditional divide between "development aid" and "emergency assistance" and recognizes that forced displacement is a global problem that threatens the attainment of all anti-poverty goals.

Inspired by God's love for humanity, CLWR believes that traditional "care and maintenance" approaches to emergency relief are unsustainable and can lead to a culture of dependency. CLWR believes that assistance in protracted refugee situations should aim towards resiliency as the ultimate goal. It is imperative that adequate resources are invested in linking relief and development work to ensure flexible, relevant assistance that leads to poverty eradication and empowers affected individuals to be agents of change and transformation.

CLWR is engaged with a number of refugee and internally displaced populations. Chief among them are Syrians in Jordan. Since the beginning of the conflict in Syria, CLWR has programmed nearly \$10 million in humanitarian aid and relief. We will soon launch a bi-lateral program to improve learning environments in 75 schools by providing renovations, repairs and upgrades to washrooms, classrooms, hallways, libraries, recreational areas and school kitchens. As well 450 teachers, advisors and school administrators will be trained by 40 staff trainers in hygiene promotion, environmental awareness and child protection. Our partners will be the Jordanian Ministry of Education and LWF-Jordan.

In Northern Iraq, CLWR and Lutheran World Federation are working to reduce the vulnerability of conflict-affected people in the Dohuk region by providing structural and sanitation upgrades to 200 homes and distributing non-food items. The most vulnerable families, including those headed by women are being targeted for relief.

There is almost no coverage of the South Sudanese refugee situation. The ongoing conflict and worsening humanitarian situation inside the world's youngest nation is fueling a refugee exodus into Ethiopia, Kenya, and Uganda at a much higher rate than initially anticipated. CLWR is supporting humanitarian aid and building resilience for refugees from South Sudan in a variety of settings in those countries. We have been granted another \$1million by the Government of Canada to continue this work.

The media attention on Syrian refugees and the ELCIC Reformation challenge to sponsor refugees has led to an explosion of interest in sponsorship by congregations. CLWR is responding to this demand through its regional offices in Waterloo and New Westminster. In fact, the staff of CLWR, in partnership with the staffs of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and Lutheran Church-Canada are "walking the walk" and have sponsored a family of four Syrians who are now in Winnipeg.

The renewed emphasis on refugees has not diminished our traditional development, education and health programming. Hand in hand with partners on the ground, lives are being changed in places like Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Haiti, West Bank and East Jerusalem, and Nepal to name only a few locations.

Global Encounter 2016 was a huge success. Members of this synod were among the 41 people who visited CLWR programs in Uganda and Ethiopia. The 2018 Global Encounter will travel to Jordan and the Holy Land.

God continues to lead us in new directions. CLWR's public policy focus will be called Education in Action. It will work to encourage policy changes within government; engage government stakeholders on issues that affect CLWR; and, educate the Lutheran community.

We celebrate the loving and caring hands that prepare quilts and blankets and fill We Care kits in church basements and halls in this synod and across Canada. At least four shipments of donated commodities leave for refugee camps and development programs around the world every year. I am delighted to announce that the number of We Care bags ordered has topped 100,000.

We are thankful for Marcus Busch's leadership of our board as our President. His insight and discernment add great value to the board's decisions and governance.

To learn more about what CLWR is doing to make a difference in people's lives, please visit our website at [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org).

We pray God will continue to bless you so that you may be a blessing for others.

God bless  
Robert Granke  
Executive Director

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## Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute

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Blessings and greetings from all of us at Lutheran Collegiate Bible Institute, Outlook, SK! The 2015-2016 school year is now well into its second semester here at LCBI. Our enrollment this school year is now at 63 students, the majority of whom are residents of Saskatchewan.

While we would prefer a larger student body, there are some gifts to smallness that we are enjoying at LCBI, for example smaller class sizes! Our average class-size is around 15 students, which means we are able to offer high-quality education with a very personal approach.

### Choir

Our Concert Choir program began this year preparing for Homecoming. The Choir sang several pieces on their own and with the alumni choir at Homecoming. After homecoming we started a chamber choir for those students interesting in some more challenging pieces. Our annual Choir tour took place over Easter Break, travelling to four choir members' hometowns in Alberta. The tour went very well with good attendance at concerts, excellent hospitality, and an opportunity for the choir to focus on singing and improving. The choir attended the University of Saskatchewan Greystone Singers concert in March and heard some excellent singing. Both choirs competed in the Outlook and District Music Festival in mid-April. Our season will conclude with a concert in Saskatoon and a home concert in Outlook in June.

### Campus Life

This has been a year of development for LCBI's Campus Life. We hired Bryan Balaton as our new boy's dorm staff and have since February had Bob Akre working along-side

our boy's dorm staff to give them some helpful training. We are developing a dorm curriculum to be instituted for the 2016-2017 school year. This curriculum will involve new events as well as weekly life lesson plans for the students and plenty of student leadership opportunities. One possible event to begin the new year would be a weekend camp experience so the students can get to know one another and the staff in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

Dorm staff is receiving professional development training with the school's counsellor as well as third party seminars.

This year we welcomed Pastor David Holmes to the school for two Faith-in-Life events. David participated in classes and visited with everyone as a chaplain presence for the students and staff during his time here. We also had a very impressive presentation from SGT Brian Trainor about cyberbullying. Still to come this year is a camping/canoe trip near Lake Diefenbaker which the students are excited about.

We have been given notice that Amanda Knutson, who is the Dean of Campus Life and a member of the girl's dorm staff, will be leaving the LCBI family. That means over the summer we will be looking to fill this position.

## Mission Team

Our Mission team spent their February break in downtown East Vancouver BC, where they worked with the YWAM organization. Monday they did the "urban plunge" in the pouring rain where they spent several hours walking through downtown Vancouver. They were challenged with the task of connecting with the homeless people of East Hastings Street. It was an interesting day, spent without phones or any money in their pockets and just connecting with people. Tuesday was a very informative day as the team spent the day learning and observing the practices of different religions. They had the opportunity to visit a Mosque, a Buddhist Temple and a Sikh Temple. Wednesday and Thursday the team split into two groups and had varied schedules. They were back on the streets of the Downtown East Side offering prayers to anyone who asked - a great experience for the team and a step out of their comfort zones. They also served at the Union Gospel Mission and helped clean at a Single Room Occupancy in the Downtown East Side. On the last day in Vancouver all of the Mission Trip adventurers took a well-deserved day to explore many tourists' spots.

## Academics

The school year began, as legislated, on September 1st, 2015. We welcomed 67 students to the LCBI family on Opening Day. As well, we were fortunate to have Mr. Graham Codling join the faculty this year, as teacher and our new Concert Choir Director. The student body comprises a breadth of denominations, and an equal ratio of day and dorm students. We will graduate 25 students this year, and they are going on to a variety of adventures after LCBI, including Bible school, university, short term missions, and trade and technology schools. LCBI was approved to deliver the IB Diploma program starting Fall 2016, and this three -year application process has been a very rewarding one for teachers professionally and we anticipate an enriching one for our new IBDP students. Our academic team is second to none, and the work they do in the classroom as well as the 1000's of hours per year they volunteer with our student body in developing the whole person is a blessing to LCBI High School.

## Fund Development

We have most recently launched an aggressive fund development campaign, *Cast Your Vote*. LCBI needs to grow or we must halt our school operations. LCBI has seen signs of fresh growth this year after three difficult years. While vigorous efforts are being made to recruit and while lives continue to be impacted and changed at LCBI, we must support our growth, now in April and to the end of June. With support from all friends of LCBI will GROW.

Our cash flow has been impacted. Sask. Education capped the grant program unexpectedly and LCBI has received extra students without government support. Western Canadian economy has reduced donations to less than half of our average year. These realities have created a critical state where income does not meet our expenses. We continue to curb spending and are operating with minimum teaching and support staff, sharing responsibilities to cover staffing shortages. Despite our cost cutting efforts, our income is not covering our expenses and cannot produce the kind of growth needed to allow a sustainable LCBI. LCBI has and will always be a school where "We Would See Jesus".

Please continue to uphold our LCBI students, staff and Board of Regents in your prayers and thoughts. It means a lot to us to know that we have the support of so many people in Saskatchewan and abroad.

In Christ,  
Respectfully Submitted by;  
Wayne Hove, LCBI President

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## Lutheran Hospital Ministries- Southern Alberta

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For Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta, it has been a momentous year! We are celebrating 40 years of our founding and bringing Jesus to those in need of physical and spiritual healing. We are so thankful that God has blessed us with those 40 years by giving us spiritual leaders who have lead and trained us. We are thankful for the many visitors who bring Jesus to the four hospitals and many care centers in Calgary. We thank also the many men and women who have volunteered their time to serve on our board of directors and provide the means for the visitors to complete their hospital visits.

Our activities have included our Walk/Run for Love at the end of April or beginning May. Many churches have been very supportive in either providing walkers or have been financially supportive of those walkers. The Walk/Run has been our life blood and has kept us financially stable. It is a fun way to support the hospital visitation need.

Other activities have been our June 2015 information session held at our normal meeting date-the third Saturday of each month. Our June 2016 session will have Pastor Rick Bergh give a presentation on the science of death and dying (thanatology).

Another activity is our November Visitor Appreciation Luncheon where the most important people of our organization are recognized - our visitors. To note for 2015, 5006 visits were made for a total of 1,496 hours. It is that time bring healing to Lutherans.

Challenges remain. The biggest is to increase our member visitors. At present we have 35-40 visitors and we are slowly growing as training allows. It gives us many people to visit our four hospitals but not the many more members required for our 90+ (and growing) care centers.

Another growing demand is to provide church services in the care centers. People are required who can help bring the word of Christ to hungry spiritual souls. Also required are projectors and guitars. If you have any of those items, please contact our office at 403-264-4045.

On behalf of Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta, I thank you for your generous support in bringing Jesus to those needing physical and spiritual healing.

God's Blessings on your deliberations,  
Floyd Schneider, Chairman  
Lutheran Hospital Ministries-Southern Alberta

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## Lutheran Institutional Ministry Edmonton

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LIME (Lutheran Institutional Ministry Edmonton), begun in 1971, conducts a visitation program in hospitals, some nursing homes, and some other long-term care facilities in Edmonton, St. Albert, Sherwood Park, and occasionally in Leduc. This work is currently being done by part-time chaplain Rev. Mark Hornig and ten volunteers, who receive ongoing training in monthly sessions led by Rev. Don Olsen. Pastors Hornig and Olsen are both on the ELCIC clergy roster. LIME's volunteers and eight member of the Board of Directors are members of the ELCIC, NALC (North American Lutheran Church), and LCC (Lutheran Church Canada). Three members of LIME's board also serve as hospital visitors. I am very thankful for the dedication of both LIME's board members and visitors. Our motivation is well expressed by Jesus' words in Matthew 25:36, "I was sick, and you visited me," to which He adds, several verses later, "Just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

LIME's current annual expenses are about \$32,000; 75% of this total comes from ELCIC individuals and congregations. LIME is extremely grateful for this support; without it LIME's ministry could not continue. Several years ago LIME's financial situation was critical; this was relieved by a \$10,000 gift from the estate of long-time LIME supporter, Doris Lifeso, plus a \$20,000 gift from Augustana Lutheran Church in Edmonton when it disbanded in 2014. These generous gifts have helped LIME substantially.

LIME changed its office address at the beginning of 2016. Before then it was at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park; now it is at Calvary Lutheran Church, 10875 76 Avenue NW, Edmonton, T6E 1M1.

LIME continues to need more hospital visitors. As Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few." (Matt. 9:37; Luke 10:2). As indicated above, LIME provides training for volunteers. Additional board members are also

welcome. If you are interested, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted, in the name of our risen Lord Jesus,  
Rev. Lowell Eckert, LIME board chairman

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## Lutheran Theological Seminary

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Lutheran Theological Seminary is uniquely situated not only because it is on the University of Saskatchewan campus, but more importantly because of its membership and reputation as a member of the Saskatoon Theological Union (STU). As a member of the STU it is in relationship with St. Andrews College - a college of the United Church of Canada; Emmanuel and St. Chad College - a college of the Anglican Church; and Horizon - college of the Pentecostal Church. Its reputation for openness and acceptance of members of other denominations was affirmed by the Board of Bethany Mennonite Brethren College who thought of LTS as the first place to reorganize its education programme. The commitment of LTS to the many and various facets of diversity means that its future needs to be assured. There may be issues, mainly financial, that create some anxiety but these are insignificant with respect to the important place LTS has on the campus and in the Church.

Having served as Acting President of LTS since 15 July 2015, I am increasingly hopeful about the future of the seminary. I appreciate the ongoing support and commitment of the Board to the seminary, faculty, staff and to me as Acting President. This commitment to the future of the seminary is reflected in the hard work being done on the strategic plan. I also want to express my appreciation to the Bishops who have welcomed me to their synods, set up meetings for me to address local clergy, and provided me with an opportunity to address the Synod Councils. These opportunities allowed me to correct misinformation and provide a more positive message about the seminary. Everywhere I have had the opportunity to speak about the seminary I have been warmly received and I am thankful for this. These welcomes are some of the positive outcomes of the goal I set for myself of Bridge Building.

In my report to the November 2015 Board meeting I offered the umbrella concept of God's Mission as a bridge that integrated the various aspects of the seminary system. This

theme was further developed in a presentation to the faculty and staff in which I described the whole system, Synods, Board and seminary, as a series of silos relatively unconnected from one another.

What connects these various silos? I believe that the connection is God's Mission. The purpose of each Synod is to particularize that Mission in its defined geographic area. It is God's Mission that defines not just the Synods but the seminary as well. This was recognized by the Board of Governors of LTS in the new LTS Mission Statement. The seminary does not have its own mission but rather participates with the Synods as they seek to full God's Mission. What is unique and important about the seminary is its functional position. Its function is to assist the Synod's in fulfilling God's Mission.

### Faculty

In a number of ways, the faculty have borne the brunt of the Board's actions when it had to deal with financial difficulties at LTS. Tenured faculty members were laid off leaving the seminary with only 3 faculty members and the president. This action, however, did not reduce the administrative duties at the seminary but rather placed the burden of doing them on the few remaining faculty. We owe the faculty our thanks and appreciation for their commitment and dedication.

The staff have been busy. The Development Office has had another successful year in fund raising. The maintenance staff have worked hard to clean up the grounds and lay sod down in the old pool areas. We are blessed by having a diligent and dedicated library staff. The finance office has done great work which is not only appreciated by the Board, but was commented on by the auditors. The staff function in the background and their contribution to an efficient and effected system is often overlooked. Our thanks to every one of them.

This year two faculty members will have sabbaticals. From January to July 2016 Prof. Kristine Ruffatto is on sabbatical. She is teaching in Cameroon. Prof. Gordon Jensen will be on sabbatical from July 2016 to July 2017. Since Prof. Jensen is also the Registrar, Colleen Rickard has been hired as Registrar while he is away.

## Students

Enrollment at the seminary is slowly increasing and the trend is very encouraging. Registration has improved as shown by the statistics for 2015-2016.

D.Min	6
M.Div	17
MTS	1
Diaconal	6
Occasional Students	14

## Exciting News

The future of the seminary is exciting. A new major in the Master of Theological Studies programme is the degree in Community Health. This degree is directed particularly to parish nurses. We are truly fortunate to have Pastor Ali Tote as the lead in this programme. Pastor Ali Tote has a Ph.D. in community health from the University of Saskatchewan and is bringing his knowledge and expertise into the service of the church.

Another exciting development is the proposed Lay Academy which will operate under the auspices of the seminary. The Lay Academy will be offering courses for interested lay people who wish to learn more about their church, have a deeper understanding of their faith and a more profound appreciation of the grace of God. Some of these courses will be offered online while others in local areas.

The Saskatchewan Synod has moved into the seminary building. Their coming is important for the seminary since it will no longer be perceived as being isolated from the Church. The Church will now be in the seminary. This new relationship opens up new and exciting possibilities.

Another new possibility is that Bethany Mennonite College has approached the seminary and is negotiating to use our residence and a class room. In the Spring of 2015 the college had to shut its doors and now some of the Board members are examining their options.

## Recruitment

Recruitment is essential if the church is going to have pastors and diaconal minister in the future. The Board and the seminary have been actively investing resources in

recruitment but their efforts alone are not sufficient. It is the responsibility of every pastor and member of the congregations to encourage their children, family members, or friends and members to consider the ministry as a career.

## Finances

It would be remiss not to mention the financial concerns of the seminary. The seminary has a revenue and not an expenditure problem. Building a solid financial foundation for the seminary is like putting together Lego blocks; it takes patience, persistence and creativity. One such block is to increase dramatically the number of people who pledge annually to the seminary. Have you considered making a pledge to your seminary? We are thankful for those who already make regular pledges. An important block in rebuilding the financial basis of the seminary concerns the financial commitment of the Synods. There are other blocks that are part of the process of moving the seminary to a more secure financial stability. The presence of the following institutions who are leasing space provide additional income for LTS: Emmanuel and St. Chad College who has signed a three-year lease, and the Saskatchewan Synod who on 23 March 2016 will be moving into the seminary building. Our finance should also benefit should the negotiations with the Bethany Mennonite College be successful.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael J. Nel D.Th.  
Acting President  
Lutheran Theological Seminary

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## *On Eagle's Wings* Ecumenical Ministries Inc.

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First – A huge and heartfelt 'thank you' to all of you who have supported the ministry of *On Eagle's Wings* during the past year. 98 individuals and more than 10 groups, many from within this Synod, have given:

- 6,600+ hours per year to the ministries of teaching Bible Camp, mailing, flight ops, office admin, prayer, maintenance, hospitality, board members, and publications (electronic, print and social media).

## Ministry Highlights:

- 2016 GRACE (God Rescues All Children Everywhere) Bible Camps being planned.
- 2015 CALL (Children Always Loved by the Lord) Bible Camps:
  - 390 children; 23 local community helps and coordinators; 16 southern volunteers; 10 congregations donating craft supplies.
  - 11 communities: 5 north of the Arctic Circle.
  - Grise Fiord and Resolute Bay Bible Camps made possible by special gifts, including donations of airmiles and aeroplane points.
  - Written by Melissa May.
- 2014 GLOW (God's Love in Our World) Bible Camps:
  - 462 children; 27 local community helpers; 26 southern volunteer teachers.
  - 12 communities: 3 north of the Arctic Circle.
  - International volunteer teacher – Annemarie Emmen from the Netherlands.
  - First Bible Camp in Yellowknife in partnership with Side Door Youth ministry.
  - Written by Melissa May.
- Mini-Bible Camps year-round in Fort Chipewyan, AB; Tsiighetchic, NT; Inuvik, NT. Made possible in 2015/2016 by a new grant from the United Church Thrift Store in Spruce Grove.
- Children's activity bags continue to be made by residents at the Edmonton Women's Correctional Centre.
  - Many bags donated to the 2015 ELCIC National Convention.
- "Being There" for year-round visiting in NWT and northern Alberta for pastoral support, grief support, encouragement, worship leadership.
- Curriculum writing supported by grants from the New England Company (in partnership with the Diocese of Athabasca) and Boville-Murray (USA).
- All *On Eagle's Wings* Bible Camp and Sunday School curricula are available to your congregations for your own children's ministries and VBS.
- New opportunity to partner with the Diocese of the Arctic Youth Network to reach youth in many communities in NT and NU.
- Presence in organization of, and attendance at, 2014 Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
  - Follow-up is ongoing in liaison with local coordinators.

## Comings and Goings:

- Said 'goodbye' to Co-Director, AnnE Zimmerman, as she moved to Cold Lake to serve as Interim Licensed Lay Leader at Lakeland Lutheran Church. June 2015.
- Said 'goodbye' for Roger Plouffe, Office Manager, as he moved North to serve in pastoral leadership in the Northwest Territories. May 2014
- Welcomed Sheila Nielsen as Office Assistant.
- Welcomed Charlie Hand and Marcus Hoople as office volunteers.
- Welcomed George Jason and Cliff Horton as Governing Board members.
- Honoured Rev. Kirk Tastad and Ross Whitelaw for their service as board members. Were present for Kirk's farewell service at Holy Family.

## Gratitude for Unexpected blessings:

- Forgiven! Outstanding mortgage balance of \$36,000 forgiven by the School Sisters of Notre Dame as part of their Year of Mercy observance.
- Special gifts to reduce old credit card debt by \$35,000 since 2014.
- Designated gifts to cover costs of extensive renovations to exterior roof and walls of office building in 2014. We now have a safe and healthy office home that will last for many years.

## Social Media and Online Presence:

- New website [www.oneagleswingsnorth.org](http://www.oneagleswingsnorth.org) (or .com – both are ours) is up and running! New features include free downloads of children's Bible activities and social media feeds.
- Increased social media presence through YouTube, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. Number of followers is slowly increasing; thanks to networking ability each provides.

## Clean and Green:

- Significant improvements in meeting donor need and preferences through a database upgrade. This means:
  - Less paper used.
  - Less waste.
  - Reduced mailing costs.
  - More electronic mail for those who opt for it.

- Updated desktop publishing software means a cleaner, more contemporary look for publications. More publications done in-house.

Thank you to everyone who continues to walk with northern Christians and *On Eagle's Wings* through giving their gifts of self, time, gifts and energy. You are noticed and appreciated! Questions about our ministry are always welcome.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev Lesley Hand  
Executive Director