ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust - Fund A

Fund Overview

Description
Endowment Fund “A,” of the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (Fund A, or the Fund), was established to allow for the collective long-term investment of funds belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), its congregations, synods, seminaries and other eligible affiliated entities. To the extent practicable, the Fund pursues investment objectives in line with the Economic Social Criteria Investment Screens approved by the ELCA Church Council. Incorporated into the Fund’s accounting are unitization and quarterly endowment distributions. ELCA administers the Fund, and the investment advisor is Board of Pensions of the ELCA, doing business as Portico Benefit Services.

Only ELCA-related institutions can be eligible to participate in this investment fund that is exempt from most security registration requirements in accordance with the Philanthropy Protection Act of 1995.

About Performance
The investment results depicted herein represent historical gross performance before the deduction of investment management costs. Note: The monthly management fee includes an administrative fee of 60 basis points (0.60%) and an expense ratio of approximately 44 basis points (0.44%). Annual, cumulative and annualized total returns are calculated assuming reinvestment of dividends and income plus capital appreciation. Performance for periods greater than one year is annualized. Underlying holdings data has been provided by Portico Benefit Services, A Ministry of the ELCA. Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.

*Since Inception: July 1, 1999.

Glossary:
- Equity: MSCI ACWI
- Fixed Income: Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index
- Sharpe Ratio: A risk adjusted measure of performance. The higher the Sharpe Ratio, the stronger the portfolio’s risk adjusted return.
- Max Drawdown: Measures the largest single drop from peak to trough of a portfolio’s return.
- Alpha: A measure of performance above or below the benchmark. A positive alpha indicates returns greater than the benchmark.
- Beta: A measure of performance relative to the performance of the benchmark. A beta of 1 indicates that the portfolio moves hand-in-hand with the benchmark.

Growth of $100 (7 Years Performance Analysis)

Multi-Period Performance Analysis

7 Years Risk / Return Performance Analysis

Information Disclosures: This report is intended to provide current Fund value information for Endowment Fund A of the ELCA Endowment Fund Pooled Trust (the Fund). Investor participants own units of the Fund, receive quarterly account statements, and have online access to monthly performance reporting. The minimum initial investment is $25,000, and the minimum for deposits thereafter is $2,000. There are no charges for withdrawals, or opening or closing an account.

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Capital Markets Commentary

Risk markets globally continued to gain in the second quarter of 2017. Led by international markets it appears we are in the midst of the most synchronous global economic upturn since 2009. The Morgan Stanley bullish global equity outlook assumes earnings estimates will continue to move higher as the global economic recovery persists, and that valuations can expand further as market participants become more comfortable with the self-sustainability of this recovery. We are watching the Federal Open Market Committee, which hiked rates for the third meeting in a row this quarter and signaled one further hike in 2017 along with plans to begin the unwinding of their balance sheet later this year.

For the quarter, US equities posted strong performance, especially the Healthcare sector of the S&P 500, which returned 7.1%. The Telecom sector was a clear laggard (-7.1%) as delayed tax reform weighed on returns for the sector. While the US had strong performance at 3.1%, the largest returns for the quarter actually came from abroad in emerging markets 6.4% and Europe 7.7%. The bond market was positive in the second quarter with the High Yield index returning 2.2% and the Barclays Aggregate returning 1.4% as the yield on the 10-yr Treasury declined. Commodities continued negative returns falling (-3.2%) for the quarter. Macro strategies suffered during the quarter while event-driven managers posted 1.6% returns on the back of strong equity markets.

Morgan Stanley & Co. economists expect US real GDP will be 2.2% in 2017. They forecast global GDP growth to be 3.6% in 2017. Morgan Stanley remains constructive on global equities relative to bonds and thinks growth and interest rates will support equity multiples.

Global Equity Commentary

In the second quarter, emerging markets (EM) and international developed regions both delivered positive returns. The MSCI EAFE Index (a benchmark for international developed markets) rose 6.4% for U.S.-currency investors and 2.9% for local-currency investors, as the U.S. dollar depreciated in relation to the currencies of many nations in the index. For the second quarter, the MSCI Emerging Markets Index increased 6.4% for U.S.-currency investors and the MSCI Europe Index increased 7.7% for U.S.-currency investors. The S&P 500 Index increased 3.1% for the quarter with 9 of the 11 sectors generating positive returns for the quarter. Healthcare, Industrials, and Financials were the top performers while Energy and Telecom were the biggest laggards.

Global Fixed Income Commentary

The bond market registered slightly positive returns during the second quarter. The Barclays U.S. Aggregate Bond Index, a general measure of the bond market, increased 1.4% for the quarter. Interest rates decreased during the first quarter, as the yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note declined to a quarter-end 2.30% from 2.38% at the end of the 1Q 2017. Riskier parts of the bond market such as U.S. high yield debt increased in the second quarter. The Barclays Capital High Yield Index, a measure of lower-rated corporate bonds, rose 2.2%.

Market commentary has been provided by the Morgan Stanley Global Investment Committee.
Glossary of Terms

**Active Contribution Return:** The gain or loss percentage of an investment relative to the performance of the investment benchmark.

**Active Exposure:** The percentage difference in weight of the portfolio compared to its policy benchmark.

**Active Return:** Arithmetic difference between the manager’s return and the benchmark’s return over a specified time period.

**Actual Correlation:** A measure of the correlation (linear dependence) between two variables X and Y, with a value between +1 and -1 inclusive. This is also referred to as coefficient of correlation.

**Alpha:** A measure of a portfolio's time weighted return in excess of the market’s return, both adjusted for risk. A positive alpha indicates that the portfolio outperformed the market on a risk-adjusted basis, and a negative alpha indicates the portfolio did worse than the market.

**Best Quarter:** The highest quarterly return for a certain time period.

**Beta:** A measure of the sensitivity of a portfolio’s time weighted return (net of fees) against that of the market. A beta greater than 1.00 indicates volatility greater than the market.

**Consistency:** The percentage of quarters that a product achieved a rate of return higher than that of its benchmark. The higher the consistency figure, the more value a manager has contributed to the product’s performance.

**Core:** Refers to an investment strategy mandate that is blend of growth and value styles without a pronounced tilt toward either style.

**Cumulative Selection Return (Cumulative Return):** Cumulative investment performance over a specified period of time.

**Distribution Rate:** The most recent distribution paid, annualized, and then divided by the current market price. Distribution rate may consist of investment income, short-term capital gains, long-term capital gains, and/or return of capital.

**Down Market Capture:** The ratio of average portfolio returns over the benchmark during periods of negative benchmark return. Lower values indicate better product performance.

**Downside Risk:** A measure similar to standard deviation, but focuses only on the negative movements of the return series. It is calculated by taking the standard deviation of the negative quarterly set of returns. The higher the value, the more risk the product has.

**Downside Semi Deviation:** A statistical calculation that measures the volatility of returns below a minimum acceptable return. This return measure isolates the negative portion of volatility: the larger the number, the greater the volatility.

**Drawdown:** A drawdown is the peak-to-trough decline during a specific period of an investment, fund or commodity.

**Excess over Benchmark:** The percentage gain or loss of an investment relative to the investment's benchmark.

**Excess Return:** Arithmetic difference between the manager’s return and the risk-free return over a specified time period.

**Growth:** A diversified investment strategy which includes investment selections that have capital appreciation as the primary goal, with little or no dividend payouts. These strategies can include reinvestment in expansion, acquisitions, and/or research and development opportunities.

**Growth of Dollar:** The aggregate amount an investment has gained or lost over a certain time period, also referred to as Cumulative Return, stated in terms of the amount to which an initial dollar investment would have grown over the given time period.

**Investment Decision Process (IDP):** A model for structuring the investment process and implementing the correct attribution methodologies. The IDP includes every decision made concerning the division of the assets under management over the various asset categories. To analyze each decision's contribution to the total return, a modeling approach must measure the marginal value of every individual decision. In this respect, the hierarchy of the decisions becomes very important. We therefore use the IDP model, which serves as a proper foundation for registering the decisions and relating them to each other.

**Information Ratio:** Measured by dividing the active rate of return by the tracking error. The higher the Information Ratio, the more value-added contribution by the manager.

**Jensen’s Alpha:** The Jensen's alpha measure is a risk-adjusted performance measure that represents the average return on a portfolio or investment above or below that predicted by the capital asset pricing model (CAPM) given the portfolio's or investment's beta and the average market return. This metric is also commonly referred to as alpha.

**Kurtosis:** A statistical measure that is used to describe the distribution, or skewness, of observed data around the mean, sometimes referred to as the volatility of volatility.

**Maximum Drawdown:** The drawdown is defined as the percent retrenchment from a fund's peak to the fund's trough value. It is in effect from the time the fund's retrenchment begins until a new fund high is reached. The maximum drawdown encompasses both the period from the fund's peak to the fund's valley (length), and the time from the fund's valley to a new fund high (recovery). It measures the largest percentage drawdown that has occurred in any fund's data record.

**Modern Portfolio Theory (MPT):** An investment analysis theory on how risk-averse investors can construct portfolios to optimize or maximize expected return based on a given level of market risk, emphasizing that risk is an inherent part of higher reward.

**Mutual Fund (MF):** An investment program funded by shareholders that trade in diversified holdings and is professionally managed.

**Peer Group:** A combination of funds that share the same investment style combined as a group for comparison purposes.

**Peer/ Plan Sponsor Universe:** A combination of asset pools of total plan investments by specific sponsor and plan types for comparison purposes.

**Performance Ineligible Assets:** Performance returns are not calculated for certain assets because accurate valuations and transaction data for these assets are not processed or maintained by us. Common examples of
these include life insurance, some annuities and some assets held externally.

**Performance Statistics:** A generic term for various measures of investment performance measurement terms.

**Portfolio Characteristics:** A generic term for various measures of investment portfolio characteristics.

**Preferred Return:** A term used in the private equity (PE) world, and also referred to as a "Hurdle Rate." It refers to the threshold return that the limited partners of a private equity fund must receive, prior to the PE firm receiving its carried interest or "carry."

**Ratio of Cumulative Wealth:** A defined ratio of the Cumulative Return of the portfolio divided by the Cumulative Return of the benchmark for a certain time period.

**Regression Based Analysis:** A statistical process for estimating the relationships among variables. It includes many techniques for modeling and analyzing several variables, when the focus is on the relationship between a dependent variable and one or more independent variables

**Residual Correlation:** Within returns-based style analysis, residual correlation refers to the portion of a strategy's return pattern that cannot be explained by its correlation to the asset-class benchmarks to which it is being compared.

**Return:** A rate of investment performance for the specified period.

**Rolling Percentile Ranking:** A measure of an investment portfolio’s ranking versus a peer group for a specific rolling time period (i.e. Last 3 Years, Last 5 years, etc.).

**R-Squared:** The percentage of a portfolio's performance explained by the behavior of the appropriate benchmark. High R-Squared means a higher correlation of the portfolio's performance to the appropriate benchmark.

**SA/CF (Separate Account/Commingled Fund):** Represents an acronym for Separate Account and Commingled Fund investment vehicles.

**Sector Benchmark:** A market index that serves as a proxy for a sector within an asset class.

**Sharpe Ratio:** Represents the excess rate of return over the risk free return divided by the standard deviation of the excess return. The result is the absolute rate of return per unit of risk. The higher the value, the better the product’s historical risk-adjusted performance results in.

**Standard Deviation:** A statistical measure of the range of a portfolio's performance; the variability of a return around its average return over a specified time period.

**Total Fund Benchmark:** The policy benchmark for a complete asset pool that could consist of multiple investment mandates.

**Total Fund Composite:** The aggregate of multiple portfolios within an asset pool or household.

**Tracking Error:** A measure of standard deviation for a portfolio's investment performance, relative to the performance of an appropriate market benchmark.

**Treynor Ratio:** A ratio that divides the excess return (above the risk free rate) by the portfolio’s beta to arrive at a unified measure of risk adjusted return. It is generally used to rank portfolios, funds and benchmarks. A higher ratio is indicative of higher returns per unit of market risk. This measurement can help determine if the portfolio is reaching its goal of increasing returns while managing market risk.

**Up Market Capture:** The ratio of average portfolio returns over the benchmark during periods of positive benchmark return. Higher values indicate better product performance.

**Upside Semi Deviation:** A statistical calculation that measures the volatility of returns above an acceptable return. This return measure isolates the positive portion of volatility: the larger the number, the greater the volatility.

**Value:** A diversified investment strategy that includes investment selections which tend to trade at a lower price relative to its dividends, earnings, and sales. Common attributes are stocks that include high dividend, low price-to-book ratio, and/or low price-to-earnings ratio.

**Worst Quarter:** The lowest rolling quarterly return for a certain time period.

**Information Disclosures**

*The performance data shown reflects past performance, which does not guarantee future results. Investment return and principal will fluctuate so that an investor’s shares when redeemed may be worth more or less than original cost. Please note, current performance may be higher or lower than the performance data shown. For up to date month-end performance information, please contact your Financial Advisor or visit the funds’ company website.*

Investors should carefully consider the fund’s investment objectives, risks, charges and expenses before investing. The prospectus and, if available the summary prospectus, contains this and other information that should be read carefully before investing. Investors should review the information in the prospectus carefully. To obtain a prospectus, please contact your Financial Advisor or visit the funds’ company website.

Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

Investing involves market risk, including possible loss of principal. **Growth investing** does not guarantee a profit or eliminate risk. The stocks of these companies can have relatively high valuations. Because of these high valuations, an investment in a growth stock can be more risky than an investment in a company with more modest growth expectations. **Value investing** involves the risk that the market may not recognize that securities are undervalued and they may not appreciate as anticipated. Small and mid-capitalization companies may lack the financial resources, product diversification and competitive strengths of larger companies. The securities of small capitalization companies may not trade as readily as, and be subject to higher volatility than those of larger, more established companies. Bond funds and bond holdings have the same interest rate, inflation and credit risks that are associated with the underlying bonds owned by the funds. The return of principal in bond funds, and in funds with significant bond holdings, is not guaranteed.

International securities’ prices may carry additional risks, including foreign economic, political, monetary and/or legal factors, changing currency exchange rates, foreign taxes and differences in financial and accounting standards. International investing may not be for everyone. These risks may be magnified in emerging markets. **Alternative investments**, including private equity funds, real estate funds, hedge funds, managed futures funds, and funds of hedge funds, private equity, and managed futures funds, are speculative and entail significant risks that can include losses due to leveraging or other speculative investment practices, lack of liquidity, volatility of returns, restrictions on transferring interests in a fund, potential lack of diversification, absence and/or delay of information regarding valuations and pricing, complex tax structures and delays in tax reporting, less regulation and higher fees than mutual funds and risks associated with the operations, personnel and processes of the advisor. **Master Limited Partnerships** (MLPs) are limited partnerships or limited liability companies that are taxed as partnerships and whose interests (limited partnership units or limited liability company units) are traded on securities exchanges like shares of common stock. Currently, most MLPs operate in the energy, natural resources or real estate
sectors. Investments in MLP interests are subject to the risks generally applicable to companies in the energy and natural resources sectors, including commodity pricing risk, supply and demand risk, depletion risk and exploration risk; and MLP interests in the real estate sector are subject to special risks, including interest rate and property value fluctuations, as well as risks related to general and economic conditions. Because of their narrow focus, MLPs maintain exposure to price volatility of commodities and/or underlying assets and tend to be more volatile than investments that diversify across many sectors and companies. MLPs are also subject to additional risks including: investors having limited control and rights to vote on matters affecting the MLP, limited access to capital, cash flow risk, lack of liquidity, dilution risk, conflict of interests, and limited call rights related to acquisitions.

Mortgage backed securities also involve prepayment risk, in that faster or slower prepayments than expected on underlying mortgage loans can dramatically alter the yield-to-maturity of a mortgage-backed security and prepayment risk includes the possibility that a fund may invest the proceeds at generally lower interest rates.

Tax managed funds may not meet their objective of being tax-efficient.

Real estate investments are subject to special risks, including interest rate and property value fluctuations, as well as risks related to general and economic conditions. High yield fixed income securities, also known as “junk bonds”, are considered speculative, involve greater risk of default and tend to be more volatile than investment grade fixed income securities.

Credit quality is a measure of a bond issuer’s creditworthiness, or ability to repay interest and principal to bondholders in a timely manner. The credit ratings shown are based on security rating as provided by Standard & Poor’s, Moody’s and/or Fitch, as applicable. Credit ratings are issued by the rating agencies for the underlying securities in the fund and not the fund itself, and the credit quality of the securities in the fund does not represent the stability or safety of the fund. Credit ratings shown range from AAA, being the highest, to D, being the lowest based on S&P and Fitch’s classification (the equivalent of Aaa and C, respectively, by Moody’s). Ratings of BBB or higher by S&P and Fitch (Baa or higher by Moody’s) are considered to be investment grade-quality securities. If two or more of the agencies have assigned different ratings to a security, the highest rating is applied. Securities that are not rated by all three agencies are listed as “NR”.

“Alpha tilt strategies comprise a core holding of stocks that mimic a benchmark type index such as the S&P 500 to which additional securities are added to help tilt the fund toward potentially outperforming the market in an effort to enhance overall investment returns. Tilt strategies are subject to significant timing risk and could potentially expose investors to extended periods of underperformance.

Custom Account Index: The Custom Account Index is an investment benchmark based on your historical target allocations and/or manager selection that you may use to evaluate the performance of your account. The Custom Account index does take into consideration certain changes that may have occurred in your portfolio since the inception of your account, i.e., asset class and/or manager changes. However, in some circumstances, it may not be an appropriate benchmark for use with your specific account composition. For detailed report of the historical composition of this blend please contact your Financial Advisor.

Peer Groups

Peer Groups are a collection of similar investment strategies that essentially group investment products that share the same investment approach. Peer Groups are used for comparison purposes to compare and illustrate a clients investment portfolio versus its peer across various quantitative metrics like performance and risk. Peer Group comparison is conceptually another form of benchmark comparison whereby the actual investment can be ranked versus its peer across various quantitative metrics.

All Peer Group data are provided by Investment Metrics, LLC.

The URL below provides all the definitions and methodology about the various Peer Groups

https://www.invmetrics.com/style-peer-groups

Peer Group Ranking Methodology

A percentile rank denotes the value of a product in which a certain percent of observations fall within a peer group. The range of percentile rankings is between 1 and 100, where 1 represents a high statistical value and 100 represents a low statistical value.

The 30th percentile, for example, is the value in which 30% of the highest observations may be found, the 65th percentile is the value in which 65% of the highest observations may be found, and so on.

Percentile rankings are calculated based on a normalized distribution ranging from 1 to 100 for all products in each peer group, where a ranking of 1 denotes a high statistical value and a ranking of 100 denotes a low statistical value. It is important to note that the same ranking methodology applies to all statistics, implying that a ranking of 1 will always mean highest value across all statistics.

For example, consider a risk/return assessment using standard deviation as a measure of risk. A percentile ranking equal to 1 for return denotes highest return, whereas a percentile ranking of 1 for standard deviation denotes highest risk among peers.

In addition, values may be used to demonstrate quartile rankings. For example, the third quartile is also known as the 75th percentile, and the median is the 50th percentile.

Alternatives

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As fees are deducted quarterly, the compounding effect will be to increase the impact of the fees by an amount directly related to the gross account performance. For example, for an account with an initial value of $100,000 and a 2.5% annual fee, if the gross performance is 5% per year over a three year period, the compounding effect of the fees will result in a net annual compound rate of return of approximately 2.40% per year over a three year period, and the total value of the client’s portfolio at the end of the three year period would be approximately $115,762.50 without the fees and $107,372.63 with the fees.

Please see the applicable Morgan Stanley Smith Barney LLC Form ADV Part 2A for more information including a description of the fee schedule. It is available at [www.morganstanley.com/ADV](http://www.morganstanley.com/ADV) or from your Financial Advisor/Private Wealth Advisor.

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