

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

2 Corinthians 5:17

2015 REPORT



So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

- 2 Corinthians 5:17

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

This report should come with a warning label that reads, "WARNING! This report will change you!" I say that because as one reads about the amazing generosity of God's people, your heart is changed. On and on you will see that St. Paul's words are authentic and true, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

The impact of *The Campaign for the ELCA* is being felt across our church. Through renewing congregations, people find themselves invited, empowered and unleashed by the good news of Jesus Christ. Congregations are mindful of people living with disabilities and creating plans to be more welcoming. Seminarians are assisted with scholarships, which keep their educational costs manageable. International women leaders are identified and gathered together. The grand vision "that all may be fed" provides the energy and impetus to connect people with food and solutions to food insecurity through ELCA World Hunger. Creative ministries with and for youth and young adults are funded and studied in order to learn best practices. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

It is our hope and prayer that you will be inspired and informed by what you read here. I also want to invite you to continue to give of your time and talents for this amazing work. I encourage you to talk with your family, friends and church members regarding the effectiveness of our work. Together, we can do more.

"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"

Thank you for being a part of this new creation. Both internationally and here at home, you are making a difference.

Pastor Ron Glusenkamp

Director, The Campaign for the ELCA

Rev. Romel T. Shusenburg

Dear members of the ELCA,

It is exciting to note that we have passed the \$80 million mark of this campaign – and are on course to reach our goal of \$198 million in the next three years! However, the fundraising goal is not the only goal of this campaign. As we have seen through the ministries of the ELCA, money takes on meaning in mission.

The campaign is already impacting our work together as church and the lives of millions here in the United States and around the globe. Be inspired by what you find in this report. Celebrate the new and ongoing ways the ELCA impacts communities and people. Join us in being bold about reaching out and finding new and creative ways to engage each other in this significant effort.

Thank you for your support!



Sincerely, **Loren and MaryAnn Anderson**Steering Committee Chairs, *The Campaign for the ELCA*



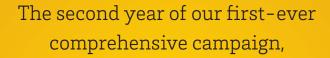












Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA,

brought exciting growth for our church.
From Madagascar to Cambodia, South
Sudan to North Dakota, your support
is making a difference in the lives
of people around the world.









Gethes, we broke ground alongside local church leaders on a new Lutheran center and health clinic in South Sudan, sent a group of seven young adults to the new Young Adults in Global Mission Cambodia country program, with a total of 73 young-adult volunteers in 10 country programs, and met and surpassed our \$15 million goal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign, allowing work to continue in 14 African countries and enabling a new program to open in Madagascar.

Here at home, you helped distribute 17 grants to assist synods and congregations across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in their renewal efforts, awarded 235 seminary students with scholarships from the ELCA Fund for Leaders and welcomed 62 new-start ministries into the ELCA. Together, we are doing God's work with our hands.

In 2016, we look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to share the stories of those transformed by our work together through the campaign. This year we are lifting up the life-saving work of ELCA World Hunger, a key priority of the campaign. With your continued support, we will expand the comprehensive ministries of ELCA World Hunger, including education, advocacy, and relief and development initiatives in nearly 60 countries around the world. Together, with generous, loving hands, we work for a world in which all are fed. We hope you will join us!



"This is exciting news about the campaign. At a time when people are concerned about contracting resources, we see the generosity of our members expanding. At a time when some wonder if the church has the capacity to be engaged in the world, we are actually extending our work.

Truly, together we can do more."

- THE REV. ELIZABETH A. EATON
Presiding bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



CAMPAIGN STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Special thanks to our Campaign Steering Committee for their leadership.

Loren and MaryAnn Anderson

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Sarah Bowers

Redeemer Lutheran Church *Columbia, S.C.*

Kent Dauten

Lutheran Church of the Ascension Northfield, Ill.

The Rev. Elizabeth Ekdale

St. Mark's Lutheran Church San Francisco, Calif.

Tim Krumm

Zion Lutheran Church Iowa City, Iowa

Bishop Brian Maas

Nebraska Synod

Christine Mummert

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church *Neffsville, Pa.*

Jenny Peterson

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church St. Paul, Minn.

Tanisha Pitre

Community Lutheran Church Los Angeles, Calif.

Bob and Becky Shaw

Faith Lutheran Church Clive, Iowa

Steve and Steph Smith

Bethlehem Lutheran Church *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Duane Sander

First Lutheran Church *Brookings, S.D.*

Rick Togerson

Normandale Lutheran Church *Edina, Minn.*

Together, we can do more.

The church owes a great deal of thanks to generous donors, lay and clergy leaders, and the volunteers of the Campaign Steering Committee and the Bishop's Advisory Council who are stepping forward to extend the impact of the campaign. With your help, we have raised \$80 million, or 40 percent, of our \$198 million goal.

Thank you for your support!

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS



\$80 million

Current gifts and multi-year commitments to the campaign



40 percent

Campaign total raised to-date



71 percent

Congregations that gave to a campaign priority



\$17 million

Planned gifts* for campaign priorities



159,000

Number of gifts to campaign priorities in 2015

CAMPAIGN GIVING BY PRIORITY

RENEWING CONGREGATIONS

\$687,000

9% of \$8 million goal

ELCA NEW CONGREGATIONS

\$1.05 million
26% of \$4 million goal

DISABILITY MINISTRIES

\$112,000 3% of \$4 million goal

MISSIONARIES AND YOUNG ADULTS IN GLOBAL MISSION \$7.6 million

35% of \$22 million goal

GLOBAL MINISTRIES \$886,000

13% of \$7 million goal

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS \$858,000

21% of \$4 million goal

ELCA FUND FOR LEADERS

\$7 million

47% of \$15 million goal

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS \$191,000

5% of \$4 million goal

CAMPAIGN
"WHERE NEEDED MOST"
\$3.7 million

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

\$42.4 million

37% of \$115 million goal

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN

\$15.5 million

103% of \$15 million goal

^{*}While planned gifts for the campaign priorities are not included in the \$198 million goal, they are critical to the future sustainability of these ministries.



Young Adults in Global Mission volunteer Jessica Moes is serving in the Cambodia country program during the 2015/2016 year.







Partners break ground at the site of the new Lutheran center and clinic in Juba.

Undesignated gifts to the campaign are used to support campaign priorities where they are needed most. From sharing the gospel with others to supporting our church's up-and-coming leaders, these gifts allow our church flexibility to respond in the time and place when it can make the biggest impact.

In 2015, we used these undesignated funds to kick-start ministries with ELCA global companion churches, as well as here at home with our youth and young adults. The nature of these programs requires funding before work may begin, and with a grant from the campaign "Where needed most" fund, our partners were able to get started on life-changing ministries.

In South Sudan, campaign undesignated gifts empowered the Evangelical Lutheran Church Africa Mission in South Sudan to hire an architect and health staff for its new Lutheran

center and clinic, which broke ground in November. The center will be a place of worship, learning, health care and healing for people of many ethnic and religious backgrounds in this new country experiencing immense suffering due to internal conflict.

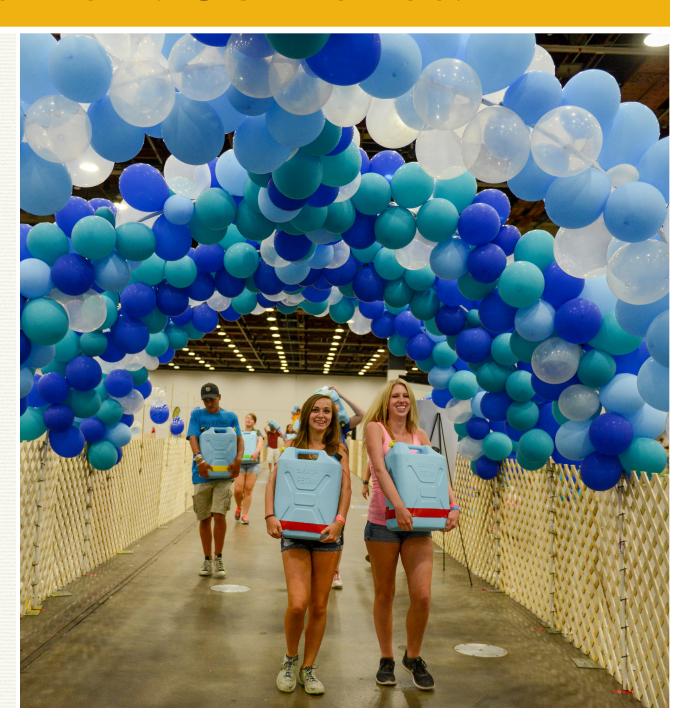
The campaign's **Youth and Young Adults priority** also received support from the "Where needed most" fund in 2015. Last summer congregations, synods and ministry partners from across the ELCA were invited to submit proposals for new or enhanced ministries with youth and young adults. In three months, the program received 86 proposals in response to this call. At the end of September, 21 of these requests were affirmed with a total funding commitment of nearly \$530,000 from the campaign.

God's work. Our hands.

A CHALLENGE MET WITH ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S WALK FOR WATER

Responding to the call to share God's gift of water with all, 30,000 youth joined together at the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering to do something big. Called ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water, these youth and their congregations were met with the challenge to raise \$500,000 for ELCA World Hunger-supported water projects. And, thanks to a generous family in the ELCA, all gifts toward this goal would be matched – dollar for dollar – totaling \$1 million.

The goal was met last fall. Through the experience, these young adults not only discovered their call to serve, they were given the opportunity to know more about how their faith can help change the world – and how they can inspire others in the same venture.



God's work. Our hands.

CAMP ABLE WELCOMES YOUTH WITH DISABILITIES

Last summer, Joy Ranch near Watertown, S.D., started a camp program for youth with disabilities called Camp ABLE. The camp offered these youth the opportunity to participate in the same activities as other campers, but instead of using the regular summer curriculum, Bible studies were specifically geared toward them.

"On the first night of camp, we talked about the bad names the world often uses for people with disabilities and discussed how they hurt us," shared the Rev. Brian Krause, the lead pastor of the program. "We then discovered that Jesus is the one who takes away all of those negative labels in his own body on the cross. In return, he gives us new names – Child of God, Son, Daughter, Royal Priest and Chosen."





INTERNATIONAL WOMEN BEGIN STUDY AT ELCA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Six international women arrived in the United States last fall ready to begin a four-year journey to pursue higher education at an ELCA college or university. These women, three from Malaysia, and one each from Suriname, Madagascar and Mexico, make up the first class of scholarship recipients for the campaign's International Women Leaders initiative. Three are studying at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa; two at Newberry College, Newberry, S.C.; and one at Augsburg College, Minneapolis. Nominated by ELCA global companion churches, they are eager to learn and grow in their new environments with the hope of returning home equipped to lead and serve their communities and churches.



THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is our moment to look toward the future of this church and boldly respond to the needs of the world with a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This five-year, \$198 million campaign will help our church grow our communities of faith, form new leaders, welcome our neighbors, overcome malaria, confront hunger and poverty, accompany our global churches and so much more. Together, we can achieve things on a scale and scope we could never do otherwise. Thank you for your support.

