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. The ELCA Foundation administers the Fund is 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 net performance after the deduction of investment manager and custodian fees and expenses including the administrative fee of 60 basis points (0.60%). 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 returns have been provided by Portico Benefit Services, Grosvenor, JP Morgan, and Hamilton Lane. **Past performance is not a guarantee of future results.**

**Glossary:** Equity-MSCI ACWI; Fixed Income-Barclays U.S. Aggregate Index. The **Sharpe Ratio** is 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 is a measure of performance above or below the benchmark. A positive alpha indicates returns greater than the benchmark. Beta is 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.

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**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.

**THIS IS NEITHER AN OFFER TO SELL NOR A SOLICITATION OF AN OFFER TO BUY THE SECURITIES DESCRIBED HEREIN. AN OFFERING IS MADE ONLY BY THE CONFIDENTIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENT,** which contains details about risks, investments and administration. The Confidential Disclosure Statement is available to representatives of eligible organizations by calling the ELCA Foundation at 800-638-3522.

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Quarterly Portfolio Commentary (as of March 31, 2018)

Fund A generated a slight loss of -0.86% net return during the first quarter, which outperformed the 65% equity / 35% fixed income benchmark return of -1.07%. For the trailing 12 months, Fund A posted a 9.88% return net of investment costs, slightly behind the benchmark return of 9.98%.

Global Equity
Fund A’s U.S. equity component returned -1.19% net for the first quarter, trailing the benchmark of -0.64%. The value components, both large cap and small/mid cap, were responsible for the majority of underperformance as value factors were not rewarded during this quarter, continuing a longer term trend of growth stocks heavily out-pacing value.

Fund A’s non-U.S. equity component narrowly posted a positive return of 0.03% net, out-pacing the benchmark return of -1.06%. All of the components in the non-U.S. program beat their respective benchmarks, with the small cap managers showing particularly strong performance. Specifically, stock selection within the small cap components continued to be strong across countries and sectors, driving significant out-performance over short and longer time periods.

Global Fixed Income
In the first quarter of 2018, Fund A’s investment grade fixed-income portfolio returned -1.48% net, slightly above the custom benchmark of -1.52%. Treasury yields rose by as much as 0.4% during the quarter and credit spreads widened contributing -0.7% to the benchmark’s negative return. An underweight to credit and positive credit selection added value.

High-yield bonds posted a negative return of -1.10% net for the first quarter of 2018; Fund A’s high-yield pool slightly underperformed the benchmark return of -1.00% for the quarter. Low yields and tight spreads made finding value-adding opportunities hard to come by and unattractive to reach down in quality for yield.

Inflation-indexed bonds outperformed nominal Treasuries in the first quarter by about 1.0% for the broad market. The pool return was in line with the benchmark due to its full-replication, passive approach, returning -0.42% net.

Real Estate
Fund A’s global real estate securities component returned -4.34% net in the first quarter of 2018, compared to the custom benchmark return of -5.0%. U.S. REITs returned -7.43% while Global Ex U.S. REITs returned -1.45% for the quarter.

Absolute Return
The first quarter’s return of volatility to the markets was beneficial to the Fund’s hedge positions. The Absolute Return Fund increased 1.10% during the quarter. Gains were driven primarily in Global Macro trading strategies which profited from volatility (underlying funds increasing over 4% during the quarter).

Global Infrastructure
In general, Infrastructure assets fared well during the first quarter of 2018. Currently, performance reports a 2.7% increase (lagged one quarter due to the nature of the private assets). Fund A’s infrastructure assets are global in nature and diversified across multiple business types: 39.2% of the portfolio is invested in Distributed / Regulated utilities, 34.4% in Contracted power and 26.4% in GDP sensitive assets such as rail, ports and aviation.

Private Markets
Fund A’s private markets allocation is in the process of building. During the quarter the Fund has entered into 2 additional partnerships. The first allocations were made to Secondaries (purchasing existing private market commitments at discount levels) and the second into Distressed Debt strategies. The overall Fund valuation return currently reported is 18.68% IRR, for a net multiple of the total allocation of 1.2x (Reporting final valuations as of 9/30/2017).

S&P 500 Sector Performance

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Quarter to Date</th>
<th>Trailing 12 Months</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Utilities</td>
<td>-3.3%</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telecom</td>
<td>-5.0%</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Real Estate</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>-1.6%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrials</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financials</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
<td>-2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>-5.9%</td>
<td>-3.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons. Staples</td>
<td>-7.1%</td>
<td>16.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cons. Disc.</td>
<td>-0.3%</td>
<td>-0.9%</td>
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Equity Markets Commentary
US Equities had a wide-ranging beginning to the year, trading up as high as 7.45% and down as much as 3.46% before finishing the quarter down 0.76%. Only 2 of the 11 sectors in the S&P 500 generated positive returns in 1Q18. The top-performing sector was Technology, which was up 3.53%. The biggest losses came in the Telecom sector, which was down 7.48%. The US was not the only market that faced challenges to start the year, as the MSCI Europe fell 1.9% despite robust economic growth in the region. Other international markets fared better, with MSCI Japan gaining 1.0% to lead major developed markets in returns. Following their outperformance last year, emerging markets continued their success by gaining 1.5%.

Fixed Income Markets Commentary
The bond market registered negative returns in the first quarter. The Bloomberg Barclays US Aggregate Bond Index, a general measure of the bond market, fell 1.46% for the quarter as rates rose broadly along the curve. The yield on the 10-year US Treasury note increased to a quarter-end 2.74% from 2.41% at the end of 4Q17. Riskier parts of the bond market such as US high yield debt also fell to start the year. The Bloomberg Barclays Capital High Yield Index, a measure of lower-rated corporate bonds, dropped 0.86%. Mortgage-backed securities fell with the rest of fixed income in the first quarter. The Bloomberg Barclays Capital Mortgage Backed Index dropped 1.19%.