

FINANCES & STATISTICS

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

2017 GOALS (1/31/17)	SUGGESTED GOAL INCREASE	GOAL PERFORMANCE
2 above suggested increase	+3% (inflation 2% plus 1% growth	Decrease \$21,628
9 +3%	2017 - \$542,079	Increase <u>19,671</u>
7 same	2016 - <u>532,162</u>	Net Decrease \$ 1,957
1 new (The Cross, Mt. Dora. FL)	\$ 9,917 (+1.8%)	
<u>4</u> decreased		
23 reported		
<u>30</u> unreported		
53 congregations		

AVERAGE PER COMMUNICANT CONTRIBUTION		
2014 - \$39.46	2015 - \$40.03	2016 - \$40.34

COMMUNICANTS		
2014 - 12,452 (-66)	2015 - 12,262 (-190)	2016 - 12,393 (+131)

2017 BUDGET	2017 RECEIPTS
SELC Missions \$162,000	Congregational Contributions \$522,930
LCMS Missions & Ministries 150,000	Non-budgetary Receipts 9,000
Two Seminaries 15,000	Lutheran Church Extension Fund 38,249
Lutheran Haven 50,000	Interest Income <u>5,500</u>
SELC Programs 66,500	\$575,679
SELC Services <u>163,200</u>	
\$606,700	BUDGET DEFICIT - (\$31,021)
	DISTRICT ASSETS - \$775,327.38 (12/31/16)

REMITTANCE DELINQUENCY - In December, 2016, nineteen congregations, considerably behind in their district budget goal remittances, were contacted. \$50,546 was solicited. Such backlogs hinder a smooth district cash flow. Congregations are strongly urged to remit on a monthly basis as a priority. By January 31, 2017, only 23 congregations (43%) submitted goals. The suggested submission date is Jan. 15. Timely submissions are encouraged for SELC budget setting purposes.

SYNODICAL STATISTICAL INFORMATION (year 2015) - Sunday congregational offerings were about \$1.4 billion, a healthy upward trend. 77% of synodical receipts are "restricted" for specific missions/ministries and cannot be used for synodical operational budget purposes. 23% received from districts (the SELC budgeted \$150,000 for 2107) and other sources are "unrestricted" and used for synod's operational needs. Synod may have to further reduce already reduced expenditures. There are 6,101 LCMS congregations with 5,524 parish pastors. Average Sunday attendance is 141. The average age of members is 47. Millennials (age 18-34) currently are more reachable with evangelistic outreach than their predecessors, Generation X and the Baby Boomers. They enjoy conversations.

THE BEACON is a tremendous asset for bonding SELC congregations in our common endeavor to walk the talk of Jesus as Christian stewards. It should be downloaded and shared within our congregations via monthly newsletters, Sunday bulletins or usher distributions after worship. Gail Peterson is to be commended for her dedicated, admirable work as editor.



THE LUTHERAN FEDERAL CREDIT UNION (LFCU) began serving LCMS members in October, 2015, offering the best in online banking, 5,000 shared branches and 30,000 ATM's nationwide for free use. Any profits earned are given to LCMS congregations, schools and districts. The credit union offers a wonderful opportunity to connect LCMS members in the stewardship of personal money management. Services offered include checking and savings accounts, credit and ATM cards as well as loan opportunities. On January 11, 2017, a significant milestone was achieved as the LFCU reached 2,000 members! Learn more by visiting LutheranFCU.org or calling **1-314-394-2790**. Join the movement! Then, satisfied with the service, encourage others to join.