

MISSIONS REPORT TO CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Save the date: Lutheran Day of Advocacy is May 21, 2018.

195 letters were sent to Congress from the Bread for the World Offering of Letters. Letters and plates to the state were delivered separately. This advocacy activity was well received by many Trinity members. It is vital that persons of faith give voice regarding legislation to our congressional leaders.

Missions participation in this year's Giving Tree in the Gathering Space is a request for gift cards for Seminarians at United Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. These gift cards are kept at the seminary and given as needed to our seminarians. Help yourself to an ornament!

The ELCA Good Gifts project is now in progress. This is an opportunity to give a meaningful gift to someone who needs nothing and at the same time provide a life changing gift to others in need. There are over 50 choices available in all price ranges. These gifts are tax deductible. Grab a catalog and select a gift for someone you wish to honor or give an unusual gift.

The ELCA Disaster Response Fund has been selected as the recipient of the Missions half of the 2018 Lenten Self-Denial box offering. These offerings are collected at Easter and divided in half with Social Ministry. Bethesda Mission is the recipient for the Social Ministry portion of the offering.

Undesignated Benevolence donations provided during the year have provided funds to be distributed at year's end as follows: \$750 each to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Rocky Boy's, Montana, On Eagles' Wings, NWT, Konde Diocese Medical needs, Tanzania and the ELCA Walk for Water campaign which helps provide water to areas of great need of potable water.

The Missions budget for 2018 will discontinue support for the Marion Mission, a Presbyterian ministry which supplied shallow water wells in Tanzania but which were not sustainable. This budget line was switched to support for health needs in our companion synod, the Konde Diocese. The budget amount remains at \$500.

Additionally, for the first time in MANY years, Trinity will have a small line in our budget for operating expenses at our seminary, the United Lutheran Theological Seminary. It is the hope of the Missions team that this amount will be supplemented by special designated gifts throughout the year.

Fair Trade sales of coffee, tea and chocolate continue at Trinity with all money from sales over the cost of the products going to World Hunger. A check in the amount of \$750.00 will be sent before year's end. A previous "profit" check in the amount of \$ 707.78 was sent in September. We give great thanks for the generosity of Trinity members in remembering the hungry in the US and around the world with their gifts.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Hunter, Missions Interim Facilitator