

ALWAYS BEING MADE NEW

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

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

In 2014, members at our Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS) Assembly voted to adopt a 25th Anniversary Campaign for the ELCA in the Lower Susquehanna Synod with a goal of raising \$5.5 million in five years. **Always Being Made New (ABMN)** has been our opportunity to invest in the future of Christ’s church, deepen relationships with God, and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors and communities in the United States and around the world. We have made tremendous progress.

We are a synod who feeds the hungry as we have been fed by Christ. Eighty-eight percent of our congregations (203) supported ELCA or LSS hunger initiatives. **We exceeded our ELCA World Hunger goal by more than eighteen (18%) percent.** Campaign gifts have been supported by 212 congregations, 223 individuals, and 38 other supporting organizations. Four conferences had 100 percent congregational participation; five conferences had more than 90 percent congregational participation; and five conferences had more than 80 percent congregational participation. Every one of our campaign categories received significant support. **We exceeded our LSS Disaster Response goal by more than 10 percent.**

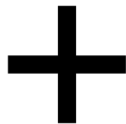
At the end of 2016, we had more than \$1.9 million in contributions and pledges. **Today, we have almost \$9 million in contributions and pledges.** In the first year of the campaign, 100 percent of the contributors gave a second gift. Half of our new contributors made contributions each of the five years, and more than 32 percent contributed in four of the five years. Ninety-nine percent of campaign pledges have received contributions toward their commitment. Five years into the campaign, and we are still receiving new supporters.

I would like to thank Donna Nicholson, former ABMN campaign director, Denise Ferguson, and the ABMN Advisory Committee who faithfully shepherded the early years of the campaign. Additionally, my sincere gratitude goes to Pastor Liz Polanzke, former ELCA Foundation Gift Planner, who worked tirelessly to obtain millions of dollars in planned gifts earmarked for ABMN support in the many years to come.

Thanks to the prayerful and faithful support of many, check out our ABMN campaign progress:



\$4.2 million
Cash Gifts
Received



\$4.7 million
Outstanding
Planned Gifts



\$8.9 million
Campaign Total
with Planned Gifts



75%
Campaign total
gifts received to date



91%
of LSS
Congregations have
supported ABMN

As of April 30, 2019, our ABMN campaign has received the following contributions:

LSS-Designated Ministries	Goal	Received	ELCA-Designated Ministries	Goal	Received
Lutheran Camping Corp	\$1,000,000	\$227,940	ELCA World Hunger	\$2,000,000	\$2,354,960
LSS Mission Fund	\$ 750,000	\$197,280	ELCA Malaria	\$500,000	\$174,130
LSS Disaster Response	\$ 100,000	\$113,895	Additional Initiatives	\$250,000	\$560,655
LSS Hunger Initiatives	\$ 500,000	\$144,580			
Seminarian Support	\$ 250,000	\$165,355			
Youth and Young Adults	\$ 150,000	\$48,425			
Where Needed Most		\$187,080			
TOTAL	\$2,750,000	\$1,084,555	TOTAL	\$2,750,000	\$3,089,745

While we are celebrating many successes, you will notice that we have **fallen far short on our Youth and Young Adults portion** of the campaign. This area of the campaign was added at the Synod Assembly’s request in 2014. We hope that you will prayerfully consider helping us get closer to our goal of \$150,000. For a glimpse inside the way synodical youth and young adults’ ministry is impacting the lives of faithful young leaders, please check out this video: <https://bit.ly/2JnPkDQ>. For other campaign supporting materials, please check out our website: <https://www.lss-elca.org/always-being-made-new/>.

As a result of your generosity, 26 new and renewing mission grants were supported by this campaign; we are sending more leaders to seminary with less of a financial burden; we are strengthening faith through our youth and young adult ministries; we are providing disaster support when people need it most; and together, we are strengthening the church one camper at a time through outdoor camping ministries. Together, we are investing in the future of God’s church. **Thank you for your support!**

Deacon Marsha Roscoe, *director for mission interpretation & ABMN campaign director*