

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT (TIME SENSITIVE -
RESPONSE NEEDED)**

Insurance Brokerage Antitrust Litigation - Class Action Settlement

TO: All Eligible ELCA Congregations and Synods having held liability and/or property insurance coverage through Charity First for the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005, or any portion thereof

FROM: ELCA – Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary

DATE: October 1, 2011

The ELCA and was awarded a net amount of \$57,648.97 in settlement of a class-action suit involving dozens of insurers, reinsurers and brokers including Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. which brokered insurance for the ELCA-endorsed synodical and congregational insurance program during the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005. This class action involved many insureds and it should be noted that none of the investigations ever found Arthur J. Gallagher & Co. to have engaged in any unlawful or deceitful conduct.

On behalf of participating ELCA congregations and synods, the ELCA Churchwide Organization received the settlement amount. In accordance with action of the ELCA Church Council, the ELCA Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary are to distribute settlement proceeds to eligible congregations and synods. Eligible congregations and synods are defined as those holding liability and/or property insurance coverage through Charity First during the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005, or any portion thereof.

Each eligible congregation and synod must complete the attached Claim Form in order to receive a portion of the proceeds. Please submit the completed, signed Claim Form to the ELCA – Office of the Treasurer via U.S. mail or e-mail on or before **February 20, 2012**. Claim Forms postmarked or sent electronically after February 20, 2012 will be ineligible for the distribution. If you have any questions you may contact the ELCA Office of the Treasurer at 773-380-2892 or via e-mail at otinfo@elca.org

This Announcement and a downloadable Claim Form are available at:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/Congregation-Administration/Legal-Issues-for-Congregations.aspx>

Thank you for your cooperation.