



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

E-Communique from the ELCIC - September 2007

Welcome to E-Communique - An electronic resource of instant information for Church Leaders from the National Office of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

E-Communique is:

- An electronic toolbox of timely information and resources recommended by the ELCIC and sent to congregations, national committees, clergy and lay leaders throughout our church.
- An easy to use collection of new ideas, resources and live links to helpful websites.
- Easy to cut and paste from so that you can add information from this resource to your worship bulletins!

**Read past issues and subscribe/unsubscribe on-line at
<http://www.elcic.ca/communique/index.html>**

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1. ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The ELCIC Greening Congregation Accreditation Program - At the heart of the ELCIC's Stewardship of Creation Initiative is the work that we can do together as congregations to care for creation. To encourage this, the ELCIC has developed a "Greening Congregation Accreditation" program. The intent of this program is to: 1) Give congregations some options that they can pursue to practice their environmental stewardship; 2) Recognize congregations that have taken steps to care for creation; 3) Share our stories of practising our

environmental stewardship so that we can learn from each others experiences and in the process discover how God is present and working in our midst. To find out more, visit: <http://elcic.ca/Stewardship/Stewardship-of-Creation/Greening-Congregation.cfm>

2. LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Several new job opportunities for positions within The Lutheran World Federation and Canadian Lutheran World Relief have been posted on the Employment Opportunities page of the ELCIC website. For more details on these positions visit: <http://elcic.ca/Leadership/Employment-Opportunities/Job-Postings.cfm>

3. ELCIC'S GLOBAL HUNGER AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL (GHDA)

Join GHDA and celebrate Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) Sunday on September 30! Congregations across the ELCIC are invited to join with the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) in Celebrating CLWR Sunday. Be a part of the journey and learn more about how CLWR carries out international emergency relief, development programming, and refugee resettlement on behalf of GHDA. For further information on CLWR Sunday, visit <http://www.elcic.ca/ghda>

4. CANADA LUTHERAN

Do you subscribe to *Canada Lutheran (CL)*, the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada? Here's what CL subscribers are reading about in the September issue :

- From Sermons to Sound Bites - Do pastors have to find new ways to engage the congregation in their sermons?
- Building a Bolder Church - An interview with retiring National Bishop Raymond Schultz on his last six years at the National Office of the ELCIC.
- That All May Be One - A recent trip to Nairobi clearly identifies what the justice work, of our faith and our church, is all about.

If you aren't currently a subscriber to Canada Lutheran, find out how to become one at: <http://www.elcic.ca/clweb/index.html>

5. COMPANION OF THE WORSHIP ARTS NOMINATIONS

A Call for Nominations - The Companion of the Worship Arts is an honour that may be conferred in recognition of significant contribution to the national worship life of the ELCIC. Nominations are being received for Companion of the Worship

Arts to be conferred at the 2008 National Worship Conference in Montreal, *Order and Chaos*, June 25 – 29, 2008. Nominations with supporting documentation may be sent to The Rev. Don Engel, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6. The deadline for submissions is December 31, 2007.

6. THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)

The Lutheran World Federation - Join the Global Celebration! The ELCIC celebrates our global Lutheran family on the last Sunday of October each year. This year, Lutheran World Federation Sunday is October 28 and we are celebrating the 60th anniversary. Resources to assist the celebration in your congregation can be found on the LWF North America website www.elca.org/lwf. These include:

- Global prayers for use in worship, bulletins or newsletters for LWF Sunday and each week of 2007
- Sermon stories
- A downloadable hymn written especially for this anniversary year
- Ordering information for colour bulletin inserts (mailing costs only) through the Augsburg Fortress Distribution Center – 1-800-328-4648, ISBN # 978-6-0002-1919-2
- A downloadable black and white bulletin insert
- An adult forum lesson plan
- A Sunday Church School lesson plan

The Lutheran World Federation provides the “table” where the world’s Lutherans can come together to pray, worship, discuss the pains of the world, seek solutions, study and celebrate. We are a communion of 140 church bodies in 78 countries with a membership of over 66 million. Celebrate! The LWF is 60 and we know that **66 million Lutherans DO make a difference!**

7. CANADIAN LUTHERAN YOUTH GATHERING

Travel Light, the theme for the 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering was announced at the 2007 National Convention. Mark your calendars, this is trip is one you won't want to miss! The 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering (CLYG) will be taking place August 14 - 17, 2008 in Whitehorse. Further information is available online at <http://youth.elcic.ca/travelLight/index.htm> and posters have been sent out to all ELCIC congregations.

8. ACROSS THE SYNODS

Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) announces important changes to We Care kits - Health Canada has issued a warning that some toothpaste available for sale in Canada is not safe since it contains toxic chemicals or dangerous bacteria. As such, CLWR is taking the following precautions. Donations of toothpaste are still welcome, however, toothpaste should be sent separately from the We Care kits, rather than enclosed inside the kits. Please mark your kits as "no toothpaste" to save CLWR from searching and removing tubes. Also note: toothpaste should have the seal of approval from the Canadian Dental Association and should be marked with an expiry date that is at least one year from the date of purchase. An up-to-date list of items that should be included in We Care kits is available at <http://www.clwr.org/WeCare.pdf> or by calling 1.800.661.2597.

Looking for some light reading to ease back into the fall schedule of events for your congregation? Check out the following:

Organic Community: Creating a Place Where People Naturally Connect by Joseph R. Myers. Can you really create community through master plans and elaborate strategies? Sometimes, says Joseph Myers--but more often, lasting authentic connections occur organically within healthy environments. *Organic Community* offers practical guidance for helping your church or organization create spaces where community naturally comes into being. Published by BakerBooks - <http://www.bakerbooks.com>

Living Lutheran: Renewing Your Congregation by Dave Daubert. A practical how-to guide that will enable church leaders to help individual congregations walk through the process for renewal. Creative and informative, Dave Daubert provides a straightforward approach that helps congregations reclaim Lutheran tradition for the 21st century. Includes questions for individual or group reflection and an additional resources section. Published by Augsburg Fortress - <http://www.afcanada.com>

Church Administration: Programs, Process, Purpose by Robert N. Bacher and Michael L. Cooper-White. This comprehensive guide treats each aspect of congregational governance not as a bad imitation of business techniques but as a sacred calling. Published by Fortress Press - <http://www.afcanada.com>

Parish Works: Tips and Templates to Revitalize Your Church by Ward McCance. Parish assets - financial, physical and most importantly, people - need to be looked after. Addressing these tasks and responsibilities can offer a variety of exciting opportunities for parish volunteers. This resource bridges knowledge and support gaps experienced in many parishes and gives parish leaders a head start in upgrading parish administration, stewardship and development. CD with reproducible templates included. Published by ABC Publishing - <http://www.anglicanbookcentre.com>

9. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET

International Day of Prayer for Peace - ELCIC members and congregations are encouraged to pray for peace on Friday, September 21. The International Day of Prayer for Peace offers an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies. The idea was proposed in 2004 during a meeting between World Council of Churches (WCC) general secretary Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and coincides with the UN International Day of Peace. The Day of Prayer is one of the initiatives of the WCC's Decade to Overcome Violence. Resources and more information is available at: <http://overcomingviolence.org/en/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace.html>

Write for Rights! Join hundreds of faith groups, schools and community organizations in "Write for Rights" – Amnesty International's exciting global write-a-thon on Human Rights Day, December 10. It's free, it's easy, it brings the community together and it inspires hope, reflection and action. Hold your write-a-thon on or around December 10. Register or find out more at <http://www.amnesty.ca/writeathon> or call toll-free 1-800-AMNESTY.

Sharing the Faith: Is your congregation or committee looking for resources to launch or renew evangelism in your community? Look no further than <http://www.elca.org/evangelism> - containing information on creating a hospitality team to daily e-tips, there are plenty of resources on this site to use to reach out to your community.

Some of the resources mentioned in E-Communique are available from the ELCIC National Office. If you prefer to order those materials in print, phone 1.888.786.6707 ext 177 or 204.984.9177; email orders@elcic.ca; or fax your order to 204.984.9185 "Attn Orders Desk". Be sure to fully describe the item and tell us the quantity you need. You will be invoiced when the order is filled.

ELCIC Privacy Policy <http://www.elcic.ca/privacy.html>