



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

E-Communique from the ELCIC

November/December 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>

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1. ELCIC'S MISSION IN THE WORLD

Join Margaret Sadler and Marcus Busch, active members of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Edmonton, in spirit as they share with you their work at the Lutheran World Federation World Service office in Cambodia from August 2007 to July 2008. Posts, pictures and highlights from their short-term mission can be viewed on their blog site: <http://miwincambodia.wordpress.com/>

Further information about other ELCIC Mission Personnel is available on the ELCIC website at: <http://elcic.ca/In-Mission-in-the-World/People>

2. PRINT ADS FOR ADVENT

As the Advent season approaches, we prepare in awe and wonder for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Share this unique time of year by extending an open invitation to your community to attend your congregation's Advent services. The ELCIC's National Office has developed a variety of ads that can be placed in local newspapers to announce your worship services. Consider other distribution possibilities as well. You can use different sizes of the ads to create posters, bulletin inserts, door-hangers, fliers and even direct mail pieces.

Each ad has been designed to be personalized; there is space at the bottom for your congregation's name, address, phone number and worship schedule.

Please let us know if your congregation is using these ads by contacting Trina Gallop, Manager of Communications at tgallop@elcic.ca or 1.888.786.6706 x172, Also feel free to contact us if you require additional assistance.

Full information is available at: <http://elcic.ca/Documents/AdventAds.cfm>

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

On December 2, congregations in the ELCIC are encouraged to mark World AIDS Day (Dec 1) in their worship services. A number of resources are available from <http://www.worldaidscampaign.info/>. GHDA has also produced a bulletin insert (<http://elcic.ca/GHDA/documents/WorldAIDSDay.pdf>) that can be downloaded and copied to assist with sharing this information during worship.

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance (EAA), a partner of GHDA, has produced a devotional calendar to allow you to take time each day this Advent season to reflect, with Christians from around the world, on the pain, hope and love made starkly visible in the HIV pandemic. The desk calendar is available for order or to download from <http://www.e-alliance.ch/hivaidsoadventcal.jsp> and offers Scripture, prayers and devotions beginning with World AIDS Day, December 1, through Epiphany, January 6.

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 December issue :

- Think Outside the Box: In the hustle and bustle of the season, ways to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas gift giving.
- A Retreat of Our Own: Lay people from around the Synod of Alberta and the Territories gather annually to reflect theologically and enjoy a restful, spiritual weekend away from the daily routine.
- Garage Sale Sermon: Marla Burnie discovers that the joy of Christmas can't be captured in "things" but in family and faith.
- National Bishop's Turn: Bishop Susan C. Johnson calls us to be the human face of God by bringing comfort to those in need.

If you aren't currently a subscriber to *Canada Lutheran*, find out how to become one at: <http://www.elcic.ca/clweb/index.html>. Interested in just this particular issue? You can order individual copies of *Canada Lutheran* for \$3.95 plus taxes and postage. Contact the National Office to order.

Congregational renewal forms were sent out to all ELCIC congregations in October. If your congregation hasn't received this information, please contact our circulation coordinator, Barb Wiebe at bwiebe@elcic.ca or 1-888-786-6707 x. 177

5. LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Several new job opportunities for positions within The Lutheran World Federation and KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives 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> . If you feel someone within your congregation might have the gifts these positions are seeking, please feel free to post this information within your church.

6. COMPANION OF THE WORSHIP ARTS NOMINATIONS

A Call for Nominations - The Companion of the Worship Arts is an honour conferred in recognition of significant contribution to the national worship life of the ELCIC. Nominations are being received for Companion of the Worship Arts and will be announced at the 2008 National Worship Conference. 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.

7. 2008 NATIONAL WORSHIP CONFERENCE

Fast becoming a tradition in partnership, the 2008 National Worship Conference - '**Order and Chaos**' - is sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. According to the conference website, "'Order' and 'Chaos' may well describe the way many of us involved in the planning and executing of liturgies in the church feel about the whole endeavour. We are always working within an 'order' but it sure seems chaotic at times!" Order and Chaos will take place June 25 to 28, 2008 in Montreal, Quebec. Keynote presenters include Gordon Lathrop and Karen Ward. Further information and registration is available online at <http://www.worshipconference2008.org/>

8. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN - STAFFING REDUCTIONS

The September Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW) e-Messenger announced that significant cuts were made to balance the 2008 ELW budget. One of the areas of cutbacks was made to staff salaries. The assessment of salaries and programming has been done and the following will be the operating procedure for the year.

Beginning in January 2008 the ELW office will be closed every other Friday. The program director will work Monday-Thursday weekly. The office will also be closed the week of July 21-25. Because *Be Not Afraid*, the National ELW Convention, takes place this summer the office in effect will be closed for nearly three weeks beginning July 9 when staff will be going to Calgary. This may result in a delay to the Fall 2008 mailing of the *Esprit* magazine. No rush orders for resources will be done and ELW will require 3-6 weeks delivery time. As such, congregations are asked to please plan ahead. There may need to be a reduction of other resources and service, however, staff will assess this as they determine what can be done in the given time allotments.

Increasingly, the website will be the place for ELW related information. The website is currently being redesigned to be a more useful communication tool and the redesign will be launched early in the year. This reduces the need for printing of resources which is costly. Other changes to workloads will be monitored as staff determine what can and cannot be accomplished. A reassessment of all of the above will be made for 2009.

Other budget decisions, made by the National ELW board include: no major topical resource will be produced in 2008 however money is being reserved for a resource to be produced in 2009 (hopefully); one Board meeting will be paid out of the externally restricted Quadrennial Convention fund and; there is no travel fund for the Board president or staff.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ruth Vince, executive director, at 204-984-9163 or rvince@elcic.ca (*From ELW e-Messenger*)

9. 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.

10. ACROSS THE SYNODS

Faith and Font Catechumenate Training - January 18-20, 2008. *Faith and Font*, a training event for seminary students, pastors and their congregational teams, will be held at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington on January 18-20, 2008. Seasoned catechumenate practitioners and trainers, Pastors Paul Hoffman and Bev Piro will lead *Faith and Font* along with lay catechists from the area. Dr. Mark Oldenburg, professor of Worship at Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg will also be on hand. Training will include Sunday morning worship with the Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church community including the Rite of Welcome of candidates into the Phinney Ridge catechumenate process known as *The Way*. *Faith and Font* is sponsored by the North American Association for the Catechumenate (NAAC) and is open to members of NAAC's denominational partners: Anglican Church of Canada; Episcopal Church USA; Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; Reformed Church in America; and United Methodist Church. The event concludes a one week seminary level class on the catechumenate process offered on location at Phinney Ridge by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Participation in the class is not required for the training event; however the class is open to anyone who desires a more "instructive" look at the catechumenate. Registration details including costs and lodging are available at www.catechumenate.org/events. <http://www.catechumenate.org/events.%A0>

11. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET

New website monitors Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The United Nations launched a new website powered by Google and network equipment maker Cisco that will show how and where the world is succeeding or failing in meeting the MDGs on ending poverty. The creators of the website said that better monitoring of progress should spur success. Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon said that the site would, for the first time, present all the information on the goals in one place, allowing closer monitoring and helping identify places in need of greater attention. The site gathers statistics from around the world to give a snapshot of how each country is doing in meeting the eight goals, from cutting infant mortality to reducing hunger. <http://www.mdgmonitor.org> (*With files from AP and Lutheran Office for World 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.

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