

E-Communique from the ELCIC - November 2006

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
- A free email bulletin that has been distributed free of charge since September 2002
- Sent to congregations, national committees, clergy and lay leaders
- An easy to use collection of new ideas and resources as well as live links to the Internet
- Our Stories - A variety of short inspirational anecdotes about life in the ELCIC

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

Inside This Bulletin:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. ELCIC TRIVIA | How much do you know about your church? |
| 2. NATIONAL OFFICE | ELCIC Software Licensing Program |
| 3. 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION | National Convention Dates and Details |
| 4. MISSION NEWS | Volunteers in Mission and Global Mission Events |
| 5. STEWARDSHIP | Connecting to Stewardship Resources |
| 6. WORSHIP | Evangelical Lutheran Worship News |
| 7. DIACONAL MINISTRY | Brochures and the Diaconal Ministry Statement |
| 8. ELW | Celebrate 2008 & the 2007 Bible Study |
| 9. ACROSS THE SYNODS
Canada | News for ELCIC congregations all across
Canada |
| 10. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET | Online Resources |
| 11. OUR STORIES | Retirement Rite |
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1. ELCIC TRIVIA

By now you've heard about or seen about *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American. But, do you know where, online, can you find even more information about *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, such as Information Bulletins, a Retirement Rite and background information on Renewing Worship?

[the answers to this question is at the end of this e-newsletter - and, (hint... hint) the answers are also listed throughout this newsletter]

2. NATIONAL OFFICE

ELCIC Software Licensing Program (SLP) - Available to all ELCIC synods and congregations, the SLP provides congregations with the opportunity to purchase software at a reduced price under a license for charities and not-for-profits. Many Microsoft products are available under this program, as well as some Adobe and Corel products too. As all software is registered to the ELCIC and not to the individual user, the software must be used explicitly for business and is not for personal use. For further information, please contact Rick Natividad (rnatividad@elcic.ca), IT Coordinator, at the National Office.

3. 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will take place in Winnipeg, Manitoba from June 21-24, 2007. Starting at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday morning, June 21, the 2007 National Convention will commence with the joint meeting with the Anglican Church of Canada. The convention will end at noon on Sunday, June 24, after the closing worship service. Further details are available on the ELCIC website (<http://www.elcic.ca>), click on the link to "convention" located in the "more options" section.

4. MISSION IN THE WORLD

Volunteers in Mission: Calling all candidates for volunteer mission service! There is now a "one-stop shop" for ELCIC members interested in overseas assignments of six months to two years with the Volunteers in Mission (VIM) program and the new CLWR International Volunteer Service program. There are also some VIM opportunities within Canada. For more information, contact Sister Monica Denk, International Volunteer Coordinator, toll free at 1-800-661-2597 (631-0118 in Winnipeg) or by email: monicad@clwr.mb.ca.

Global Mission Winter Festivals: Attention snowbirds and mid-winter travellers! There are two options for attending Global Festivals while enjoying a break from winter in the southern United States: Orlando (Winter Park), Florida, January 26-28, 2007 and (for seniors) Phoenix, Arizona, February 5-6, 2007. These ELCA Global Mission events are endorsed by the ELCIC and Canadians are welcome. For more information go to <http://www.elca.org/gme> or call toll free 1-800-638-3522 ext 2642.

5. STEWARDSHIP

Are you interested in stewardship? Do you want to promote good stewardship and good stewardship practice? Are you interested in learning about how we can use the gifts that God gives us for the mission to which God calls us? The ELCIC has two new resources for people working with stewardship and working to promote stewardship in our Churches.

- Receive the stewardship newsletter. This e-news letter will be sent out every two months and it will include stewardship ideas, resources, reflections and short articles about stewardship which can be added to your own congregations news letter.
- Join the conversation through the ELCIC Stewardship Listserv. This list serve is intended to be a means through which people can be involved in our national conversation about stewardship and through this conversation raise questions, hear answers and share good resources or approaches that they discover.

To subscribe to either of these resources contact Ryan Andersen, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship in Public Life, at randersen@elcic.ca or 1-888-786-6707 ext. 153

6. WORSHIP

The Road Where Faith Is Found - Borrowed from the poetry of Sylvia Dunstan, author of *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymn 326), The Road Where Faith Is Found is the title of a series of pastoral essays which will begin to appear this December. The authors include our six ELCIC bishops and a number of ELCIC pastors. These essays are designed to support the reception and exploration of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in the context of our church's focus to be *In Mission for Others*. Essays will begin to appear on the *Worship Matters* page at *Lift Up Your Hearts* <http://www.worship.ca> where they will be available for download.

Terrific News about *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* - At 600,000 copies, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* is now in its fourth printing. About 175 ELCIC congregations --one congregation in four-- took advantage of the "pre-publication" offer and some 25,000 copies have been spoken for -- 1 for every 7 ELCIC Lutherans. Registration levels for introductory workshops have been high

across the church. Workshops continue through November. Congregations are encouraged to consider placing *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in their 2007 budgets. Augsburg Fortress Canada is offering interest-free financing for 12 months. Delivery of new orders is now into February, 2007. Visit <http://www.worship.ca> and click on "Evangelical Lutheran Worship" for more information.

Retiring our *Lutheran Book of Worship* - Many parishes plan to introduce our new worship book on the First Sunday in Advent. Others are planning to join the *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* fold in Lent or at Easter. Pastor Eric Dyck, Coordinator of the Eastern Synod introductory workshops, has crafted a Retirement Rite for *Lutheran Book of Worship*. The Rite can help communities to make the transition. Visit <http://www.worship.ca> and click on *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. Page down to download a copy of the Retirement Rite.

7. DIACONAL MINISTRY

Diaconal Ministry Brochure - A brochure describing Diaconal Ministry in the ELCIC has prepared. This brochure was made available at the 2006 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering and at the Saskatchewan Synod Convention. A copy may be obtained by contacting Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Relations (email: pgehrs@elcic.ca or phone: 204-984-9156).

LWF Invites Response to Diaconal Ministry Statement - In November, 2005, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) held a consultation on The Diaconal Ministry in the Lutheran Churches. The final statement from this consultation is available on the LWF website: http://www.lutheranworld.org/what_we_do/dts/programs/DTS_Statement_Diakonia-2005.pdf The LWF has invited member churches to respond to the statement. ELCIC reflections may be forwarded to Rev. Paul Gehrs, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Relations (email: pgehrs@elcic.ca or phone: 204-984-9156).

8. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN (ELW)

CELEBRATE 2008 - BE NOT AFRAID

Let's whoop it up and lasso groups to come from all corners of Canada to *Celebrate 2008* in Calgary, Alberta. This, in the past referred to as the National ELW Quadrennial Convention, will be a time of celebration, being not afraid to make change happen, to sing and dance and do some fun things like attend a BBQ at the Calgary Stampede! Start planning to *Celebrate 2008. Be Not Afraid...* Inform your congregations of this opportunity; plan for several women in your congregations to attend just as you would youth to a youth gathering; fundraise if you need to! Find a way to attend! For further information, email elwinc@elcic.ca.

2007 BIBLE STUDY

The 2007 Bible study and leader's guide is available to congregations, not just ELWs. These resources are available from the ELW office (elwinc@elcic.ca). The *2007 Walking Together in Christ* study focuses on walking together, with others and with Christ. It explores different aspects of the ecumenical movement at international, national and local levels. It explores what it means to be a church 'family' and possible ways the people of God can be involved ecumenically in our own communities.

9. ACROSS THE SYNODS

WORLD AIDS DAY - DECEMBER 1

Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise. World AIDS Day is a unique moment each year when all of humanity is challenged to reflect on the way that HIV and AIDS affects us and how we can respond to the pandemic. You have an important part to play on that day through planning or participating in events at your church, your school and in your community. The Ecumenical

Advocacy Alliance has a number resources and idea to support activities around World AIDS Day, visit <http://www.e-alliance.ch/wad.jsp> for further information.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2007

Taking place January 21-28, 2007 - the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will focus on the theme "Be Opened". Information and resources, including planning tips, hymn suggestions and posters for advertising, are available through the following link: <http://www.elcic.ca/WOP7web.pdf>

KAIROS SUNDAY - 2007

People have already begun asking about KAIROS Sunday 2007. KAIROS suggests using the last Sunday before Lent (17 February 2007) as KAIROS Sunday, but any Sunday at all can be a KAIROS Sunday. This is your congregation's opportunity to promote justice work in your faith community by focusing on any aspect of KAIROS' work, and/or any justice and peace work underway in your own community. KAIROS has a new full colour poster with an ecumenical liturgy on the reverse available for you; more online resources are coming. Check out <http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/network/sunday/index.asp> for updates and resources.

WE CARE: A HANDS-ON PROJECT THAT HELPS OTHERS

A hands-on project for all ages! Get involved as a group or as an individual with "We Care", a program that collects essential and much needed necessities for the poor in the developing world. Getting involved is as easy as reviewing the online brochure, selecting the items you'd like to donate, putting it all together and following the instructions for shipping. Further information is available online - <http://www.clwr.org/getinvolved/6b1-quiltskits.php>. We Care is a project of Canadian Lutheran World Relief, the international delivery arm for the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA).

2007 CANADIAN CHRISTIAN WRITING AWARDS

The Word Guild, a national association of writers and editors, has released information on the 2007 Canadian Christian Writing Awards. Writers who published articles, books, poetry or short stories in 2006 can enter their work in a national writing competition. The Word Guild Canadian Christian Writing Awards will honour writing in 34 categories, including novels, memoirs, devotionals, opinion columns, song lyrics, and scripts or screenplays. For further information visit: <http://www.thewordguild.com/newsreleases/index.html>

10. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET

THE LUTHERAN COURSE ON MARRIAGE - Looking for Lutheran marriage resources? *The Lutheran Course on Marriage* takes couples through a 7-session marriage enrichment course with a weekend retreat option. Each session features a large group DVD presentation, followed by a small group discussion that works through the topic with depth and humour and even includes take-home material for couples to use on their own. This resource is available December 1 from Augsburg Fortress - <http://www2.afcanada.com/default.jsp>.

GODPARENTS 101 - *We Do! A Guide for Godparents* is a new booklet that helps godparents understand what baptism is, clarifies the godparent's role, and offers ideas for celebrating baptism, birthdays and other milestones in their godchild's life. Suitable for congregations to give to godparents. You can find out more about this resource by visiting the Augsburg Fortress website at <http://www2.afcanada.com/default.jsp>.

50 NIFTY THINGS ABOUT *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP* - In connection with the introduction of Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the Program Committee for Worship (PCM) has invited Rev. Paul Bosch, CWA, to write a series of essays about our new worship book. You can find Rev. Bosch's first essay, *Fifty Nifty Things About Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, by visiting the worship website at <http://www.worship.ca> and look for the link to Worship Workbench.

DAILY DISCIPLESHIP - Living in Christ is a daily challenge for disciples of all ages. Consider using the free online lectionary curriculum, *Daily Discipleship*. The theme for this quarter is "Living in Christ". It is an excellent small group discussion guide for disciples of Christ who want to implement biblical principles in their daily lives. Many preachers find *Daily Discipleship* a helpful tool as they prepare their sermons. Visit *Daily Discipleship* at <http://www.elca.org/evangelism/dailydiscipleship> (reprinted from *Seeds for the Parish*).

11. OUR STORIES

RETIRING... THE LBW and WOV

With the introduction and arrival of the new ELCIC worship book, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, congregations are wondering what to do with their large numbers of *Lutheran Book of Worship* and *With One Voice* hymnals. After using the Retirement Rite (see "Retiring our Lutheran Book of Worship"), the coordinators of the introduction of the new worship book offer the following suggestions for the older hymnals:

1. Go through the hymnals and identify individuals who donated the books. See if those who originally donated books would like to have their copy returned to them as a keepsake of their gift to the church and as a memory of the donation.
2. Keep a small number of books for use by the choir.
3. See if other institutions, such as church schools, camps or congregations, in the area (those that are not adopting the new *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* resource) would be interested in replacement books for their current supply.
4. Check out if there are local recyclers who will accept the books.

**** Answer to the ELCIC Trivia Questions:**

There are actually a few ways in which you can find out more about *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the new worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. On the ELCIC page, <http://www.elcic.ca>, click on the "cranberry" book - look in the column on the right hand side - and you'll be connected to the worship pages of the ELCIC. Augsburg Fortress has also created a dedicated site at <http://www.augsburgfortress.org/worship/evangelicallutheranworship/default.jsp> - where you can find samples of the content, upcoming events and information on ordering the new worship material.

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>