



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

E-Communique from the ELCIC - February / March 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
- 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>

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1. 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 (email: rnatividad@elcic.ca), IT Coordinator, at the National Office.

2. ELCIC's GLOBAL HUNGER AND DEVELOPMENT APPEAL (GHDA)

GHDA Issues Appeal to Assist with Relief Efforts Following Severe Flooding in Mozambique: The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) is accepting donations to support relief efforts in Mozambique after weeks of

heavy rains in the central Zambezi River valley caused severe flooding to the area. Further flooding is feared with the arrival of Cyclone Favio, a powerful tropical cyclone with reported winds of up to 230 km per hour, which hit southern Mozambique on Thursday morning.

Donations can be made to the GHDA - Mozambique Appeal as follows:

- By clicking on the "Donate Now" link on this page
- By mail: GHDA, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6 (please indicate "GHDA - Mozambique Appeal" in the memo portion of the cheque)
- Through all ELCIC Congregations

Designated funds received through GHDA will be sent on to Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) which is already engaged in relief efforts in the region, including the evacuation of low-lying areas and the distribution of immediate shelter materials, blankets, clothing, food and cooking utensils.

- **For a brochure you can include in your congregation's bulletin**, please click on the following link: <http://www.elcic.ca/docs/mozambique.pdf>
- **To read the full news release on this GHDA Appeal**, please click here: <http://www.elcic.ca/WebSite/ELCICInfo.nsf/infoview/6CD4587379D3B50A8625728A0072C1CE?OpenDocument>

3. THE 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION

In Mission for Others: A People Called: Further information continues to be added to the website for the Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (to view this site, click on <http://www.elcic.ca>, and look for the Convention 2007 link). The next Bulletin of Reports will be sent out to registered delegates around the beginning of April.

4. MISSION IN THE WORLD

LAST CALL to submit an application for the Missionary Opportunity in Peru: The ELCIC is recruiting a new Long-term Missionary for Peru and the deadline for applications is March 16, 2007. A pastor is needed in Lima, Peru by the Peruvian Lutheran Evangelical Church (ILEP) to provide training in Lutheran liturgy and church music and serve an ILEP congregation. For details go to <http://www.elcic.ca/mission/MIW-DecAD.pdf> or call Kelvin Krieger, Mission in the World Coordinator, to request the application form at 1.888.786.6707 ext 164 (984.9164 in Winnipeg).

Global Mission Event (GME): Registration is now open for the GME in Columbus, Ohio, July 19-22, 2007 - an ELCA event endorsed by the ELCIC. Go to <http://elcic.ca/mission/gme/gme.html> where highlights of the Canadian experience at the 2006 GME are now posted and follow the links to register for the Columbus event this summer.

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 newsletter.
- Join the conversation through the ELCIC Stewardship Listserv. This listserv 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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship - The Road Where Faith is Found: Borrowed from the poetry of United Church of Canada pastor Sylvia Dunstan (1955-1993), author of *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymn 326), *The Road Where Faith Is Found* is the title of a terrific series of ELCIC pastoral essays. The authors include our national bishop and five synodical bishops together with a number of other ordained people serving in a variety of ministry settings. The essays are designed to support the reception and exploration of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* in the context of a church *In Mission for Others*. Each essay title is drawn from a hymn in our new worship-book. Essays are being posted on the *Worship Matters* (WM) page at *Lift Up Your Hearts* - <http://www.worship.ca>. Newly added essays include submissions from Rev. Tanya Ramer & Mark Harris, Rev. Susan Johnson and Bishop Cindy Halmarson.

7. BROCHURES AND ENVELOPES

Looking to share or find information on ELCIC Programs and Ministries? Have you been online to www.elcic.ca recently? There are a number of electronic brochures that are available for download from the ELCIC website. Perhaps you're looking for information to share with new members, a committee or even for yourself, these resources can be easily printed and distributed to individuals or included with your worship bulletins. The following are just some of the brochures that are currently available on the ELCIC website:

- Diaconal Ministry Brochure: http://www.elcic.ca/docs/DM_Brochure.pdf
- ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA): <http://www.elcic.ca/ghda/resources/2006/2006brochure.pdf>
- Called by God - It's Your Call Brochure: http://www.elcic.ca/call/gifts/Brochure_4.pdf
- Annual Report Covers: <http://www.elcic.ca/steward/AnnualReport2006.pdf>
- Continuing Education Plan: <http://www.elcic.ca/ministers/CEPBrochure2006.pdf>

Offering Envelopes: Is your congregation planning to focus an upcoming Sunday on a specific area of ministry within the ELCIC, such as Mission in the World Directed Giving, Global Hunger and Development Appeal or Canada Lutheran? Pre-printed offering envelopes are available from the National Office to assist with your worship service. For further information and to order envelopes for your congregation, please contact the ELCIC Orders Desk by phoning 1.888.786.6707 ext. 177 (in Winnipeg, 984.9177) or by emailing bwiebe@elcic.ca

8. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN (ELW)

Need Resources for Congregational Programs or Group Discussions? If your congregation is looking for video resources to spark discussion, consider checking out the diverse list of videos available through Evangelical Lutheran Women (ELW). Topics range from children, youth and parents - such as *It's a Girl's World*, a documentary about social bullying which takes the viewer, "inside the tumultuous relationships of a clique of popular 10-year old girls," to congregational development, as well as a number of resources on physical health and well-being, in addition to other topic areas. A complete list of videos and ordering information is available at the following link: <http://www.elw.ca/res/default/resourcebooklet.pdf>

9. LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)

66.7 million Lutherans DO make a difference! The Lutheran World Federation is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. Active with 140 member churches in 78 countries and representing 66 million Lutherans, we do make a difference! The LWF began as a response to the critical need of

Lutheran refugees in Europe following World War II. Today that same commitment is lived out in many places around the world. Share the excitement of the global work your congregation is part of as a member of the LWF. Resources for use in your congregation can be found throughout the year on the LWF North America website <http://www.elca.org/lwf>. Weekly prayers are now posted for use in your congregation's newsletter, web page or bulletin.

10. YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS EVENTS

ELCIC Young Adult Conference (YAC): Are you between the ages of 18 and 30? Are you looking for an exciting gathering to take part in this summer? Mark your calendars for June 29-July 2, 2007 and plan to attend the ELCIC YAC! Taking place at Cedar Lodge, overlooking Lake Blackstrap (near Saskatoon, Saskatchewan), the theme for the 2007 ELCIC YAC is IT! (As in Read IT, Believe IT, Share IT, Lead IT, Serve IT, Walk IT, Communicate IT, Encourage IT...). Check IT out at: <http://www.youth.elcic.ca/IT>. Don't miss the early bird registration date, make sure you register by April 30, 2007.

2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering: Mark your calendars! The 2008 Canadian Lutheran Youth Gathering (CLYG) will be taking place August 14 - 17, 2008 in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

11. ACROSS THE SYNODS

Women in Ministry Retreat: The April 3 deadline for registering for the Women in Ministry Retreat is fast approaching. This gathering takes place at St. Michael's Retreat in Lumsden, Saskatchewan, April 16-28, 2007 and will afford women in ministry opportunities to affirm their call through intentional dialogue, the exploration of challenges and the recognition of the need for self-care. For further information or questions, please contact Carla (bc.blakley@sasktel.net) or Darlene (darstar@sasktel.net).

The North American Association for the Catechumenate (NAAC), of which the ELCIC is a member, gathers July 19 through 22 at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario. The theme, "Connecting Worship, Experience, and Sacrament," will be developed by the Rev. Dr. Craig A. Satterlee of the Lutheran School of Theology (ELCA) at Chicago. The liturgist for the event will be the Rev. Dr. Clay Morris, the Liturgical Officer in the Office for Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church (TEC) in the United States. More details of this gathering and the work of NAAC are available on the website <http://www.catechumenate.org>.

Undoing Racism in Canadian Churches: Look for the 2007 Racial Justice Resource at <http://www.ccc-cce.ca/english/justice/racism.htm>. "Toward Reconciliation" will commemorate 200 years since the abolition of the slave trade in the British Empire. It will be available in January, for use throughout the year, and especially during the launch week: March 18-25, 2007. You can also find the 2006 Racial Justice Resource, "For God So Loved the People of the World", now available in smaller files from the Table of Contents. Choose from worship resources, sermon notes, or workshops.

Wade In The Water – Take Action On World Water Day, March 22 2007: Once again, KAIROS, Council of Canadians, and CUPE are uniting in an effort to advocate for water justice on World Water Day, March 22. We're offering a range of activity ideas and want to encourage as much cooperation as possible among KAIROS and church groups, Council chapters, CUPE locals, and other community groups. Last year, we collaborated on more than 60 events and we hope to do even more this year, and draw in even more people from throughout our communities. KAIROS will focus on two main advocacy points: regulating Canadian corporate activity that damages water supply through overuse, diversion, and pollution; and getting Canada to acknowledge that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right. For a full range of action options, including a Walk for Water, worship ideas, and plans for a water-themed book club event, visit <http://www.kairoscanada.org/e/action/wwd07/index.asp>

Got Hunger? Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) launches hunger awareness project

: In a world where millions struggle with the very serious problem of chronic hunger and starvation, North Americans often have trouble trying to simply understand what real hunger would be like. Real hunger is something most of us have never experienced so we resort to holding mock famines and hunger challenges on a weekend to come to understand it. HUNGER (inter)MISSION, with its tongue-in-cheek tone, tries to show the near absurdity of this situation—millions suffering chronically from something that we ourselves have never experienced, much less understand. In a world full of cool products that we can buy to “save Africa,” in a time of cool celebrity fundraising concerts, HUNGER (inter)MISSION plays hunger as something North Americans are missing out on—but ultimately ends up delivering the true dirt on hunger. Find everything you need for HUNGER (inter)MISSION, including registration information, at <http://www.clwr.org>.

Taize Montreal: Leaving Discouragement Behind, Finding New Hope: A weekend of prayer and reflection is planned for young adults between the ages of 17-35 in Montreal from April 27,29, 2007. Find out more about this event that will bring together young adults from across the country and the United States by clicking on the following link: <http://www.taizemontreal2007.ca>

12. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET

Resources for Lent: Looking for resources for the Lenten season? The following are a list of links that may assist you and your congregation.

- **ELCIC Worship Website:** <http://www.worship.ca/> (scroll down the options on the left-hand side and under the section titled, "Additional Resources" click on the link for Lent to find a collection of selected sites that offer "worthwhile, ecumenically accessible Lent, Holy Week and Easter resources". Sites marked with a red maple leaf indicate a Canadian connection.
- **The ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)** , have two resources available to assist in guiding your Lenten journey. A Family Lenten Calendar is a day-by-day family planner for prayer, thought and action, and a series of Lenten Bulletin Inserts are available for congregations and groups to use to engage in conversation and study during Lent. These resources are available at the following link: <http://www.clwr.org/resources/5e-lentenresources.php>
- The ELCA has an online **Global Mission Lenten Worship Series**, which includes sermons and resources. Material is available at <http://www.elca.org/globalmission/lent/index.html>

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.

13. OUR STORIES

Neither Snow, nor Sleet, or Inclement Weather...

...will stop the mail from getting through, but what do you do when any of the above, and other unforeseen circumstances, prevents you from holding a worship service or gathering? Living in rural Manitoba, I've seen my fair share of last minute cancellations and even in the 'big city' (of Winnipeg), just last week I attended a church service where the congregation had to be relocated to another facility at the last moment due to an unexpected watermain break which caused the building's water supply to be shut off. When these things happen, we roll with the punches, but how do we let our congregation members know about these last minute changes so they don't head out on the icy roads or come to the wrong location?

The following are a few examples of methods I've experienced to communication sudden, unexpected changes...

- A message on the voice mail to update on the situation with the hopes that those affected might call first before heading out.
- A sign on the door of the congregation or at the entrance to the parking lot (advising those you weren't able to reach)
- A phone tree system where we invoke the "each one, reach one" methodology where I call five people, and those five people call five people... etc.
- Advise local radio and TV news stations of the change. If there's room in the program, most are happy to oblige (this is also a great way to get the word out about a reschedule date, if there is one and promote the event a little more... but I'm getting ahead of myself, I'll leave that communication topic for another issue of E-Communique).
- Putting an announcement on the homepage of your website. Remember the article from the last issue of E-Communique? (see: <http://www.elcic.ca/communique/2007/07Jan.pdf> for a reminder)... does your congregation have a website? If so, do your members know the website address? Do they know / expect they can get information quickly by checking online?
- Sending out an email to your congregation members. Would your members expect this and know to check their email before heading out?

What other actions has your congregation employed to spread the word? I'm curious... send me an email (tgallop@elcic.ca) and let me know. In a future article, I'll share updates from your responses.

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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