



ELCIC

*In Mission
for Others*

E-Communique from the ELCIC July/August 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. STEWARDSHIP

2007-2008 Stewardship Material - As a part of the ELCIC stewardship strategy, each year we mail to each of our congregations a stewardship sample package of materials that can be used for your congregation's stewardship ministry. These sample packages contains stewardship annual theme material which we develop with the Ecumenical Stewardship Centre (ESC) along with ELCIC material. This year's material from the ESC, based on John 15:15 "I have called you friends," includes: *Giving* Magazine, a stewardship theme poster and bulletin covers. Bulletin inserts, to go along with this theme material, will be made available this Fall and will be accessible on-line at www.elcic.ca/stewardship.

2. DIACONAL GATHERING AND FORMATION EVENT

A Diaconal Gathering and Formation Event will be taking place in Winnipeg from July 29-August 4. ELCIC congregations are encouraged to lift up the work of these individuals and include them in your prayers as they prepare to gather.

3. EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WOMEN (ELW)

Be Not Afraid - The ELW's Women's Convention will be taking place July 10-13, 2008 at the beautiful University of Calgary campus! Plan to attend. Start making preparations to enjoy the in-person dynamics of author Kelly Fryer. Enjoy the peace of a meditation space and the laughter at a barbecue. Through worship and dialogue and sessions on today's hot issues you will be inspired, educated and challenged to return to your congregations bursting with energy! Be not afraid.....watch for registration information to be posted on www.elw.ca soon!

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

GHDA is currently examining how we can renew the justice work that we do together as a church. As a part of this we are wanting to hear from ELCIC members where they hear God calling us as a church in terms of our justice and charity work. If you have any suggestions or comments please send them to randersen@elcic.ca.

GHDA is developing an e-list for people who want to be actively involved in our church's shared justice work. If you are interested in being a part of our *Justice* e-list please send your name and e-mail to randersen@elcic.ca.

5. THE 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION

In Mission for Others: A People Called - The Eleventh Biennial Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada took place in Winnipeg from June 21 to 24. View highlights from the gathering by clicking on <http://www.elcic.ca>, and look for the Convention 2007 link. A full overview will also be in the July/August issue of *Canada Lutheran*.

6. ELCIC'S VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM) and CLWR's INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER SERVICE (IVS)

Through a joint venture between the ELCIC's Volunteers in Mission and Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)'s International Volunteer Service, Rev. Dale and Donna Finch have been selected to serve with Lutheran partners in East Jerusalem.

IVS and VIM provide opportunities for Canadians to serve in placements matching their skills with requests from partner churches and organizations. Placements, which are between six months to two years, are usually overseas although there are some opportunities in Canada as well. Find out more by going online: <http://elcic.ca/In-Mission-in-the-World/default.cfm>

7. CANADA LUTHERAN

Do you subscribe to *Canada Lutheran*, the magazine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada? Here's what CL subscribers are reading about in the July/August issue (which will be delivered to subscribers around the first week of August):

- The 2007 National Convention: Highlights from the Winnipeg convention.
- All about "it"! What is "it"? You'll have to pick up the magazine to find out more!

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

8. WORSHIP

The ELCIC Worship Conference 2008 will take place June 25-28 in Montreal. Featuring internationally renowned presenters, fantastic field trips and workshops (including six plenary sessions with Gordon Lathrop, liturgical theologian, and Karen Ward, church-planting guru), along with a full day excursion to Quebec City with touring and bonus plenary all for only \$275 registration fee. Accommodations are also available at bargain prices (dorm style or hotel style: the choice is yours). Rates have never been this low - registration opens in September. Space is limited so make sure you register early. An updated brochure with all the details is available at www.WorshipConference2008.org

9. LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)

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!**

10. 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>

11. ACROSS THE SYNODS

World Council of Churches (WCC) Steward Programme - Young Christians aged 18 to 30 now have the chance to apply for being one of 25 youth from all over the world in the next WCC stewards programme from February 6-22, 2008. Participants will attend the February 13-20, 2008 WCC central committee meeting in Geneva, Switzerland, contribute their work in the areas of worship, conference room, documentation, press office, sound, and get involved in other administrative and support tasks. Further information is available online: <http://www.oikoumene.org/en/news/news-management/all-news-english/display-single-english-news/article/1637/apply-now-stewards-progr.html>

An Invitation from WCC's new Global Platform for Theological Reflection and Analysis - *Finding Sanctuary: migration, community and the churches* is the theme chosen for the first of WCC's new Global Platform for theological reflection and analysis. The Global Platform is an instrument for integrating theological reflection with economic, political and social analysis around commonly identified issues of concern for the ecumenical movement. The platform is not intended to produce agreed theological statements on issues but to help us understand the diversity of theological perspectives on them and to be able to use different ways of doing theology. The Global Platform will be taking one issue of vital concern to the ecumenical movement each year until 2009. The WCC will then assess how effective an instrument this is. The Global Platform, under guidance of a representative Core Group, will draw on theological reflection and analysis already taking place around each identified issue. The annual meeting of the platform will be the place where all of this is brought together for the deepening of theological engagement with this issue across the ecumenical movement. The Core Group chose the theme of migration as the first to be considered by the Global Platform as, in its various forms and effects, it is a global reality. In some places fear motivates migration, in others migrant people are feared. Churches are challenged by migration not only to respond in advocacy and service but also in their own self-understanding as faith communities. There are many ecumenical partners responding to issues of migration but more theological reflection is necessary. In order for the Global Platform to work, we need to receive your theological reflections on migration – stories, Bible studies, methodologies, statements and questions. We also need to know about others who are working on this. If you can help us, please contact simon.oxley@wcc-coe.org.

12. NUGGETS FROM THE 'NET

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 10th. Register or find out more at 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.

In the last issue of E-Communique, you read about the nomination call for **Dynamic Young Christian Leaders** for the **Top 35 Under 35**, a National Recognition Project of Arrow Leadership, ChristianWeek, the Canadian Council of Christian Charities and the Bridgeway Foundation. Well, the nominations are in. View the finalists and be inspired: <http://www.35under35.ca/finalists/>

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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