

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Proclaimer

February 2010



# Lent begins

Office Hours:  
Monday to Friday 8:00 am—12:00 pm

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Please submit Proclaimer information  
by the 20th of each month.

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Lutheran Identity – The Lutheran Confessions

I continue with another article on Lutheran Identity based on Frank Senn's book. We come to a part of our identity that is distinctly Lutheran—our Lutheran Confessions contained in the Book of Concord. The Lutheran confessions themselves claim that they are not teaching anything new. The summary of Articles 1-21 of the Augsburg Confession claim, "There is nothing here that departs from the Scriptures or the catholic church or the church of Rome, in so far as the ancient church is known to us from its writers."

I realize that many Lutherans have never read the Lutheran Confessions which is unfortunate because they really are great devotional reading and very helpful in aiding a person to understand scripture. To whet your appetite to read them I will give you a summary of each of the documents that make up the confessions. First we have the Three Ecumenical Creeds, and then the Augsburg Confession written in 1530 by Philip Melancthon to present to Emperor Charles V who was seeking to bring the Lutherans and Catholics back together. The first 21 articles deal with doctrine about which the confessors said there should be no controversy because these teachings conform to scripture and the catholic tradition. The last seven articles speak about abuses that have been corrected. The third section in the Book of Concord is The Apology to the Augsburg Confession written also by Melancthon in 1531. It is a response to the Roman Catholic Confutation of the Augsburg Confession. It is a defense of the Augsburg Confession and addresses the issues raised by the Roman Catholic delegation at the Diet of Augsburg. The Fourth document in the Book of Concord is The Smalcald Articles. When Pope Paul III called for a general council of the church to address the controversies generated by the Reformation, Elector John Fredrick of Saxony requested that Martin Luther prepare a response. He complied by drafting the Smalcald Articles, named after the city where the Lutheran Theologians met. This document points out the articles on which there could be no concessions. Appended to the Smalcald Articles is a Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope. In this treatise Melancthon denied the papal claims of supremacy over the church by divine right, of supremacy over the kingdoms by divine right, and that all Christians must believe in this supremacy and submit to the pope. In a codicil, however Melancthon wrote that the pope could be regarded as a universal bishop by human right for the sake of Christian unity.

The fifth and sixth documents are the Small and Large Catechisms. Most Lutherans are familiar with the Small Catechism since we study it in confirmation. The Large Catechism has the same chief parts as the Small Catechism but is much longer. It is based on a series of sermons Luther had preached on the catechism in 1528. In the preface, Luther admonishes pastors and teachers to learn the catechism, pointing out that he, too, though a doctor of the church, "must remain a child and pupil of the Catechism, and I do it gladly."

The last document in the Book of Concord is called the Formula of Concord, made up of two parts. The Epitome and The Solid Declaration. In the years after Luther's death in 1546, theological disputes arose among his followers. The Formula does not discuss all the articles of doctrine, but only those where that were in dispute. It offers a consensus on these teachings that was reached on the basis of the word of God.

Lutherans in North America have had several different approaches to the Lutheran Confessions. One approach, associated especially but not exclusively with The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, has held that we subscribe to the confessions "because" (quia) they are true. In matters upon which the confessions touch we have a true and reliable interpretation of Scripture, and they even shed light on matters they do not directly address. Those who subscribe to the confessions in this way insist that the Lutheran church should teach what the confessions teach and hold its teachers accountable to confessional teachings in their own teaching.

The other view holds that the confessions are part of our heritage. What is most important about the confession is the unchanging gospel of Jesus Christ. So we subscribe to the confessions "in so far" (quatenus) as they are true interpretations of Scripture. The problem with this form of subscription is that it really commits the subscriber to nothing specific. The confessions get treated on a case by case basis.

A more "constructive" approach to the confessions takes seriously the confessions and contemporary issues. The confessions give the church clarity in preaching the gospel of Christ; this is their evangelical thrust. But the confessions also root us in Catholic tradition. They appeal to the authority of the church fathers and the norming authority of the Bible. This evangelical catholic approach to the confessions serves the purpose of shoring up Lutheran identity while also building ecumenical bridges to other Christian traditions that preach the same gospel and share the same great tradition.

When I was ordained as a Lutheran Pastor, I was asked this question in regard to the Lutheran Confessions. "We also acknowledge the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful expositions of the Holy Scriptures. Will you therefore preach and teach in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions? So if you really want to understand the Lutheran Church you need to read its confessions found in the Book of Concord.

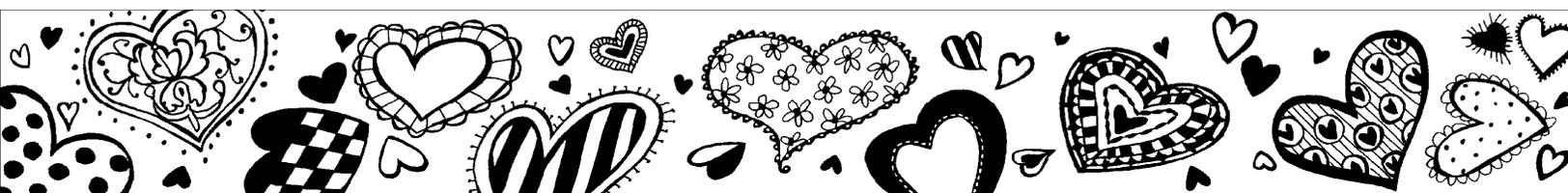
## *Sunday School News*

We are happy to be back to Sunday School following the Christmas break. We return to lessons from the Old Testament. In mid January Pat Lewis talked to us about how we can pray for people in Pakistan - that they may have visions and dreams of Jesus, that someone would be there to explain those dreams and that more “workers” would go to share with these people whom Jesus loves.

Over the next six months we are hoping to start a library for the Sunday School Students (3 yrs old up to high school). We will be looking for donations of “wholesome” books for the shelves. Notices will be coming out in the coming months describing what we are looking for.

Thank you to the Sunday School students who are helping out with different tasks during worship. We are all part of the body of Christ, and having them share their gifts and abilities is meaningful.

Submitted by Kirsti Haugen



## **World Day of Prayer Service**

On Friday March 5th, 7:30pm, Bethlehem will be hosting the 2010 World Day of Prayer service.

The roots of this program began in 1918. In 1922 the United Day of Prayer committee in the USA invited women of Canada to join them in prayer on the first Friday in Lent for the first international Day of Prayer. Since that time, this special day celebrated every first Friday of March, has had many denominations in many countries participate. Locally, Anglican, Church of Christ, Lutheran, Roman Catholics, & United Church ladies organize, participate, and host.

This year's focus country is Cameroon, Africa. The women of Cameroon invite us to visit 'Africa in miniature' under the theme 'Let everything that has breath praise God'.

We are pleased to have Pastor Ali Tote as our guest speaker. Ali Tote was born in Cameroon. He is the second child of a family of eight children. He moved to Canada in 1998 to work with the l'Arche Community in Edmonton. For three years he lived in a home with people who had mental disabilities. While there, he discerned the call to full time ordained ministry. He and his wife Dominique, moved to Saskatoon in 2001 where he attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary. They also continued the work with mental disability people in Saskatoon. They moved to Prince Albert in 2005 where Ali did his pastoral internship at Messiah Lutheran church. He then began serving the congregations of Carrot River Valley and Beaver Creek Lutheran in 2006 and continues there to the present time. Ali & Dominique have two daughters, Eva-Marie born May 07, and Marcelle Anne, born January 09. The children are true gifts from God and have brought joy into their parents lives. Ali is passionate about evangelism and outreach. Besides his pastoral duties, he is a PhD candidate in Epidemiology and Community Health at the University of Saskatchewan. His focus is on the importance of faith in health and the health issues of minorities.

Pastor Tote expressed that it is a privilege and honour to be able to speak about the Cameroon. Don't miss this opportunity. Everyone is invited. This is not just a program for women.

Submitted by Evelyn Anderson

January '10

# notes from a shop class

Ben Olson

We've only one life, it soon will be past  
Only what's done for Christ will last

- C.T. Studd

Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, especially for my Dad. Our quiet Christmas holiday in cold, rural Afghanistan suddenly turned into a metropolitan experience in a much warmer Dubai following Dad's heart attack. We were very grateful to be able to spend time together as a family for another ten days or so there. Karen then returned to Canada, and Daniel and I went back to Afghanistan, this time to Mazar. We had been unsuccessful in getting him a Pakistan visa in Dubai, and really, trying from Mazar was a last resort. However, thanks be to God.

we were able to obtain the visa there without any trouble. We then stayed for a couple of extra days in order to visit friends and take in a game of *buzkashi* (Afghanistan's national sport) before taking the bus to Kabul. The adventures continued right up until our flight back to Pakistan (which was delayed for 4 hours) with insurgent attacks in Kabul. After all of that, a return to my comfortable routine of teaching here at MCS has been very welcome.

Thank you all so much for praying for my Dad. He is doing well, resting in Kabul with Mom. He will be evaluated again by a doctor in Kabul in mid-February, and if all goes well he and Mom will be able to return to Lal shortly after that. On the day I left Kabul I heard the disturbing news that a 24-year old British woman who had worked with the same organization as Mom and Dad had been found dead in Kabul, probably from a blood clot.

This has haunted me with questions as to why God spares some and not others. Ultimately we are called to trust in His sovereignty, wisdom, and unflinching love. The world often advises us to live for ourselves while we can. But for me this was a reminder that life is fragile, our time on Earth is short, and only what's done for Christ will last.

## Prayer Items

- Please join me in thanking and praising God for His goodness and unflinching love.  
- Please pray for our new school director, Floyd Celli, who just arrived from Canada. He has much to do as he learns the ropes of a new job in a new country.

- Please pray for rain and snow both here and in Afghanistan, where the winter seems to be unusually warm and dry. This could pose significant problems in the spring.

Daniel and I thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Mazar.



It was nice to have 70% of the family together for about three weeks.



For more about WMPL, please visit: <wmpicdn.ca> (Canada) or <wmpi.org> (US)  
Mailing Address: 5408 49th Ave, Camrose, AB T4V 0N7 (Canada) or 232 Clifton Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55403-3466 (USA).  
More information about Murree Christian School can be found at: <mcs.org.pk>  
My email: <benjaminolson1@gmail.com>

## Watch great teaching from top Christian speakers - at home on your computer!

Friends,

Through our church's subscription to Church Communication Network (CCN), everyone in our congregation can now watch outstanding seminars and teaching sessions in your own homes, at your own convenience, and it's completely free!

CCN programs are available online for 60 days after the air date. This includes sessions on marriage, spiritual growth, relationships, health & fitness, parenting, personal evangelism, and more. Here's a small sampling of the many programs currently available online:

**Erwin McManus, Lee Strobel, others:** *Awaken to Evangelism*

**Jim Burns:** *Growing Spiritually as a Couple*

**Dr. Henry Cloud:** *You Can Deal with Failure*

**Dr. John Townsend:** *Hot Temper!*

**David Staal:** *Preparing Your Heart for Children's Ministry*

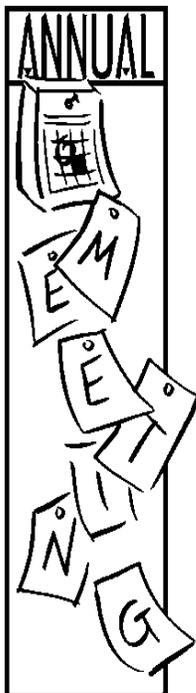
**Lorraine Bosse-Smith:** *How to Finally Get Fit*

I think you'll find this a great resource with many applications, and it's easy to use:

Go to [www.ccn.tv/online](http://www.ccn.tv/online).

- Click "sign up".
- Enter our church's Subscriber ID 128445.
- Create your own user name and password (remember these because you will need them to log on in the future).
- Click on the title of the program you want to watch and it will automatically open.

You can start today!



## **ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting of Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be held on Sunday, February 7.

Potluck sandwiches and squares will be served after the 11:15 service and the Annual Meeting will follow at 1:30 pm.

Please be sure to pick up your copy of the Annual Report from your mailbox.

## *From the ELW*

*Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.* John 1:29b

We will meet in February under the theme “Created in Flesh” Genesis 1:26-28. Objectives suggested are: 1) Re-examine the creation text, and

2) Consider what it means for women to be created in God’s image.

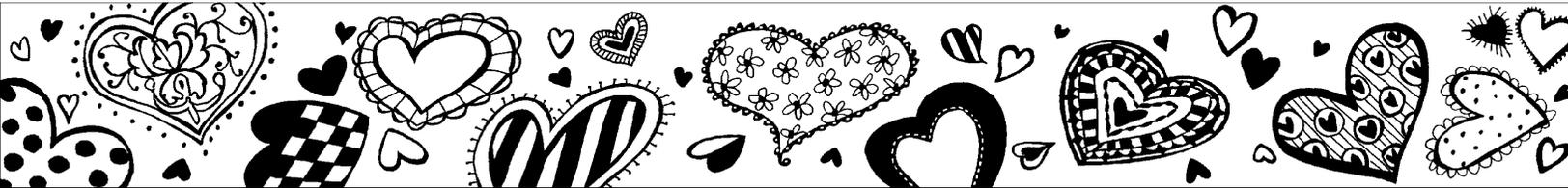
However our leaders can lead us into scripture through other ways as well. Meeting will be February 24 at 2:00 pm.

We served for two funerals in January. Frank Loken and January 11th and Tom Bennett on January 22nd. May God grant comfort and strength to those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

February will see the beginning of the Lenten season. Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Lent is a time to remember Christ’s journey to the cross. We crucified Him—He bore our sins on the cross that we may have forgiveness and love. He has done and continues to do so much for each of us. He promises “Lo I am with you always, even to the end of the world.”

*It's really hard to understand  
The length and depth of His love.  
But I will praise and thank Him  
For all blessings—gifts from above.*

In His Service  
June Haug



## *Quilting Notes*

It is time to think about our next quilting week once again – March 15 -19<sup>th</sup>. We could use donations of coloured/patterned sheets for backs and fabric for tops. Fabric can be gently used or new and should be of a firm weave. We cannot use fiberglass curtains or adult clothing. If you are willing to make quilt tops and need material, please let us know.

New or gently used layette items are also needed. Thrift stores are great for getting cheap sheets for quilting, sleepers, receiving blankets, undershirts etc. Knit or crocheted baby sweaters are also needed. If you prefer to sew, we have lots of fleece material to make little jackets and some flannel and knits to make nightgowns and undershirts. Donations of mild bath soap bars are also needed. 4.5 oz. bars are preferred. A complete list of layette items can be found in the program booklets recently handed out and on the bulletin board of the quilting room. We purchase ready made diapers so financial donations for diapers can be made to Bethlehem ELW.

Carrie Gullickson has made a quilt with two matching cushions. These will be displayed and sold by silent auction. The money raised will go to LWR. It’s a great opportunity to get a beautiful quilt while supporting a good cause!

We live a pampered life - quilts and layettes are a great way to share our love for Jesus and the blessings we enjoy with the less privileged.

Submitted by Betty Peter

# CANADIAN Lutherans Respond to the Haiti Crisis

*January 22, 2010, Winnipeg* – As of 9:00 AM this morning, supporters of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) have donated over \$210,000 to the agency's appeal for funds to assist the people of Haiti. The appeal was launched on January 13, one day after a 7.0 magnitude earthquake caused catastrophic damage in the capital city of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas.

Funds raised by CLWR are being used to support the work of its partners, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance, who are on the ground in Haiti to address immediate needs and assess how best to address long-term recovery.

Immediate relief being provided by ACT includes a water purification system that is providing 10,000 homeless Haitians with crystal clear drinking water. The "water factory" is based in the Belair neighbourhood of Port-au-Prince. The water coming from these taps is the first clean water these people have had since the earthquake.

Several shipments of equipment have been sent to homeless families in Jacmel, on Haiti's southern coast, where the ACT Alliance is distributing tonnes of relief materials, including four million water purification tablets, jerry cans, blankets and enough healthcare kits to last 10,000 people three months. The ACT Alliance is also involved in the psycho-social treatment of the traumatized population.

The ACT Alliance is an international ecumenical coalition of churches and church-based relief and development agencies based in Geneva. Both CLWR and the LWF (also Geneva-based) are members of the ACT Alliance. The LWF is playing a lead role in coordinating the ACT Alliance response in Haiti.

Canadian Churches in Action (CCA), a group of nine Canadian churches and church-based international development and relief agencies, is preparing a request to the Government of Canada for additional support from the \$50 million it has set aside for organizations assisting Haiti. A similar request is being prepared for funds available from the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation.

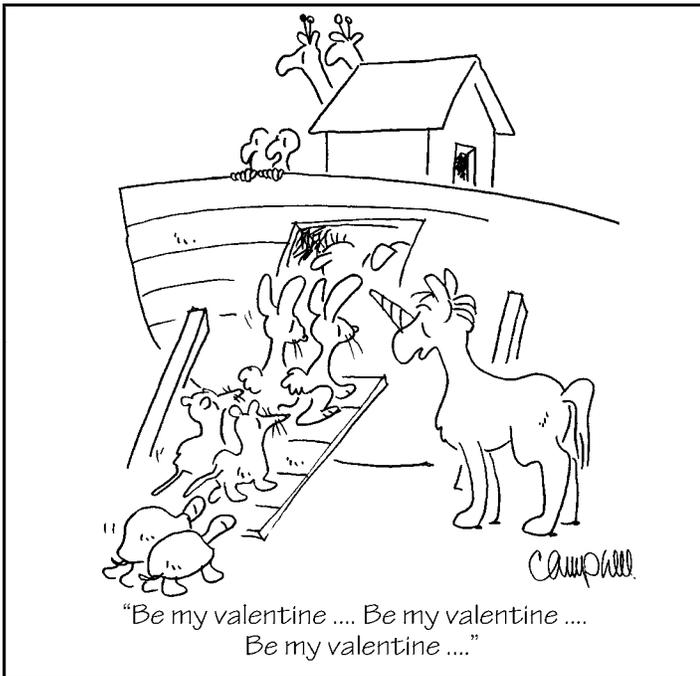
CLWR continues to accept donations for its Haiti Appeal. Donations can be made online ([www.clwr.org/donate](http://www.clwr.org/donate)), by phone (1.800.661.2597 or 204.694.5602) or by cheques made payable to CLWR and mailed to CLWR, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6.

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**CLWR News Briefs** are produced by Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR). CLWR reports stories for the benefit and interest of its readers. News stories do not necessarily reflect CLWR policy or positions.

**Donations** can be made in the following ways:

- Through your local LCC or ELCIC congregation
- At [www.clwr.org](http://www.clwr.org)
- Toll free at 1.800.661.2597 (CLWR) or in the Winnipeg area: 204.694.5602
- By cheque or money order to:

Canadian Lutheran World Relief  
302-393 Portage Avenue  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6



**There are so many things in our lives to be grateful for – some are:**

**For the wife who says it's hot dogs tonight**

– because she is home with me, and not out with someone else.

**For the husband who is on the sofa being a couch potato**

– because he is home with me and not out at the bars.

**For the teenager who is complaining about doing dishes**

– because that means she is at home, not on the streets.

**For the taxes that I pay**

– because that means that I am employed.

**For the mess to clean up after a party**

– because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.

**For the clothes that fit a little too snug**

– because it means I have enough to eat.

**For my shadow that watches me work**

– because it means I am out in the sunshine.

**For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing**

– because it means I have a home.

**For all the complaining I hear about the government**

– because it means that we have freedom of speech.

**For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot**

- because it means I am capable of walking and that I have been blessed with transportation.

**For my heating bill**

– because it means I am warm.

**For the lady behind me in church that sings off key**

– because it means that I can hear.

**For the pile of laundry and ironing**

– because it means I have clothes to wear.

**For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day**

– because it means I have been capable of working hard.

**For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours**

– because it means that I am alive.

# **ACT MEMBERS SCALE UP ACTIVITY IN HAITI**

Winnipeg, January 22, 2010 – Action by Churches Together (ACT) is issuing updates on the situation in Haiti every two days. Below is the latest of these reports.

Donations to the Appeal for Haiti issued by Canadian Lutheran World Relief on January 13, 2010 will be used to support the immediate relief as well long term redevelopment for Haiti. In addition to these funds, CLWR will be part of a coalition of nine Canadian churches and church-based development agencies that is in the process of applying for additional resources from the \$50 million announced by the Canadian government. Geneva, January 21, 18h30

## **Situation update**

A strong 6.1-magnitude aftershock hit the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince (PaP) yesterday, shaking residents who survived the devastating January 12 earthquake. The extent of damage is being assessed; early reports indicated some buildings had been damaged. No reports of casualties. The aftershock was centered on Gressier, a town west of the capital city. Meanwhile, security has improved in Port-au-Prince for ongoing international relief efforts, according to reports.

Reuters Alertnet reports today that the search for survivors has started to wind down as international rescue teams begin pulling back and aid, though more plentiful, is still not enough for the tens of thousands left homeless and injured. There are also growing signs of coordination in aid efforts to help towns outside Haiti's capital devastated by last week's earthquake and frightened anew by Wednesday's big aftershock. Medecins Sans Frontieres, has accused the US of mishandling aid operations and causing severe delays to doctors trying to bring vital help to victims of the earthquake.

Thousands of people are leaving PaP and other affected areas. Organizations are trying to bring help where the displaced are. Some people are trying to pass the border which can later create problems in the Dominican Republic (DR). Wounded have been evacuated to DR.

## **ACT Member Coordination in Haiti:**

Regular meetings with ACT members and partners taking place. Working conditions are difficult due to lack of transportation. Psychosocial support is needed. ACT members are participating in shelter, WATSAN and logistic clusters as well as in humanitarian forum. LWF office in PAP is reaching the limit in terms of hosting people (CWS, SCH and RST). Some space might be available nearby, will be confirmed on Friday.

## **ACT Member Coordination in Dominican Republic:**

CWS is providing support to ACT members in DR (not in PAP!) to facilitate logistics. One LWF staff arrived yesterday in DR. A meeting took place today with Elsa to plan activities in DR (incl. activities in Haiti to be done from DR). HIA is present in DR through Kriszta – heard that the DR government is planning to set up a refugee camp along the border needs to be confirmed. Kriszta will coordinate with ACT members.

## **Rapid Support Team**

Coordinator Elsa Moreno has arrived in Santo Domingo bringing hygiene equipment, water purification tablets, sleeping bags, seven days of field rations, laptops, torches, and satellite phones for the three-person RST.

Elsa expects to arrive in PaP after lunchtime today (January 21). She has requested all ACT members forward their sections of the preliminary ACT Appeal to her [emoreno960@gmail.com](mailto:emoreno960@gmail.com) by 17h00 today (Haiti time).

Already photos of RST communicator Paul Jeffrey have attracted international media interest, notably from Associated Press and Agence France Presse, which request continued supply of photos. Paul Jeffrey photos at <http://photos.act-intl.org> (user name: actmember and password: act4you). Paul is based at the LWF office.

## **Communications**

ACT secretariat planning already now to have replacements on the ground once present communicators leave. Material for ACT Alliance visibility being produced in El Salvador, to be shipped to Haiti, including t-shirt, caps.

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### **Preliminary appeal:**

Preliminary appeal is planned for Friday January 22. Members are preparing respective appeals. As of now, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is planning an immediate response in the areas of water and sanitation, tents, blankets and hygiene kits. Christian Aid (CA) is planning to immediate life-saving food, non-food and cash assistance to 15,000 – 25,000 of the most vulnerable individuals, including encouraging assistance to people at the border. Other activities will be discussed and added to the proposal. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) plans to support ACT members LWF and CA. In addition, it will be a requesting member of the appeal in the areas of water and sanitation with one local partner. Christian Reformed World Relief Committee (CRWRC) has indicated it wants to join the appeal. Other members are still examining the possibility of joining the appeal. The full appeal is targeted to be issued by February 15.

### **Member updates**

All members report a scaling-up of activities. Highlights of **updates of activities** as reported by members to the ACT secretariat follow:

#### **- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) January 19**

LWF will scale up its team in Haiti and is preparing for the appeal in the immediate response phase in the areas of water and sanitation, tents, blankets and hygiene kits.

#### **- Church World Service (CWS) January 20**

Distributions have included CWS kits and blankets, that had been pre-positioned for disasters in a Santo Domingo warehouse by SSID, arrived in Port-au-Prince from Santo Domingo last week along with water and sanitation equipment that been shipped as part of CWS-supported efforts by the ACT Alliance. CWS has scheduled an air shipment for Thursday, January 21, of medicine boxes (containing enough essential medicines and medical supplies to treat the routine ailments of about 1000 adults and children) into Port au Prince. With ocean shipping schedules backed up, CWS has diverted part of a 40-foot container shipment of emergency kits to go by air on tonight, with the remainder to be expedited by fastest means available. This is a separate shipment from the shipment of medicine boxes.

#### **- DanChurchAid (DCA) January 21**

DCA has proposed establishing a 'clearing house' in Copenhagen to manage the distribution of relevant CVs requested by members. This proposal needs further discussion.

#### **- Church of Sweden (CoS) January 18**

Thomas Brundin, former LWF Haiti country representative, was scheduled to arrive at 18h00 to support ACT and LWF in coordination and communication. Tents: CoS is able to offer 141 tents (appropriate for 3-4 persons) and free transportation to Santo Domingo. LWF has accepted this contribution and flight details will be provided as soon as possible.

#### **- Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation (ICCO) & Kerk in Actie January 21**

ICCO & Kerk in Actie will not enter into the appeal at this stage as a requesting member. However, ICCO & Kerk in Actie would like to be mentioned as an ACT member implementing certain interventions with some of its partners outside the ACT Appeal. Through these partners (normally dealing with human rights and democracy, including good governance and training police officers) it will focus on monitoring the compliance of other organisations to the eight common standards of Sphere. ICCO & Kerk in Actie will possibly enter the appeal at a later stage.

#### **- Christian Aid (CA) January 21**

CA is working with plans to work with affected communities in west PaP, Nippes, Petit Goave. Additional locations will be added as further partners are identified. As part of the immediate relief distribution and medium-term rehabilitation with the help of following partner organizations: KORAL, GRAMIR, VETERIMED. We are currently seeking additional partners to assist in the scaling up of the programme.

#### **- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) January 19**

Louis Dorvilier will be joining the ACT response in DR for a minimum of two weeks as a transport logistician in support of LWF staff entering Haiti. Lutheran Services Florida is working to receive refugees incoming from Haiti. This work commenced yesterday.

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ELCA has been in conversation with other North American partners, namely UMCOR, CWS, UCC and IOCC to discuss future coordination of volunteer mobilization. The ELCA has had a historical working relationship with Habitat for Humanity and contact will be made soon to see how the ELCA could facilitate that aid with our ACT Haiti Forum.

**- Hungarian Interchurch Aid (HIA) January 20**

HIA has a resident representative, Krisztina Fogarasi, in Santo Domingo who is ready to join the ACT mission and humanitarian assistance in the coming days. She is fluent in English and French. HIA has also contacted its long-standing partner UMCOR, which is delegating a team to the region. HIA has offered an expert to the team, experienced emergency worker Gábor Sasvári. HIA will cover his costs (travel, accommodation, per diem, etc.) during his possible mission. He could arrive in Haiti from DR on January 25.

HIA is sending an air cargo shipment from Hungary to DR next week. The shipment will include medical supplies: water purification tablets, disinfection powder, disposable rubber gloves, masks, blankets, bandages, etc. HIA has initiated a fundraising campaign among its donors (firms, schools and individuals) as well, and also the Hungarian MFA is going to release some funds to assist the victims of the earthquake.

**- HEKS/EPER January 21**

HEKS is working on distribution of 2500 hot meals and beverages per day nearby its office in Pétiyon Ville. HEKS HQ in Zurich is about to employ one architect and one civil engineer to carry out an assessment mission regarding opportunities for rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools and houses as well as the respective WATSAN infrastructure in rural areas west of PaP. All HEKS staff are briefed to coordinate with ACT Forum in Haiti.

ACT Web Site address: <http://www.act-intl.org> (new ACT Alliance web site will be launched sometime in February)

**THANK YOU!**  
*THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!*

Thank you to everyone who shared their time and talents in so many ways to make our music variety evening a time of enjoyment and blessing. It was so encouraging to have so many people from our congregation and community in attendance as well as to have so many people stay to enjoy visiting with one another during the fellowship lunch. We are so blessed to have received \$1981 in the offering for the church mortgage reduction fund that evening. May our hearts be filled with praise to God for His continual blessings upon us.

Helen Salte



**An Invitation**

Please consider spending a few minutes in the Prayer Room during the Sunday school hour. A simple prayer guide is supplied whenever the Sunday School is meeting. Each Sunday, during the opening of Sunday school, the specific teachers and students are informed of who is being prayed for that day. As the children are becoming used to this, it seems to be more and more important to them. We also pray for the parents of the children, and children who have not been attending regularly. As we are faithful to our Father's command to pray about all things, the children will be blessed and we, too, will grow in our faith.

# **NEWS RELEASE**

## **From Lutheran World Federation (LWI)**

### **First LWF Relief Convoy Arrives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti; DWS Focuses on Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons and Long-term Development Work**

PORT-AU-PRINCE (HAITI)/GENEVA 21 January 2010 (LWI) – The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) Department for World Service (DWS) plans to scale up operations and strengthen logistics capacity in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic following the arrival of the first DWS convoy with urgently needed relief supplies on January 20 in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince. DWS Program Coordinator Rudelmar Bueno de Faria underlined the need to expand LWF/DWS response in order to address quickly and effectively the needs of the stricken population.

Reports from DWS country program staff in Haiti indicate that Wednesday's large aftershock of magnitude 6.1 had caused further destruction. Buildings that had already been damaged collapsed completely and more people have been injured. It is still unknown, however, whether the death toll has increased as a result of the aftershock.

An ACT Alliance rapid support team has already arrived in the region and is providing assistance to partner organizations locally in assessing the extent of the damage and the support required. ACT Alliance is the world's largest alliance of churches and related humanitarian and development agencies. The support team is led by Elsa Moreno, LWF/DWS staff member in Geneva from 2006 to mid-2009.

In an interview just before leaving Denmark for Haiti, Moreno told Lutheran World Information (LWI) that in the days to come the ACT Alliance would focus on delivering as much assistance as possible to the population in Port-au-Prince, as well as around the city and in other areas devastated by the earthquake. Some of the towns include those closest to the epicenter, Leogane and Petit Goave. According to the United Nations, 80 to 90 percent of buildings in Leogane, 19km west of Port-au-Prince, were destroyed. Petit Goave, to the west of Leogane, was also badly hit.

Moreno and DWS collaborators in Haiti said that many people had fled Port-au-Prince and returned to their places of origin, putting a great deal of pressure on local communities to host them.

"The ACT Alliance will continuously try to assess the number of people going to those areas which are away from response of other agencies. The main work will focus on water, shelter and care for children," Moreno stated.

Moreno told LWI that two important components now needed to be put together—emergency response and long-term development. "Our response is not only focused on the immediate needs, but also to help people recover in the long-term and start the process for development," said Moreno, a native of Colombia.

A key task of the DWS country program in Haiti now will be bringing relief to people who have lost everything. DWS would aim to engage and focus attention on internally displaced persons (IDPs) given the department's expertise in camp management, indicated Bueno de Faria. International relief organizations currently estimate the number of IDPs to be as many as 600,000.

The program's main operational areas before the earthquake were in the Macaya zone in Grande Anse and Forêt des Pins, Bueno de Faria noted. "Our target population has always been small-scale farmers, disaster-affected communities and migrants. The LWF will continue focusing on sustainable livelihoods and environment, and food security and advocacy. We are working to continue supporting these communities."

Meanwhile, the LWF/DWS office in Geneva has sent two collaborators to Haiti to reinforce its team there. Mr Bobby Waddell, consultant for resource mobilization, has been sent as LWF/DWS emergency senior advisor for three weeks; Ms Sophia Gebreyes, program officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, will go to Haiti for a week to assess the situation and identify models for optimal coordination between Geneva and Haiti.

For Waddell, a major challenge lies especially in dealing with the reality of logistics and coordination on the ground. Gebreyes wants to "contribute to the emergency response in the crisis phase as well as help plan the early and long term recovery phases with our frontline staff." Next week another, larger LWF/DWS convoy will be sent to Haiti with more relief supplies.

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In collaboration with other members of the ACT Alliance, DWS plans to set up comprehensive, long-term psychosocial counseling structures for frontline staff as quickly as possible. These collaborators are under tremendous emotional stress and are stretched to their psychological limit, Bueno de Faria noted. It is therefore crucial, he said, to offer them respite and professional accompaniment in dealing with their experiences and trauma.

DWS Director Eberhard Hitzler said he was "overwhelmed" by the solidarity of Lutheran churches all around the world. "Their prayers and financial contribution are a great support for our work in Haiti," he noted.

The fact that World Service staff members in Sudan donated to the relief effort is "another fantastic symbol of this solidarity," Hitzler commented. "This is the LWF at its best."

Follow Communio in Action on the LWF Web site at: [http://www.lutheranworld.org/Haiti\\_Quake.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/Haiti_Quake.html)

Further information about LWF/DWS Caribbean/Haiti is available at:

[http://www.lutheranworld.org/What\\_We\\_Do/DWS/Country\\_Programs/DWS-Caribbean-Haiti.html](http://www.lutheranworld.org/What_We_Do/DWS/Country_Programs/DWS-Caribbean-Haiti.html)

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC), through its partnership with Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), is appealing to its members for financial support for relief operations underway to assist the people of Haiti. Contributions to the Haiti appeal may be made in the following ways:

1. Online at [www.clwr.org/donate](http://www.clwr.org/donate). In the process of completing the form, you will come across a pull-down menu that allows you to designate a specific project. Choose Haiti Earthquake.
2. By calling CLWR's toll-free number: 1.800.661.2597. If you do not need to use a toll-free line or are calling locally from the Winnipeg area, you can reach CLWR at 204.694.5602.
3. By sending a cheque made payable to CLWR to: CLWR, 302-393 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB R3B 3H6. Please indicate in your correspondence that you wish to contribute to the Haiti Earthquake Appeal.
4. Through ELCIC congregations by giving an offering designated to the Haiti Earthquake appeal.

The LWF is a global communion of Christian churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF currently has 140 member churches in 79 countries all over the world, with a total membership of 68.9 million. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of common interest such as ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, humanitarian assistance, human rights, communication, and the various aspects of mission and development work. Its secretariat is located in Geneva, Switzerland



## *Mortgage Reduction Report*

The Mortgage Reduction Committee has a new event planned for Sunday, February 14. On that Sunday you will have the opportunity to buy your *Sweetheart* a specially decorated cupcake for \$2.00. Just in case you forgot to buy your special someone a Valentine's Day present, you can redeem yourself with the purchase of a cupcake. All proceeds from the sale of the cupcakes will go towards the Mortgage Reduction Fund.

Also look for the Annual Easter Bake Sale and Tea on Saturday, March 27. Volunteers will be needed for that day. Sign up sheets will be available closer to that date.

Unfortunately due to the chef's shortage of free time, the 100 Mile Supper will have to be rescheduled to a later date.

Submitted by the Leslie Hicks

## Serving the Lord in February

### February 7

*Ushers*  
*Reader*  
*Sound*  
*Video*  
*Driver*

### No 9:00 am Service

### 11:15 am Service

Gordon & Catherine Rott  
Gordon & Catherine Rott  
Cam Leslie  
Delwyn Luedtke  
Garth Weiterman 867-9853

### February 14

*Ushers*  
*Reader*  
*Sound*  
*Video*  
*Communion*  
*Coffee*  
*Driver*

### 9:00 am Service

Byrdie & Betty Zboril  
Byrdie & Betty Zboril  
Darren Hopkins  
Maureen Weiterman  
Ron & Lila Sagness  
—  
Lloyd Hermanson 867-8211

### 11:15 am Service

Ruth & Santhy Hermanson  
Ruth & Santhy Hermanson  
Bryce Baron  
Kirk Friggstad  
—  
Darlene Hovdestad & Lila Sagness

### February 21

*Ushers*  
*Reader*  
*Sound*  
*Video*  
*Communion*  
*Coffee*  
*Driver*

### 9:00 am Service

Shirley Pajunen & June Haug  
Shirley Pajunen  
Dennis Gustafson  
Lorne Hovdestad  
—  
—  
Gordon Rott 867-8061

### 11:15 am Service

Tony & Betty Peter  
Tony & Betty Peter  
Garth Weiterman  
David Haugen  
Ruth & Santhy Hermanson  
Elaine Baron & Jan Odegard

### February 28

*Ushers*  
*Reader*  
*Sound*  
*Video*  
*Coffee*  
*Driver*

### 9:00 am Service

Russel Fonstad & Dennis Gustafson  
Dennis Gustafson  
Matthew Hogan  
Kelly Hogan  
—  
Len Erickson 867-8243

### 11:15 am Service

Gordon & Catherine Rott  
Gordon & Catherine Rott  
Cam Leslie  
Delwyn Luedtke  
Betty Peter & Tia Woudwijk

**Ushers:** Please arrive 1/2 hour before service to turn on the lights and fans . You are responsible for lighting the candles, taking the offering, and counting and recording the attendance. After the service, please collect all garbage, recyclable paper (bulletins) and coloring boards. If there is communion during the service, please direct the flow of the communicants and collect the communion cards.

### Kitchen Cleaning:

February 1-6

Tia Woudwijk & Margo Linsley

February 8-13

Kim Johnson Family

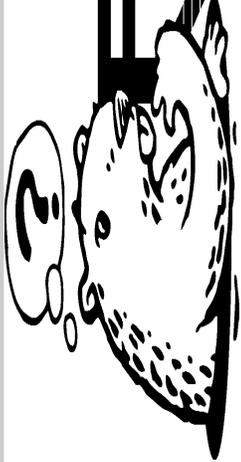
February 15-20

Ron & Lila Sagness & Delphine Bell

February 22-27

Evelyn Anderson & Michelle Stalwick

If you are unable to clean during your scheduled time, please exchange your week with someone else on the list. **Thank you for your assistance in keeping our church clean.**



# FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Meals on Wheels 5:45 Truth Project	<b>2</b> 3:30 Confirmation 7:30 Confirmation	<b>3</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>4</b> 8:00—5:00 Food for the Hungry in Saskatoon	<b>5</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> NO 9:00 Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:15 Service Potluck to follow 1:30 Annual Meeting	<b>8</b> Meals on Wheels 5:45 Truth Project	<b>9</b> 3:30 Confirmation 7:30 Confirmation	<b>10</b> Meals on Wheels 7:30 World Day of Prayer Meeting at Fireside Room	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Meals on Wheels	<b>13</b> Kinasao Ladies Retreat
<b>14</b> 9:00 Service w/ Communion 10:00 NO Sunday School Adult Bible Study 11:15 Service w/	<b>15</b> <b>Family Day</b> 5:45 Truth Project	<b>16</b> School Break	<b>17</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 7:00 AM Mission Breakfast 12:05 Lenten Lunch at United Church	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 Service 10:00 NO Sunday School Adult Bible Study 11:15 Service w/ Communion	<b>22</b> 5:45 Truth Project 8:00 Ladies Bible Study in Fireside Room	<b>23</b> 3:30 Confirmation 7:30 Confirmation	<b>24</b> 12:05 Lenten Lunch at Catholic Church 2:00 Bible Study	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 Service 10:00 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 11:15 Service						

