

## ELCIC Village Voices



By participating in the following discussion, you become part of the ELCIC Village Voices. The Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation will be gathering in Winnipeg, in July 2003, under the theme, "For the Healing of the World." During the Assembly, participants will be discussing this topic and nine others in what is referred to as Village Groups. You become part of the village by sharing your thoughts on this topic with the ELCIC Assembly delegates, including ELCIC National Bishop Ray Schultz. Thank you for sharing your voices so that we become part of the healing of the world.

### **Village Voice #9: Transforming Economic Globalization**

*"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.'"* (Matthew 22:37-39)

As beloved creatures of God, and as Christ's body, we are to embody Christ's love by loving God, self and neighbour far and near. Lutherans have often referred to this as "faith active in love." This love is lived out in the world by seeking justice through social structures, policies and practices. Faith motivates us to seek change in what harms the neighbour. The powers of economic globalization reign over our world today as a challenge to our Christian faith. Although some results of this economic globalization are positive, injustices also are on the increase, communities are fragmented, and the earth is further exploited. In a positive sense, globalization refers to the increasing interdependence of people and organizations around the world. In contrast, economic globalization leaves all economic decisions to market forces, undermining investment in education and health, increasing inequality and reducing labour's share in income.

**Consider how we can challenge and hold the powers of economic globalization more accountable to the vulnerable, especially through decisions and actions that can be taken:**

**1. How would it impact our everyday patterns of consumption and our local, national and international economic policies if we were to insist that the primary purpose of economic life is for the well-being of just and sustainable communities the world over, rather than to increase the wealth and consumption of those who already have more than they need? How would our lives be different? How might this transformation be "for the healing of the world"?**

**2. What commitments and steps can we take together with other ecumenical and civil society partners?**

**3. How can individual members and congregations of the ELCIC be motivated to become involved?**

**Bishop Ray’s Musings on Transforming Economic Globalization:** The Church has long prayed that the world might be one. Globalization seems to be realizing that hope. Yet, the economic policies of globalization have meant that the gap between the rich and the poor, the technologically advantaged and the disadvantaged and the politically influential and the marginalized in the world and in Canada seems as entrenched as ever. According to the United Nations, during the 1990s, 52 countries ended up poorer. Christians, in contrast, are working through programs such as the Global Hunger and Development Appeal, Canadian Lutheran World Relief and Kairos—Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative to create one world where people and communities matter.

**As Lutherans in Canada prepare for the Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in Winnipeg, how can the church help its members to become more aware of the impact of economic globalization, both positive and negative?**

**Prayer:** Lord God of healing, we acknowledge that many of us are privileged people living in a privileged country. Yet, so many others, including some in our congregations and communities as well as in far-flung places, do not have those same advantages. Make us aware of our responsibilities as your people to share with others and to show your love and mercy in all our dealings. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Indicate the type of group that participated in this discussion (ELW, adult forum, youth group, etc.):

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**Return by April 30, 2003 to:  
ELCIC Village Voices, c/o ELW, 302-393 Portage Ave., Winnipeg MB R3B 3H6.**