



E-Communique from the ELCIC - January 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. 2007 NATIONAL CONVENTION

In Mission for Others: A People Called: 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 and an image of the convention logo are available on the ELCIC website (<http://www.elcic.ca>), click on the link to "convention" located in the "more options" section.

3. MISSION IN THE WORLD

MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITY IN PERU: For the first time in many years, the ELCIC is recruiting a new Long-term Missionary. 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>.

2007 GLOBAL EVENTS: Global Festivals in Winter Park, Florida, January 26-28, and Phoenix, Arizona, February 2-4 (featuring ELCIC missionary Brian Rude) are coming up soon, while registration opens on February 1 for the Global Mission Event in Columbus, Ohio, July 19-22. These ELCA global events are endorsed by the ELCIC. For details see <http://www.elca.org/gme> or call 1.800.638.3522 ext 2432.

VOLUNTEERS IN MISSION (VIM): To find out about recent additions to the VIM opportunities list for Guyana, Jordan/Holy Land and Canadian Lutheran World Relief contact the International Volunteer Coordinator by email monicad@clwr.mb.ca or toll free 1.800.661.2597 (in Winnipeg 631.0118).

4. 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

5. WORSHIP

Introduction of Evangelical Lutheran Worship - A Job Well Done: The Program Committee for Worship thanks Debbie Lou Ludolph, Andre Lavergne and Karen Johnson-Lefsrud for organizing, preparing and implementing the introduction of Evangelical Lutheran Worship in the ELCIC. It was one of largest undertakings of the our Church in recent years. Many people were enlisted and trained to hold several introductory workshops held in every Synod. The responses have been very positive and updates are posted on the ELCIC worship website, Lift Up Your Hearts, at <http://www.worship.ca/> where a separate page has been set up for Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Also see a new series of pastoral essays to support the introduction and use of Evangelical Lutheran Worship titled, *The Road Where Faith Is Found*.

6. 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: 1-888-786-6707 ext. .

7. 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.

8. LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)

66 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.

9. 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://youth.elcic.ca/IT/index.htm>. 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.

10. ACROSS THE SYNODS

2007 Pastor's Desk Diaries: Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, is still taking orders for the 2007 Pastor's Desk Diary. The diary is available free of charge to the first 700 people who order. To order online, visit <http://www.concordia-seminary.ca>.

Wade in the Water and take action on World Water Day (March 22, 2007): Last year's World Water Day events, co-sponsored by KAIROS, Council of Canadians, and CUPE, were so successful that KAIROS has decided to do it all over again! This year's focus will be on two main advocacy points: regulating Canadian corporate activity that damages water supply through overuse, diversion, and pollution; and getting to Canada to acknowledge that access to clean water and sanitation is a human right. Details for World Water Day are still being finalized but you can find the following resources on the KAIROS website:

- An updated "Walk for Water" – the 2006 version is available online and the 2007 version will be posted soon.

- If you haven't already done so, get your municipality to sign on the [Water Declaration](#).
- Visit your MP to talk about water issues – specifically the impact of Canadian corporate activity on water, and water as a human right. What if there's an election? Sponsor an all-candidates debate on water issues!
- Book Club on [Water, Inc. by Varda Burstyn](#): a fictional tale of bulk water exports by a Canadian author. This is an easy event to hold in your home, church, or community center – the book is widely available in paperback, and we'll provide discussion questions.
- Film viewings and discussions – stay tuned for more information!

And of course every public event will include opportunities for participants to sign the [Counting on Water](#) action. Visit the KAIROS website for further information:
<http://www.kairoscanada.org/>

KAIROS SUNDAY 2007: KAIROS suggests using the last Sunday before Lent (February 17, 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.

The God Uses Ink Novice Contest 2007: If you've never been published, you might be able to win free registration to Write! Canada 2007, a value of nearly \$400. Submit a poem, short story, article, or script up to 1500 words in length on the conference theme, "Writing Canada: Telling Stories With Soul." Revised entry guidelines for the 2007 contest will be posted in February 2007, and entries will be accepted until April 2007. Visit <http://www.thewordguild.com/contestsawards/index.html> for further information.

Best New Canadian Christian Author Contest 2008: First-time authors will have another opportunity to win a \$1,000 cash prize and a book publishing contract in the sixth annual Best New Canadian Christian Author contest. This competition offers never-before-published authors a unique opportunity to obtain manuscript critiques (written comments) from two expert judges. This valuable feedback will help entrants to improve their writing and to make their manuscripts more marketable. The details for the 2008 contest will be available in the summer of 2007. Further information is available at the following link: <http://www.thewordguild.com/contestsawards/index.html>

11. 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.

- **Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)**, the international aid and delivery arm of the ELCIC's Global Hunger and Development Appeal (GHDA) has several resources, including a Family Lenten Calendar - ideal for involving Sunday school aged children in the Lenten journey. Visit <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>

Faith Lens: Helping Youth Connect Life and Faith: Have you ever wondered how to help young people better understand their daily lives and world events in the context of their faith and scripture? *Faith Lens*, a free online weekly Bible study for youth (<http://www.elca.org/faithlens>), can do just that. *Faith Lens* is posted every week and connects a current news story with the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. This includes a summary of a current news story, discussion questions, a reflection on the Gospel text, suggested activities, and links to related resources. (From *Seeds from the Parish*, January-February 2007)

12. OUR STORIES

Web Savvy Congregations

A recent e-newsletter from Augsburg Fortress regarding a survey of internet usage in the United States prompted me to do a little searching on my own about internet usage in Canada. According to Statistics Canada, two-thirds of adult Canadians surfed the Internet in 2005. In that same year, over 15 million individuals (adults) accessed the internet from home for personal, non-business reasons, which is about 90% of all internet users. Of that number, almost two-thirds used it every day during a typical month, and just under one-quarter reported using it 10 hours or more during a typical week.

There is no question that the internet is a part of our daily lives; whether it be for work or for our hobbies and interests, the internet provides quick, efficient and sometimes overwhelming access to information. For our younger Canadians, statistics on internet usage are even more staggering; many of today's youth don't know what it was like to have to search through hard copies of reference books and encyclopedias to do their homework assignments.

What does the prevalence of the internet in our day-to-day activities mean to congregations?

Having a web presence, even if just for letting others know you're there and to provide basic information, is a vital communication tool. For some, going to the internet may be the first contact a new member might have with your congregation.

Does your congregation have a website? What does it say about your church?

I'm curious about the online presence of the ELCIC. Email a link to your congregation's website to me at tgallop@elcic.ca, along with a little information for me about how you went about developing your website and why you feel it is a particularly good site. I'll share some of the responses I receive in a future E-Communique.

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>