

# Feed My Sheep John 21:18

A newsletter from the Hunger Task Force of the Southern Ohio Synod

March-April, 2012

## 100 WELLS CHALLENGE

This nation has been richly blessed. A safe, reliable water supply is at hand. That is why it is so easy to forget just how precious water is and how heavily we rely on it. Where there is water, there is life. Without a safe, reliable source of drinking water, many of the world's poorest people die each year. Without water for irrigation, crops vanish, livestock dies, and livelihoods are lost.

Each day, millions of women and children around the world walk several hours to collect water for their families to drink. However, the water they find is often contaminated, and unclean water causes millions of people, especially children, to contract preventable water-borne deadly diseases like malaria, cholera and diarrhea.

Insufficient rainfall and unreliable access to water have caused poor families, especially those in rural areas, to be unable to do hand washing and other simple sanitation acts that protect lives.

Both the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran World Relief are requesting donations to help build better water systems. ELCA youth have chosen to take this opportunity to make a difference by raising funds for the "100 Wells Challenge" in conjunction with 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering, to take place in New Orleans, July 18-22. Youth groups can give at collection receptacles at the Gathering, or can send a check to ELCA World Hunger, P.O.; Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764. Write "100 Wells" on memo line.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/ACT Alliance

Start fundraising now. Donations can make a life-saving difference. Just \$35 can provide an emergency water filter. \$150 can provide a gravity-fed water filter. \$500 can provide a community water system. Just \$2500 builds a well that can bring clean water to as many as 500 families at once.

The goal of the challenge: to raise \$250,000 to build 100 wells or to support water projects where they are needed most. The money may also be used to help by employing people to act in their own communities to build better water systems - - -like rehabilitating reservoirs, building irrigation pipelines, or constructing water diversions to protect schools and homes from runoff. This money will provide families with both income for now and water for the future.

## CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION

### Redeemer, Columbus

Once again members contributed to the Souper Bowl of Caring. This year the event was held on February 5. Ty Pawlowski, a member of the Youth Group, drew signs to designate the Giants or the Patriots, but the majority of the money went into the bowl marked "Commercials." The congregation raised \$673 for the Lutheran Social Services Choice Food Pantry.



### Gloria Dei, Cincinnati

Pastor Seth Bridger reports the congregation held a Fantasy Football League last fall to raise funds. Each one of 12 teams played for a different mission with a "winner take all" of the funds raised. The winning team, led by Josh Thornton, won \$250 for the Malaria Initiative.

If your congregation has a story to tell about raising awareness and/or fundraising for hunger, malaria, or disaster relief, let us know. Send your information (with pictures, if possible) to Susan Truchses, [struchses@sbcglobal.net](mailto:struchses@sbcglobal.net). We'd love to tell your story to others.

## REGISTER NOW FOR SYNODFEST

Congregations are now invited to gather a team and register for the upcoming event, **SynodFest**.

What is SynodFest? SynodFest 2012 is an event that will be held June 6-10 in the Cincinnati area and offer families, couples, singles, young, and young-at-heart opportunity to meet, share and grow with others in the synod while serving, learning, worshiping and celebrating side-by-side at a variety of events offered over several days.

SynodFest 2012 will begin on June 6 with the ELCA Global Mission Event. June 7-8 will begin programming specific to the synod's Rostered Leaders including retreat, service and learning activities. June 8-10 will include workshops, in worship, fellowship, education, and music, family activities, and service activities, open to the entire synod. That day's activities will also include the synod-wide commissioning and sending worship service for the ELCA National Youth Gathering participants. Assembly will be held the morning of June 9. SynodFest 2012 will wrap up on Sunday, June 10.

There are many activities for all members of SOS to do while participating in the event. Some are coordinated through the SOS, such as the workshops, service projects, and Assembly, but others are waiting to be discovered. Where will all this be taking place? Crowne Plaza Hotel, 5901 Pfeiffer Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45242. (513.793.4500)

For more information and details about SynodFest, visit [www.southernohiosynod.org/SOS/pt/sp/synodfest](http://www.southernohiosynod.org/SOS/pt/sp/synodfest).

## WORLD MALARIA DAY, APRIL 25, 2012

The ELCA Malaria Campaign has committed to raise \$15 million. If your congregation has not yet become involved, now would be a good time to do so. Share the 5-minute ELCA Malaria Campaign video; conduct a Bible study using the ELCA Malaria Campaign Bible Study Leader Guide; start a fundraising campaign, starting with a special offering on the Sunday before World Malaria Day. Find these resources at [www.elca.org/malaria](http://www.elca.org/malaria).

To date, the Worldwide Malaria Campaigns have made significant progress in the goal of eliminating the disease by 2015. The ELCA Malaria Campaign enables our church to join hands with 11 African companion churches in the global effort to prevent, treat and contain malaria. These prevention efforts will include emphasis on health care, education, advocacy, and providing malaria-containment supplies, like insecticide treated mosquito nets, to affected communities.

## U.S. SEVERE SPRING STORMS

Between February 22 and March 3, 2012, a deadly series of storms raced across the Midwest and the South, spawning at least 64 violent tornadoes that killed more than 50 people and injured many more in 14 states from Nebraska to North Carolina, Alabama and Georgia. Hundreds of homes, farms and businesses were damaged or destroyed during the outbreak.

Tornados tore through Southern Ohio on Friday, March 2, 2012 destroying homes and killing at least three people. The National Weather Service in Wilmington, Ohio estimates the tornado that hit Clermont, Ohio to be an EF-3 with winds of at least 160 mph.



Bishop Cal Holloway has been in contact with Mary Woodward, Disaster Response Coordinator for Ohio, to find out how communities and congregations in Southern Ohio were affected by the tornados. Local disaster response teams are still making assessments of the damage and loss of life. The report is on the synod website ([www.southernohiosynod.org](http://www.southernohiosynod.org)) with updates received and suggested ways you can help.

Currently, Ohio Lutheran Disaster Response (Ohio LDR) is asking for monetary and in-kind donations. Please see the list below for details and where to send donations.

- **Debris removal** Report to Thomas Wildey Elementary School on US Rt 50, Batavia or call 513.641.6082, find how you might help.
- **School supplies** Send to: Clermont County EMA, Thomas Wildey Elementary School, 2040 St. Rt. 50, Batavia, OH 45103
- **Diapers, all sizes** Send to: Your local Red Cross Chapter
- **Furniture and other household items** Please contact Mary Woodward at 740.732.6700 or [mwoodward\\_1@msn.com](mailto:mwoodward_1@msn.com)
- **Monetary donations:** Make checks payable to **Ohio LDR**. Mail to: Ohio LDR ,810 Main Street Caldwell, OH 43724

There is a need for case management workers as families move from emergency relief/response to recovery. If you are trained as a Volunteer Case Manager and are available, please call Mary Woodward at 740.732.6700.

Additionally, the need for Spiritual and Emotional Care is great. Pr. Ron Mathews, pastor of Friendship Lutheran in Amelia, Ohio held a prayer service on Saturday, March 3 at the Boys and Girls Club in New Richmond. About 60 people participated. Pr. Mathews reports that the current major issues of concern for the people in this area are: "loss of communication and thus uncertainty of status with friends and loved ones, the death of a loved one, total or partial loss of house and possessions, and for many this is a repeat disaster event from the flood of 1997," which was 15 years ago last week.



photo credit: Mike Sidoti

Pray for the people affected by these tornados. Please keep the above concerns in mind. If you can provide physical, in-kind or financial assistance, please see the list of needs above. Also keep in mind the people in Kentucky and Indiana and in other parts of the country as they begin the healing and rebuilding process after such great and sudden loss.

Currently, the ELCA is monitoring the situation and gathering information in other parts of the nation. No ELCA congregations have reported severe damage. Discussions and evaluations have been made around the ability to respond, shortfalls of resources and emerging needs that are present.

## LUTHERANS BUILD RESETTLEMENT VILLAGE IN HAITI

The commitment between members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the people of Haiti was celebrated Feb. 2 at a groundbreaking ceremony in the nation's Gressier municipality, where a new resettlement village is planned for 2012, two years after the earthquake of 2010 which destroyed large portions of the island nation.

A project of The Lutheran World Federation, the village will provide housing for 1,200 people in Gressier displaced by the earthquake. The ELCA is funding the project with \$3.5 million through ELCA Disaster Response and is further engaged with the Lutheran Church of Haiti in responding to the needs of earthquake survivors. The village will include the construction of 200 solar-powered homes with indoor plumbing, a "green" sanitation system and community space that includes a children's playground and multipurpose community center. Women-headed households and people living with disabilities will be among the village residents.

## JAPAN EARTHQUAKE AND PACIFIC TSUNAMI ONE YEAR LATER

On March 11, 2011, one of the largest earthquakes ever recorded struck off the coast of Japan. The 9.0-magnitude earthquake set off a tsunami, sending a wall of water more than 100 feet high crashing onto the eastern coast of Japan. Severe damage was widespread. Entire towns were either destroyed by the quake or swept away by the tsunami. More than 19,000 people were killed, and hundreds of thousands were left homeless.



As news of the disaster spread, people across the globe responded quickly. Lutherans prayed for the people of Japan and offered financial support through ELCA Disaster Response, sending more than \$2.9 million to the Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami fund.

The ELCA is working very closely with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Lutheran World Federation, and Church World Service in providing direct assistance to survivors of this disaster.

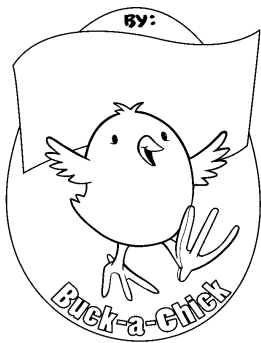
ELCA member generosity means that this church, our partners and our companions in Japan will be able to carry out the work that they have planned for the next two years. More than \$1.54 million has been sent to our partners and companions in Japan, to continue the rehabilitation of communities.

## EASTER FUNDRAISING IDEAS

If your congregation hosted a meal before Lenten services to help fight hunger, did you remember to register your meal at [www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org](http://www.potluckstoendworldhunger.org)? If not, it's still not too late to plan a potluck to enjoy global cuisine while learning about the world and how gifts to the ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. Instead of charging for the meal, collect donations to support the program. Visit [www.elca.org/hunger/lent](http://www.elca.org/hunger/lent) for 12 different global meals to choose from—complete with global recipes, printable placemats and table tents, table prayers, dramas, discussion starters and more. Lutherans seem to enjoy potlucks at any time.



Another idea this season would be to host a **“Buck a Chick”** sale. This creative fundraiser can involve children as well as adults. For \$1, members can purchase and decorate a paper chick for themselves or in honor of a friend or family member. Hang the colorful chicks in a prominent place—like the narthex. Get the coloring page at [www.elca.org/hunger/lent](http://www.elca.org/hunger/lent).



A dollar bill is all it takes to provide a little chick. Ten dollars provides 10 chicks to a family living in poverty with. Soon enough the chicks begin producing dozens of eggs. The eggs make nutritious, protein rich meals, and can be sold at the marketplace for a steady income—helping a family escape hunger for good.

For \$20 a duck can be provided. A duck is the best natural pesticide around! It eats all of the insects that are known to harm a farmer's crops and fertilize fields at the same time.

For more fundraising ideas go to the ELCA Hunger Appeal website, [www.ELCA.org/Hunger](http://www.ELCA.org/Hunger).



**Hunger Task Force Members** : Rev. Henry Zorn, chair; Rev. Glen Bengson; David Drumm; Rev. John Eilert; Rev. Ruth Fortis; Rev. Joene Herr; Lora Jollis; Rev. Mary Molnar ; Rev. Mike Poole; Rev. Monte Stevens; Kathleen Zwanziger; Rev. Jeff Wick, synod staff; Susan Truchses, newsletter editor