

Global Mission Committee

Last Updated Monday, 01 February 2010

Information Reviewed in February of 2010

- Giving Ideas for 2010
- Link to ELCA Missionaries in Madagascar
- Companion Synod Travel and Dialogue - 2008 Madagascar Trip
- South Africa Travel - AIDS
- Wheels to the World - Immediate need for a new van
- Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
- Committee Goals for 2009-2010

Giving Ideas for 2010

Here are some ways to help our Companion Synod in Tulear of Madagascar!

Financial contributions are needed for

- school books
- sports equipment
- medicines
- musical instruments

Think of creative ways to engage the children (and adults) to collect money for these projects (it is too costly to send the actual materials)

Checks can be made out to Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod - ELCA
Memo to Madagascar Projects

Mail to Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod - ELCA
Attn: Pastor Sandy Kessinger
9625 Perry Highway
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Link to ELCA Missionaries in Madagascar
Read the newsletters and view the photos from:

Andrew and Barbara Hinderlie - Malagasy Lutheran Church

Companion Synod Travel and Dialogue

July 3-19, 2005 - Twelve people from our synod traveled to Madagascar to walk with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The group spent three weeks building relationships with the people in Antananarivo and Tulear. We said salama tompoko over and over again as we met with church leaders and workers, visited the Lutheran Medical Center SALFA, toured the church printing house, met with the leaders of the Women's Center, and just greeted people everywhere. Once in Tulear we helped the local leadership host a Day Camp experience for approximately 300 children. We also visited the Bezaha Seminary that will become the site for future trips.

Last trip to Madagascar - July 3-20, 2008 - [Click here for information regarding their journey](#)

Additional Information on the Malagasy Lutheran Church - Companion Profiles
Includes links to mission history, arts and crafts, recipes and map

South Africa Travel - AIDS

September 26 - October 12, 2005 - The second overseas trip was to South Africa in order to learn more about the AIDS pandemic. This trip included meeting with church affiliated programs (Lutheran and other denominations) and with corporations to hear about the work being done there. The group also participated and led program activities. As a result of the trip, the committee members are engaged in dialogue with the ELCA Global Mission Unit for guidance as to how we can support the ministries in this country. ELCA Aids Ministry - www.elca.org/socialstatements/aids

Wheels to the World - Still a need for a new van

After nearly a decade of faithful service, the Wheels to the World van has gone on its last mission. What will fill its shoes (tread marks) in the future? The synod is in need of a donated 12-passenger van to be used for fair trade events, educational trips, and for transporting volunteers to disaster sites. The new wheels must be lower in mileage and lower in maintenance and preferably new.

Please contact Pastor Sandy Kessinger if you know of a place to get such a van or if you would like to help us get back on the road! Email: sandy.kessinger@swpasynod.org or 412-367-8222.

Possible fair trade items to order:

- Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate
- Olive Wood Communion Cups
- Bread for the World Cookbooks
- Church World Service AIDS CDs and pins
- Mini dolls from Liberia
- Stained glass angels from Palestine
- Stuffed chameleons from Madagascar
- Bazaar kits from Madagascar
- Tote bags from Mexico
- Small wooden monkeys and letter openers from Tanzania

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Pastor Linda Theophilus is our ambassador for the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. As stated in their brochure, LIRS has a long history of serving and advocating for the most vulnerable: children, asylum seekers, refugees and immigration detainees. If you have an interest in this area of ministry, Pastor Theophilus can be contacted at 412-824-4525 or email her at eastmontelc@hotmail.com.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, in partnership with Wheat Ridge Ministries, is offering financial assistance to Lutheran congregations to encourage the development of support services for immigrants and refugees. For the eighth year, competitive grants are being made available through the Good Samaritan Fund. These seed grants are intended to enable congregations to develop vital support services for immigrants and refugees that are needed in their communities beyond the initial stages of resettlement. For further information check the LIRS website: www.lirs.org. Four Essential Principles for Immigration Reform

To meet the needs of migrants and of America, meaningful reform must include four principles:

- uniting families
- protecting human rights and worker rights
- ending the marginalization of the undocumented, making it impossible for those working below the radar to live freely and openly in our society
- giving immigrants willing to contribute to our economy and society a path toward citizenship

Committee Goals for 2009-2010

- New Van - We need a new van to replace Wheels to the World. Due to the high cost of maintaining the present van, we are looking for a car dealership who would like to donate a new 12 passenger vehicle. The new van will be used for Global Mission activities and it will also be used for our disaster response work.

- Educational Resources - We want to organize and expand our outreach and education activities about Madagascar, Global Mission, and Global Music.
- Fair Trade - We will continue to offer Fair Trade activities for congregations.
- Companion Synod - Pastor John Smaligo will offer concrete ways for us to deepen our companion synod relationship based on his experiences in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. We will write monthly prayers for our companion synod and make them available to congregations. We will begin to share with the Tulear Synod in concrete ways - music cassettes, pictures of our children, letters to engage in deeper conversations.
- Mission Trips - We want to pursue new travel and learning opportunities for those who are interested in these types of trips.
- Global Mission Projects - We want to encourage congregational fund raising for global projects of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - such as Pedals for Pastors, Rock-a-thon, Turkeys (donate money to vote for a name), and Walk for Water.
- Cooperation - Planned activities will be organized with the Director of the Resource Center and the Youth Committee.

Committee Members:

Pastor Deb Byrum - Chairperson
Pastor Jack Hernstrom - Secretary
Pastor Richard Neumann - Synod Council Representative

Marsha Davis
Pastor Allyn Giuffre
Betty Itterly
C.E. Pino
Joan Schenker
Pastor John Smaligo
Gwen Steiner

Pastor Sandy Kessinger - Synod Liaison