

Caring

News and Notes on the Church's Work of Mercy



Winter 2012

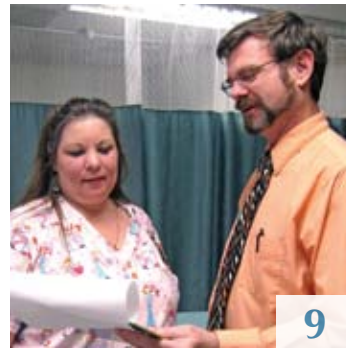
Help share Christ's mercy. See envelope inside.

Tough winter ahead in Minot

Also inside: Lutheran Villages in Haiti • Hispanic Outreach • Volunteer Opportunities

Caring

News and Notes on the Church's Work of Mercy



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Mercy forever.

Published three times annually by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, the mercy arm of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

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On the cover: Bob and Carol Timm hope to salvage daughter Tina's wooden playhouse, which stands near what's left of their flood-ravaged home. The family, members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, lost both their home and business in the historic flooding in Minot, N.D. (Al Dowbnia photo)



Witness
(Martyria)



Life Together
(Koinonia)



Mercy
(Diakonia)

LCMS World Relief and Human Care reaches out in mercy and compassion to those in need, motivated by Christ and His Gospel, according to the Lutheran confession of the faith.

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The gift envelope enclosed in this copy of *Caring* is intended to support all WR-HC mercy work — Where Needed Most. If you wish to support a specific project mentioned in this issue, please note it on the memo line of your check. Otherwise your gift will be treated as undesignated.

Diligently joined in unity of teaching, faith, sacraments, prayers, and works of love. SA II.IV.9a

From the Interim Executive Director

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for wholeness and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.” Jer. 29:11

The Christian church is in the midst of Epiphany, a time of celebrating the wonderful, revealed Light of the World given to us by God. God’s plans for us in Jesus, the Light of Life, give us true hope. When God’s chosen people could only see death in their future, He reminded them that He had other plans. God had plans for life. Plans for a future. Plans for hope. God’s plans came to ultimate fulfillment in the birth of Jesus, Immanuel. In Jesus, God visited His people to live among them. It was of this Jesus, the Word of Life, of whom the Apostle John wrote in his first epistle, “we have looked upon and have touched with our hands” (1 John 1:1).

The hope and life of God that was brought into our world was visible and tangible. Through this Word of Life, God touched His creation. Jesus touched people — forgiving their sins, making them whole by healing, and raising the dead. Jesus gives the certain hope of eternal life to all who trust in His death and resurrection.

God’s hope and life are visible and tangible through His Church. As we gather we receive His gifts. Through the Absolution of our sin, the Gospel proclaimed, and the body and blood of Jesus, we receive wholeness from this living Word.

In turn, the church delivers God’s plans to a world that knows no blessed future and has no lasting hope. As God gives to us, we bring tangible expressions of hope and a future accompanying our proclamation with real mercy. A mercy that feeds empty stomachs, provides drinkable water to parched mouths; and alleviates pain through the compassionate treatment of medical professionals.

In this issue of *Caring* are stories of tangible hope that are made possible by your prayers to God for daily bread throughout the world, by your generous gifts, and by your participation through volunteer opportunities. Through you God is bringing a future and hope to others in need.

May our Lord continue to bless this work that He has given us to do.

Together, in Christ’s service,



Rev. John A. Fale
Interim Executive Director
LCMS World Relief and Human Care



What Luther Says

“Now why does God permit these afflictions to come upon His loved ones? Certainly not without reason, nor from wrath or lack of grace, but from motives of great grace and mercy, in order to show us how, in all things, He deals with us in a friendly and paternal manner and how faithfully He cares for His own and so guides them that their faith may be more and more exercised and become stronger and stronger.”

Sermons of Martin Luther, Volume 2, John Nicholas Lenker, editor. Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan.



LCMS World Relief and Human Care: Rev. John A. Fale (Specialized Pastoral Ministry), Rev. Carlos Hernandez (Districts and Congregations), Maggie Karner (Life and Health Ministries), Rev. Glenn F. Merritt (Disaster Response), Deaconess Grace Rao (Diaconal Project Development)

Lutheran Housing Support: Deborah Rutt (Interim Chief executive officer), Nicole Ridley (project director)

'Long, tough winter' for flooded families

Nearly 70 people gathered at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Minot, N.D., the week before Thanksgiving for an evening meal. But instead of enjoying pre-holiday fellowship, Peggy Roberts saw "a lot of blank looks and empty faces."

"People are dealing not only with the loss of their homes but also so many difficult emotions," said Roberts, who, with her husband, Jim, is one of some 4,100 Minot families whose homes were seriously damaged or destroyed by last summer's record Souris River floods.

After staying in their pastor's camper for four months,

the St. Paul members now live in a Federal Emergency Management Assistance (FEMA) trailer. Such trailers sit throughout the hard-hit community, representing the agency's largest temporary housing need since hurricanes Katrina in 2005 and Ike in 2008, according to the *Minot Daily News*.

Peggy and Jim Roberts lost nearly everything in their home of 17 years. "We're taking it day by day," Peggy said.

Nearly 300 families from three LCMS congregations — including Our Savior and St. Mark Lutheran churches — and the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (DBGR), an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, are among those whose lives are turned upside down.

In early 2012, the Rev. Glenn F. Merritt, director of LCMS Disaster Response, plans to return to Minot to help with plans to open a volunteer village at Our Savior Lutheran Church to assist with massive cleanup and rebuilding needs.

It will be the fourth trek by LCMS ministry leaders to work with local congregations and the LCMS North Dakota District since the Souris River crested in June.

To date, LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC), the Synod's mercy arm, has provided \$269,800, made possible by donors, for emergency and recovery needs in Minot. Grant recipients include the three LCMS congregations, the LCMS North Dakota District and DBGR.

More financial support is urgently needed, including for the village, which is expected to open this spring. WR-HC donors have been very generous, "but we hope they understand that needs here in Minot are monumental," the Rev. John A. Fale, interim co-executive director with the Synod's Office of





U.S. Air Force Staff Sergeant Aaron Davey, right, lives in a FEMA trailer while he tackles repairs to his flood-damaged home in Minot, N.D. The Rev. Paul Krueger, center, pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Minot, introduced the serviceman to the Rev. John A. Fale, left, interim co-executive director of the LCMS Office of International Mission, when Fale was in the hard-hit community to help with recovery efforts.

How you can help in Minot

In addition to your prayers, here's how you can help displaced families in Minot, N.D.:

Volunteer. Helping hands will be needed again this spring to continue cleaning out and rebuilding flooded homes. Plans are in the works to open Hope Village at Our Savior Lutheran Church for volunteers. Register on Our Savior's website, www.oslcnw.com.

Make a gift. Help WR-HC continue to assist with flood recovery efforts, including plans for the volunteer village:

- Mail a check (noting "Spring Floods 2011" in the memo line) using the *Caring* response envelope in this issue.
- Call toll-free 888-930-4438.
- Make an online donation at www.lcms.org/disaster/flood.

Any funds not needed for this relief effort will be used for other disaster purposes as determined by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

International Mission, when he went to Minot in the fall to assist with long-term recovery efforts.

Today, displaced families face what the Rev. Arie Bertsch says is sure to be a "long, tough winter."

"More than 20 trailers already had water lines freeze when the temperature got down to single digits," the St. Paul pastor said in November. "Before long, single digits will be the high."

Most homeowners lacked flood insurance, believing that the area's dike and levee system would protect them. At St. Paul, 53 members have flood-damaged homes and are struggling with estimated total losses of \$3.4 million, Bertsch says. "And that's just the loss in one small congregation," he said.

Ken Lewis' family is among the many people LCMS ministries have assisted. When rising floodwaters threatened his home, Lewis called his pastor, the Rev. Paul Krueger, at Our Savior Lutheran Church.

"Volunteers, including those from the church, helped us get out," said Lewis, whose family includes twins, age 7, and his wife, Jolene, who uses a wheelchair. More volunteers "worked three hard days," Lewis said, cleaning out and gutting his home.

Plans for the volunteer village are welcome news to Sue Hendrickson, whose home filled to the roof with floodwater. She and her husband also live in a FEMA trailer.

Hendrickson, who serves as secretary at St. Mark Lutheran Church, apologizes for "getting a little emotional" when she talks about the devastation. "When you go down the streets, you still see people's lives on the side of the road," she said, referring to piles of debris

from flooded houses.

Needs are overwhelming, Hendrickson says, but "the way the churches are reaching out is absolutely awesome."

More than 300 people flocked to St. Mark's "community giveaway day," which distributed donated appliances, furniture, dishes and more. "People are so thankful for any help right now," Hendrickson said.

At St. Paul, members decided to host monthly activities like the pre-Thanksgiving supper. Such fellowship gives flood-affected families "an opportunity to get together and visit, if only for coffee and cookies or a meal," Bertsch said.

Since the devastation, Bertsch says he is seeing new faces at St. Paul. People are "realizing that they need the Lord," the pastor said.

Several people affected by the disaster have joined the church, Bertsch said, and St. Paul has included those new members in its grant requests to WR-HC for financial assistance.

People "come first for spiritual support, but then they also are happy to get help for physical needs, too," Bertsch said. "They are seeing that the church is a place where they can go for support, both spiritually and physically."

See more news, pictures and video interviews from Minot at www.lcms.org/disaster, www.facebook.com/lcmswrhc and www.youtube.com/mercycubewrhc



Top: Kalysh Botobaeva, right, who serves as a laboratory assistant on the Mobile Medical Trailer, takes a patient's blood pressure.

Bottom: Elga Heintzen, an LCMS short-term volunteer, steps out of the mobile medical trailer during her service in Kyrgyzstan.

Mobile medical trailer provides care in rural Kyrgyzstan

Since gaining independence from the Soviet Union, Kyrgyzstan has struggled to develop a healthcare system for its people. Over 75 percent of its population is Muslim, and more than 30 percent live below the poverty line.

With the healthcare system often unable to provide basic medical care, women and children in rural areas are especially vulnerable. The Central Asian nation also faces a shortage of medical personnel.

Through the support of the LCMS, Lutheran mission societies and local Lutherans, the mobile medical trailer has served more than 220,000 patients since 2000. The trailer has benefited from an LCMS World Relief and Human Care grant annually, totaling \$110,000 for the 2011-12 fiscal year, which provides for operational expenses.

The trailer serves as a means of outreach in rural areas as an evangelist speaks with many of the patients seen by the medical personnel. Director Gulnara Gumanalieva coordinates the logistical details of the trailer. A typical day might include a visit from school children, who receive dental checkups and learn how to properly brush their teeth.

Local church leaders report that the tangible demonstration of care breaks down long-held Muslim stereotypes of Christians and opens a door for sharing the Gospel. Villagers are touched by the quality medical care and are happy to hear about the reason that motivates such loving care.

The trailer's ministry has also proved to be a great means of establishing new Bible study groups, planting churches and training Kyrgyz leaders. In fact, most of the house churches based in small towns were started after the trailer was stationed in their villages. The first local Kyrgyz man to be ordained as a Lutheran pastor came to faith through the witness and prayers of his wife, who was served by the mobile medical trailer.

Staff Profile

Deaconess Ministry manager celebrates milestones in India and South

"As deaconesses, we enter into a hurting world and reach out to people in need," says Deaconess Grace Rao, LCMS Deaconess Ministries manager. Rao serves as an advocate for deaconess ministry. By visiting Lutheran deaconesses in other countries and hosting deaconesses from partner/sister Lutheran church bodies, Rao helps them gain a first-hand understanding of deaconess ministry within the LCMS.

Most recently, Rao celebrated two milestones for deaconess work in LCMS partner and sister churches in India and

South Africa.

The India Evangelical Lutheran Church's deaconess program temporarily suspended in 2006, has been reinstated with 11 students thanks to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and WR-HC grants. Rao wrote the program's curriculum and designed the syllabus for its 30 courses.

In South Africa, six students are now enrolled in the new full-time deaconess training program at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria. Rao, along with LCMS First Vice President Rev. Herb Mueller and missionary Deaconess

Central Illinois District partnership shares blessings with Latvian pastors and congregations

Since 2005, the Central Illinois District (CID) of the LCMS has had a special partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, an LCMS partner church. In the past six years, the district has sent more than half a million dollars to Latvia through LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

CID President Rev. David Bueltmann recalled, “When I returned from that first trip with our district mission executive and the chairman of our mission commission, we decided that the Latvian church could certainly use our help. I was most impressed with the theological training of the pastors and their confessional commitment.”

Over the next few years, the CID sent funding for Latvian pastors to purchase cars and computers, provide supplies for an orphanage, support of the seminary, seminary students and a soup kitchen, build a children’s

center, provide Sunday school and Bible-teaching materials and assist Latvian congregations with other needs, such as heating and transportation.

“This partnership has made our people more aware of the Lutheran Church in other countries,” said Bueltmann. “Our congregations have been blessed by forming direct relationships with Latvian congregations.”

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod started working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia (ELCL) in 1995. When Latvia became independent from the Soviet Union, pastoral students were dependent upon the theology faculty of Riga University, a state university. The CID-ELCL partnership, along with support from LCMS World Mission and other LCMS entities and mission societies, has helped the ELCL develop its own pastoral training program rooted in the Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

The ELCL now has two educational institutions, Luther Academy and St. Gregor’s Christian Mission Center. Luther Academy provides formal theological education for seminary students and lay people. St. Gregor’s provides theological and practical education for lay students and consultation for congregations hoping to increase their outreach ministry.

Editor’s note: The editors of Caring apologize for failing to properly acknowledge the Central Illinois District’s contributions to the mission and mercy work in Latvia in an article published in the summer 2011 issue. The article stated that LCMS World Relief and Human Care awarded more than \$400,000 in grants to assist the ELCL, but failed to mention the more than \$500,000 of additional support that has been provided by the Central Illinois District.



From left, Dean Elijs Godins, Central Illinois President David Bueltmann and Archbishop Vanags conversing. (Kris Bueltmann photo.)

Africa

Deborah Rockrohr, recently visited South Africa to celebrate the program’s initiation. Rockrohr, who will serve as the seminary’s resident director of the deaconess training program, said, “Deaconesses are equipped for mercy works in Christ’s name. They can extend the Gospel outreach of the church into the community as they integrate prayer, devotions and the Gospel message with physical and social care.”

To learn more about deaconess ministries, visit www.lcms.org/deaconess.

Deaconess Grace Rao, left, and Rev. Herb Mueller, right, with the six new deaconess students at Lutheran Theological Seminary in South Africa at the service of blessing on Oct. 28.





Lutheran villages a mercy 'miracle' in Haiti



Families are settling into three Lutheran villages in Haiti, neat, organized communities standing in sharp contrast to the destruction and chaos that swept through the Caribbean country when the earthquake hit two years ago.

"I wish every one of our [LCMS World Relief and Human Care] donors who helped make these villages possible could see them," said Maggie Karner, director of Life and Health Ministries. "When you think of the devastation after the earthquake and see these Lutheran villages, it's really a miracle what God has accomplished."

The villages are part of "Building Homes and Hope in Haiti" (BHHH), the LCMS World Relief and Human Care (WR-HC) project launched with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH) after the Jan. 12, 2010, quake that killed some 300,000 and left hundreds of thousands homeless.

Located in Jacmel, Beaudouin and Leogane, the villages are built according to the BHHH plan to provide safe, permanent homes in communities anchored by local ELCH congregations. The project is one of seven major collaborative projects made possible by more than \$5.6 million donated to the Synod's mercy arm for Haiti earthquake response.

As LCMS leaders prepared to dedicate the villages in January 2012, they noted the importance of saying thank you.

"This has been a real team effort," the Rev. John A. Fale, interim co-executive director of the Synod's Office of International Mission, said of the earthquake response. "LCMS donors have been extremely generous in reaching out to the people of Haiti. Thousands of lives have been

touched by Christ's mercy. We couldn't have accomplished what we've done without our many partners, donors and volunteers."

One of the greatest outcomes since the disaster is the number of Haitians leaving the practice of Voodoo and turning to Christ. "This response of mercy has opened up countless opportunities for Lutherans in Haiti to give witness to Jesus and His gifts," Fale said.

The Lutheran villages include a total of 67 homes and two six-unit apartment buildings with a total capacity for some 300 residents. Additional funds are needed for construction to continue. Donor gifts are "just about depleted," Fale said, and new building and new projects in

Short-term volunteers needed around the globe

Every year, hundreds of individuals serve on Mercy Medical Teams and short-term mission teams through the LCMS Office of International Mission (OIM).

Working together with resident career missionaries and staff from LCMS partner/sister churches, these teams make significant contributions to LCMS witness and mercy ministries.

God works through acts of mercy and service to provide witnessing opportunities: team members may share the Gospel one-on-one with someone; they link those they serve to a local Lutheran church, where they can become connected to Word and Sacrament ministry long after the team is gone; or the team might help a local Lutheran congregation increase its visibility in its community.



A mother and her children are among the first families to move into the new Lutheran village in Jacmel, one of three communities that LCMS ministry leaders plan to dedicate in January. Donor support is needed to help LCMS World Relief and Human Care continue construction through the "Building Homes and Hope in Haiti" project. (Tim Hetzner photo.)

Haiti can continue only with new funding.

To make a gift to assist Lutheran partners with continuing needs in Haiti, use the envelope in this *Caring* and note "Haiti Earthquake Relief" on the check memo line. Or make a gift online at <http://givenowlcms.org> or by calling toll-free 888-930-4438.

Mercy Medical Team plans May trek

An LCMS Mercy Medical Team of volunteers is scheduled to serve in Haiti in May. This, the 10th such trek that will provide much needed health care in the impoverished nation since the earthquake. See below to learn more about LCMS volunteer opportunities.

The OIM receives more requests for teams than can be filled. Urgent needs for teams include:

- Cambodia – Short-term Mission Team
- Haiti – Mercy Medical Team
- Hong Kong – Short-term Mission Team
- Hungary – Short-term Mission Team
- India – Mercy Medical Team
- Kenya – Mercy Medical Team
- Kyrgyzstan – Short-term Service Team
- Macau – Short-term Mission Team
- Madagascar – Mercy Medical Team
- Poland – Short-term Mission Team
- Slovakia – Short-term Mission Team
- Vietnam – Short-term Service Team

To search the most up-to-date list of short-term volunteer opportunities, visit www.lcms.org/searchopps. Or, for more information, call 888-843-5267.

One-on-One with a Human Care Leader

Hospital chaplain shares intimate and trying times with families

As a full-time chaplain at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, Ill., Rev. Jeffrey McPike has opportunities to share Gospel not only with patients, but also with their families and with his fellow staff. Carle's medical staff provides care for patients with a wide range of severe conditions.

As a Lutheran chaplain, McPike provides a pastoral presence to families in some of their most difficult times. He writes, "When I am with a family when death occurs, a door has been opened from this life into eternity. To be in a supportive role in such cases is a true privilege, and I often thank people for allowing me to share it with them."

A typical day in Chaplain McPike's ministry might include visiting patients and their families, talking with family and friends of patients in critical condition, checking in on patients in his assigned units and meeting with staff to discuss patient progress and needs. Chaplain McPike notes that he has built strong relationships with the hospital staff.

One of Chaplain McPike's greatest challenges is trying to share God's comfort and assurance with families who are convinced that if they pray earnestly and have enough faith, God will always provide physical healing for their loved one. In such cases, he tries to share the truth of the Gospel, and prays that the family will take comfort in that truth.

Chaplain McPike's greatest joy is "the ability to share the Gospel with patients or families facing very serious situations or death. Seeing someone who has just expressed the fear of God be able to relax when they are told that God loves and forgives them — that's a wonderful sight!"

Chaplain McPike confers with staff member Sherri Alsmeyer at the Inpatient Cancer Center of Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, Ill. Staff support is one of many roles of a hospital chaplain.



Outreach to Hispanics poised for expansion through Dorcas Project in Northern Virginia

Three LCMS churches in northern Virginia saw a need for outreach to the Hispanic population in their area. Grace, Woodbridge; St. John's, Alexandria; and Prince of Peace, Springfield, formed the Hispanic Mission of Northern Virginia to share the Gospel and acts of mercy — with the ultimate goal of planting one or more Spanish-speaking congregations. Volunteers from the three churches are already contributing in various ways to the mission efforts. Robert Winston, chairman of the Mission Board and a member of Prince of Peace, said, "It's been neat to see volunteers in action — sometimes even stepping out of their comfort zone."

Rev. Pedro López has come on board as the mission developer and is leading Spanish-language worship services. More than 60 people are attending the services of the developing congregation, "Congregación de Gracia." Winston said, "Many Hispanics don't initially know what Lutherans are about, but they often feel very much at home in our services with the liturgy. From the pulpit, they hear the truth about the grace and freedom God has given us in Jesus. When they see these works of mercy and faith in action, they respect that."

The Mission's plan for expanding its ministry includes the Dorcas Project, with a grant from LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Through the Dorcas Project, volunteers will focus on meeting the needs of Hispanic women, who are often serving as the heads of their households, and who are seeking to expand their job skills, so they might better support their families. The mission aims to provide biblical teaching, women's retreats and life skills education, such as personal finance management.

The three partnering congregations hope to provide parent education classes, especially focused on health and nutrition; leadership and personal development through mentoring in business, job and life skills; after-school and summer programs for children and teens; Bible studies for all ages; English-as-a-Second-Language and citizenship classes; and a food and clothing pantry with donations from the partnering congregations. These approaches are



Resources

Access to Electronic News

Have you signed up for a myLCMS account on lcms.org since the new LCMS website launched last April? By creating a myLCMS account, you can sign up for the electronic newsletters of your choice.



Life Library

Did you know that January is Sanctity of Life month? The Life and Health Ministries section of the LCMS website includes a "Life Library" page, which is an on-line collection of papers, articles and information on life issues. All resources are organized by topic, are available free of charge, and are easy to download. Visit www.lcms.org/lifelibrary to explore the library.

Witness, Mercy, Life Together Bible Study

This five-session study explores the biblical basis of Witness, Mercy, Life Together, the threefold emphasis of the LCMS. Helpful explanations of Greek terms, and



all intended to meet an expressed need, such as after-school programs for youth that provide mentoring in the areas of sexual abstinence, gang resistance, conflict management and dealing with bullying. These programs also provide students with positive Christian relationships, healthy after-school snacks and homework help.

The Mission emphasizes that one of its central goals is to teach, equip and mentor Hispanic leaders who can themselves plant new missions and establish new communities of faith.

Above: Volunteers serve lunch at a celebration for the Hispanic Mission in Northern Virginia.

Left: Mission Developer Pastor Pedro Lopez, far left, and other musicians play traditional Latino music for those gathered at a celebration for the Hispanic Mission.

Faithful Donors

Thrivent gives donors another way to bless WR-HC ministries

Dr. Jim Killen is a retired LCMS teacher from Waverley, Iowa. He and his wife, Eleanor, are faithful LCMS World Relief and Human Care donors, and members of the Shepherd's Staff giving club. They are also Thrivent members, and Jim recently designated LCMS World Relief and Human Care as his ministry of choice to receive charitable outreach funds. Jim said, "It's been a joy for me to make a regular donation to World Relief and Human Care in the past. Unfortunately, right now, medical bills are preventing me from being able to give as I'd like. But, it was important to choose World Relief and Human Care through Thrivent Choice because its work is right in line with what we want to do — helping people directly — on a person-to-person basis. That's the kind of thing we want to be involved in. We want to send help directly to people who are in need."

Are you a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans member? Did you know that, if you own qualifying financial products, through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program, you can recommend how Thrivent allocates a portion of its charitable outreach funds? LCMS World Relief and Human Care is one of the LCMS ministries that Thrivent members can choose from when voting through the Thrivent Choice Dollars program. From March 2010 to September 2011, LCMS World Relief and Human Care received \$75,490 from Thrivent as a result of the program.

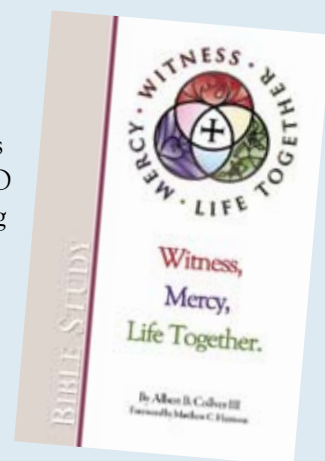
Please note: Choice Dollars earned during a calendar year can be directed to the ministry of a Thrivent member's choice until March 31 of the following year. So, members have until March 31, 2012, to direct 2011 funds to the ministries of their choice. To view a list of eligible products, visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

references to Bible passages addressing witness, mercy and life together, are included. The Bible study is available from Concordia Publishing House for \$5.99. Bulk discounts are available.

"Where the Holy Trinity is present and received in faith, there cannot but be witness, mercy and life together. These three reflect God's very being as Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, and encompass His holy and gracious will for all in Christ Jesus, namely that all come to believe in and bear witness to Christ, reflect divine compassion, and live together in forgiveness, love and joy in the Church."

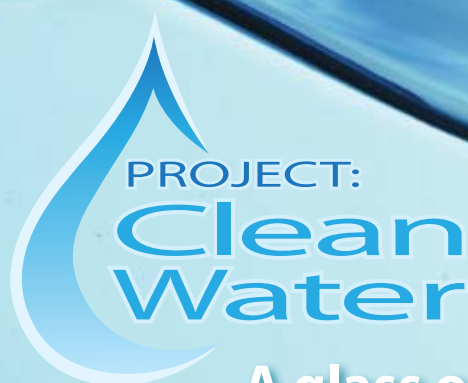
—LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison

To enhance your Bible study, the DVD component, featuring four instructional videos by President Harrison, is also available. (Running time is 4 to 11 minutes per session.) The DVD is available from Concordia Publishing House for \$10. To order, call 800-325-3040.



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