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Message from the LWF European Pre-Assembly

Delegates from European Lutheran Churches Demand Food Justice

Call to Help People Retain Personal Dignity

BRATISLAVA, Slovak Republic/GENEVA, 19 March 2010 (LWI) – Lutherans from across Europe have called for political, economic and ecological action to establish food justice.

In a final message from a preparatory consultation for the July 2010 Eleventh Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), delegates from LWF member churches in Europe pointed out that people suffer from lack of access to sufficiently nutritious food “due to unjust systems and structures.”

The 13-17 March consultation in Bratislava, Slovak Republic, was attended by 67 delegates, stewards and advisers from 35 LWF European member churches alongside representatives of national committees, church networks, church-related agencies and LWF staff. The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in the Slovak Republic hosted the meeting.

“Give Us Today Our Daily Bread” is the theme of the forthcoming Assembly, to be held in Stuttgart, Germany.

“We recognize that as European Christians we have failed in many ways, including a wasteful use of resources and tolerating a spirit of greed and carelessness. We repent of our role in the breakdown of relationships between Creator and creation, Savior and saved, Sustainer and sustained,” delegates said in their message.

The delegates called for strengthening of the church’s identity as a community, where sharing is a fundamental value. “Advocacy for those who do not have a voice, for example, refugees and asylum seekers, is also an important feature of our mission in this world,” they said.

Human Dignity

The European consultation emphasized that the task of the church is to “uphold human dignity and assist people in retaining their personal integrity.” Delegates called for cross-border cooperation between worldwide Christian communions, non-governmental organizations and governments as well as political action to tackle human trafficking. The LWF was urged to engage in a process involving theologians, pastors, service providers, those who have been trafficked and those who have been involved in trafficking to share experiences and develop strategies toward restoration of human dignity.

Gender Justice and Women’s Ordination

The delegates deplored the fact that “there are still member churches that do not ordain women, and hinder women from leadership in decision-making bodies in the church. Prayerfully, we encourage and continue our solidarity with women who long to live out their God-given vocation.” They reaffirmed their commitment to the partnership between men and women in the LWF. The Lutheran communion was asked to evaluate the impact of the 20-year old gender quota system in its member churches and “respect gender balance in all its governing bodies.”

Sustainable Lifestyles

Participants in the Bratislava consultation called
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Reflections on 56 years as a Lutheran pastor

Rev'd Ronald T Englund was Pastor of St Anne's Lutheran Church in London from 1988 to 1994 after many years involved in the life and ministry of the church. He also lived in Tanzania where he had been a missionary. Rev'd Englund is now retired and living in New England in the United States.

As an American Lutheran pastor who wondered for many years if he might possibly live to 2000, I find it amazing to be an octogenarian in 2010, after 56 years of ordained ministry. The privilege of serving for 25 years as a pastor in London is equally amazing to me. For people of my generation pastoral ministry has meant a team effort with your spouse. Daily I thank God for Ruth's love, support and wisdom during our 57 years of marriage.

Ruth and I came from the Augustana Lutheran Church, founded by Swedish immigrants in the United States in 1860. Augustana merged into the Lutheran Church in America in 1962 and into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 1988. I was one of 80 pastors ordained at the 5,700-seat Greek Theatre in Los Angeles on June 20, 1954 in what is claimed to be the largest Lutheran ordination service in history. The Augustana Church ordained its pastors at its annual national assemblies, rather than in local churches.

Because of our roots in the Church of Sweden, Augustana claimed to be in the historic episcopate. My father, Eskil G Englund, was the Augustana bishop in New England, and he among the other bishops who laid hands on me when I was ordained. What we pastors of Augustana background assumed about being in apostolic succession took on added significance for me for me during my years in the Anglican-Lutheran Society, as both co-moderator and editor of *The Window*.

The Augustana Church had four emphases that shaped our lives and ministry in the United States, Tanzania and England. Augustana was founded by immigrants strongly influenced by 19th century Swedish pietists. The hymnody of Carl Olof Rosenius, Oskar Ahnfelt and Lina Sandell was much-loved by Augustana, together with the classic hymns of Johan Olof Wallin. We were imbued with a warm piety with an emphasis on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, as well as evangelism.

There was also a strong emphasis on the church and its historic liturgy. Augustana's liturgy was translated from the Church of Sweden's liturgy. Setting Three in the *Lutheran Book of Worship* and Setting Five in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, both used in churches today, are gifts from the Augustana tradition.

Our emphasis was also on evangelism and world missions. Both Ruth and I grew up in Augustana congregations that supported and welcomed missionaries from overseas on a regular basis. This helped lead us to serve in world missions for 27 years, in Tanzania and then in Great Britain.

Finally, Augustana emphasized social ministry. Bethphage, which provides care and support for people with disabilities from its head office in Shrewsbury, comes out of the Augustana tradition. Now known as Mosaic in the USA, Bethphage was founded by Augustana in 1913. I served on the Bethphage board for a decade, from its establishment in Great Britain in 1994. Rev'd Tom Bruch, LCiGB Dean, is a trustee of Bethphage, which has close links with the Lutheran Council in Great Britain.

I hope to follow these reflections with other articles in *The Forum* about our years of ministry in London, sharing some memorable moments at St Anne's and their meaning.

Rev'd Ronald T Englund
englund@cape.com



Ruth and Ronald Englund

Message from the LWF cont

upon all Lutherans to model a sustainable lifestyle and to find happiness and peace in God rather than endless material growth. They urged individuals and churches to “encourage society toward institutional change and political advocacy.”

The LWF and all its member churches were urged to consider concrete actions on the environmental front, including the adoption of consistent ethical investment policies and practices, CO2 neutral event management, and sustainable administration and use of buildings and estates.

Church Unity

The delegates insisted that a unified LWF had to allow for a variety of opinions and ideas that respect the various heritages, cultures and societies represented by member churches. “Differences can also be understood as richness,

bringing diversity in unity,” the final message stated.

Living in a secular and pluralistic context calls for practical theological discourse and ecumenical and interfaith dialogue to enable Christians to live together with people of all faiths, delegates added.

The LWF has 43 member churches in Europe, representing around 37.2 million members.

Please read the full text of the message from the European pre-assembly.

More information on the LWF Pre-Assemblies is available under the Journey section of the LWF Assembly Web site: www.lwf-assembly.org

Taken from Lutheran World Information

‘Thank You’ from LWF

Dear Members of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain,

I would like to thank you from my heart for your very kind gift of US\$350.00, which we received on February 24, 2010. Your generosity will make an immediate difference to the lives of Haitian families who have been displaced by the earthquake in Haiti.

LWF Haiti is scaling up the response, now engaging in the rehabilitation and reconstruction phases. The main activities carried out by LWF on the ground so far were related to water & sanitation, food assistance, health, and temporary shelter. LWF is providing assistance to the affected communities, but also to Internally Displaced People concentrated in small camps.

The next activities include education, water & sanitation & hygiene, provisional shelter, permanent shelter, agricultural recovery and psychosocial work.

We really do appreciate your generosity and support.

Thanks again for your kindness,

With cordial greetings,

Eberhard Hitzler
Director for World Service

Lea-Cox at 65 Concert

The Camden Chamber Choir will celebrate the 65th birthday of Peter Lea-Cox with a special concert of his musical compositions at St Mary the Virgin Church, Elsworth Road, Primrose Hill, London NW3, at 7:30 pm on Saturday, 19 June.

This “Lea-Cox at 65” concert will feature choral and instrumental works by both names Peter uses when composing - “Lecosaldi” in 18th-century style and “Lea-Cox” in contemporary style. Included will be examples of music he composed for services at St Anne’s Lutheran Church in London while he was Cantor from 1987 to 2004. Professional musicians from all over the UK, who worked with Peter at St. Anne’s, will return to join in the celebration. Peter has directed the Camden Chamber Choir since 1984. Tickets are £8 (£6 concessions) at the door.



Peter Lea-Cox conducting at St Anne's

Rosanna Mason, Senior Administrative Manager

We would like to welcome Rosanna Mason as Senior Administrative Manager to the LCiGB. She will work part time (two half days per week) in the new office at Tavistock Square

Rosanna combines a career in the creative arts with freelance administration work in the not-for-profit sector. She comes to us from Lambeth Palace, where she worked in the Public Affairs team. Other previous work includes parish administration for two Anglican churches (one of which was shared with the Romanian Orthodox Congregation in London). Rosanna is now studying part time alongside her administrative work.

She brings to the LCiGB several years of experience in church affairs, and a practical understanding of the needs at both the parish level and within the central body. Having also run various arts projects and led community workshops, Rosanna is used to working creatively with a wide variety of people from different backgrounds, and she is looking forward to working alongside the members and pastors of the LCiGB congregations.

Please introduce yourselves to Rosanna when you get the opportunity – she would love to meet you.



Rosanna Mason

Baptism at Trinity Lutheran Church, Nottingham

On Sunday, 21 May 2010 Trinity celebrated the joyful occasion of the baptism of Hannah Barnabas. Hannah Barnabas is the daughter of Elaine Barnabas, member of Trinity and former LCiGB Council member. Pastor Libby Toomsalu was the celebrant and lay minister Marlies Adam assisted. We were particularly pleased that Hannah's grandmother joined us for the celebrations from Tanzania.

About 55 people attended the service and afterwards enjoyed a grand meal of various African foods.

Cover photo from the baptism service, courtesy of Marlies Adam.

Bishop's Visit to University Chaplaincy

On March 11, Bishop Jana visited the Leicester University Chaplaincy, and our LCiGB Chaplain there, Lay Minister Marlies Adam. The Chaplaincy's Annual Lecture that day was given by Dame Mary Tanner, the European President of the World Council of Churches. Dame Mary's lecture had the title 'Transformative Conversations in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue', and it was a clear, articulate and warm telling of her long years of experience in the ecumenical field.

Dame Mary Tanner

*Picture Credit:
Peter Williams/WCC*



LCiGB Pilgrimage in Leeds to Celebrate St Luke's Anniversary

St Luke's will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the church in Headingley in September this year.

The celebrations will open over the weekend of September 3rd – 5th with an invitation to members from all congregations to make a pilgrimage to the Leeds to visit St Luke's.

There will be a welcome supper on Friday evening, visits to the German Evangelical Church and St Matthew's in Bradford and to Kirkstall Abbey in Leeds, and a Parish Dinner on Saturday, and an anniversary service followed by a barbecue on Sunday before guests make their way home.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us and would be grateful if you would complete the form below as soon as possible so that we have an idea of how many people to expect as we hope to accommodate everyone with members of the congregation.

Please return your form to: Annette Higgins, 32 Furlands Drive, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 9SJ

For more information you can contact Annette at: anntthggn@sky.com

or by telephone on: 01274 615 365

LCiGB Pilgrimage and Anniversary Celebration 2010 Reply Form

Name: _____

Congregation: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____

I will arrive in Leeds on Friday/Saturday at approximately _____

Special requirements/dietary needs: _____

Polish Tragedies

The aftermath of Easter brought great sorrow and tragedy to one of our sister churches, The Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Poland. As our readers will know, the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, and 96 leading members of political and social life, as well as church leaders, were killed in a plane crash on their way to the Katyn Memorial. Among the dead was also a Lutheran Pastor, Adam Pilch, a chaplain to the Armed Forces, known to many of our Polish members. A further dimension was added to the tragedy when Bishop Mieczyslaw Cieślak, Bishop of the Lutheran Warsaw Diocese, and assistant to Bishop Samiec, was killed in a car crash on his way home from the funeral on Sunday 18 April.

We have all heard of these events with the deepest sorrow and compassion. The loss in such an accident of the President and many leading figures in Polish society is a terrible wound for the people of Poland, and with the death of Bishop Cieślak, the Lutheran Church has suffered a second grievous loss.

On behalf of our church, Bishop Emeritus Walter and I have written to express our condolences, both to Bishop Samiec of the Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in Poland, and to the present head of government.

Please continue to pray for our Polish brothers and sisters, both in their homeland and in our LCiGB Polish congregations of St Martin's in Manchester, St Matthew's in Bradford, St John's in Cambridge, Reading and High Wycombe, and Christ the King in London.

With people worldwide who are shocked and mourning in this Easter season of resurrection and new life, we pray:

God of all grace, we give you thanks because by his death our Saviour Jesus Christ destroyed the power of death and by his resurrection he opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Make us certain that because he lives we shall live also, and that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop Jana Jeruma-Grinberga



Bishop Mieczyslaw Cieślak (1950-2010)

Poetry

'God is Light' (1 John 1.5)

In the light of God
I remembered others' hearts

In the light of Christ's life
I ask for my, and others', health to heal.

In the hope of the Holy Spirit
I will pray, praising the light

- by Pete Mathers,
St Anne's Lutheran Church in London

Services in Amharic

London

St Anne's Lutheran Church
 Services held at St Vedast Church, Foster Lane,
 London EC2
 Services every Sunday: 15:00
 Website: www.stanneslutheranchurch.org

Services in Chinese

London

London Chinese Lutheran Church
 Services held at The American Church in London,
 79A Tottenham Court Road, London W1T
 Services every Sunday: 14:00
 Website: www.lclchurch.org.uk

Services in English

Birmingham

University Chaplaincy
 Services held in the Worship Room, St Francis
 Hall, University of Birmingham Main Campus,
 Edgbaston, Birmingham B15
 Services every first and third Sunday of the
 month: 11:00
 Website: www.chaplaincy.bham.ac.uk

Bradford

St Matthew's Lutheran Church
 Services held at 70 Little Horton Lane, Bradford.
 Services every first Sunday of the month: 12:00
 Contact: Mrs H Martin (telephone 0113 267 7679)

Corby, Northants

St Paul's Lutheran Church
 Services held at Church of the Epiphany,
 Elizabeth Street, Corby, Northants NN17
 Services every first and third Sunday of the month: 11:00

Harrogate

St Luke's Lutheran Church
 Services held at St Peter's Church, 19-21
 Cambridge St, Harrogate, HG1
 Services every third Sunday of the month: 17:00
 Contact: Mrs Joan White (telephone 0113 278 5075)

Leeds

St Luke's Lutheran Church, 9 Alma Road,
 Headingley, Leeds LS6
 Services every Sunday: 10:30
 Website: www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk

London

St Anne's Lutheran Church, Gresham Street,
 London EC2V
 Services every Sunday: 11:00 and 18:30
 Website: www.stanneslutheranchurch.org

Manchester

St Martin's Lutheran Church
 Services held at Martin Luther Church, 9 Park Rd,
 Stretford, Manchester M32
 Services every first Sunday of the month: 15:00
 Contact: 0161 865 1335

Nottingham

Trinity Lutheran Church, 67 Homefield Road,
 Aspley, Nottingham NG8
 Services every first and third Sunday of the
 month: 11:00
 Website: www.trinitylutheran.org.uk

Services in Oromoo

London

Services every Sunday: 14:00 – details to follow
 Website: www.lutheranchurch.co.uk

Services in Polish

Cambridge

St John's Lutheran Church
 Services held at St John's Abbey Church,
 Newmarket Road CB5
 Services every first Sunday of the month: 12:00

Edinburgh

St Matthew's Lutheran Church
 Services held four times a year
 Contact: Arkadiusz Kilanowski arkil@poczta.onet.pl

High Wycombe

St John's Lutheran Church
 Services held at St John's United Reformed
 Church, London Road HP11
 Service second Sunday of the month: 14:30

Leeds

St Luke's Church, Alma Road, Headingley,
 Leeds LS6
 Services every first Sunday of the month: 9:30
 Website: www.stlukeslutheranchurch.org.uk

London

Christ the King Lutheran Church
 Services held at Christ Church, Montpelier Place,
 Knightsbridge SW7
 Services every fourth Sunday of the month: 14:00

Milton Keynes

Please contact Pastor Robert Wojtowicz by email
 at rowojtowicz@yahoo.com

Manchester

St Martin's Lutheran Church
 Services held at Martin Luther Church, 9 Park Rd,
 Stretford, Manchester M32
 Services every first Sunday of the month: 15:00
 Contact: 0161 865 1335

Reading

St John's Lutheran Church
 Services held at St John's West Methodist
 Church, 448 Oxford Road, RG30
 Services every third Sunday of the month: 12:30

Quotes ...

“...hear in these disasters the call to unity and compassion, bearing the light of Christ into the darkness of collapsed buildings and destroyed lives and, in the secure and certain knowledge of God’s abiding and boundless love, rebuilding shattered hope.”

Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko
General-Secretary, LWF
in response to recent
natural and human
disasters around the
world.

Upcoming Events

Ascension Service

for all Lutheran Church in Great Britain congregations in London

At St Anne’s Lutheran Church

Thursday 13 May at 6.30pm

Presiding Minister: Rt Rev’d Jana Jeruma-Grinberga

Preacher: Lay Minister Sarah Farrow

Music by Sweelinck Ensemble, directed by Martin Knizia

Haydn: Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Mass of St John of God)

LCiGB Directory Cont

Services in Swahili

London

St Anne’s Lutheran Church, Gresham Street, London EC2V

Services every first and third Sunday: 14:00

Website: www.stanneslutheranchurch.org

Reading

Imani Lutheran Mission Church

Services held at Oddfellows’ Hall, Oxford Road, Reading RG1

Services every fourth Sunday of the month: 14:30pm

Services in Tigrinya

London

Eritrean Wengelawit Lutheran Church

Services held at St Andrews, Frognall Lane, Finchley NW3

Services every Sunday: 13:30

Website: www.wlcl.co.uk



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The Lutheran Church in Great Britain is a member church of the Lutheran World Federation