

synergy

together in mission



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

Saskatchewan Synod | 2024



“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling.”

—Ephesians 4:4

Dear friends,

Greetings on behalf of the Board and staff of CLWR on the occasion of the 2024 Saskatchewan Synod Convention! We are proud to be partners in ministry with the ELCIC in mission for others, as together we respond to God’s love in Christ by serving others.

We are continually inspired by all of you throughout the Saskatchewan Synod for your commitment to the work of justice and peace. As the world has faced disaster, growing conflict, and continued food insecurity, you have responded with urgency, generosity, and faithfulness. I wanted to share with you just a few of the many good news stories happening in our world as a result of your kindness.

We are uplifted by the creative ways in which your congregations have been working together in the life-saving mission of resettling refugees in Canada and creatively using CLWR resources to support our work around the world. We are continuing to add to our growing list of resources, including new Bible studies every month and activities

for Vacation Bible School. And, inspired by your generosity, we recently launched the Apple Tree Fund, a long-term impact fund that will ensure sustained and significant impact of major gifts from churches and individuals while creating a lasting legacy of compassion and hope.

I hope that during this gathering, you will visit our display to learn more about these initiatives and to hear more stories of the impact your generosity has made.

Our thanks to the individuals from your Synod who have served on our board in recent years, and to all the pastors, deacons, lay leaders and congregations of the Saskatchewan Synod for your partnership in ministry and faithful response to live out God’s call to be one body, one spirit and one hope.

May God bless this gathering, and may God bless your ministry.

Karin Achtelstetter, Chief Executive Officer

Burundi | Ensuring long-term food security for families

In Burundi, conflict and a changing climate have left thousands of families facing hunger—and single mothers like Ningabire Euphemie are facing the worst of it.

Thanks to your support, our local partners are providing both immediate food assistance and longer-term livelihood support to vulnerable families like hers. Families are receiving livelihood training, equipment, supplies, livestock, and seeds to grow their own food, improving their nutrition and helping them develop new income sources.

For Euphemie, the emergency food rations meant being able to feed her children while she continued working on other people’s lands. Then, through our partnership with

Canadian Foodgrains Bank, she was able to build a home and start her own farm. She joined a village savings and loan association and borrowed funds to invest in avocado farming. She also received training on modern farming techniques and tools to increase what she can produce.

Euphemie has big plans for the future. She says, with your support, “I can continue on my journey of becoming a great farmer.” Your generosity is making a healthy, sustainable future possible for countless families like Euphemie’s!

Cover Image: Euphemie, who lives in the Cankuzo province of Burundi with her children, is a leader in her community, supporting other farmers. PHOTO: CLWR/ARNAUD MUGISHA



Cover Image: Team members from Middle East Council of Churches, our local partners in Syria, distributing emergency supplies to displaced families. PHOTO: MECC

Syria & Türkiye | Rebuilding after the earthquakes

When massive earthquakes hit Syria and Türkiye in February 2023, millions were affected. Many in the region had already lost so much due to the war in Syria, and the regions hit hardest by the earthquake were hosting countless families displaced by the conflict.

Thanks to the quick response of congregations like yours, our local partners were able to act immediately, delivering emergency food, shelter and other supplies as well as medical care.

The focus then shifted to supporting families who had lost everything and did not have a home to return to. Your generosity enabled our partners to rehabilitate homes, schools, and other vital infrastructure.

They also provided psychosocial services such as trauma care and employment support to displaced families. Thank you for helping families rebuild their lives!

Ukraine | Helping children cope with trauma

The conflict in Ukraine, ongoing for over two years, has been particularly traumatic for children, many of whom lost their sense of control over their surroundings.

Barbara Körozsi is a therapy dog trainer whose dog Doxa works with children at a shelter for the displaced in Berehove, Ukraine. The children play with Doxa, who brings them comfort, builds self confidence and teaches them to trust again. Deciding what Doxa will do and directing her with commands provides children with a sense of control in a safe space.

Barbara recalls one family with two children: “When they arrived, [they] were afraid of any noise that sounded like the war... They wouldn’t go anywhere without their mother. But when they started to interact with Doxa, they began to open up... They now come without their mom. They don’t cry but play and have fun.”

Thank you for helping children in Ukraine reclaim their childhood!

Just as a single apple seed can
one day become an orchard,
a legacy gift to our
APPLE TREE FUND
will turn into life-saving
hope & help across regions
for decades to come.



Find out how you
can plant hope
clwr.org/appletree

Your Stories | River plains growing project

As the weather warmed, 160 acres of land were seeded with wheat by the River Plains Growing Project near Outlook, SK. For supporters of the project, it will be the 15th year of raising money for CLWR's account in Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB).

The project, which is headed by Michele Derald and Glen Erlandson, planted its first crop in 2009. Since then, it has raised \$490,820 for CLWR's efforts to end global hunger. With a four-to-one match from the Canadian government, that has meant over \$2.4 million for CLWR.

"A growing project is a great way to raise funds," says Michele, whose husband Glen and their two children, Jesse and Hanna, farm 2,800 acres near Outlook. The family, who are part of Saskatchewan River Evangelical Lutheran Church (SRELC), say it is also a good way for a small rural congregation to have a big impact on an issue like world hunger. "We're a very small church, but we are rich in agricultural knowledge," she says. "We have the time, resources, skill and equipment necessary to do this. It's a way to give back for being as blessed as much as we are."

In addition to SRELC, the group has members from other congregations and churches in Outlook, including United, Alliance, and Catholic churches. The project also has support from local businesses and some national agri-



The River Plains Growing Project group who help make the harvest happen each year. PHOTO: MICHELE DERDALL

business companies. It previously used land provided by Arlo Larson, who died in April. Now it is using land from local farmer Gary Laird, who also helps with combining the harvest.

For SRELC's pastor Roger Haugen, the project is "part of our call as Christians to take care of people, and a way to live out the Gospel." It also connects to who the congregation is by tying into the daily work of the farmers who attend the church, he says. "It gives the church a sense of pride and accomplishment, something big we can do, a way to be part of the larger effort to end global hunger." As well, the project helps aid the vitality of the congregation, and engage the whole community.

"They are a model community project," says Rick Block, the Saskatchewan representative for CFGB, noting the group has a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to working together to address the issue of global hunger.



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