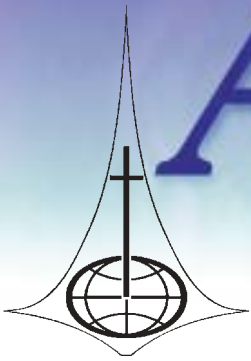


"For the Healing of the World" Assembly UPDATE



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Issue 2 — December 2002

Worship Life at the Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation

Interview with Assembly Worship Coordinator

Assembly Update: Why is worship life so important at the Assembly?

Assembly Worship Coordinator Päivi Jussila: I could give different kinds of responses to that question. I hope that all those who participate in the Assembly could find their own answers to that question. But if I think of general classical definitions of worship as the work of the people, I would like to emphasize that worship is about the community. It is about us, about what we bring to an occasion of worship. At the same time, if we emphasize too much this classical definition of worship as people's work, we might forget that worship also at its best can be rest for people. I am hoping that worship life at the Assembly could also be a place for rest in the midst of hectic meetings. The International Worship Planning Group has tried to keep the worship services and their orders very simple, being aware of the fact that people speak different languages. We will also try to use expressions that are transparent in meaning, that breathe

and give space for different kinds of reflections. Therefore not everything is defined or explained. The Assembly worship offers space for individual creativity and meditation.

What forms of worship will there be at the Assembly?

We will reflect and meditate on the Assembly theme, "For the Healing of the World," and thus on what healing, health and wholeness mean in the context of worship. We start from very old definitions, originating from the early Church, according to which the Eucharist is medicine of immortality. It is possible to say that one of the main healing services within Lutheranism is the eucharistic service. We are going to have daily morning Eucharist, the order of which has been prepared by different regions. Besides that, we will have daily mid-day prayers with a simple meditative order, and then evening prayers with a similar structure. In addition, there will be the opening and closing Eucharist, and the big ecumenical Sunday celebration outdoors.

Affirming our Global Solidarity

A Welcome from the LWF President

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The theme which we have chosen for our Tenth Assembly, "For the Healing of the World," is a signal for Christians, pointing to "something more" and pointing beyond ourselves. The concept of "healing" brings out different aspects such as saving the creation, resolving conflicts among nations, between different ethnic groups and between rich and poor, and engaging the challenge of globalization. It brings out images of hope in the midst of suffering, health where there is sickness, service where there is need and reconciliation where there is brokenness. The Assembly gives us the opportunity to affirm a global solidarity which, for us, is firmly rooted in our Christian faith and our Lutheran confession. In so many ways, the theme connects with the work we do together within the Federation.

As LWF President, in my visits with the member churches, I have seen how this theme has particular meaning and promise in different contexts. For example, the MALAGASY LUTHERAN



*One of the chalices that will be used during Eucharist at the LWF Tenth Assembly. It is an expression of Aboriginal artist Raymond Michell's pottery work.
© LWF/H. Putsman*

Were there any issues with which the International Worship Planning Group was struggling?

We have been struggling to some extent with the concept of healing. We are still challenged to find creative language to express healing. We have come with some solutions; some concepts that relate very well TO HEALING SUCH AS

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Bishop em. Dr. Christian Krause.
© LWF/D. Zimmermann

MALAGASY LUTHERAN Church has integrated the inter-confessional Malagasy “Shepherd” revival movement to establish an identity whose purpose is the healing of society. In Papua New Guinea, meetings with church leaders and the Prime Minister highlighted the great need for reconciliation when the country is faced with instability associated with many conflicts, as well as social and environmental problems. It is clear that the church has a leading role to play in bringing healing to a troubled world. More than ever before, this calls for a global solidarity, especially in the face of globalization’s negative forces.

Global solidarity is necessary to face the human tragedy of HIV/AIDS which has grown to horrifying proportions in Africa and spreads rapidly in Asia, and

which destroys the fabric of families and society itself. In response, the LWF has taken bold steps so that the member churches and LWF programs can work with urgency and strong cooperation to bring hope and healing. In another critical area, our communion of churches has stated unequivocally that churches say “No” to violence against women. We are working strongly to make this commitment a living reality in all settings where the LWF is present. In the Assembly setting, we will review our work together and make decisions for the future.

An Assembly is also the occasion to hear one another as Lutherans from different world regions, expressing opinions in the context of our different cultures and understanding of the Lutheran confession. Reconciling this diversity and integrating the various streams of

Lutherans is a major task for the LWF, at the same time as we are seeking to strengthen ecumenical togetherness and openness. Within the communion, we are able to respect our own identity and roots while recognizing that we are part of a whole and not a whole unto ourselves.

With such a rich history, and a provocative theme, it is my hope and prayer that the voices of Assembly delegates and participants will speak with boldness and compassion when we gather in Winnipeg. If we speak now about pointing beyond ourselves, then it reflects the grace of God which has been given to us in Jesus Christ, whose spirit and love are indeed “for the healing of the world.” ■

*Bishop em. Dr. Christian Krause
President*

Worship Life

TO HEALING SUCH AS peace, wholeness, transformation, reconciliation and love. These percep-

tions will also be found in the Assembly worship services.

Will there be something unique in the worship life?

Perhaps, one of the unique elements is the way in which we use meditation and silence

within these different worship services. We are used to wordy worship services but this time, we try to focus on what is essential, vital and what needs to be said, and what can be left open so that people can be with their own reflections and prayers. ■

Assembly Briefs

Contact Information

The Assembly Office has overall responsibility for coordinating plans and preparations for the Assembly. This includes corresponding with the member churches; registering participants; and coordinating preparations with the Assembly Local Committee.

Assembly Office

Tel: +41/22-791 63 71 or 63 72; Fax: +41/22-791 66 30
assembly@lutheranworld.org

Categories of Participants

Delegates are official representatives who have been appointed by their church (a member church of the LWF).

Advisors are representatives appointed by LWF National Committees and related agencies.

Full-time Visitors may attend the Assembly at their own expense, and must register with the Assembly Office. Normally they are individual members of a member church, from which an endorsement is requested.

Volunteers from Winnipeg and around the world are welcome to inquire with the Assembly Local Committee. They pay all their own costs and must be able to communicate in English.

Please see the Assembly web site under www.lwf-assembly.org/howto.html ■

“Worship Will be a Powerful Experience of Being One Body in Christ”

Assembly Host Church Bishop Talks about Local Preparations

Excitement about hosting the LWF Tenth Assembly is building as members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC) become aware of its potential impact on their lives. “Hosting the Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg gives us the opportunity to see ourselves against the background of worldwide Lutheranism,” says the ELCIC National Bishop Raymond Schultz. “This will help us to understand who we are. With whom we belong is part of who we are as people in Christ.”

Schultz sees worship during the event as a very positive way of lifting up the Assembly theme, “For the Healing of the World.” He anticipates worship to be a powerful experience of being one body in Christ. “We are going to be reading the same scriptures, celebrating the same Eucharist, and praying the same prayers that Lutherans all over the world share in common. In a world that is so divided and fractured, this is very hopeful witness,” he says.

Multicultural Experience

Also, Schultz is enthusiastic about the diversity expected to be part of both the Assembly and its worship. “This event enhances the opportunity to experience music, stories, cultural habits, humor, and an introduction to other languages. Even what people will wear will be interesting.”

Canada is often portrayed as a mosaic of people where multicultural experience and expression is valued and encouraged.

A multicultural dimension also presents some challenges

for the ELCIC in providing worship resources. Although English is the primary language in the ELCIC, congregations worship in at least 14 different languages. “The Assembly is an opportunity to identify some fresh resources for meeting this challenge,” according to Schultz.

Schultz says that the Assembly is already providing significant opportunities for many talented people in his church. “Some of the best artists of our LWF churches are contributing to this experience,” he explains. “That means that the creative talent in our church can also find expression.”

The Assembly provides a tremendous learning experience for ELCIC members, says Schultz, who begins to cite a number of other benefits for the church as the Assembly host.

On a personal note, he points out that he has been national bishop for “a very short time (elected in July 2001) and I came to my office with very limited international experience because, there had been few opportunities for me to gain that experience. So for me, and probably for a number of other church members, this is a kind of crash course.”

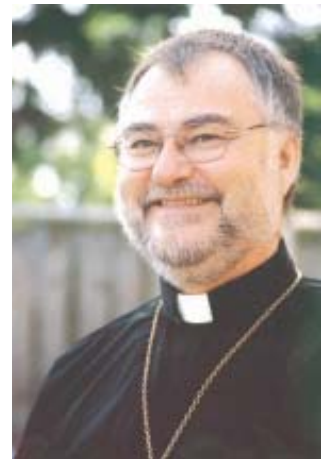
Global Perspective

Schultz describes international relationships as “complex and sometimes hard to explain.” Having a representative sample of the entire international family present is a quick way to view these complex issues in a single experience. “In one place at one time, we are going to be able to develop relationships with a large number of people who we

don’t normally have the opportunity to get to know.”

At the Assembly, he expects to gain “global perspective on doing theology. As I learn how people read and interpret the confessions in their context, that helps to broaden my understanding of our theology.”

Schultz is also enthusiastic about the impact that he expects the Assembly to have on the ELCIC’s vision of its mission. “This will be a tremendous call to mission for our church because, it will globalize our vision of who we, as God’s people, are called to be.”



Bishop Raymond Schultz
© LWF/K.Ward

Assembly Briefs

Registration Update

Delegates have already submitted their initial registration forms. Other categories of participants are now receiving their forms.

All participants, including full-time visitors, pay a registration fee of USD 150, and receive the Assembly documents.

Assembly Documents

The **Assembly Study Book** (including Bible Studies) will be sent to participants before the Pre-Assembly Consultation in their region. The chapters of the Study Book will be available on the Assembly web site under www.lwf-assembly.org/study.html

To order a copy, please contact:

LWF Office for Finance & Administration

Fax: +41/22-791 66 26

E-mail: uli@lutheranworld.org

The **Six Year Report** of the work of the Federation “From Hong Kong to Winnipeg” is expected in April 2003.

A **Handbook**, describing the rules of procedure and how the Assembly functions, will be prepared for participants.

The **Assembly Songbook** will be available at the Assembly. ■

“Agape”—The New Assembly Songbook

The Love that Transforms Individuals and Heals the World

In preparation for its 2003 Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada, the Lutheran World Federation is producing a new international, ecumenical

songbook, “Agape,” which will not be restricted to the Assembly’s use. The songbook is being published by Oxford University Press in England, making its variety of music from all corners of the globe widely available for purchase by churches, other groups and individuals. One of the songbook compilers, British freelance music writer Maggie Hamilton, talks about the ethos behind the book, and a song written especially for the Assembly.

Hamilton starts by pointing out that in music, like in other fields, so many things are called “love” that the word is in danger of losing its meaning.

She continues: “St Paul, in his first epistle to the Corinthians, contributes toward a definition of this love that transforms individuals and heals the world. Love is not self-centered gratification or a sentimental cliché. It is the preparedness to die for the greater good of humanity, as did Jesus of Nazareth. It is the *agape* love—embracing empathy, vulnerability, fragility, humility, generosity of spirit, belief that people are capable of great and good things, and the courage to act by this. This is an essential part of the Assembly theme ‘For the Healing of the World.’”



About Maggie Hamilton

Maggie Hamilton from England, is an ecumenical musician with a commitment to peace, justice and reconciliation. Hamilton has been involved in the work of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) and has contributed toward several international gatherings,

including the October 2002 European Seminar on Arts and Liturgy in Faverges, France, focusing on the WCC Decade to Overcome Violence. She worked for Oxford University Press for nearly two years before taking up her present job as assistant editor for “Choir and Organ,” a classical music magazine in London. ■

Assembly Briefs

Practical Information

Please see the Assembly web site at www.lwf-assembly.org/practical.html

Schedule – The Assembly schedule will be available in early 2003.

Travel – Participants who receive travel subsidy will make their travel arrangements through the Assembly Office. Other participants will make their own travel arrangements and indicate their travel plans on Registration Form #2 in early 2003.

Visas – Invitation letters and other assistance will be provided for participants who need visas for entry to Canada.

Accommodation – Hotel reservations for all registered participants (except visitors) will be made through the Assembly Office, by indicating their needs on the Registration Form #2. Visitors must make their own accommodation arrangements.

Meals – All registered participants will make their meal reservations on the Registration Form #2.

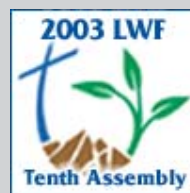
Pre-Assembly Consultations

Pre-Assembly Consultations assist member churches in preparing delegates for full participation in the Assembly. Participants will:

- review the rules of procedure, issues, logistics, practical matters, worship and communication relating to the Assembly.
- prepare the region’s Bible study presentation at the Assembly.
- draw up a slate of Council member nominations according to established numbers for each region.

Promote the Assembly Web Site!

If you have a web site and want to link to the LWF Tenth Assembly web site, we now have a little “button” available for you to use. Go to www.lwf-assembly.org and download the image. ■



May Your Breath of Love

Words by Maggie Hamilton.

Tune: KUM BA YAH



1. May your breath of love warm our hope, (3x)
and heal our broken world.
2. May your kiss of love thrill our hearts, (3x)
and heal our broken world.
3. May your whispered love quell our fears, (3x)
and heal our broken world.
4. May your spark of love fire our dreams, (3x)
to heal our broken world.
5. May your raging love stir our wills, (3x)
to heal our broken world.
6. May your flagrant love fuel our power, (3x)
to heal our broken world.

Songs of Hope and Reconciliation

Preface to the “Agape” Songbook
by the LWF General Secretary

The first Christians gathered around the table in order to eat, celebrate, witness, pray and be strengthened in Christian faith. “Agape,” the title of the songbook to be used at the 21–31 July 2003 Tenth Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), refers to these fellowship meals, these love feasts. The Assembly offers participants an opportunity to gather around the table in order to eat, praise and share their experiences of love and healing.

The Greek word “*agape*” (literally “love”) describes the universal, all-embracing love which flows from God. It is not an abstract concept. Rather, it refers to a way of life, characterized by justice, compassion, mutual respect, hospitality, service, reconciliation and hope. The primary location of *agape* is *koinonia*—

the community of the faithful—sustained by God’s love.

Agape is not grounded in the endearing nature of the one who is loved. Rather, it is love based on self-sacrifice and self-giving. It presupposes a radical change in one’s way of relating to God, to one another, to oneself and to nature. It involves a change in one’s way of seeing, tasting and hearing. The songs contained in this collection encourage and promote varied ways and expressions of seeing, crying, tasting and praising. Love is expressed not only in holy words of wisdom or in the language of the angels. It is also whispered, murmured and cried out in the language of the poor, needy and oppressed. I believe that the variety of expression is vital to us as a communion. Through this kind of sharing and exchange we become truly ourselves. These songs of praise and lament from

around the world help us to reconcile and break down social, cultural, economic, gender and racial barriers. They are not only **about** healing but are healing in themselves.

The songbook is a Lutheran contribution to the ecumenical and liturgical movement. It is my hope that after the Assembly it will be used worldwide at Lutheran and ecumenical gatherings as well as in local multicultural settings. The songs have been collected and selected by a number of representatives from the LWF member churches and ecumenical organizations. I would like to thank this group and the Oxford University Press for their contribution to the life of the Tenth Assembly of the LWF. ■

Rev. Dr Ishmael Noko
General Secretary

Promoting a Healing Community

In the New Testament stories on healing, a community is often depicted bringing its patients to Jesus or coming with the healer. Health is not realized through an individualistic approach rather in relationship. Engaging the LWF member churches, their congregations and communities is central to the Assembly worship preparations. In this way the congregation's vital role in

the healing ministry of the church is made visible.

The congregation is understood as a community that brings and experiences healing. The communities chosen to prepare the daily eucharistic celebrations promote a healing community. These communities have varied perspectives to healing resulting from their own experiences and situations.

THE YOUTH COMMITTEE OF THE LWF GERMAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE consists of young adults representing the different LWF member churches there. The committee members have developed the following themes related to the Assembly theme: God heals, not us; Healing takes time; Healing is visible—it leaves its marks in the lives of individuals and groups that have participated in a healing process.

THE ENTOTO MEKANE YESUS CONGREGATION IN ETHIOPIA'S CAPITAL, ADDIS ABABA, is one of the 5,200 congregations of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. Over the last decade, Entoto's membership has increased significantly. The congregation provides worship services in two major languages. The majority of Entoto's members live in extreme poverty with a notable number of unemployed youth and adults. Ministry to some members living with HIV-AIDS is a special concern.

THE STUDENT COMMUNITY IN OSLO, NORWAY, underlines pastoral care as a healing process. Students search for a personal encounter with a pastor in order to integrate spiritual, academic and personal concerns in their lives.

Forty-five years of an anti-clerical regime left **THE LOCAL CONGREGATION IN VÖNÖCK, HUNGARY** struggling with secularism and suspicion toward the church. Organic farming development among families, the only livelihood for the community before 1945, ended after the compulsory organization into co-operatives in the 50s. Today,

THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN HONG KONG, CHINA, will prepare the first regional celebration of the Assembly Morning Eucharist. The worship service will be an opportunity for participants to hear news from the place in which the LWF Ninth Assembly took place. It will be a time to pray for the church's mission in multi-faith contexts in the words of seminary teachers and students.

Right: LWF German National Committee youth, Kassel, Germany. © LWF/T.Valeriano

Middle: A special service when the Hong Kong Lutheran theological seminary students acted out the Old Testament story of "Joseph." © LWF

Bottom: Children in Entoto playing with pebbles and bottle tops. © LWF/D.L.Bato



Vönöck residents mainly work in factories owned by multinational corporations. Few families can earn their living from farming. In this situation, the church seeks to function as a shelter, emphasizing the importance of community and nature's healing power. The church seeks to facilitate encounters between generations torn apart by forced industrialization during the communist regime.



In Argentina the HIV/AIDS pandemic challenges the church to be in solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS. Encounters with people living with the disease have proven that people fear those who are affected and therefore different from them, more than they do the virus itself. **THE CENTER FOR PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS IN BUENOS AIRES** welcomes individuals whose independence has been shattered by the disease. It seeks to facilitate reintegration into the family, society and employment.

GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH, which prepares one of the Assembly healing services, is an urban church located in the Highland Park area of St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. Once a Swed-

ish influenced congregation, the 2,500 members today represent a variety of backgrounds and life situations. At the heart of the congregation's ministry is a deep understanding of the meaning of baptism, its renewing and healing power. Gloria Dei's mission statement declares that they are "called to be a caring, healing and welcoming community." Living out that identity has resulted in a monthly healing service.

ST. MATTHEW'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY, USA, is a congregation of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Healing and reconciliation ministries are very important to St. Matthew's self-understanding. The congregation feels blessed to have a multicultural community with others, people from Trinidad, Sierra Leone and Guyana.

Top, middle: A yearly summer camp for young adults in Órismagyarósd, Hungary.
© LWF

Top, left: A Buenos Aires ecumenical team and residents of the center for people living with HIV/AIDS, during events to mark World AIDS Day, Dec. 1.
© LWF/L.Orlov

Top, right: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA.
© LWF



Assembly Briefs

Regional Pre-Assemblies

Revised dates (2003) and locations:

North America: January 23–26 – Denver, USA

Europe: February 23–26 – Vienna, Austria

Asia: March 2–6 – Medan, Indonesia

Africa: March 23–26 – Nairobi, Kenya

Latin America & Caribbean: April 6–9 – San Salvador, El Salvador

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An Invitation to the Assembly Visitation Program

North American Lutherans stand ready to welcome Assembly participants into their homes, neighborhoods, congregations and ministries during the 2003 LWF Pre and Post-Assembly Visitation Program. These visits will be an opportunity to experience ministries, gain new perspectives, and make new friends. They will also offer a chance for visitors to share insights into ministries and challenges from their respective church and country backgrounds.

Visits of five to seven days to Canadian ministries will take place before the Assembly, and visits of three to ten days to United States and Caribbean ministries after the Assembly.

Who can participate?

All Assembly delegates from LWF member churches are eligible to participate. Visitors and non-delegates are also welcome to participate in the visits as space allows.

Information about the visitation program is being sent to registered participants and is also available on the Assembly web site under www.lwf-assembly.org/visitation.html. Inquiries about the Visitation Program may be directed to Kathy Magnus, LWF Regional Officer for North America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, USA, Tel.: +1/773-380-2636, Fax: +1/773-380-2410, Email: kmagnus@elca.org ■

St. Boniface Cathedral

The dramatic scene across the Red River from The Forks and the interwoven history blend well with the LWF Tenth Assembly theme, "For the Healing of the World." Inside the towering ruined stone walls of St. Boniface cathedral, destroyed by fire in 1968, is a modern cathedral built to serve the French-speaking Roman Catholic diocese.

St. Boniface Cathedral
© LWF/K.Ward



Opening Eucharist

This is where the Assembly Opening Eucharist will take place on 21 July 2003. Up high, where an enormous stained-glass window had been, a circular stone opening allows visions of the sky from the inside. From outside, the open circle draws attention inwards.

This sacred space, which has experienced its own death and resurrection, hosted the opening worship of the 1985 constituting convention that brought forth the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC). In a country with few large Lutheran churches, the ELCIC has often worshipped at national gatherings in Roman Catholic or Anglican churches. Close ecumenical relationships make this a natural and much appreciated practice.

Some History

In 1818, missionaries who had traveled two months by canoe from Quebec began the first Ro-

man Catholic mission in western Canada on this site. The small French community of the Red River Settlement grew and established schools, a college and hospital. Many of their first settlers and missionaries are buried in the cemetery in front of the cathedral, including Métis leader Louis Riel, who was president of a provisional government in 1869–1870. The Métis people—of mixed French and Aboriginal, or Canadian native, descent—feared losing their language and property rights when the territory would become a province of Canada in 1870.

The French and Métis communities continue strong language and cultural traditions in Winnipeg. Inside the cathedral, a Métis image of Christ, with wounded hands extended, welcomes worshippers at the table of grace. Here in the midst of death, ruin and new life, people from around the world will gather for the opening worship of the LWF Tenth Assembly. ■