



# LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

1324 9<sup>th</sup> St., International Falls, MN 56649  
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## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH ST. RAPHAEL, ELCH, North District

Here is a letter from Vicar Lucson Joseph, who is serving Grace Lutheran Church at St. Raphael. Translated by Rev. Eliona Bernard.

Dear Friends in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the Lord, our Savior and King!

I am so happy to write you this letter to tell you about the Evangelical Lutheran Church Sola Gracia of St. Raphael where I am serving under the supervision of Rev. Eliona Bernard, the district president of the North District of the ELCH. It is a great privilege for me to serve God's people in this area; there are many challenges we are facing but we know that God is in control. I strongly believe it that as He was using Moses and Abraham to give his people the freedom and to bless them, He will empower us with the Holy Spirit to bring many souls to Him through His Word and Sacraments.

Let me thank you so much for your generosity, for your help and your prayers. Each month we receive \$75 US from you to help with this ministry. We are so thankful to you because this money helps in many ways, though it is not enough to cover all the expenses of the Church and School. In addition, some of the money sent by LMA for

school supports comes to us to help pay for teachers.

The church at St. Raphael has 153 members: adults, young people and kids all together. In our school we have 70 kids, but unfortunately most of them cannot



*The inside of the church/school at St. Raphael*

afford to pay anything (tuition) and as most of them are members of our congregation, and as we know their financial situation, we allow them to come for free. But when we have to pay the teachers, this situation creates many difficulties for us. In spite of all these problems, God is at work though the Holy Spirit and every day more and more souls are coming to Christ.

These are the needs of our congregation in US dollars for each month:

- Financial Assistance for teachers (6) \$50 each
- Financial Assistance for vicar \$200
- Financial Assistance for lay pastor \$50
- Finish the building: Plaster for the walls, concrete for the floors, paint for the building
- A small generator to help with night services (because there is no electricity available)
- A motorcycle for the pastor/vicar (the church is in the countryside, about 4 miles from town and there is no place to rent near the church)

Again, my beloved brothers and sisters, dear friends in Christ, I graciously appreciate your support, cares and concerns toward God's people in Haiti, especially the saints of His Church here in St. Raphael. I keep you all in my constant prayers – please do the same for us. (Nothing is impossible to those who believe in Him. Mark 9:23).

Vicar Lucson Joseph, for Evangelical Lutheran Church Sola Gracia of St. Raphael





**Lil's Notes About St. Raphael:** This church is located in an area of the country where the land is rocky and not very productive. LMA had the soil tested and it lacks phosphorus; it is also very dry. The congregation owns a plot of land of about 2 ½ acres. There is a good well about 300 yards from the church, drilled with funds from LMA. LMA is sending a good cart for transporting water. LMA is also sending 300 ft of chain link fencing to build two enclosures, one for goats and one for gardens – to help support the church/school. The school children meet in the church, all six classes in the same room. They receive a noon meal of beans and rice, provided by Trinity Hope of Tennessee and Alabama. They are using Luther's Small Catechism in their studies. As we watched school in session, a neighborhood boy stood outside the building and listened, eager to learn, but not able to go to school.



***St. Raphael's  
Vicar Lucson  
Joseph***



***Children waiting  
for their noon  
lunch of beans  
& rice at St.  
Raphael school***

## **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

Did you know that you can designate Thrivent Choice matching dollars to Lutheran Mission Association?

Thank you to those Thrivent members who have chosen LMA as the recipient of their earnings!



**Lay Pastor Francois stands between two elders**

## **LAY-PASTOR FRANCOIS**

For several years, in the beginning years of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in DonDon, Lay Pastor Francois led the services. He was a vibrant preacher, an enthusiastic person, a husband, and father of six children.

At the end of November, his daughter died in childbirth. She and her husband and another child were living with Francois' family. The baby lived, and is being taken care of by Francois' family. Then, about a month later, Francois' wife died – she had been ill for some time. As it is an extremely difficult time for these families, please remember them in your prayers.

LMA sent money for funeral expenses, plus about \$350 for Pastor Eliona to buy formula and other expenses for the baby.

## **VISIT OUR WEBSITE!**

**[lmamnn.org](http://lmamnn.org)**

- The newsletter and both forms for both Adopt A Student and Adopt A Church programs.
- The latest news about LMA
- The financial statement for 2010 is available on request.
- News on the Self Sufficiency Project and the Goat Project. (Goats cost between \$85 and \$100 each. Good well-bred bucks may cost up to \$200, but will be shared.)
- Other news from ELCH's North District



## THE SHIPPING CONTAINER

The LMA shipping container is being gradually completed and will soon be sent. We have purchased a 48' semi-trailer for storage which is located at Dick Schmidt's farm southeast of Bemidji. Everything is recorded as it enters storage so we will have a complete manifest when the time comes to transfer the goods to a shipping container. With the aid of Orphan Grain Train, it will be leaving Minnesota, bound for Cap Haitien in May or June, God willing.

LWML rallies are being held in April and many are having in-gatherings for Haiti. Members of LMA are willing to help collect items from these rallies and take them to the container storage which is near Bemidji. While spring cleaning, items such as gently used shoes, especially for children, are always welcome (no women's high heeled shoes). We can always use food, especially peanut butter or food in cans. And don't forget soap! Check our website for a complete list of things needed:

[lmamn.org](http://lmamn.org). Call Lori at 218-935-9016 or Lil at 218-333-1560 or 218-760-6129 with questions or if you have a large load of things to be picked up.



*The storage trailer as it is being filled for a 2011 shipment to Cap Haitien*



## THE SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROJECT



**Above is a portion of the wall foundation**

Two and a half acres near the North District headquarters of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, continues to be developed. With a grant of \$50,000 from LCMS, chicken barns and an essential security perimeter wall are being built. It is hoped that production will start sometime in early summer. This project will employ church members and profits will belong to the entire district. There is a dug well there, and we hope to be able to afford a drilled well in the near future. There are also plans for a vegetable/fruit growing business and eventually, housing to rent out.



*Five-gallon pails are used for nests for the hens. (Pictures from a visit to a chicken farm)*

## PRESENTATIONS

Susan Martin from SWD, who has visited Cap Haitien twice with LMA, recently made two presentations, one at her local LWML and another at a South Wisconsin Zone Spring Rally. Lori Salvhus and Lil Spilde, both from MnNo have also presented and "manned" displays at various LCMS events and churches in the MN-No district. Contact us if you would like a presentation in your area.

## What LMA does . . .

Lutheran Mission Association promotes mission activities among the congregations of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod in northern Minnesota and other locations in the USA. LMA promotes and maintains relationships in a substantive and “hands-on” way for support in the work of bringing the Gospel to the World. The work is done between LCMS members and Lutheran churches around the world which are in altar and pulpit fellowship with LCMS. Our current project is to help with the churches and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti in the North District of Haiti.

## Organization Status . . .

LMA is a 501c3 non-profit organization. There is virtually no overhead and all proceeds go directly to the mission in Haiti. We visit Haiti at least once a year, and find our brothers and sisters in the ELCH very accountable for the money sent to help fund the mission.

**Lutheran Mission Association**  
**1324 9<sup>th</sup> Street**  
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## LMA Officers . . .

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