

Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami

MARCH 2011

www.elca.org/disaster

On March 11, one of the largest earthquakes on record with a magnitude of 8.9 struck Japan near the town of Sendai triggering tsunami warnings across the Pacific Ocean. The initial earthquake was followed by 30-foot waves, devastating Japan’s coastal areas, and more than 50 aftershocks. The death toll continues to mount as assessments of the damage are finding their way out through contacts on the ground. Local officials are also assessing impact to new technology such as nuclear power plants, transportation and communication networks.

The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church (JELC) has reported minimal damage to its churches in Tokyo and is assessing the full extent of impact to JELC congregations near the epicenter, particularly Sendai Lutheran Church. The President and General Secretary of JELC were in Malaysia attending a Lutheran World Federation leadership conference at the time of the earthquake. The ELCA, through the churchwide unit for Global Mission, currently has 22 missionaries serving in schools and parishes of the JELC; all have been found to be safe and secure.

The ELCA stands in solidarity with its companion on the ground, the JELC, as it assesses the safety and security of its members and communities served by the church. Through its predecessor bodies, the ELCA has been present in Japan since 1892 and will accompany the JELC in its planned response to this disaster. Elsewhere in the Pacific region, the ELCA remains in contact with companions in the Pacific Islands, South America and throughout the coastal region of the United States to respond as needed to the tsunamis caused by the earthquake.

.....  
Yes, I want to help!

ELCA Disaster Response: Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami \$\_\_\_\_\_ (IDG0066)

ELCA Disaster Response: Where Needed Most \$\_\_\_\_\_ (IDG0016)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Give through your congregation or send your check directly to:

**ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694**

Please write “Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami” on your check’s memo line.



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