THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Media Advisory

June 9, 2011

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LCMS President Harrison to visit Japan
Will show support for partner church, continuing disaster relief

Note: Video and photos will be available upon request. LCMS President Dr. Matthew C. Harrison and his traveling companions will be available for phone and/or Skype interviews during the trip.

What: Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and other LCMS leaders will be traveling to Japan to visit officials with the Japan Lutheran Church, one of the Synod's partner churches, to demonstrate the Synod's continuing support for its members and efforts to help those affected by the devastating March 11 earthquake/tsunami.

When: June 10-19, 2011

Where: Tokyo, Japan, and surrounding towns and villages; Seoul, Korea.

Who: President Harrison; Dr. Albert B. Collver III of St. Louis, LCMS director of church relations; Rev. Glenn F. Merritt of Arlington, Texas, director of disaster response for LCMS World Relief and Human Care; Darin Storkson of Jakarta, Indonesia, Asia director for LCMS World Relief and Human Care; Dr. David C. Birner of St. Louis, associate executive director, international, for LCMS World Mission; Rev. John Mehl of Hong Kong, regional director for Asia for LCMS World Mission; Dr. Naomichi Masaki of Fort Wayne, Ind., associate professor of systematic theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; and Al Dowbnia of Indianapolis, Ind., communications director, LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

Background: Individuals and congregations of the LCMS have given more than $2 million to help the people of Japan since the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Soon after the disaster, the LCMS released $200,000 in emergency funds for two Japanese Lutheran

church bodies: the Japan Lutheran Church (an LCMS partner church) and the West Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, which operates Kobe Lutheran Theological Seminary in Kobe along with other church organizations. The funds have been made available for the two church bodies to use however they decide for response to the earthquake and tsunami.

About The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), is a mission-oriented, Bible-based, confessional Christian denomination headquartered in St. Louis, Mo. Founded in 1847, the LCMS has more than 2.3 million baptized members in some 6,200 congregations and more than 9,000 pastors. Two seminaries and 10 colleges and universities operate under the auspices of the LCMS, and its congregations operate the largest Protestant parochial school system in America. The church broadcasts the saving message of Jesus Christ over KFUO Radio, and it has relationships and active mission work in 88 countries around the world. In the last five years, the LCMS has awarded more than $35 million through more than 900 domestic and international grants for emergency response and disaster relief. Today, the LCMS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 33 other confessional Lutheran church bodies worldwide and is a founding partner of Lutheran Services in America, a social ministry organization serving one in every 50 Americans. For more information, visit www.lcms.org.

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