

**Resolution 23-1**

**Aid for Turkey/Syria Earthquake**

- WHEREAS:** a 7.8 magnitude earthquake followed by a 7.9 magnitude earthquake nearby has occurred in Turkey and Syria and
- WHEREAS:** over 45,000 people have died in these quakes resulting in loss of family members and other loved ones and
- WHEREAS:** tens of thousands of people are now displaced, with thousands of homes and businesses having been destroyed leaving people with nowhere to go for shelter and
- WHEREAS:** there is no water or electricity available for thousands of people and
- WHEREAS:** Lutheran Mideast Development (LMD) has worked in the Middle East for over 100 years and
- WHEREAS:** LMD has people who work in that earthquake area who live there and are among those impacted, and
- WHEREAS:** LMD purchases supplies from that local economy rather than bringing in supplies from elsewhere, and
- WHEREAS:** LMD uses 100% of monies given to earthquake relief for earthquake relief with none of those dollars going to administrative purposes, and
- WHEREAS:** the LMD team is working in coordination with regional governmental workers for long term recovery
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that women of the Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization include the people of that earthquake area in prayer and
- RESOLVED:** that individual women and units of women of the Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization support the efforts of Lutheran Mideast Development in upcoming year May 2023 to April 2024 by sending whatever dollars they can to the Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization with the goal of \$3000 - \$5000 to be sent to SWO c/o treasurer Karen Seaver, 30325 Newlander Trail, Lindstrom MN 55045.

*Submitted by: Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization Board*

## Resolution 23-3

### Women and Families in Iringa, Tanzania

- WHEREAS:** The Saint Paul Area Synod is partnered with the Diocese of Iringa Tanzania and two female pastors from the Iringa Diocese head departments with responsibility for caring for the women, families and needy in the Diocese; and
- WHEREAS:** Pastor Upendo Koko heads Women and Family Nurture. She conducts workshops addressing the needs of women in the rural areas. The women are the ones who care for the family and children, meeting their needs for nutrition, housing, healthcare, and education. Pastor Upendo's seminars empower the women to learn ways to earn income to provide for their family by starting a small business such as selling produce or basketmaking. She brings healthcare providers to women who are not receiving care of physical and mental health needs. In her seminars she teaches leadership to address issues of gender violence, parenting skills, and children's rights and responsibilities; and
- WHEREAS:** Pastor Ombeni Sawike heads Diakonia, ministering to the needs of the people, which is a priority for the Diocese and a new department that is just beginning. She is planning to train pastors and evangelists in all seven districts of the Diocese in how to meet the pastoral care needs of their parish and put in place a system that will follow-up to continue to build pastoral care skill. Pastor Ombeni will do this by conducting seminars; and
- WHEREAS:** Pastors Upendo and Ombeni each need about \$6,000 additional funding in 2023 to conduct their workshops throughout the Iringa district, which covers the cost of food, transportation, and facilitators.
- THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the congregational units of the Saint Paul Area SWO are encouraged to contribute \$1,000 during 2023 for the Women and Family Nurture and the Diakonia departments of the Diocese of Iringa Tanzania to be divided equally.

*Submitted by: Immanuel Lutheran Church Women, Saint Paul*

## **Resolution 22-1**

### **LSS- Bethany Crisis Center in Duluth and Therapeutic Preschool project on the East Side of St Paul**

**WHEREAS:** Women of the ELCA has been a strong voice for children and families, Lutheran Social Service has asked us to be a part of their endeavors; and

**WHEREAS:** Bethany Home started as an orphanage in 1916. In 1974 they purchased a building and evolved to Bethany Crisis Shelter which served homeless youth 0-17; and

**WHEREAS:** in 2021 LSS of MN started building a new facility to enhance services to allow adaptability for children in Bethany Crisis Center and to strengthen families through the Family Resource Center but in 2022 with rising construction costs of \$100,000 they reached out for help in February 2022; and

**WHEREAS:** since Feb. LSS has met their \$100K need for construction costs but they would welcome funds for operating costs plus supplies such as diapers, formula, etc.; and

**WHEREAS:** LSS is also working on a therapeutic preschool project on the East Side of St Paul in partnership with the Saint Paul Area Synod and funds are needed for this project as well;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that congregational units of the Saint Paul Area SWO are encouraged to contribute to LSS for both endeavors \$1,000 over the next two years.

*Submitted by: Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Board*