

# Companion Synod Committee

## 2009 Report



The highlight for the Companion Synod Committee this past year was the trip to Argentina in February 2008. We had a group of six people including two youth travel together to visit our Companion Synod Partners The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina. We visited the IELU office and President Alan Eldrid who did a wonderful job of introducing our group to the complex life of ministry in Argentina.

The group travelled south to Bariloche, Esquel, Cushamen and Comodoro Rivadavia. The biggest hurdle was to survive the domestic pilots' strike which caused us to be a whole day behind in our schedule due to delays. We did get to know the airport really well that day! We visited the Pastors who are supported by the ELCIC World Mission Program; Pastor Sergio Utz (his wife Maylén and daughter Micaela and Pastor Gustavo Gomez ( and his wife Solange along with their children Lourdes and Leandro).

The biggest impact for the group was in Comodoro Rivadavia where the congregation has a **daycare that reaches out to the surrounding community**. They support young mothers for two months so they can get training or find jobs while their children are cared for. Most of us felt inclined to stay and keep helping with this most important mission of care for 35 children.

**May is Companion Synod Month** so please remember to look for resources on the Synod web site. You will find a variety of information to help your congregation become involved as companions in the faith. Pastor Sergio Utz' last letter entitled "Words from the Patagonia" is a most inspirational and poetic work that could be used in worship or as a temple talk or for inclusion in your congregational newsletter. You will also find new bulletin inserts, a brochure that highlights the ministry in Argentina and a new liturgy especially designed for the month of May. Check out these resources and more at: [www.sasksynod.elcic.ca](http://www.sasksynod.elcic.ca)

We have initiated a conversation about *student exchanges* between our Lutheran schools and IELU's schools. We hope to grow in our relationship with one another by encouraging the sharing of people and resources.

The committee welcomes two new interested members: John Matity and Monica Johnson and they join Arlene Schick, Bob Edwards, Greg Kiel and Bishop Cindy Halmarson and we thank Pastor Frank Armistead for his years of service who is now retired.

Please keep our companions in faith in your prayers as we continue to work together to share the mission that Christ has given us.

In Christ;

The Companion Synod Committee