



Ethiopian church aids Wisconsin congregation

When the people of the Central Synod of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) heard that flooding damaged Luther Memorial Lutheran Church in Gays Mills, Wisconsin, they wanted to help.

So they took up a collection of 20,000 Ethiopian birr (\$2200), and donated it to the ELCA La Crosse Area Synod's Flood Relief account.

The gift is just one of many facets of the long-term relationship between the two synods, which relate through the ELCA Companion Synods program.

The EECMY Central Synod's executive secretary Fekadu Begna and Bishop April Larson visited the congregation in February 2008 to present a combined check of \$25,000 to help Luther Memorial rebuild its building and parsonage.

Fekadu spent four months in the synod serving as evangelist, teacher, and preacher. "When he arrived, it was 100 degrees colder than the beloved Ethiopia he left 36 hours earlier," noted Bishop Larson. "He was a gift sent by God from our companion synod. He was a missionary to us, pointing us to Jesus Christ."