

## Transcript

LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison on Japan Earthquake/Tsunami

March 11, 2011

Hi, Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Like you, I woke up this morning to be jolted by the news of an enormous earthquake in Japan and the tsunami which followed.

While the country of Japan has enormous internal capacity for rescue and early response, nevertheless, thousands upon thousands of people have been affected in a devastating way by this event and there are people hurting.

There are two Lutheran churches in Japan: The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church and The Japan Lutheran Church. Both of them have people who are engaged right now and deeply affected by this event. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has missionaries on the ground in Japan and, even now, some of them are assisting in cleanup. When it is appropriate, we will provide presence also with our Japanese Lutheran friends as they reach out in appropriate ways to people around them who are suffering.

There is no better time than the season of Lent to show mercy to people in need. In Lent we remember that Jesus came to us. He was present with us, took on

our flesh and took it to a cross for us to rise again for the forgiveness of all of our sins.

I would ask you to help us be present with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Japan as they reach out to many around them – many who don't know Jesus like you and I do. Would you go to the LCMS website: [LCMS.org](http://LCMS.org)? There you will find all kinds of news and information from a Lutheran perspective and an opportunity to give.

And, would you also ask your congregations to take a collection so that we can show – at the appropriate time – we can show mercy and love to our brothers and sisters in Christ in Japan?

Thank you very much and blessed Lent.