

A Statement in Response to Media Coverage of LCMS Pastor's Apology Regarding Newtown Worship Service

February 7, 2013

In response to questions raised following the recent news stories about the Rev. Robert Morris of Newtown, Conn., we encourage everyone to read <u>Pastor Morris' statement</u> and <u>President Matthew Harrison's pastoral letter</u> for themselves. We are proud of the work Pastor Morris has done in Newtown and how he has served the community in so many ways. We are handling the situation within our church to work toward greater unity and consensus among us in how best to apply the ancient faith to the world today.

The Missouri Synod has and continues to serve millions of people around the world in times of tragedy and disaster. Following the Newtown shooting, the LCMS immediately dispatched relief workers, who offered encouragement and support. Nine golden retriever comfort dogs from the Addison, Ill.-based Lutheran Church Charities also brought comfort and calm in the midst of chaos and fear.

As President Harrison noted: "I also strongly urge that we all continue to support Pastor Rob Morris, his wife and his young family, and his congregation--all of whom have suffered much in this--in prayer and love, especially in providing funding for Christ the King Lutheran Church as it continues to care for victims. Their grief is deep and lasting, and it can be assuaged only in the cross and resurrection of the Lord Jesus."

Gifts may be sent directly to Christ the King Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 721, Newtown, Conn., 06470.

