Hymn: “Blessed be the Tie That Binds” LSB 649 (all verses)

All: If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored all rejoice together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

Leader: The country of Haiti seems to face disaster after disaster. An earthquake in 2010 claimed the lives of a quarter million people. The human and property losses were more than we have ever faced in our lives. This was then followed by a hurricane that took the metal roofs off many homes and churches. Then there were more earthquakes. How do we respond to such disasters?

All: So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith (Galatians 6:10).

We respond with the love of Christ. We work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti (ELCH) and LCMS Disaster Response and the Recognized Service Organizations (RSO). Ministry in Mission is an RSO that has worked in Haiti for 15 years proclaiming the love of Christ and helping to improve the lives of the Haitians.

Ministry in Mission has seen the need of the people and has worked closely with the ELCH. With many volunteers that have come to assist, Ministry in Mission
has established an orphanage, an eldercare home, and several feeding programs. They also coordinate the sponsorship of school children so they can attend school daily. Every activity proclaims the love of Christ and builds up the household of faith.

The church's ministry in Haiti is facing a new challenge as the country's government is immobilized and gang violence and civil unrest has taken over a great deal of the country. Volunteers can no longer enter the country and it is difficult to get aid for the churches in the country. However, the ministry continues. The pastors of the Lutheran Church are still sharing the Good News of salvation. The hardships the Haitians are facing turn them from their voodoo gods and to the realization that the Triune God is the one true God.

As the Haitians turn to our loving God, they gather in worship in the Lutheran Churches throughout the country. Funds were raised to repair churches damaged in the last hurricane. The repair work was started, and all goods were in the country, however, inflation is now running rampant, and they need extra funds to complete the repairs. The funds from this mission grant will supply the monies needed to finish the job.

All:  
Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God (Philippians 4:4-6).
Leader: When we look to the needs of Haiti, it is incomprehensible for many of us. However, God assures us that He is in charge and will guide all efforts to build up the community of believers and give them comfort. We are the hands and feet of God and through our mite offerings we are making a difference.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask You to bless the efforts of Ministry in Mission. Their work in Haiti gives Your love and hope to the people. We ask You to protect the people in Haiti. They face disaster after disaster but in You they can rejoice, knowing You are in control. Bless the members of the Lutheran church and their efforts to reach the people with Your message of salvation. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.