



News for the  
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

# Soundings

March 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 3

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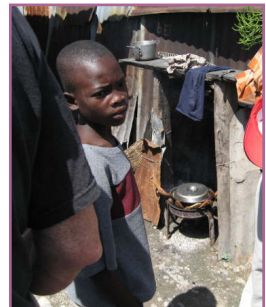
## ***To Build A Relationship Begun By God*** *By The Rev. Jeff Gaustad, pastor at Christ the King in Snohomish*

A simple phone call from Florida and that's how a new ministry began at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Snohomish. The caller was a representative from Food for the Poor (FFP), asking if they might send a speaker (a Lutheran clergyperson) to talk about ways they might partner with Christ the King. That simple invitation more than five years ago launched a relationship between FFP and Christ the King, a relationship that continues to grow.

After hearing from two FFP speakers (both Lutheran clergy) some members of Christ the King began to entertain the idea of making a pilgrimage, with FFP. The members wanted to visit and walk with the poor of Haiti, and witness first

hand how the church in the first world can partner with the church in the third world, making Christ's love more deeply known to all.

In October 2008, I was invited by FFP to make such a pilgrimage. While in Haiti, I saw many, many people living in desperate poverty, their condition made all the more desperate when, only weeks before, Haiti was battered by wave after wave of tropical storms,



*A young boy shows off the family cook stove which is located outside their home in Cité Soleil.*

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## A Word From The Bishop



This year's Synod Assembly will be different. I have often noted that we have at least three agendas when it comes to a Synod Assembly.

It is first a gathering around Word and Sacrament. We are the church and we need to be fed by the word and to receive the blessing of God's grace.

It is also a time to learn more about how the congregations of the church and the larger church are working. (We have not always used the workshop model that other synods use, but this is a function of the assembly.) It is also a business meeting. In recent years that has been the dominant feature of the assembly.

This year we are going to put greater focus on the worship and education functions. The schedule calls for a one-day business meeting (Friday, May 15) and a second day of worship and enrichment Saturday, May 16). It is a two-day assembly. On Saturday, May 16, the members of the assembly will be joined by others in the synod for workshops, discussion and celebration. Leonard Sweet will be the primary presenter on this day.

We will have to discipline ourselves when it comes to the business of the synod. We will have one day to get through that work. We will be looking at the 2010 budget. We will be electing members of the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee. We will be acting on resolutions that come from congregations or rostered leaders. (The deadline for Resolutions and for Nominations is March 1.) Resolutions addressing the church council's actions on the Human Sexuality Study or any policies recommendations coming from the churchwide task force will be needed no later than May 1.

We have never tried such an assembly. As I expressed

last year, I am not sure that parliamentary procedure is the best way to address our disagreements. We are more than the resolutions we vote upon. This year we will try to model that by expanding the assembly to be more than just business.

Please thank and support our co-chairs, Kim Unti and Pam Kluth, as they work with their committee to plan this assembly. Volunteer to help them. Come to the assembly expecting something different. This year we are *Bringing our Gifts to God's Party!* You don't want to miss it.

**Editor's Note:** Leonard Sweet is our 2009 Synod Assembly keynote speaker. He is currently the E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Drew Theological School (Madison, NJ), and Visiting Distinguished Professor at George Fox University (Portland, OR). Sweet is the author of more than 100 articles, 600 published sermons and 30 books, most recently *The Gospel According to Starbucks*. Sweet's web-based preaching resource Wikiletics.com is the first open-source preaching resource on the web. In both 2006 and 2007 he was voted "One of the 50 Most Influential Christians in America." His weekly free podcast is called *Napkin Scribbles*,

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A Word From  
The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the April issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, March 4. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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## Under the Tent of Abraham

by **The Rev. Tom  
Kidd, pastor at St.  
Luke's Lutheran  
Church in Kirkland**

In late January Jew, Christian and Muslim gathered at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Bellevue to make conversation about our common life together.

Rabbi Jim Mirel, Temple B'nai Torah, Imaam Mohamad Joban, Muslim Association of Puget Sound and Bishop Chris Boerger gifted the 300 gathered with candid conversation and transparency. Those who attended were left with a clear and abiding sense of mutual respect for one another. A

standing ovation was the community's sign of respect and gratitude for their joint effort.

Each faith community was generously represented in the evening's activities as well as a significant turnout from the community at large. Throughout the course of the program the gathered were encouraged to write out questions which were submitted to the moderator, myself.

With the ongoing conflict between Palestinians and Israelis as backdrop the tone of the conversation was as valuable as the answers. The place of Christians in this ongoing story of the Land of Israel is mired in its own sometimes self serving history. It felt, to say the least, complicated.

Two questions surfaced as critical: Is there a reason to hope? And, is violence the problem or a symptom of the problem?



*Bishop Chris Boerger with Rabbi Jim Mirel, Temple B'nai Torah; Imaam Mohamad Joban, Muslim Association of Puget Sound; and Pastor Tom Kidd*

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The three presenters agreed that their willingness to be together in dialogue should serve as an example of hope. And with regard to violence... possibly Bishop Boerger summed up the collective attitude of all, that is, there is hope for new life when we stop comparing our pain and start listening to one another's pain. The gathered agreed we would continue to seek opportunities to gather and listen.

Hope is a very good thing.

The Men's Ministry of Prince of Peace Lutheran in Everett is inviting men ages 12-100 to turn out for a special Spring Training Event. No, this won't involve a trip to Peoria, AZ. But, every man who comes will have the opportunity to stretch and grow in their abilities to truly *Go in peace and serve the Lord!* Long-time PLU Football Coach, Forrest (Frosty) Westering will be the trainer-presenter at this 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. event on Saturday, Feb. 28, at Prince of Peace, 9320 Meadow Way, Everett.

Frosty's focus will be on becoming more of the disciple Christ calls us to be. In the spirit of his practical theology, this outstanding communicator will equip young and older alike to *Make the Big Time Where We Are* as a men of God.

This is a great event for fathers and grandfathers to include the younger men in their families. Consider also inviting others with whom you may be in a mentoring relationship. A freewill offering will be asked. No pre-registration is necessary. The doors open for registration-refreshments and fellowship at 8:30 with worship and introductions beginning at 9:30. Prepare for a great morning "breakaway!" Make it greater by inviting and sharing the morning with others!

*continued from page 4*

## **Under the Tent of Abraham**

## **Coach Frosty's Spring Training**

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## Spring Bishop's Convocation

Ancient Judaism, the New Testament, and our Lutheran Heritage: Refocusing the Images is the title of the 2009 Spring Bishop's Convocation to be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, at Maple Leaf in Seattle.

How have the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and revolutions in biblical scholarship in the past two generations changed our perceptions of Judaism at the turn of the era, and how do—or should—these developments lead us to rethink the origins of Christianity and enrich our Lutheran theology?

Our presenter for this one-day convocation is the Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg (ret.) of Issaquah. He



*The Rev. Dr. George  
W. E. Nickelsburg*

was a supervisor of archeological excavations, theologian, editor, recipient of numerous academic awards and honors, author of *Ancient Judaism and Christian Origins* (copies of this book will be available for sale at the convo).

Nickelsburg is also the author of several other books and articles, a creator of photographic exhibits, a participant on inter-disciplinary panels and discussions and a pastor.

Faculty appointments include: Univ. of Iowa; LST of Chicago; Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO; and PLTS in Berkeley, CA.

Registration and payment deadline is Monday, April 13 (lunch is included): \$18 for active rostered and \$15 for retired and interns (\$20 at the door). Make checks payable to: NW Washington Synod and mail to 5519 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103.

(For directions to Maple Leaf Lutheran Church please visit [www.reachoutchurch.org](http://www.reachoutchurch.org).)

The 2009 Synod Assembly is going to be a celebration!

The two-day assembly at the Lynnwood Convention Center is designed in a new format this year so that the celebration and the business can both take priority.

Friday, May 15, is all business. This allows us to give the priority that the business of the synod deserves.

Saturday, May 16, is designed with a celebration of who the Northwest Washington Synod is. Our keynote speaker is Dr. Leonard Sweet, a nationally known author and teacher. (Check out his website at [www.leonardsweet.com](http://www.leonardsweet.com).)

Celebration worship will be on Saturday and will include a synod-wide choir of all ages. The party will continue throughout the day as we offer many “party” rooms where we will be sharing all of the resources and ministries that are available in our own synod. Come to celebrate who we are and what we are doing.

Saturday is open to everyone. Voting members will be there, but we also want to share this “party” with everyone.

Come, celebrate and learn. We are *Bringing Our Gifts to God's Party!*

Contact co-chair Pam Kluth at [purplepatch47@hotmail.com](mailto:purplepatch47@hotmail.com) or Kim Unti at [kim.unti@comcast.net](mailto:kim.unti@comcast.net). We are excited to share with you what the plans are. Maybe you would like to help host the party – we would love to have you join us.

As more information becomes available visit [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org).

## ***Bringing Our Gifts To God's Party***



*continued from page 1*

## Building Relationships

hurricanes and torrential rains. In spite of poverty, flooding, damage and destruction, I found among the Haitian people a hospitality and a deep joy I have seldom encountered elsewhere.



*An open sewer is next to a row of shanty, zinc-roofed houses in Cite Soleil.*

With an estimated population of 7,656,000 people (growing rapidly) in an area smaller than Maryland, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere:

80 percent of the people live in poverty, 70 percent are unemployed and more than half are illiterate. While a host of NGO's (including our own Lutheran World Relief) and many nation's governments work to provide humanitarian aide, assistance and relief to the people of Haiti, malnutrition, hunger, disease and squalid conditions are overwhelmingly ever present.

In Haiti, my FFP group visited several feeding stations, where the organization provides daily bread (actually beans and rice) for thousands of families. We visited orphanages, schools and hospitals, most of which were run by religious orders with whom FFP partners to provide food, shelter, clothing and other necessities. In Port au Princes' Cite de Soleil (one of the world's most notorious and densely populated slums) the group saw the change and hope brought through one of FFP's housing developments. (You can see pictures at the congregation's website at [www.ctksnohomish.org/page13298.asp](http://www.ctksnohomish.org/page13298.asp).)



The pilgrimage had a dramatic impact on me. Upon my return that next Sunday (All Saints Sunday) in my sermon I shared stories and pictures of the pilgrimage. In the course of that sharing, I mentioned to the congregation what I had said to my family: “All I want for Christmas is a house in Haiti.” My family had agreed to forgo exchanging gifts and instead, make a contribution toward the building of a house for a family in Haiti. When the congregation heard about our plan, they too caught the spirit. Over the course of the next few weeks, gifts in excess of \$22,000 were received toward the building of houses in Haiti—specifically in Cabaret, an area an hour from Port au Prince. (Cabaret was particularly hard hit by a flash flood one night in September.)

This coming April, a team of ten people from Christ the King’ will make a pilgrimage to Haiti to continue to build this relationship begun by God with our neighbor in Haiti. The team plans to see the houses being built in Cabaret, and perhaps even meet the families with whom we are blessed to be connected.

We’ll keep you posted.

*continued from page 1*

## Building Relationships



*This young girl is one of the residents of Little Children of Jesus Home, a FFP orphanage for children with special needs. Four days prior to us visiting she had undergone eye surgery, and was just beginning to see clearly for the first time in her life.*

## LPPO Update

by Rev. Paul Benz  
Lutheran Public Policy Office  
of Washington State

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206-464-4133  
www.lppowa.org

By the time this reaches you our state legislature will have completed seven weeks of their 15-week session. Their main priority is to form the new budget for the 2009-2011 biennium that begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

By the time the 105-day session ends on April 26<sup>th</sup> the budget also needs to be balanced; and with a near 8 billion revenue shortfall that will be a most difficult task – to say the least.

Three things you and/or your congregation can do:

1. Pray for your state legislators by name and by their district in your congregation's area; and pray for the governor as well.
2. Put your prayers into 'action' and do an offering of letters during March or early April (LPPO can help select an issue and help coordinate this).
3. Display and use the toll free ,state legislative, hot line telephone number (1-800-562-6000).

Recently religious leaders in Washington State, including Bishop Chris Boerger, met with the governor; and Advocacy Days were held in Spokane. Upcoming Advocacy Days will be held in Vancouver on Feb. 21 and 22 and in Shelton on Feb. 28 and March 1. Our annual Faith Advocacy Day will be held in Olympia on Tuesday, March 17. (Packets were mailed to your congregation the first week in February. Visit LPPO's website at [www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org) for more info on this event. Even if you can't come there is a way for you and your congregation to participate.)

LPPO desires to be out in your church and local community engaging people of faith in the political process and building a statewide network for justice. Contact us at [lpoffice@lcsnw.org](mailto:lpoffice@lcsnw.org) to schedule a time to come and what that involves.

Holden Youth Weekend 2009 registration materials are now available at [www.tlc.edu/holden](http://www.tlc.edu/holden). This year's theme is *Semper Reformanda* and will use Martin Luther's famous dictum "always reforming".

As you plan for this very important season, have you considered integrating the *Book of Faith Initiative* into your Lenten programming? The *Book of Faith Lenten Journey* is a new devotional resource that was developed specifically for the *Book of Faith Initiative*. Participants will study individually and together through the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Worship resources are available at [www.bookoffaith.org](http://www.bookoffaith.org).

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently developed an Energy Star rating for congregations. This is a way for congregations to do a sort of "self-audit" of their facilities and apply for the Energy Star certification if they qualify. Most congregations can cut energy costs by up to 30% by investing strategically in efficient equipment, facility upgrades and maintenance. For more information, visit [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small\\_business.sb\\_congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations).

The 2009 Lutheran Staff Association (LSA) Conference will take place from March 8 through 11 at the Ocean Beach Conference Center, Cannon Beach, OR. Susan Briehl is the keynote speaker and Bible study leader. Attendees will explore the theme *Unforced Rhythms of Grace: Rediscover Your Life*. For more information visit [www.ewaidsynod.org/lutheranstaffassociation.html](http://www.ewaidsynod.org/lutheranstaffassociation.html).

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## Holden Youth Weekends 2009

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## Bible Book of Faith

Roger Anderson, Bible Book  
of Faith Synod Advocate

[biblebookoffaith@  
lutheransnw.org](mailto:biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org)

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## Energy Star For Congregations

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## Conference For Staff Leaders

## Here 'n There

- The Living Water Group, a cooperative ministry venture of **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton, Lakeridge Lutheran in Seattle and Kent Lutheran in Kent**, funded a work project in Mkulazi, Tanzania. The Living Water Group gave \$4000 to help build a water retention system in an area with a medical clinic and no fresh water supply within 45 minutes. The Group also gave \$1000 to assist in flood recovery in Iowa. Future assistance will be given to the Centralia/Chehalis area to help families affected by the recent floods.
- In January **Zion Lutheran in Kent** welcomed the Rev. Hans Wiersma as their 2009 Epiphany Speaker. Wiersma is Assistant Professor of Religion at Augsburg College in Minneapolis where he works closely training students interested in ministry.
- **Faith Lutheran in Seattle** has a long tradition of getting ready for Lent in several different ways. One way is the Pre-Lent Festival Day for Sunday School on the Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday. The children make a banner that says *Alleluia*. The 6th graders bring the banner into worship and then take it back out, symbolizing the fact that we put away our Alleluia until Easter Day. The congregation also has a tradition of eating a lot of pancakes preparing for the 40-day fast.
- **University Lutheran in Seattle** is hosting the Seattle concert by the Oak Grove Lutheran School Concert Choir at 7 p.m. on Monday, March 23. This 50-voice high school ensemble from Fargo, ND, is known for its mature sound. The choir's ambitious repertoire includes major works as well as familiar pieces by such noted composers as F. Melius Christiansen, Leland B. Sateren and Knut Nystedt. Seattle is the culmination of their 2009 tour, and University Lutheran is to be the venue for their only concert in the Seattle area.

We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **The Rev. Sai Wai Pau (Paul) Cheung**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**
- † **The Rev. Joel Lohafar**, Hope Lutheran in Lynden
- † **The Rev. John LaMunyon**, Samammish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish

We pray for:

- † The family of **Naomi Blumanthal, wife of the Rev. Gary Blumanthal (ret.)**. Naomi passed away in January. Pastor Blumantal served at St Matthew in Renton before retiring. Naomi was also the sister of the Rev. Lowell Stime (ret.) who served at Lutheran Bible Institute/Trinity Lutheran College. Services were held at Community of Hope Lutheran Church in Wilsonville, OR. Cards may be sent to 20139 S. Henrici Road, Oregon City, OR 97045. Peace to her memory.
- † The family of **Larry Johnson, Associate in Minster and Synod Vice President**. Larry's mother passed away on February 5. She was in her 90's and had been ill for some time. Cards may be sent to Larry Johnson at: 14308 - 165th Place SE, Renton WA 98059. Peace to her memory.
- † **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad**, pastor at St. Peter Lutheran in Clinton., and his family. Pastor Hustad was hospitalized briefly in early February for a recurrence of the infection in his leg. Pastor Mikkel is the son of the Rev. Jack (ret) and Helen Hustad. Prayers for healing.
- † **The Rev. Malcolm Unseth (ret.)** was admitted to Swedish Hospital in Seattle with possible pneumonia at the end of January. Cards may be sent to the Rev. Unseth at: 3221 NW 56th, Seattle WA, 98117. Prayers for healing.

## Within Our Family



Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
<b>Calls Accepted</b>		
Larry Morris	Holy Spirit, Kirkland	1/1/2009
<b>Occasions/Events</b>		
Larry Morris	Reinstatement to the roster	1/1/2009

**Opportunities**

**Director of 9th - 12th Grade Ministries—**  
 Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland is

seeking a Director of 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Ministries.

This half-time position works with staff and volunteers to provide learning, fellowship, and service opportunities for youth in grades 9-12. A full position description and details on salary may be found at [www.hslckirkland.org](http://www.hslckirkland.org). Please contact Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse at [katy@hslckirkland.org](mailto:katy@hslckirkland.org) for additional information.

**Residence Counselors—**Lutheran Summer Music (LSM), the national, month-long music academy for choir, band and orchestra students in grades 8-12, is now accepting applications for Residence Counselors for 2009. Counselors will receive a stipend and must be 21 years old with two years of college. LSM will be held at Luther College (Decorah, IA) from June 21 to July 19. To learn more and apply, visit [www.lutheransummermusic.org](http://www.lutheransummermusic.org) or call 1-888-635-6583.

**In The Steps  
 of Reformers**

Pastor Katy McCallum Sachse is leading a group from Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland to Prague and Germany from Oct. 24 to Nov. 3, 2009. Contact Pastor Katy at

[katy@hslckirkland.org](mailto:katy@hslckirkland.org) or visit the congregation's website at [www.hslckirkland.org](http://www.hslckirkland.org).

*Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org) and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.*

### Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marilyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	TR	Dennis Shaffert, Interim
Bellingham, Christ the Servant	PR	TR	Jim Miley, Interim
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	P	Michael Ross, Pastor
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Everson, Immanuel	PR	I	Mary Bosell, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	TR	Martha Myers, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	I	Supply
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Linda Larson, Interim
Mukilteo, Harbour Pointe	PR	NV	Supply
North Bend, Mount Si	PR	I	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	C	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

#### Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor  
 A = Associate  
 AIM = Associate in Ministry  
 DM = Diaconal Minister  
 A/SP = Associate with Special  
 Emphasis contact Synod Office)

#### Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing  
 C = Calling  
 NV = New Vacancy  
 V = Vacancy  
 SC = Synod Call  
 TR = Transition process  
 P = Profile presented (receiving  
 nominations)  
 TR/DO = Div for Outreach  
 Transformation Process

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