



Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 2

February 2010

Earthquake In Haiti

We have all heard about the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti that occurred on January 12 that devastated the small country. More than 30 aftershocks have occurred, with one at 6.1 magnitude. We have seen the

The ELCA is working closely with other organizations that include: ACT International, Church World Service, Lutheran World Federation - World Service, and Lutheran World Relief.



The hospital in Port-of-Prince.

devastation in video and photos. We have heard about the large number of deaths and injured, and how aid is slowly beginning to get to the people in need.

Thankfully the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) were all ready on the island and were spared. They were able to focus their immediate efforts on issues of water safety and sanitation, assisting with medical triage, and providing emergency shelter for the many who are now homeless. (The ELCA has long-standing relationships in Haiti through several organizations and the Lutheran Church in Haiti.)

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A Word From The Bishop



“And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.”

Genesis 2:2-3 NRSV

In accordance with the policies of this Synod, I have requested a sabbatical from July 1 through September 30, 2010. The Synod Council has approved this request. I am now looking at how best to spend this time accomplishing the purpose of a sabbatical.

In the academic world this time is to be used to retool or expand study or writing in one's field of study. In the church we have been less focused on study. Our understanding of sabbatical comes from this Genesis understanding that even God needs time to rest from what is done every day.

Life is more than our vocation of work. It is true that many of us define ourselves by the job that provides our income. As Christians we understand that we have been defined by our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. I am a baptized child of God who has been called to serve as a pastor and for this time, as bishop of this synod. This is rewarding work.

The fact is that time away from the daily routine gives permission to renew and re-evaluate how this work can be done. That is my intent for this coming sabbatical. Currently DeDe and I are looking at possible travel to South Africa to visit the Rev. Michael and Pamela Nel. There is also the possibility of connecting with some of our

companion synod colleagues. There will also be time to enjoy the grandchildren.

I had a sabbatical as part of the Sno-King cluster internship program when I was serving at Northlake in Kenmore. That sabbatical had an education focus. I was able to do most of the academic work related to a Doctor of Ministry program at Luther Seminary. My call to this office ended that process, but the time in study about conflict management has been helpful to this call.

This sabbatical will be about stepping back from the routine. I am being slow about putting anything on the calendar for this time. That seems too much like what I do now. This is to be time away. I am grateful for the opportunity to have this time. You will share my plans as they are developed. In the meantime I want to thank all the members of the synod who make this opportunity possible.

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A Word From The Bishop

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office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org

Deadline for copy of the March 2010 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, February 3. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org

The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org

The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop—
buss@lutheransnw.org

Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org

Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org

Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org

Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

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Earthquake in Haiti

On January 19 Lutheran World Relief (LWR) announced that it was shipping health kits and layettes to be distributed to Haitian earthquake survivors.

LWR partner Church World Service will distribute the shipment of 650 health kits and 1500 layettes, the first of multiple planned shipments to Haiti. LWR has committed material resources valued at nearly \$500,000 and plans to send more health kits and layettes, along with quilts and school kits, in the near future.

Your help is needed today to bring immediate relief and continued hope for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. About 3 million people, one-third of Haiti's population, were affected by this earthquake.

On January 19 the ELCA reported that individuals and congregations of the ELCA had contributed more than \$1.2 million to fund relief efforts of ELCA partner organizations working on the ground in Haiti.

There are many ways to give:

- **ELCA International Disaster Response**—You may give to ELCA Disaster Response by: Check or money orders sent to ELCA Disaster Response, 39330 Treasury Center, Chicago, IL 60694-9300 (write “Haiti Earthquake Relief” on your check’s memo line; Credit card by phone: 800-638-3522 (Credit card contributions may also be made via mail.) Or, you can easily visit www.elaca.org/haitiearthquake and make your donation on-line. One hundred percent of your gifts designated to Haiti will be used in this vital response effort.
- **Lutheran World Relief Launched Text-to-Give**—To support LWR from your cell phone, just text the keyword “LWR” to 40579 to donate \$10. Remember to reply YES to the confirmation. It’s quick and easy, and the donation will appear on your next cell phone bill.

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Standard messaging and data rates may apply. You may also visit www.lwr.org to give directly through their website.

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Earthquake in Haiti

■ Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Announces Member Challenge

Donations—Thrivent Financial for Lutherans announced that they will match members' gifts to LWR for Haiti, giving \$1 for every \$2 donated, up to \$1 million. Thrivent Financial members interested in making a financial gift to help earthquake victims in Haiti can make their donation online at www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti or by phone at 1-800-236-3736 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Central time, Monday through Friday. When prompted, please say "directory" then enter ext. 83003. Thrivent

Financial will add a maximum of \$250 per member donation, and donations will be accepted through March 31, 2010.



A home in Port-of-Prince.

Fund-Raising Event

At 7 p.m. on Monday January 25, Gethsemane Lutheran Church (911 Stewart Street, Seattle) will hold a concert, *Help For Haiti*, to aid the victims of the Earthquake in Haiti. The congregation is inviting many of Seattle's finest performing ensembles to showcase their fine artists. Admission is free. Suggested donations is \$25.

LPPO Update

by **The Rev. Paul Benz**

lppointern@lcsnw.org
206-464-4133;
www.lppowa.org.

Faith Advocacy Day is Tuesday, Feb. 16. If you have not previously attended Faith Advocacy Day, or you have not attended for many years, we invite you to consider joining us. This year's theme is, *Lift Every Voice*.

2010 is the first year Faith Advocacy Day is Interfaith Advocacy Day. In just a few years, this day has transitioned from a Lutheran event to an ecumenical event to—now—an interfaith event! People of all faiths from across Washington State will be gathering in Olympia to voice their concerns to legislators and advocate for justice.

The day begins at the United Churches of Olympia with an interfaith worship service, followed by an overview of the day, briefings on important issues and bills. Our primary focus will be on the state budget: the \$2.7 billion shortfall and our support of a substantial revenue package to balance the budget. We will then move to the Capitol, where individuals will meet with their district legislators and have some *Question and Answer* time with House and Senate Leadership.

Interfaith Advocacy Day promises to be a great day this legislative session. We hope you will join us to advocate for all of God's creation. And, please invite people from your congregation, as well as your Jewish and Muslim neighbors, to attend with you.

Visit our website for registration and transportation details: www.lppowa.org. LPPO has resources for individuals and congregations who want to participate, but are unable to attend. Contact us for more details.

Staffing Transitions at the LPPO—Our office manager from 2008-2009, Kirstin Docken Showalter, said “goodbye” to the LPPO and Seattle in January. However, we are joined again by David Coombs, who you may remember was on staff at the LPPO from 2006-2008. Please welcome him back.

David L. Miller, pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Naperville, IL, and former editor of the Lutheran has written a book entitled *Book of Faith Lenten Journey. Marks of the Christian*, published by Augsburg Fortress. This small volume focuses on Romans chapter 12 verses 1-15 where Paul writes about characteristics of Christians in community. Miller also brings into the discussion Martin Luther's "A Simple Way to Pray" (Luther's Works, vol. 43:187-211).

Seven chapters cover each of the seven weeks of Lent and each chapter covers six days of the week. Sunday is not covered since this day is celebrated as the feast of the resurrection even during Lent. Meditation and reflection on Romans 12 provides insights into the life of Christians in community.

This book may be ordered from Augsburg Fortress and in an asset, along with last year's book on the Lord's Prayer, for our Lenten journey.

Lutheran Immigration Services (LIRS) is asking congregations to dedicate a Sunday in February or March to focus on advocacy for immigration reform.

A Stand for Welcome Sunday can increase awareness about the difference people of faith can make on behalf of migrants at risk. With just a few intentional minutes you can ignite people for action and help them connect to an important cause for justice. *Stand for Welcome Sunday* resources include bulletin insert, mythbuster, Bible study and a postcard.

All these resources and more are available at www.lirs.org/sfw.

Resource for Bible Book of Faith

Roger Anderson, Bible Book
of Faith Synod Advocate

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

A Stand For Welcome Sunday

2010 Region 1 Pastor's Conference

The 2010 Region 1 Pastor's Conference will take place April 12-14, in Victoria, BC at the Grand Pacific Hotel (Inner Harbor; www.hotelgrandpacific.com) .

This year's theme is: *Jesus, Ebenezer and Luther*. Our speakers are the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of Sr. Pastor of historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA (MLK's church); and Dr. David Lose, Chair of Biblical Preaching, Luther Seminary Preaching, Luther Seminary. The musician is Karl Olson of the Brothers Four.

Costs are: Single, private \$510 - 2 nights, 1 meal plan, 1 conference fee; Shared room, \$355/person - 2 nights, 2 meal plans, 2 conference fees; Pastor/spouse, \$660 - 2 nights, 2 meal plans, 1 conference fee

To register and for more information, go to: www.region1pastors.com.

Proposed Law In Uganda

The ELCA is "gravely concerned" about a proposed anti-homosexuality bill under discussion in Uganda, wrote the Rev. Mark S. Hanson in a January 8 letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, thanked Clinton for her recent statements and follow-up actions by the U.S. Department of State regarding the proposed law.

In his letter, Hanson said the law was introduced in 2009 by David Bahati, member of the Ugandan parliament. The law "would, in certain cases, impose the death penalty for persons convicted of 'aggravated homosexuality,'" Hanson wrote. The proposed law has drawn considerable criticism and concern from human rights groups, religious organizations, various governments and others.

For the full press release please visit www.elca.org and click on go to ELCA News homepage. The press release is dated January 8, 2010.

PLU Sunday

Join with the Office of Congregation Relations at Pacific Lutheran University in support of Lutheran higher education by designating Sunday, Feb. 7, as PLU Sunday. For more information contact 253-535-7423 and the email address is crel@plu.edu.

Spring Bishop's Convocation

The one day Spring Bishop's Convocation will be Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Bellevue. Our speaker will be Professor Cynthia Moe-Lobeda. More information to come. Please plan on attending this event and make time for learning, collegiality, worship and a delicious lunch.

2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

The 2010 Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, at the Everett Events Center. The keynote speaker is Amy Oden and the Churchwide Assembly rep is the Rev. Ruben Duran. This year's Assembly will require voting members to elect a Vice President and Secretary, and roughly half of the positions on synod Council. Voting members will also elect members for the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The Assembly's theme is centered around evangelism. Please check the synod's website. Information will soon be posted, including nominating forms as well as resolutions forms.

2010 National Worship Conference

The 2010 National Worship Conference, jointly sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada is called, *Taking Care of the Neighborhood: Worship as Public Work for the Common Good*, and it will be held July 4-7 at the Vancouver School of Theology, on the UBC campus. Deadline for early-bird registration is March 15. For more information including speakers and registration please visit <http://nationalworshipconference.org>.

Upcoming Events

Here 'n There

- **The Rev. Michael Nel** shares with us that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa (Natal-Transvaal)(ELCSA-NT) has invited him to come and work with their clergy and possibly teach in the Lutheran Theological Institute and the School of Theology in Pietermaritzburg. The teaching part is still “up in the air” but he will be working with Lutheran clergy. Pamela, Michael’s wife, and Michael fly to Johannesburg via Hong Kong on the July 28. They will be in South Africa until January 10, 2011. Contact info for the Rev. Dr. Michael J. Nel D.Th. is: 67-9012 Walnut Grove Dr., Langley, BC. V1M 2K3; mnel@shaw.ca.
- The congregation of the **Lutheran Church in the San Juans** sent 83 layettes (besides the usual, each layette includes one knitted sweater), 75 health kits, 75 school kits to LWR. The congregation at **Central in Bellingham** were able to send 110 quilts, 53 school kits, 52 health kits, 64 layettes and eight lengths of yardage to LWR. (Makes you wonder if some, if not all, are headed to Haiti.)
- The congregation of **Wooden Cross in Woodinville** had a Giving Tree. Through the gifts of the congregation \$290 to the Compass Center , \$330 to assist Foss Home residents, \$620 to Hopelink and \$885 to *LATCH Adopt-A-Family*.
- Cody Pohren, member of **Salem in Mount Vernon**, was voted by the Pacific Lutheran University’s football team as the Freshman MVP.
- **Holy Spirit in Kirkland** has created an online resource called *Spirited Home*. This resources provides families with tools to help talk about faith in and around the home. It includes scripture in modern language, discussion topics for adults (and families) as well as faith rituals and prayers that can easily be practiced at home. Visit www.hslckirkland.org/YouthFamily/spiritedhome.
- **High School Youth at Wooden Cross in Woodinville** had the honor to serve dinner to Tent City 4 on January 13.

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Here 'n There

- New windows were installed on December 17 at **Faith in Redmond** after 18 were broken due to vandalism. Police were able to arrest the vandals. Twenty-one people came to help sweep up the broken shards and board up the windows. Shards of glass was everywhere. New carpeting also had to be ordered. One of the youth who participated wrote a letter of apology.
- **First in Mount Vernon** collected enough money in November and December to purchase a cow through Lutheran World Relief. In January they are focusing on the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. At Thanksgiving the congregation was able to give \$1,467 to the Neighbors in Need Food Bank.
- **Bethany in Seattle** made a donation of children's shoes to the Mukilteo School District ECEAP preschool. Now 30 children are proudly wearing their new shoes.
- **Faith in North Lakewood** has a new website. The address is: <http://flcnorthlakewood.org>.
- **Faith Lutheran in Everett** has a new email address: www.faithlutheraneverett@verizon.net. Pastor Kari Reiten's email remains the same.
- In 2009 the Congregation Council at **Central in Seattle** voted to give 10% of any sizable bequest Central receives. The goal is to give a new level of financial support to nonprofit organizations. The congregation was able to share \$48,000 to the following organizations: Elizabeth Gregory House, Compass Housing Alliance, Community Lunch on Capitol Hill, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Community Services, Lutheran Public Policy, Lutheran World Relief and the Emergency Feeding Program.
- **Luther Memorial in Seattle** is offering a class from 5 to 9 p.m. on Saturday, March 13, on the church in the Baltic States and Russia. The Rev. Don Maier (ret.) and his wife, Sylvia, will lead the class sharing information about the

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Within Our Family



We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad**, St. Peter, Clinton

† **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

† **The Rev. Chauncey Christofferson (ret)**

We Pray For:

† **The family of the Rev. Sai Wai (Paul)**

Cheung, Grace Chinese of Sammamish

Hills, Sammamish Hills. Pastor Paul passed

away after a long battle with liver cancer. Paul is survived by his wife Pastor Wendy Wern Chew Cheung, two sons Wayne and William and a daughter Stephanie. A memorial service was held on December 27 at Grace Chinese Lutheran in Seattle. Cards may be sent to Pastor Wendy and family at: 7721 Crest Drive NE, Seattle, WA 98115. Peace to his memory.

† **The family of the Rev. Bob Anderson.** Pastor Anderson died on January after a courageous seven-year journey with multiple myeloma. Pastor Anderson served at First Lutheran of Kennewick prior to his retirement. A memorial service will be held at Immanuel Lutheran in Seattle at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 23. Cards may be sent to Bob's wife, Mary Anderson, and the family at: 7111 Linden Ave N #402, Seattle, WA 98103-5169.

Peace to his memory.

† **The Rev. F. Warren Strain (ret.)** passed away peacefully on Saturday, Jan. 16, in Vancouver, Washington with his family around him. Warren was the father of the Rev. Phil Strain, pastor at Trinity in Kirkland. A funeral was held January 21 at Trinity Lutheran in Vancouver,

WA. A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 23, at Forest Lawn Funeral Home, 6701 30th Ave SW, Seattle.

Cards may be sent to wife Lavina at 9803 NE Hazel Dell Ave #206, Vancouver WA 98665 or to Pastor Phil Strain at 14335 Simonds Rd NE B-101, Bothell WA 98011. Peace to his memory.

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Within Our Family

† At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for those named and unnamed. We pray for congregations that are in transition. We pray for rostered leaders who also are in transition, such as relocating or retirement. We pray for our companion synods. We pray for those in Haiti: those who have been injured, those who have lost loved ones and those who are trying to provide aid. We pray for the family of Ben Larson, a student at Wharburg Theological Seminary in Iowa, who died in the earthquake in Haiti. We pray for all those we name in our hearts affected by the earthquake as well as other disasters. We pray for Afghanistan and Iraq, and all countries in turmoil. We pray for our country and the world during the continued financial crisis. We pray for peace!

- On January 24, 2010, **the Rev. Henry Ericksen (ret.)** will preach at Ascension Lutheran in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, for the 50th Anniversary. Pastor Henry started that congregation. He and his four children and their spouses are flying in for the celebration.
- **The Rev. Ronald F. Marshall, First of West Seattle**, published his essay, “No Quack Doctor: Kierkegaard’s Dialectical Understanding of God’s Changelessness,” in the International Kierkegaard Commentary, volume 23, Mercer University Press, 2009. This essay was part of his continuing education project for summer 2008.

News and Notes

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions		
	Location/Event	Effective Date
Resignations		
Shannon Anderson	Central, Seattle	2/21/2010
David Hustoft	Clearbrook, Nooksack	12/31/2009
Mitch Watney	Grace, Des Moines	2/21/2010
Calls Accepted		
Mitch Watney	Metro DC Synod	2/22/2010
Deaths		
Robert J Anderson	Seattle, Washington	1/9/2010
F. Warren Strain	Vancouver, Washington	1/16/2010
Retirements		
Jean Barrington	Trinity Community, Point Roberts	1/31/2010
Sarah France	Monring Star, Monroe	2/28/2010
Troy Faith Ward, Diaconal Minister	Josephine Sunset Home, Mount Vernon	3/31/2010

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Here ‘n There

Lutheran church there and their experiences when they lived there. Cost is \$ 10 per person, \$15 per couple/family. Includes dinner. Call LMLC at 206-364-2510 to register.

■ **Immanuel in Everson** noted in their newsletter that the Interfaith Coalition Severe Weather Shelters of Whatcom County welcome people to come in off the streets on the coldest nights. The Coalition has two shelters: Faith is the men’s shelter and Garden St. United Methodist Church is the women’s and children’s shelter. The congregation of Immanuel was/is encouraged to volunteer.

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/transitions.asp. 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	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	I	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	I	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	I	Michael Swain, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	TR	John O'Neal, Pastor; Mitch Watney, Interim Associate
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Michael Ross, Interim
Ferndale, Christ	PR	NV	Christen Anderson, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	P	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir Conway	PR	NV	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	NV	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	NV	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