



Northwest Washington Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 2

February 2011

From The ELCA Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Mark Hanson

## Dear Sisters And Brothers In Christ,

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult."*  
*Psalm 46:1-3*

One year ago today (written on Jan. 12), a catastrophic earthquake struck the nation of Haiti, killing nearly 250,000 people and leaving more than one million homeless.

Many of us remember hearing the news and seeing images of the devastation for the first time. We lifted up the people of Haiti in our prayers. We gave generously.

More than 40,000 ELCA members and leaders like you contributed \$12.6 million to support the work of ELCA Disaster Response in Haiti. Because of our long-standing relationships with the Lutheran Church in Haiti and many partners there, the ELCA was and continues to be uniquely positioned to respond quickly and



Meet Jauvalda Francique: Jauvalda is 3 years old and one of the first students to attend the newly rebuilt school in Léogâne, Haiti, made possible by your gifts to ELCA Disaster Response. Find her story and more at [www.LivingLutheran.com](http://www.LivingLutheran.com). (Photo: ACT/Maria Havala)

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## A Word From The Bishop



**The Rev Wm Chris  
Boerger**

“The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.”  
Genesis 2:15 NRSV

I am very aware that as I have gotten involved with the *Care of Creation* activities of the Conference of Bishops and in local activities there are those in the synod who question the reality of global warming. I base my actions on the science that I have read. I also believe that such action is good stewardship.

Recently I was at a meeting with leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Washington DC. One of the people at that meeting was responsible for the *Energy Star Churches* program. I was unaware, until then, that the EPA has an Energy Star Certification for church buildings. A significant benefit of this certification is the resulting dollar savings in heat and light costs.

One might argue that we should not base decisions about become more environmentally friendly based on the cost savings. The fact remains that having these concerns does save money over the long term. In these times of reduced budgets and limited resources a program that saves money while taking care of creation makes sense.

The EPA has a website, [www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small\\_business.sb\\_congregations](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_business.sb_congregations), that explains the way in which this program works.

Even if the end result is not full-fledged certification for your church building, the process can identify potential savings that could be implemented.

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There are other websites that give good information on “green congregations”. Earth Ministry, [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org), is an excellent resource. Dr. David Rhoads, Emeritus Professor at LSTC, has written a green congregation manual, [www.webofcreation.org](http://www.webofcreation.org).

In these times it is important that we look at our “tilling and keeping” of God’s good creation. As Lutherans, we know that this is part of our living with our “First Article” responsibilities.

We are to make wise choices for ourselves and for the whole of creation. This is an instance when wise choices for the environment will be wise choices for our pocket books.

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## A Word From The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the March 2011 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, February 2. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod’s website.

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## Haiti, One Year Later

effectively.

Your gifts have:

- † Provided food and shelter to approximately 57,700 people living in camps coordinated by The Lutheran World Federation and more than 6,000 people who gathered on the grounds of the Lutheran Church in Haiti.
- † Delivered more than 14,000 quilts and 13,000 health kits.
- † Distributed 3,200 gallons of safe, clean drinking water to approximately 2,000 families.
- † Shipped four convoys of medical supplies, hygiene and baby kits, tents, food packages and other necessities.
- † Funded housing placement and crisis counseling to Haitian refugees and medical evacuees seeking asylum in Florida and Georgia.

And yet our work is far from over. Our long-term goal in Haiti is to help renew hope and rebuild lives and livelihoods, seeking to end the cycle of poverty and injustice.

Thank you for your continued generosity and your prayers for the people of Haiti. Together we will continue to do God's life-giving work with our hands for as long as it takes.

*In God's grace,*

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA*

P.S. The spread of cholera and other waterborne diseases have intensified the suffering experienced by our sisters and brothers in Haiti. With the help of ELCA Disaster Response funds, our partners are working hard to contain the outbreak, providing medical supplies and health care, as well as teaching people about preventative measures. Visit ELCA Disaster Response for more information about the ongoing, long-term response efforts in Haiti.

The 2011 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 13, and Saturday, May 14, at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood

The theme for this year's assembly is centered around two ELCA Campaigns: the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the ELCA HIV and AIDS Campaign.

In sub-Saharan Africa, one in five childhood deaths is due to malaria. And AIDS has claimed the lives of more than 25 million people worldwide with sub-Saharan Africa hardest hit by this pandemic. Learn how the ELCA is responding at [www.lutheransnw.org/assembly](http://www.lutheransnw.org/assembly). This year's Assembly will require voting members to elect members to the Consultation Committee and the Discipline Committee.

**Nominations and resolutions are due to the Synod Office by March 1.** The Resolution and Nomination Forms are available on the homepage (under Spotlight) as well as on the Synod Assembly page.

As material becomes available, documents will be posted on-line on the assembly website. Material will not be mailed to congregations prior to the assembly. (Notebooks with the materials posted on the website will be available at the Assembly.)

Voting members, observers, and visitors will again need to *register on-line* through the synod's website.

Please check back to the synod's website often at [www.lutheransnw.org/assembly](http://www.lutheransnw.org/assembly).

Assembly Co-Coordinator are Carolyn Norton, member at St. Luke's in Bellevue, and Debi Gatto, member at Glendale Lutheran in Burien. They can be reached at [synodassembly@lutheransnw.org](mailto:synodassembly@lutheransnw.org).

## The 24th Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

## News From Gethsemane Lutheran Groundbreaking

Groundbreaking for the new construction project, including The Compass Housing Alliance's 50 units of affordable housing, Gethsemane's new fellowship area and offices, and the Hope Center was held on January 14. More than 100 people attended including members of Gethsemane, and members of the faith community at large. It was a day to celebrate the dream Gethsemane has had for years...to build affordable housing for people who desperately need it.

*Bishop Chris Boerger about the partnership between Gethsemane and The Compass Center Alliance.*



*(left to right) Bishop Chris Boerger, Elizabeth Jensen, Bea Jensen, Margaret Jensen and the Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Jan Nesse.*

*Bea's husband, the Rev. Everett Jensen was the pastor at Gethsemane when the congregation purchased the land where the parking lot was located. His vision was bigger. He wanted to buy the whole city block, but the congregation didn't have the money. The parking lot was used for many years by Gethsemane.*

*Gethsemane sold the property for a high-rise apartment building next to the church so that the funds from the sale could be used in ministry in that downtown neighborhood. The bricks Elizabeth and Margaret are holding are from the demolition of the old Gethsemane as the congregation begins a 13-month remodel.*

If you have ELCA-primary health coverage, this possible savings depends on you.

Take the confidential 2011 Mayo Clinic Health Assessment on the EmbodyHealth web portal at [www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org) January 1 – April 30. Our synod will be one person closer to 65% participation and you'll earn \$150 in your personal wellness account to offset out-of-pocket medical costs.

If you follow through with the healthy goals you have set for yourself, you could earn another \$300.

Instructions for taking the assessment are available in Understand My Benefits at [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org). You do not need medical information from a physical to complete the assessment.

In 2011 your congregation along with others could, collectively, save \$33,000! In addition, the synod would receive an additional \$8,000. In 2010 12 synods, eight seminaries, and two churchwide ministries earned the 2% discount, collectively saving just under \$700,000.

It's easy to do, a chance to receive some extra money and for you to be on your way to a healthier you in 2011.

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**For Your  
Health  
Some Extra Money  
In Your Wallet**

On Sunday February 6, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. In 2010, \$10 million was collected by Souper Bowl of Caring participants for local charities. All of the money collected is donated to a charity selected by the participant - none of the money is sent to the Souper Bowl of Caring headquarters. For more information, visit [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org).

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**Souper Bowl  
Of Caring**

## Lutheran Men in Mission

You are invited on a life changing adventure. Register now for the *Building Men and Men's Ministry for Christ* Mini-Retreat from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 5, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville, WA 98270.

Registration fee is \$50 per person. No charge for rostered leaders (male or female) with at least two men from their congregation. This price will cover lunch, two books and take home resources.

The retreat will be led by Doug Haugen, churchwide's Lutheran Men in Mission Executive Director. Men will learn what is happening with men and their relationship with the church today and how to build the congregation's ministry with men around discipleship. Information is available at [www.region1lmm.org/Events.html](http://www.region1lmm.org/Events.html). If you have questions regarding registration contact Ron Sailer at 360-658-0461 or email him at [rksailer@gmail.com](mailto:rksailer@gmail.com)

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## Gracious Space Having Difficult Conversations

This workshop is about gaining the tools that help congregations and other groups to have the conversations that are difficult to have.

This workshop will help you learn to create a Spirit filled setting that honor all voices, allow people to have difficult conversations and arrive at creative solutions.

Jennifer Castle is Coordinator of Shared Ministry at Plymouth Church. Kris Ostrem is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor and teacher.

Cost: \$30 per person, \$25 for congregational teams of three or more. Date: Saturday, February 26. Time: 8:30 a.m. to noon. Location: Plymouth Church, 217 Sixth Ave, Seattle, 98101. For more information visit [www.clnorthwest.org/](http://www.clnorthwest.org/) and click "Events and Seminars."



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## LPPPO Update

The Washington Legislative Session began January 10, 2011. With few revenue options and billions of dollars in projected deficits, our governor and state legislators will be making deep cuts and eliminating critical state health & human service programs that serve the poor and vulnerable as they balance the current budget and plan for the next biennium. Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPPO) urges you to consider using the following simple message via email or using the state legislative hotline (1-800-562-6000) where you can leave a message with your three state legislators and the governor all in one call:

*“As a person of faith I understand that you will be making deep cuts and eliminating critical programs that serve the poor and vulnerable and that protect our environment during the 2011 session. As you go through the process of making these difficult decisions please keep the poor and most vulnerable in mind, use a balanced approach, and consider all options that are being discussed. Our church will also be praying for you.”*

Here are just a few opportunities to get involved:

- Yakima Legislative Briefing - Feb 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Paul's Cathedral, Yakima
- Homelessness & Affordable Housing Advocacy Day, Olympia, Feb 14
- Environmental Lobby Day 2011, Olympia, Feb. 15
- 2011 Hunger Action Day – Olympia, Friday, February 25, at 10 a.m.
- 2011 Interfaith Advocacy Day, Olympia, March 17

Visit our website ([www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org)) for a complete legislative agenda and sign up to receive regular updates on how you can take action. For more information on our advocating congregations program, please contact David Hacker, Director of Congregational Relations – ([dhacker@lcsnnw.org](mailto:dhacker@lcsnnw.org)).

## **NW WA Women To Gather In Spokane**

You'll find no better place to experience fellowship and intergenerational connections than at Women of the ELCA's Eighth Triennial Gathering, July 14 - 17, 2011, in Spokane, Wash.

Take time out of your busy life to build lasting memories with your mothers, daughters, sisters, aunts, cousins and best friends you call sisters. Invite fellow congregation members. Welcome the next generation of awe-inspiring women. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to build fellowship among generations.

For more information including registration and costs please visit <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Triennial-Convention-and-Gathering/Triennial-Gathering.aspx>.

### **A Request From NW WA Synod Women of the ELCA**

Since all registrations go directly to the churchwide offices, we have no way of knowing who will be going from our Northwest Washington Synod. So, in order to help us find out who is registered for the Gathering we need your help.

This is our request: When you have registered and have received confirmation of your hotel reservation, please send your information to the Gathering Promoter for our NWW Synod:

Hilde Glore, 4522 NE 203<sup>rd</sup> Place, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155.

The form is available on the synod website at [www.lutheransnw.org/committees/welca](http://www.lutheransnw.org/committees/welca).

Thank you for your help with this!

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## Here 'n There

- Check out the new *Living Lutheran* website. LivingLutheran.com is a place where ELCA members across the US can go for fresh, daily stories of inspiration and conversation about what it means to be Lutheran.
- **Faith in Everett** in January presented checks to support their five ministry partners who the congregation recognizes as doing the Lord's work to sever their neighbors in need. Their ministry partners are: Bethany of the Northwest, Domestic Violence Services of Snohomish County, the South Everett Neighborhood Center/Familias Unitas and Lutheran World Hunger. This year the congregation also donated to the burn victim center.
- On March 19 members of **First in Bothell** will celebrate their 125th anniversary with a banquet.
- **Bethany in Seattle** will be participating in a city-wide observance for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at 7 p.m. at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Ave, with Bishop Chris Boerger preaching.
- On January 29 the High School Youth at **Faith in Seattle** will be sorting food, assisting clients in picking up food and whatever else needs to be done to help the clients at North Helpline Food Bank in Lake City.
- Members at **Our Redeemer's in Seattle** put together Move-Out Kits. These kits are given to residents of the Compass' Men's Program when they move out. The kit contains the essentials to create a new home. And, the High School Youth recently fed more than 100 residents of Tent City III!
- At **University in Seattle** youth, grades 6-12, are invited to a lock-in at the church on the night of Friday, Jan 28, followed by making and serving lunch for Tent City III. The youth will deliver the lunch to Maple Leaf Lutheran where Tent City is located.

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## Within Our Family



### We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell, On Disability**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

### Pray For:

- † **The family of Don Holm, father of Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life in Renton, who** passed away on January 3. His wife Virginia and children were with him. A Memorial Service was held on January 15 at Kent Lutheran Church. (Don and Virginia were married at Kent Lutheran in 1952.) Cards for the family may be sent to: Dianne Johnson, Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 12819 - 160th Ave SE, Renton, WA 98059.
- † **The family of John L. Baumgartner, father of the Rev. Mia Baumgartner, Chaplain, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance and member of Immanuel, Seattle, who** passed away on January 7. John was 86. John is survived by his wife Karen and their daughters, Mia and Lisa. The funeral was held on January 15 in Wisconsin. Cards may be sent to: Rev. Mia Baumgartner, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, 825 Eastlake Ave E G6-102, Seattle, WA 98109.
- † **Solveig Schweiss, wife of the Rev. Jacque Schweiss (ret.),** passed away on January 6. A Memorial Service was held on January 23 at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach, Shoreline. Cards may be sent to: Rev. Jacque Schweiss, 2020 NW 195th St #202, Shoreline, WA 98177.
- † **The Rev. Donald Taylor (ret.)** passed away on Christmas Day with his four children surrounding him. Don's wife, Helene, preceded him in death on

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December 8, 2010. Interment was held on December 29 with a memorial service at Anacortes Lutheran Church. Gifts in remembrance may be made to Anacortes Lutheran Church, Lutheran World Relief or Hospice of the Northwest. Cards for the family may be sent to his daughter: Laurie (Taylor) VanderWeyst, 7607 - 72nd Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98270.

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**Within Our Family**

- † **The Rev. Robert Winkel (ret.)** was admitted to Harborview Hospital and he is now at home recovering. Cards may be sent to: Bob Winkel  
PO Box 1209, Kingston, WA 98346.
- † **The Rev. Wayne Bacus, Queen Anne in Seattle,** is recovering from back surgery and completing other tests. Cards may be sent to: Pastor Wayne Bacus, Queen Anne Lutheran Church, 2400 - 8th Ave West, Seattle, WA 98119-2517.

- Two Sundays each month the members of **Our Saviour's in Everett** help feed the homeless families of Snohomish County in the Central Lutheran parking lot.
- **Central in Everett** gave 48 Thanksgiving food baskets to needy families. At Christmas the congregation shared their blessings with 58 families in need. That totals 106 baskets, to mark their 106 years as a congregation.
- *Excerpt from the Rev. Kirby Unti's, St. Matthew's in Renton, newsletter message, Jan. 2011.* "2010 was the year we received the occupancy permit for Luther's Table. We are looking at a February 2011 grand opening. It is one of the most innovative and exciting ministry sites in the country with lots of eyes on this undertaking... Pastor Gretchen is now devoting her full-time...to this new ministry.)

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**Here 'n There**

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Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
<b>Calls Accepted</b>		
Jeffrey Spencer	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	12/1/2010
<b>Installations</b>		
Jeffrey Spencer	Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	12/5/2010
<b>Leaving/Joining the ELCA</b>		
Grant Gard (ret.)	Camano Island	12/3/2010
St Paul's of Shorewood	Seattle	1/9/2011
<b>Deaths</b>		
Donald Taylor	Anacortes, WA	12/24/2010
<b>Transfers in/out of Synod</b>		
Jeffrey Spencer	From Southwestern Washington Synod	12/1/2010
<b>Occasions/Events</b>		
Central, Seattle	120th Anniversary	11/7/2010
Northlake, Kenmore	50th Anniversary	12/12/2010
Our Savior, Issaquah	50th Anniversary	11/7/2010

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## Disaster Response Volunteer Opportunity

The Northwest area is in need of a representative from the Lutheran community to serve as a member of WAVOAD (Washington Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster).

The Rev. Jane Prestbye, pastor Kent in Kent, has served as our representative for the past year. Jane expresses that she “was impressed with the breadth of collaboration and the many assets available for disaster response.” If you would like more information, please contact her 206-660-1199; klcpastor@kentlutheran.org. If you have an interest in this position or need more information please contact Roberta Nestaas, President/CEO of Lutheran Community Services at 206.816.3211 or rnestaas@lcsnw.org .

## Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marilyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, St. Andrew's	A/SP	P	James McEachran, Pastor
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	NV	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	C	John O'Neal, Pastor
Duvall, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Supply
Ferndale, Christ	PR	I	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	P	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	P	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Stanwood, Freeborn	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