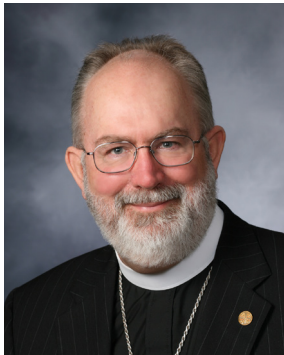


The Spirit

Thank You! by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. (Phi 1:3-6)

Thank you does not seem to do it. I keep saying it and the reality of all that we have done together means I need to say it again. I do appreciate the variety of the expressions of love and thanksgiving that were part of the Synod Assembly. The event on Thursday evening was memorable and much appreciated. To see the variety of people from various places around the synod and the church makes me appreciate the unique view which this office has granted me to see what God is up to in this synod.

My memories of that night will always contain the singing of the choir and the congregation. Lutherans do know how to sing. When we get together the joyful noise of God's people gives hope and joy to those who experience the richness of the music.

Several friends noticed my pause and concentration on the final benediction at worship on Thursday. I did reflect on the privilege and the power of being able to speak God's blessing on God's people gathered as the Northwest Washington Synod. I may have been the one speaking the words, but the benediction that night was a blessing to me that I will treasure.

One of the joys and comforts of this office has been the knowledge that you, as individuals and as congregations pray for your bishops each week. Being in congregations and hearing that we are praying for our bishops, Mark and Chris, continues to be a source of strength and comfort as the work presents itself. I ask you to include bishop-elect Kirby in that petition and on August 1st to pray regularly for Bishop Unti and all that he will face in the coming years.

The July Synod Council meeting will be my last one after 20 years. I served two terms as a member of the council and two terms as bishop. It has been a privilege to serve Christ's church in this way.

You are in my prayers in the days ahead. In that prayer I will continue to give thanks for you knowing that the good work begun among you will be brought to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God.

The installation of Bishop-Elect Kirby Unti will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 15, at St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, 1245 Tenth Ave. East, Seattle 98102. (206.323.0300; www.saintmarks.org) Unti will be installed by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. All are welcome.

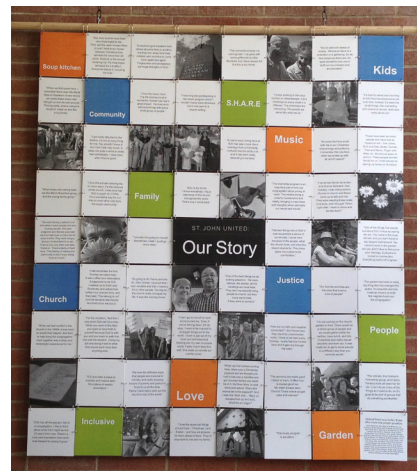
Here 'n There

- **Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle** was highlighted as one of the *75 reasons to love the West* in the June issue of *Sunset Magazine*. The reason is because of the luminous mosaic of colored glass in the chapel on a busy downtown street. *Sunset* says, "...it is a gift to the city."
- Linda Callender, **Christ Lutheran in Bellingham**, shared that members and friends, working together on the **Thousand Quilts project**, have made more than 2,712 quilts for the homeless and needy in Whatcom County since 2005--not to mention the many quilts made by the LWR quilters.
- **LYONS, Lutheran Youth of North Seattle**, have a new website: www.roaringlyons.org.
- On May 19 members of **Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon** gathered together to remember the roots of the congregation--100 years young. On that same Sunday, **Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island** also celebrated 100 years. **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** will be celebrating their 75th anniversary on September 29.
- **Immanuel Lutheran in Everson** was among the top five congregations in our synod to ship more than 100 quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR).
- The Labyrinth is becoming a reality at **Christ Lutheran in Ferndale**. This summer members will break ground to build the labyrinth and memorial garden.
- Youth fund raiser a success at **University Lutheran in Seattle**--During the University District Street Fair on May 18 the youth provided parking services in the church parking lot. All proceeds will help curb the costs for their mission trip this summer to Ailanga.
- Members of **Kent Lutheran in Kent** are planning an Inter-Generational Africa Mission Trip for 2014. They will be visiting the Maasae Girls School, Monduli, Tanzania, where they will lead a two-week program of educational activities with the girls in Form One.
- The Sunday School children at **Gloria Dei Lutheran in Alderwood Manor** raised more than \$700 during the school year. What are going to do with the money? They are purchasing a family farm through Lutheran

World Relief (LWR) for a family in need. The family farm includes chicks, ducks, goats, pigs and farm tools. The family will also be taught how to care for and use these animals.

- Kids Are Central (KAC), a program at **Central Lutheran in Seattle**, is encouraging members to keep an eye out for crosses that are representative of the culture they are visiting. And, if the person is so moved, to purchase a cross. The hope is that these crosses, to be displayed in the Sunday School classrooms, will provide not only sacred art to sacred spaces, but also provide a point of interest and conversation with the children.

- There is a new wall hanging in the narthex at **St. John United, Seattle**. Using photos and words Intern Jill Rode shares the story of St. John.



The Spirit, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy **The Spirit** and include it in their own newsletters. **The Spirit** can be downloaded from the Synod website.

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

5519 Phinney Ave North
 Seattle, WA 98103-5829
 Telephone: 206-783-9292
 Toll Free: 1-800-244-6997
 Fax: 206-783-9833
 Email: office@lutheransnw.org

Editor: Margit Peiffle

Email: margit@lutheransnw.org
 Telephone: 206-783-9292
 Website: www.lutheransnw.org

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