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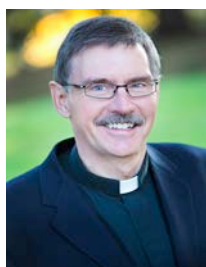
Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Moments for Mission

Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.
February 2015

In Preparation of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Bishop Richard E. Jaech



Dear Friends,

We in the Southwestern Washington Synod now have our own plum tree planted in Wittenberg, Germany! In the town where Martin Luther worked as seminary professor and world-changing reformer, the Lutheran World Federation has created a Luther Garden in which they are planting fruit trees in a city park

in the shape of Luther's Rose.



Each tree is donated by a Lutheran church body, synod, or university from around the world, as well as other Christian groups that give thanks for



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the Reformation. At the base of each tree is a plaque giving the name of the participating church body or synod. Out of the 500 trees that will eventually be planted in the Luther Garden, our Synod tree was number 204 (shown on page 1).

All of this is being done in preparation for the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017. The Luther Garden echos Luther's famous quote, "Even if I knew the world was going to pieces tomorrow, I would plant a tree today."

With my wife, Satya, I was fortunate to be part of an ELCA Bishops' study tour in Germany during the first week of January. Together with our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and 35 other synod bishops and their spouses, we travelled to the cities in northeast Germany where Martin Luther was born, baptized, educated and worked. Our excellent guides gave us the historical background of each location and how it affected the birth of the Lutheran Church. Along the way, we also met and talked with the current leaders of the Lutheran and Reformed churches in Germany, as well as seminary professors at the Roman Catholic seminary in Erfurt, where Luther studied.



On January 4, when we were in Wittenberg, we had a dedication ceremony for our Southwestern Washington Synod plum tree. The dedication was led by the local representative of the Lutheran World Federation. We, of course, sang *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* as part of the service! Bishop Martin Wells, of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod also planted a tree. The Northwest Washington Synod had previously planted a tree in the Luther Garden.

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A second feature of this Luther Garden project is that everyone who plants a tree in Wittenberg is also asked to plant a tree in their own area. Our local tree will remind us that we are connected to Lutherans all over the world by this international “forest” that we have planted together. Planning is currently underway with Pacific Lutheran University to have the Luther trees of all the Region 1 synods planted on the PLU campus. This will be our own Luther Garden and we will have a public dedication to highlight our own celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. When the date for our local Luther Garden dedication is finalized, we will certainly let you know.

I was delighted to participate in this tree planting and celebrate the unity of our Synod with Lutherans and Christians all over the world. Since I like plums, I was particularly happy that our tree is a plum tree! Every time I eat a fresh plum or some tasty plum cake (Pflaumenkuchen), I will think about our synod tree in Wittenberg.

You can read all about the Luther Garden on the LWF Center-Wittenberg website, www.lwb-zentrum-wittenberg.de. At the top of the page, you can click on “English” in the upper corner to translate the website from German into English. On the left side of the Home page, click on the LutherGarten link and it will tell you about the tree garden.

Martin Luther helped us to rediscover the mighty river of God’s grace that washes over us and through us each moment. May that river carry you with strength and joy as you offer your lives to the glory of God. Blessings to you!



Bishop Jaech

Congregations in transition

Lord, We pray for your wisdom and insight for the congregations in our synod who are now working through a time of pastoral transition, interviewing or extending a call to a new pastor:

Mobility- February 2015

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	I	Michelle Manicke
Elim, Port Orchard	P	I	Pulpit Supply
Holy Trinity, Port Angeles	P	NV	Beth Orling
Messiah, Auburn	P	I	Ron Kempe
Peace, Puyallup	P	I	Linda Nou
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	TR	Richard Hermstad
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Pulpit Supply

Mobility position key
P – Pastor
AP – Associate Pastor
AIM – Associate in Ministry
DM – Diaconal Minister
DC- Deaconess

Mobility status key:
NV – New Vacancy
TR – Transition
I – Interviewing
C – Calling

Calls Accepted

Keith Marshall has been called to serve **Hope, Enumclaw**. His ordination by Bishop Jaech will be Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 3pm at Christ, Lakewood. He will be installed at Hope, Enumclaw by Pastor Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate, on Sunday, February 15th at 10am. All are welcome to attend either or both events. Rostered leaders please vest in red.

Installation

The original installation date for **Pastors Seth Novak and Stephanie McCarthy** in December, serving **Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor**, has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 8th

Installation of Fr. James Thibodeaux, St. Christopher's Community Church in Olympia.

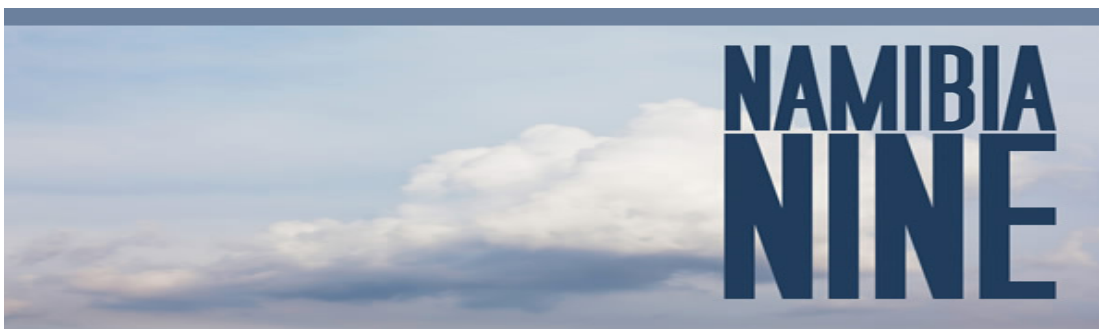
The Rt. Rev. Gregory H. Rickel, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, The Rev. Richard Jaech, Bishop of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the ECLA, and the Wardens, Vestry Council, and People of St.



Christopher's Community Church invite you to the Celebration of New Ministry* uniting The Rev. James L. Thibodeaux, as pastor and priest with all the people of St. Christopher's Community Church, a Lutheran (ELCA)-Episcopal federated congregation.

A reception of hearty appetizers and celebration will follow the Eucharist in the Fellowship Hall. Due to our intimate setting, clergy will not need to vest or process. We look forward to celebrating with you this festive occasion!

*Commonly called an Installation Service



Save the Date

Please join the Pacific Lutheran University community in welcoming the documentary Namibia Nine to campus on Saturday, February 28, 2015.

In the 1980s and 1990s, 100 young, Namibian people left their struggling country to study abroad.

Nine of those students came to PLU. They have since returned to become significant contributors to their newly democratic nation. This is their story. [View the movie trailer here.](#)

The documentary is sponsored by the Wang Center and The Center for Media Studies at PLU.

Saturday, February 28, 2015
Karen Hille Phillips Center for the Performing Arts

Reception 5:30pm - 6:30pm
Film and Q&A 6:30pm - 8:30pm



Namibia 9 continued

PLU9 return

By Rachel Pritchett

PLU and friends welcome back the PLU9 at a history reception and presentation on Saturday, Feb. 28, at PLU. The public is invited to the presentation at the Karen Hille Philips Center for Performing Arts to meet and listen the visitors from Namibia who received their educations at PLU a quarter of a century ago. They then returned to lead a free Namibia. Twenty congregations from the Southwestern Washington Synod partnered with others to raise about \$350,000 for their tuition. Come take part and see where they are today. A reception begins at 5:30 p.m., with the program at 6:30 p.m. Questions? Rachel Pritchett, rachelpritchett@msn.com.

Save the date: ELCA's Barbara Berry-Bailey to visit

Are you interested in becoming an effective companion-synod representative? Then don't miss an exciting opportunity for a workshop led by the Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, ELCA associate director for companionship - Africa, taking place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, March 20, in Tacoma. Berry-Bailey will teach us tools to elevate a "trip" to a life-changing exchange that builds self and synod relationship. The workshop is appropriate for those interested in hands-on work in global mission, all levels. The workshop, which will be close to free, will be at a Tacoma venue to be announced soon. Please RSVP to Rachel Pritchett, chair, SWWA Namibia Task Force, rachelpritchett@msn.com.

Proud to be ELCA

The Lutheran Magazine is looking at what draws people to the ELCA in their February issue. In the issue that came out yesterday, hear from readers from a variety of denominations and faiths about their journey to membership in the ELCA. For many, "It's all about that grace." To help your discussion, visit www.thelutheran.org for a study guide (click on "study guides" on the left-hand side).

Hunger ministries

ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering “Congregations for Change: We Are Church Together” Jan. 15-18, 2015 S

The 2015 ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering brought together nearly 140 ELCA World Hunger Leaders, members of the ELCA Young Adult cohort and ELCA staff members in the San Francisco Bay Area in mid-January for an intense period of learning, networking and energizing around our church's response to poverty and hunger. During the event, participants were encouraged to document and share their experience through social media using [#elcawh15](https://twitter.com/elcawh15).

Below, please enjoy a gallery of images from the gathering:



Left: Members of the ELCA Young Adult Cohort celebrate the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in San Francisco on Monday. [#elca4justice](https://twitter.com/elca4justice)



Left: A group of night owls walked with the San Francisco Night Ministry. In their 50th year of the “Church’s Night Shift”, the Night Ministry, an ecumenical program supported in part by ELCA World Hunger, engages in over

21,000 significant conversations, and serve over 9,500 meals a year, becoming an important bridge and steady support for many as they face the darkness of night. They provide

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Hunger gathering continued from page 7

compassionate, non-judgemental pastoral care, care of the soul, counseling, referrals, and crisis intervention to anyone in any kind of distress, every night of the year between the hours of 10pm and 4am.

Right: Rozella White, program director for ELCA Young Adult Ministry, facilitates a session on community mapping after the congregational walks.

Connect with ELCA World Hunger to learn more – Write to hunger@ELCA.org.



God's Advocate for the Hungry & Poor in Washington State

By the Rev. Paul Benz

The ELCA and its predecessor church bodies have always held that “public church/public voice” by the denomination, its rostered leaders, and its baptismal members is an important and vital part of our baptismal calling. Our church’s social statements/policies tell of our many positions on critical social issues (view them at www.elca.org/socialstatements). One of the most important ones that establishes the rationale for this is “Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective” – it appropriately was the first social statement adopted by the ELCA. Washington State has been a state public policy office of the ELCA since 1984, which is now the responsibility of the Faith Action Network (FAN) and Pastor Paul Benz (FAN co-director and ELCA point person). All ELCA churchwide funding for its governmental advocacy ministries is funded through ELCA World Hunger that many of you and your churches contribute to.

During the 2015 legislative session FAN will be advocating for four food and hunger related programs that are supported by our state tax dollars: WIC & Sr. FMNP (women, infant, children and senior Farmer Market Nutrition Program), EFAP (Emergency Feeding Assistance Program), SFA (state food assistance), and BAB (Breakfast After the Bell). The first three are budget issues (so have no bill number) and the fourth listed is HB1295 & SB5437.

- WIC & Sr. FMNP is a ‘win-win’ investment of our tax dollars for local growers and low income households to access fresh fruit & vegetables. Our goal is to carry forward the same funding level from last year.

- EFAP is our public investment in our state food banks. Private contributions are critical but they cannot operate without state funding. Again our goal here is to protect the funding level of last year.

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State advocacy continued from page 8

- SFA is a state only investment to provide food supports for legal immigrants – particularly Pacific Islanders (brought here in the 1950's for our nuclear testing program). A \$10 million investment is needed to get this program fully restored to funding levels before a series of cuts by the legislature.
- BAB is a \$5 million investment to increase participation of breakfast at our 'high-risk' public schools. These two companion bills were heard on 1/27.

For communicating with your legislators use either the legislative hotline ([1-800-562-6000](tel:1-800-562-6000)) or use the email formula of firstname.lastname@leg.wa.gov. For more information on FAN and its legislative agenda go to www.fanwa.org and click the advocacy tab on the home page. In you want to reach the Rev. Paul Benz call him on his cell at [206-390-4133](tel:206-390-4133) or email benz@fanwa.org. Connect with ELCA World Hunger to learn more about national and international work– Write to hunger@ELCA.org.

Youth Walk for Water

The global water crisis doesn't often make headlines. But the truth is that it claims more lives each year than war.⁽¹⁾ This year, youth have a unique opportunity to join together and do something big through ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. This special opportunity is a year-long, youth-driven fundraising challenge to raise \$500,000 in support of water-related projects of ELCA World Hunger. Thanks to a generous family, all gifts toward this goal will be matched, dollar for dollar, until we reach a total of 1 million! Together, we can make a difference, creating healthier families, stronger economies and a future filled with hope.

<http://www.elca.org/walk4water>



Stories of Hospitality

Compiled by Bob and Kathy Mattson, members at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma

Worship participants at our 2014 Synod Assembly were invited to share their stories of hospitality. Bishop Jaech identified two kinds of hospitality: home hospitality and road hospitality. Home hospitality is how we prepare and welcome people into our homes and congregations; includes efforts to help people feel comfortable and appreciated. Road hospitality is how we welcome folks while we are living our vocation in the world. Road hospitality includes efforts to engage our neighbors, both planned and unplanned, as we welcome strangers as Christ in our midst. Hundreds of stories were shared- some will be included each month in the synod newsletter.

Spirit of Life, Port Orchard- Alicia Wells



Reaching out to our community, responding to their needs and often never knowing the impact you have had on their lives. Being Christ's hands, feeding the hungry, caring for the children and the sick.

St Paul Lutheran, Vancouver, WA- Pastor Christopher Nolte



We open our doors, change an education area into a sleeping area and put coffee and food out, smile big and talk to the "guys". They have said "Thank You" more that I can count, yet we are the ones transformed by their presence. *(St. Paul is part of the Winter Overflow Hospitality in Vancouver, WA.)*

Dungeness Valley Lutheran, Sequim, WA- Duane Little

While driving through the Mexican desert, 50-100 miles from anywhere, my car just stopped. It was dusk. A man came up a side road & helped. He took me miles to buy parts and stayed to help me repair the car. When I offered payment he said, "I pray to God everyday to bring me someone I can help", and refused any help. He said, "Just do this for someone else."

Synod Clergy Candidate updates Synod on his African Journey

By Will Johnson, Candidate approved for ordination in ELCA

My wife, Katie Emery, and I have been in South Africa since the end of August 2014. In my senior year at Luther Seminary, I received the Graduate Preaching Fellowship, which allows us to travel abroad for a year studying preaching. My focus is on how the unchanging message of the Gospel is told in changing societies. The words of Jesus, the message of the cross, and the Good News of life and salvation do not change across centuries, societies, and cultures. But in different places, diverse societies, and quickly changing ones, the methods of proclaiming the Gospel change so people can hear the message.

This year is broken up into multiple parts to try and get at the question of how to proclaim the message in diverse and changing places. We have spent the first five months in the Durban area. On the east coast of South Africa, Durban is a metropolitan area of more than three million people. The majority of people are Zulu, with Afrikaner and English whites, as well as the largest population of Indians in one place outside India. Among the Lutherans, the two primary groups are the congregational-based (mostly Germans and some Zulus) and the hierarchical-based (mostly Zulus, some Indians and whites).

In our time here, we have been exploring Durban's great diversity of church life by attending Anglican, non-denominational, Indian, Zulu township, Presbyterian, and both types of Lutheran churches. We have learned about some of the changes and challenges facing South African society, one of the biggest of which is the number of orphans. We have visited orphanages and group foster care homes, and talked with many pastors about how they do church in this culture.

After we leave Durban, we will spend a few months in the Johannesburg area, speaking with people of different ages at various churches (non-denominational and the main two types of Lutheran), finding out what they think are the best ways to tell the Gospel message in their context. We will talk about how they want and need to hear the message proclaimed, and how they think others will best hear it. From South Africa, we will move on to Cameroon, where Christianity and Lutherans are growing in leaps and bounds and society is changing. Then it will be on to Scotland to stay in a few monasteries and learn how preaching is done in the midst of small amounts of change.

One of the most memorable experiences so far was going to Lesotho. After driving slowly for hours in a Land Rover on bumpy, winding roads, we reached Mokhotlong, a village high in the windy mountains. We visited with One Heart Mission, a group dedicated to bringing the message of the Gospel to every village in Lesotho - quite a difficult task given the terrain and lack of roads. I preached in one village, and a friend translated into Sesotho so the locals could understand. It was a difficult experience - their daily lives are so very different from the fast-paced life of my United States context. That village has no electricity, the people are subsistence farmers in rocky and hilly soil, and a singular outhouse stood in the middle of the

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South African ministry continued from page 11

town. I had to learn quickly how to preach a meaningful message in a vastly different context than what I am used to, using the story of Samuel's call, my own, and what I could see nearby.

This Fellowship is an invaluable experience, especially as we return to the States later this year seeking pastoral calls. I am experiencing so many different ways to do church, making strong connections, and learning how to reach more people with the unchanging message of the Gospel.

Check out stories from our journey at <https://theyearofendlesssummer.wordpress.com>.

10,000 Children Orphaned Every Month in South Africa

By Will Johnson, Candidate approved for ordination in ELCA

My wife, Katie Emery, and I have been in South Africa since the end of August 2014. We have learned that one of the greatest issues South African society faces is the orphan crisis. About 10,000 children are orphaned every month. It is a problem of epic proportions, and one that churches and Christians in the country are striving hard to change.

The roots of this reality stretch far back. During the apartheid years, many black men would leave their homes to work in the mines further afield. Away for months and years, they often created a family near the mine in addition to the one back home. The goal of working in the mines was to earn money that they could send home - but often this money never came, spent instead on the family near the mine or entertainment. This forced the wife back home to work outside the home, often spending anywhere from one to four hours traveling each way, and leaving the children in their house alone. The children in effect became orphans, their fathers away and their mothers working and traveling most of the day.

When the HIV/AIDS epidemic broke out the orphan problem increased. Many fathers contracted HIV while in the cities, and when they returned home, brought the virus with them. Without medication, the parents died, leaving the children as orphans. The older siblings went to work, some selling sex and others becoming involved with older men for affection, a parent figure, or in exchange for a roof over their heads and food for their siblings. They become infected and have children that are as well. And so the cycle continues.

We have visited four orphanages (what some would probably call group foster homes). LIV Village, Lily of the Valley, Edwaleni, and Indawo yeThemba all are focused on caring for some of these orphans for the long term and creating healthy adults. Much of what we have been doing is visiting these sites, learning about them and sharing their stories. We offer encouraging words to people doing difficult work - while incredibly rewarding, it is hard to continually find funding, care for the children, and know that even though these children have care, there are many thousands who are trying to make it on their own.

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10,000 orphans continued from page 12

Soon we will be going up to Indawo yeThemba (Zulu for "place of hope") to spend a few days with Bob and Joanna Graham. As well as build a stronger relationship with them, we will be helping out with the kids and working on some projects around the grounds.

To read more about where we visited, visit the websites of the organizations, or our blog at theyearofendlesssummer.wordpress.com, or. (We talk about these places specifically in the blog entries "10,000 a month - and counting..." and "Part 2: Reflections".)



Construction on LIV Village's Chapel.



JoJo water drums - a must.



Lily of the Valley's hydroponic tomato plant.

Synod Women of the ELCA's Annual Spring Retreat

April 17-19, 2015 is the date of the Synod Women of the ELCA's Spring Retreat at Dumas Bay Centrein Federal Way. Pastor Mary Lindstrom will be the keynote speaker & pastor. Cost: Full weekend - \$185.00, includes 4 meals and two overnight lodging Commuter or Saturday only \$120.00, includes meals. Please join us for a "Joyful Heart, Dancing Spirit", uplifting weekend in a beautiful Puget Sound setting. The first 42 to register will have a private room with 1/2 bath. If you would like a registration form emailed to you, please call Cheryl Wilpone at 253-584-4891 or email c.wilpone@comcast.net

Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham starts Summer Camp Registration

Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham has opened their summer camp registration for youth in 1st through 12th grades. Their theme for the summer is “Rock On” and is based on Psalm 6:6-8. Campers will learn how Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith and what we base our lives on <http://www.camplutherwood.org/summer-camp/>

Our Congregations (news and neat ideas from our synod congregations)

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fircrest will be hosting a 12 day/10 night trip Reformation journey through Germany, starting May 1, 2017. Pastor Greg Kaurin from Redeemer Lutheran will be our tour leader. The estimated cost is \$5000 per person plus the deposit. They will be having an informational night in late April 2015 for those interested in joining them. If you have any questions you can contact Sarah Guyton at seguyton@live.com or [253-592-2662](tel:253-592-2662), Jan Olson at [253-589-3086](tel:253-589-3086) or jan6344@comcast.net

Job Openings

These postings can be found on the synod website at <http://www.lutheranssw.org/job-opportunities>: Click on each title for information on the position:

[Youth Ministry Coordinator](#), Peace Lutheran, Tacoma

[Part-time Church Musician](#), Poulsbo First Lutheran

[Youth and Family Position](#), Bend Oregon

[Associate Director of Faith Formation](#), Messiah Lutheran, Auburn

[Camp Nurse for Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center](#) in Bellingham, WA

[Youth and Family Minister](#), Mount Cross, University Place. Email office@mountcrosslutheran.org for information.

Calendar

April 17-19, 2015- Synodical Women's Spring Retreat

May 15-16 - Synod Assembly at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA. Registration opens late January.

July 15-19, 2015- ELCA youth Gathering in Detroit, MI

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