



# 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.*  
 June 2015

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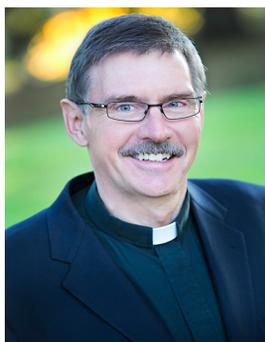
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

## Holy Conversations

By Bishop Richard E. Jaech



Dear Friends in Christ,

First of all, I want to thank all of you who participated in and helped make happen an excellent Synod Assembly in Vancouver two weeks ago. Our Assembly Committee Chairperson, Pr. Ron Kemne and our Synod Office Manager Allison Ramsey, deserve special thanks for organizing a smoothly-running Assembly. In addition I want to thank the one hundred volunteers who helped with worship, elections, snacks, displays and everything else.

From my perspective, the most wonderful feature of the Assembly was the active sharing and discussion among all those present as we practiced the Three Great Listeners: listening to God, listening to our congregation, and listening to our neighborhood. Assembly participants did a great job applying the spiritual practice of *listening* to their own congregation and neighborhood in a way that deepened their vision for an energized ministry. The blessings of this time together at the Assembly will continue into the future, as we continue listening to each other and God.

With the satisfying work of the Synod Assembly completed and the summer months now here, the question comes to my mind: What brings most joy to God? Our work or our play? On the one hand, when we do good work, we are mirroring the presence of God the Creator. Therefore, our work...especially work that is honest, productive and that makes God's grace and justice more of a reality in the world,...certainly brings joy to God.

What about when we play? Does our play bring joy to God, or should we always feel a little guilty when we take time out for play? The warmth and beauty of a Northwest summer certainly call us into the world to play.

*Continued page 2*

*Bishop's message continued*

Scripture has some wonderful passages that tell us that God delights in our play as much as in our work. Here is a short essay by Frederick Buechner that honors our God-given urge to play.

"When King David's wife berates him for making a fool of himself by leaping and dancing before the ark of the Lord with all his might, he protests by saying that it seemed exactly the right thing to do considering all the Lord had done for him. "Therefore will I play before the Lord," he tells her (2 Samuel 6:14-21).

When God describes how he will rescue Jerusalem from his wrath and make it new again, "a city of truth" (Zechariah 8:3), he conveys the glory of it by saying, "And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets" (Zechariah 8:5).

When the Psalmist praises God for creating "this great and wide sea, wherein are creeping things innumerable," he makes special mention of Leviathan, "whom," as he says, "thou hast made to play therein" (Psalm 104:25-6).

The king, the boys and girls, the whale—they are none of them accomplishing anything. They are none of them proving anything. There's nothing edifying or educational or particularly helpful in what they are doing, nothing that you'd be likely to think of as religious. They haven't a thought in their heads. They are just *playing*, that's all. They are letting themselves go and having a marvelous time at it.

David has sweat pouring down his face and his eyes aflame. The boys and girls are spinning like tops. The whale has just shot a thirty-foot spout into the air and is getting ready to heave his entire one hundred and fifty tons into the air after it.

What is the wind doing in the hayfield? What is Victoria Falls up to, or the surf along the coast of Maine? What about the fire going wild in the belly of the stove, or the rain pounding on the roof like the Hallelujah Chorus, or the violet on the windowsill leaning toward the sun?

What, for that matter, is God up to, getting the whole thing started in the first place? Hurling the stars around like rice at a wedding, gathering the waters together into the seas like a woman gathering shells, calling forth all the creatures of earth and air like a man calling Swing Your Partner at a hoedown.

"Be fruitful and multiply!" God calls, and creator and creature both all but lose track of which is which in the wonder of their playing."

Now that the warm weather is finally here, have fun playing this summer. May you find great measures of God's grace and new life both when you work and when you play. During these savory days of summer, may you find yourself caught up in the Holy Dance in all that you do, and so find yourself drawn more closely into God.

In Christ,  
Bishop Rick Jaech

## On the Road with the Bishop



During the month of May, Bishop Jaech visited these ministries in our Synod:

May 3, Silverdale Lutheran, Silverdale



May 23, Pacific Lutheran University  
Commencement Celebration.  
The commencement speaker was His Majesty  
King Harold V of Norway, *right*.



May 24, Key Peninsula Lutheran, Lakebay,  
*below*



*Continued page 4*

*On the Road with the Bishop, continued*

**May 28, ELCA Korean Pastoral Candidates Gathering at Light of Grace, Federal Way.**

*Photo, right. ELCA Korean pastoral candidates from Georgia, Seattle and Federal Way plus ELCA and Synod staff. Including: The Rev. Sang Soo Kim of Light of Grace, Federal Way, far left; The Rev. Pongsak Limthongviratn, ELCA Dir of Asian Ministries front row left; Center front row is The Rev. Moses Penumaka, Director of TEEM programs at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. Back row on right is Bishop Jaech and The Rev. Dr. Melanie Wallschlaeger, our Director for Evangelical Mission.*



**May 30, Godspeed Service for Janelle Bethke, Immanuel Lutheran, Vancouver**

**May 31, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Tacoma, right.**



## My Offering at Work

Visit [www.myofferingatwork.com](http://www.myofferingatwork.com) to see how your congregation's mission support connects with ministries in our synod. Please share one or all of the videos, originally shown at this year's Synod Assembly, with your congregation in a mission moment during this season of Pentecost.

## Congregations in Transition

*Lord, we pray for your wisdom, insight and peace for the congregations in our synod who are working through a time of pastoral transition*

### Mobility- June 2015

Congregations in Call Process	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
Bethel, Brush Prairie	P	NV	Joe Aalhue
First, South Bend	P	TR	Janeen Smith
Holy Trinity, Port Angeles	P	I	Beth Orling
Immanuel, Vancouver	P	TR	Julie Bracken
Key Peninsula, Lakebay	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Messiah, Auburn	P	I	Ron Kempe
Peace, Puyallup	P	I	Kristi Gallimore
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	I	Richard Hermstad
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Lauren Vignec
Saron, Hoquiam	P	TR	Dave Monsen
St. Paul, Vancouver	P	NV	Skip Getman

#### *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*

### Upcoming Commissioning

Julie Bracken will be commissioned as an Associate in Ministry at Messiah Lutheran, Vancouver on Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm as she serves Immanuel Lutheran, Vancouver.

## 2015 Synod Assembly a Success

*By Allison Ramsey*

The theme of this year's Synod Assembly, "The Three Great Listeners", was well received and well-presented to over 320 people on May 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> in Vancouver, Washington. We had four keynote addresses and offered 11 workshops that brought information and hands-on learning that our voting members could bring back to their congregations.

The first presenter was our Churchwide Representative, Rev. Dr. Steven Bouman, Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the ELCA and author of the book, *The Mission Table*. Pastor Bouman gave an overview of the Three Great Listeners- Listening to God: in prayer, scripture, witness; Listening in the congregation and among other allies in the fabric of the church; and Listening in the community, to the neighbor. Obviously a topic of personal and professional passion, the Rev. Dr. Bouman smiled and shared personal and work illustrations to explain the listeners.

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*Synod Assembly continued*

The second keynote was given by our Synod Bishop's Associate, the Rev. Kim Latterell, who spoke on listening to God. Pastor Kim explained that we trust that God is doing great things in the world, and that God calls us and equips each one of us to be a part of that work. His big question was "What does God have in mind for us...and for what will be?"

The third keynote address was by Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, our Director for Evangelical Mission, on Listening to the Congregation. Pastor Melanie presented tools that we can use in order to listen within our congregation.

Saturday's keynote was from Bishop Jaech on Listening to the Community When he had us ask the major question, "Where is God calling us?" He said that we must step outside our doors in order to meet our neighbors and form relationships with those we can help and those who will help us. We must go out into our neighborhood in order to stay vital.

Eleven workshops were offered following the theme: **"Climate Change- Science, Faith, Policy and Action"** (Craig Cogger, Scientist/Extension Specialist with WSU); **"Listening in Congregation and Community through Youth Sports"** (Rev. Joe Smith, St. John's Lutheran, Lakewood); **"How to Start Creating Transparency and Stop Creating Programs No One Wants (1 on 1 Interviews)"** with Pastor Adrian Bonaro, First Lutheran Community Church in Port Orchard; **"Listening in China & Namibia"** (Rachel Pritchett, Rev. Steve Ray from Synod Global Mission Committee); **"Social Media for Faith Communities"** (Jonathan McClung, Creative Dir ); **"The Lutheran Response to the US Immigration Crisis"** (Mary Beth Leeper, attorney); **Listening and Hearing God's Story with our Story: Faith Formation** (Ingelaurie Lisher, AIM); **"Mission Investment Fund Helping Make your Congregation's Dreams a Reality"** (Joel Wudel); **"Including Fair Trade Items at your Church"** (Darcy Huffman, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia); **"Listening to our Latino Neighbors"** (Rev. Joe Smith, Synod Latino Ministry Task Force); **"How to Stay Connected with the Unchurched"** (Rev. Ron McClung, Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Port Ludlow ).

We had three worship services- the two large ones were planned by Ben and Kristen Eisele, seminary interns at Messiah Lutheran, Vancouver with music provided by Messiah's music team. They were asked to provide worship "outside of the box" and that's just what we happily got. Friday's was a worship of Word and Sacrament with Pastor Jonette Blakney (Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson, WA) presiding and Bishop Jaech preaching. Saturday's service was done backwards with Pastor Kim Latterell presiding and Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger preaching.

This worship was intended to do a few things: bookend the assembly with the first service, which was more traditional in order, and becomes louder, in a mirror fashion, to give the sense that worship has already been happening throughout the assembly business, and to "end" with a "beginning" to convey that worship and ministry in the world "outside our doors" is beginning. The liturgical art on the front stage had a literal door on the centerpiece of the background display. It was "closed" at opening worship, and "opened" at the sending here.

Interspersed throughout the two day event, we had Ministry Moments, short presentations by 5 ministries showing what amazing ministry work they are doing reaching out to their neighbors: Food Backpacks 4 Kids, an ecumenical ministry with Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor;

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*Synod Assembly continued*

Synod Namibia Task Force for the trip to our Companion Synod in Namibia; Winter Hospitality Overflow ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran and St. Paul Lutheran Churches in Vancouver, WA; Affordable Housing ministry at Peace Lutheran, Tacoma and the ministry with local school at St. Mark Lutheran in Lacey. Each congregation can be contacted individually for information on how to set up similar programs in your neighborhood.

## **The Three Great Listenings**

*By Allison Ramsey*

“The three great listenings are a spiritual practice that can be used personally and individually as part of our own personal reflection and vocational clarification”, Bishop Richard E. Jaech told those gathered at the 2015 Synod Assembly. “Where is God calling me?” is our first question. Luther showed us the link between Gospel and vocation. God gives us life, again and again, as a gift. Then God also calls us to use that life in a meaningful and joyful way that serves God and our neighbors”, he said.

Bishop Jaech goes on to say, “So we each have a personal vocation beginning with our baptism. But the specifics of that vocation can shift and transform throughout our life. So periodically we need to stop and ask again, “Where is God calling me right now?” In that case the three great listening would be expressed as: listening to God, to myself (gifts, interests, compelling concerns) and to my neighbors (needs, opportunities, gifts).

At this year’s Synod Assembly we used this spiritual practice of the three great listenings as a key reflection process for a congregation. “The starting point,” Jaech said, “is that we know that God calls us to a mission in the world. We have this vocation, this mission of proclaiming and living out the love of God to all people and all creation.” But then the question came to the Synod Assembly, “Well, right now, May 16, 2015, what are the specifics of that mission. What is God calling us as a congregation to do right now?”

The first keynote presenter at the Synod Assembly was our Churchwide Representative, The Rev. Dr. Steven Bouman, Executive Director of the Congregational and Synodical Mission unit of the ELCA and author of the book, The Mission Table. Pastor Bouman gave an overview of the Three Great Listenings- Listening to God: in prayer, scripture, witness; Listening in the congregation and among other allies in the fabric of the church and Listening in the community, to our neighbor. Obviously a topic of personal and professional passion for Dr. Bouman, as he smiled and shared personal and work illustrations to explain the listenings.

Dr. Bouman started us off with a text “Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good works; not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another and all the more as the day is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23-25

The second keynote was given by our Synod Bishop’s Associate, the Rev. Kim Latterell, who

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*The Three Great Listenings continued*

spoke on listening to God. Pastor Kim explained that we trust that God is doing great things in the world, and that God calls us and equips each one of us to be a part of that work. He used the story of the Chilean mine collapse to demonstrate the work that must be done.

While emphasizing the need for prayer, Pastor Kim said that the largest growing segment of the population identifies itself as spiritual but not religious, equating church participation as religious. He believes that the real question for us, as believers, is “What does God have in mind for us now and for what will be?” “Our future as faith communities depends on our being turned towards the larger community, towards the world’s deep human need, and towards those as yet without a faith community”, Pastor Bouman said.

As Pastor Bouman comments, “The hardest thing in the world to do when we are depressed, grieving, fearful, dulled in damning routine, is to leave the house or the church building and seek our neighbors out and ask for their help along with God’s help.” Pastor Kim said that it will take strong, outrageous action, holy impatience, insistent demand, broad connection and deep and lasting engagement as we listen to what God is saying here.

Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, our Director for Evangelical Mission, gave the third keynote address on Listening to the Congregation, presenting the idea of listening to the Holy Spirit among us. We can do this through: One to One Listening sessions, Small Group Listening times, Asset Mapping, Conversations around “What is God doing through us & moving us to do?” and marking what we wish to ‘Achieve, Preserve, and Avoid’. She led the Synod Assembly through the “Congregational Vitality Quick Check”. This tool helps congregations talk together and learn if they are vital and/or sustainable. Pastor Melanie defined a vital congregation as one that lives out God’s mission in its part of the world – connecting with God,



one another & the community. A sustainable congregation has resources of people and money to carry out its ministry.

Through this often painful exercise, congregations are able to see if they are still vital, and if they are sustainable. Like the Jenga game of stacking blocks, congregations with a base of good theology need God’s presence, a mission/purpose,

leadership, relationships, to know the local context, to understand the culture/attitudes, administrative and governance systems and, finally, resources and programs. Congregational leaders that saw a lack of vitality or sustainability while doing their Quick Check, can contact the Synod Office for assistance from Pastor Melanie at 253-535-8300, or email [Melanie.wallschlaeger@elca.org](mailto:Melanie.wallschlaeger@elca.org) for help with next steps.

Bishop Jaech said in the final keynote presentation on listening to our community, “Just the fact that the third listening is listening to our neighbors is a huge clue that our mission is always directed out there.”

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### *The Three Great Listenings continued*

Bishop Jaech pointed out that in the four Gospels, Jesus is always doing two things with the disciples, gathering them in and sending them out. He fed them, nurtured them, worshipped with them, prayed, educated and had fellowship with the disciples. Then he sent them out proclaiming, healing, forgiving, peace-making, and doing justice. Then Jesus gathered the disciples back in and listened to them, fed them, filled them with the Spirit and sent them out again.

Bishop Jaech emphasized that we need to welcome all, but most importantly, we need to go out of our doors to meet and serve our neighbors. This is Christ's command for us, and it is the way to give our congregations life, energy and vitality.

Jaech had each congregation map out their church boundaries and neighborhoods. We need to know our neighbors and what they need. We also need to be able to see Christ in each of our neighbors. "We go out bringing Christ to other. Then we discover that Christ has gone ahead of us and Christ is already in them", Jaech said. Lastly, Jaech had the table groups discuss when they had gone out to help someone and then discovered that that person was able to help them instead or in addition. In church, we provide food, we nurture, we worship together, we pray, we educate, and provide fellowship. Outside our doors in our community, we are to proclaim, heal, forgive, make peace and do justice. What are you hearing?

## **Luther's quote got it right**

*We've fallen but are also raised up — a prescription against paralysis*

*By ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; originally printed in the June 2015 Lutheran magazine. Reprinted with permission.*

The account of the Ascension in Acts has two great questions. The disciples ask Jesus, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" (1:6). Then, as the disciples watch the Lord ascending to heaven, the angels ask the disciples, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?" (1:11).



The disciples had walked with Jesus, they had experienced the crushing defeat of his crucifixion, they had seen the risen Christ, and yet they seem to be afflicted by nearsightedness and farsightedness at the same time. They are looking for a restored kingdom and a vanishing Messiah.

I wonder what we as the church want to have restored. Do we get a little nearsighted or shortsighted about the church and about the earth-shattering, life-changing power of the death and resurrection of Christ? When we long for some remembered golden age are we blind to this new thing that God is doing in the church?

We are in the middle of a seismic shift in the church. In her book *The Great Emergence*

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*Luther's Quote continued*

(Baker Books, 2012), author and lecturer Phyllis Tickle points out that every 500 years or so the church goes through a major upheaval.

I think that's where we are now. And while it is interesting to read of church upheavals in the past, living through one can be pretty uncomfortable. What is emerging? What is falling away? When will we know that the new thing has come into being? What is going to happen to us?

But hey, take heart, I don't think anyone woke up on June 7, 1518, and said, "How's the Reformation going today?"

When we ask that the kingdom be restored to the church, we are really asking for the kind of certainty that arises from human need. We want clear, measurable, tangible signs that our world will be ordered to our specifications. That certainty will never be achieved this side of heaven. That is not the certainty we really need and it is not the certainty God has given us in our new life in Christ.

Which leads to the second question, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven?" Or more to the point, "People of God, why do we stand looking up toward heaven?" Maybe because a vision of glory is a lot more appealing than what we have facing us right now. But that is not what we are called to do.

We are not called to be the church of the past nor the church of some distant future, but to be the church right now. For whatever reason, we are the ones God is using at this time, in this messiness. We are not going to get it right all of the time. We are broken and sinful creatures, but we are also redeemed creatures. In baptism we have already died the only death that really matters. Can we start to live like we believe that?

Martin Luther is often quoted as saying "sin boldly." He actually said, "Be a sinner and sin boldly, *but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly.*" It's an honest acknowledgement that we have fallen, but is an even more joyful acknowledgement that we have been raised up. It's a prescription against paralysis. It is not up to us to fix the church or the world—that has already been done in Christ.

And since the victory has been won we are free in this in-between time to live into the new life God has brought about in this world.

So here we are dear church. Living in the absolute certainty that we and all of creation have been redeemed, we don't have to fret about getting it right. We don't have to chart a perfectly accurate course. We don't have to conserve our assets, physical or financial. We don't have to worry about saving our lives.

What a powerful freedom the certainty of God has given us in this uncertain time. Let's not waste this gift.

## Responding to the Severe Flooding in the Southern Plains

*Reprinted with permission from the Lutheran Disaster Response blog 5/29/15.*

Texas, Oklahoma and now Arkansas are experiencing severe flooding that started due to heavy rainfall and flash floods in the region during Memorial Day weekend. This has been the wettest May, or even month, on record for most of the region. In Texas, it is estimated that 35 trillion gallons of rain have fallen during the past month. Some cities in Texas have received at least four inches of rain for the past 25 consecutive days. At least 27 people have died due to the flooding in the U.S., and several more people are still missing. Normally dry riverbeds are flooded, leaving 4,000 houses damaged or destroyed and many streets and interstates submerged.

And the rain is still falling.



*Above, Flooding in Houston, Texas. Credit: Reuters*

Lutheran Disaster Response has been in contact with our disaster affiliates on the ground in the region, as well as with synods and congregations. We are keeping up-to-date on the situation and are assessing the immediate and long-term needs of those in the flooded areas. We will act in coordination with our network of social ministry organizations and synods to respond to these needs, and we will walk with those who have been affected through every phase of the disaster recovery process. We will stay long after the water recedes to assist in the rebuilding and recovery long-term response needs. Please support Lutheran Disaster Response's work in responding to the flooding in the southern plains by visiting the [U.S. Spring Storms giving page](#).

*Please follow Lutheran Disaster Response on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).*

## ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant Application now Open

The Domestic Hunger grants moved to a two year cycle in 2014. The 2015/2016 grant cycle is now open. The application must be completed and submitted on or before July 10, 2015. Organizations approved for funding can expect grant payments in February or March 2016. [www.elca.org/domestichungergrants](http://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants) Programs receiving funding in the 2014-2015 cycle, are ineligible for funding for the 2016-2017 cycle.

Domestic Hunger Grants in action Domestic Hunger Grants support projects in four categories of ministry: relief, development, organizing and advocacy. In 2015, 324 projects were funded through a total of \$739,075 in grants. The breakdown of the funding across the project categories is:

- 6 Advocacy Projects
- 58 Development Projects
- 41 Organizing Projects
- 219 Relief Projects

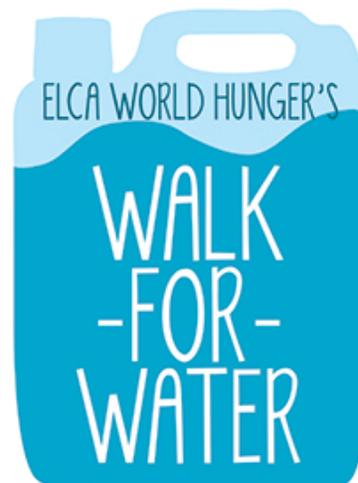
Through these four areas of focus, Domestic Hunger Grants both contribute to meeting immediate needs of families around the country and also look toward long-term growth and development in communities. In the relief sector too, funds allow organizations to expand and improve existing structures and services. Visit [www.ELCA.org/domestichungergrants](http://www.ELCA.org/domestichungergrants) to learn more about the web-based application process and begin an application. Be sure to read the instructions carefully about how the process has changed.

In 2014, our Synod had 8 grant recipients (7 Relief programs; 1 Development programming) : Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Port Ludlow *for their Backpacks for Kids Weekend Nutrition Program*; Ocean Park Lutheran Church in Ocean Park *for their Community Table*; Peace Community Center in Tacoma, *the only Development grant received in our synod, for Hilltop Scholars Academic Coaching and Tutoring Program*; Spanaway Lutheran Church *for Food For Families Program*, The Thurston County Food Bank in Olympia *for their ForKids Summer Feeding Program*; Life Care Community Services Foodbank, Port Orchard; First Lutheran Community Church, Port Orchard *for their Jubilee Community Garden (photo below, left of their first harvest)*, and Family of God Lutheran Church in Bremerton *for their God's Kitchen*.



## ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water is underway

ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water 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. **For this year ONLY**, they've launched a site for you to create your own fundraising events for ELCA World Hunger's Walk for Water. Individual and team events are welcome. [Visit the site here.](#)



## First of Three Trips to Companion Synod in Namibia Underway

*By Rachel Pritchett, Synod Namibia Task Force Chair*

Our Synod's team of six has departed for Namibia for roughly a 10-day stay, where members will grow and strengthen our ELCA companion relationship with the Lutheran church synods in that African country. The team has met numerous times over past months, and is well prepared. Please pray for a safe journey for Joan Nelson, Emma and Christal Hillstead, the Rev. Ron Kempe, and the Rev. Suzanne and Steve Appelo. Bishop Jaech met with the team last month to bless their travels and faithful work.

**May 30<sup>th</sup> update from Pastor Ron Kempe from Namibia:** *We arrived in Johannesburg Thursday morning very tired after 35 hours of traveling - Christal & Emma Hilstead by way of Frankfurt; Steve & Suzanne Appelo, Joan Nelson, and myself by way of Paris. We all were able to get out of the airports and see some sights in the cities.*

*We arrived safely Friday afternoon in Windhoek (capital of Namibia) where we spent the night. We are preparing to leave for our drive north. One special surprise is that our Windhoek hotel is across the street from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism so Joan, Steve and I went over and found Louisa Mupetami, one of the Namibia 9. We had a wonderful conversation. She will help us connect with other people upon our return to Windhoek.*

## Does Anyone Oppose Charity?

The Rev. Dr. Samuel Torvend, PLU Professor of Religion, University Chair in Lutheran Studies wrote an article for PLU's Prism, a publication of the Department of Humanities, on Food Insecurity. Please find a link to the article here: <http://www.plu.edu/prism/does-anyone-oppose-charity/>

## Make your mark

ELCA road markers are a practical, inexpensive way to tell people about your congregation and direct visitors to worship. Working with a contracted vendor (NPN360), special pricing is available. Be sure to check your local government agency sign posting regulations.

[http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA\\_Roadmarker\\_Order\\_Form.pdf?\\_ga=1.265428431.1535438553.1427495626](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Roadmarker_Order_Form.pdf?_ga=1.265428431.1535438553.1427495626)

## Job Announcements

*These are all listed on the synod website at: <http://www.lutheranssw.org/job-opportunities>*

*Positions Updated May 22, 2015*

**Worship and Ministries Manager**, The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, Olympia (FT)

**On-Call Chaplain**, Highline Medical Center, Seatac

**Director of Youth Ministries**, Family of God Lutheran Church, Bremerton, WA

**Youth Director**, Christ Lutheran, Lakewood, WA

**Little Doves Preschool Interim Director**, Spirit of Life Lutheran Church and Little Doves Preschool, Port Orchard

## Guidelines and Screening Help Keep Volunteers Safe

*Reprinted with permission from Church Mutual Insurance*

Congregations often rely on volunteers to help tackle a wide variety of projects ranging from routine facility maintenance to emergency repairs. However, neglecting to clearly communicate volunteer expectations and responsibilities can open the door to serious injury and potential liability.

“Volunteers are generally more than willing to assist in any way possible, but that doesn’t necessarily mean they are capable of doing the work,” said Shari Ilsen, director of engagement at VolunteerMatch, a company that connects nonprofit organizations with volunteers. “Organizations have a responsibility to ensure a proper fit between project duties and a volunteer’s capabilities.”

### ***Establish a volunteer manager***

“Coordinating volunteer labor requires a central point person to ensure the process runs smoothly and safely,” Ilsen said. “Appoint a volunteer manager who can oversee the planning and supervision of volunteers.”

The volunteer manager is responsible for handling all aspects of volunteer labor within the organization, including screening potential volunteers, managing a volunteer database and reviewing projects to determine the scope and type of labor required.

“This person needs to understand the skills and expertise available from the volunteer workforce and help appropriately match volunteers to projects,” Ilsen said. “The manager also needs to recognize when it might be more cost effective or safer to hire professionals.”

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*Volunteers continued*

### ***Develop a plan for every project***

“Any project that requires volunteer labor should begin with a project plan that clearly establishes project guidelines and expectations,” Ilsen said.

The project plan should identify any physically demanding work or specialized skills required, as well as how many volunteers are needed, the amount of time desired, and any special training or equipment required to keep volunteers safe.

“The plan also should include a description of the ideal volunteer candidate,” Ilsen said. “This description identifies the expertise, physical ability and knowledge needed to assist with the work.”

### ***Screen volunteers***

Volunteers should complete an application form that includes contact information, birth date, social security and driver’s license numbers, previous work or volunteer experience, physical limitations, specialized training, first aid or CPR certification and insurance information.

If the volunteer is going to work with children or vulnerable adults, make sure a detailed background check also is performed. For more information about volunteer safety, visit [www.churchmutual.com/safetyresources](http://www.churchmutual.com/safetyresources).

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

### **Grace Lutheran Team Leads Worship at Washington Correctional Center for Women in Purdy**

*By Grace Lutheran, Port Townsend, volunteers*

On Palm Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 12 members from Grace Lutheran Church journeyed from Port Townsend to Purdy to lead two worship services at the women’s prison with several other area congregations.



*(Left, pictured the disciples from area Lutheran churches assisting with worship.)*

This was the first visit to this facility for most involved. We were met in the lobby by a smiling Sharon Peterson, an ELCA member who is active in

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*Congregations continued (Purdy worship article)*

**Empowering Life, coordinator of the worship services.**

We went through extensive security checks, searches and scans and then the heavy gates with razor wire on top closed behind us. We anxiously waited for the prisoners to arrive. They came in, all in grey sweatpants and sweat shirts. Things begin to feel more familiar as Pastor Coe opened the worship with the familiar, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all." Everyone responded enthusiastically. As we sang the opening song, everyone stood up, raised the voices and their arms in praise and there we were, the Body of Christ. Different histories, different looks, different stories, but the same God who loves us all just as we are.

It was a wonderful and powerful experience. Over 100 women worshiped with us that night. We raised our voices and raised the roof. We prayed together. Everyone said they would go back in a heartbeat. The prisoners wrote out prayer requests that we brought home and have been lifting up to God since. Their requests were moving and it was our privilege to pray for each person. It was a two-way celebration and my cup was being filled. The worship transcended the razor wire and chain-link fences. It was cheerful. Some visibly moved as they worshiped. We just kept singing and the energy was high.

**Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma** will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of member Lawrence Briske on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Douglas Cleveland Organ Recital and the Re-dedication of the Gloria Dei Organ** on Sunday, June 7th @4:00PM at **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1515 Harrison Ave. NW, Olympia, WA 98502.** (360) 357-3386. Free Admission, donations gratefully accepted.

<http://www.concertorganists.com/artists/Douglas-Cleveland/> or  
<http://www.gloriadeiolympia.org>

**Celebrate all fathers at Living Stones Prison Congregation's first annual fundraising event: "Our Father's Day"** - Sunday, June 21 from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 1601 North Street SE, Olympia, WA. Enjoy an afternoon of jazz music by David Deacon-Joyner and participate in a silent auction and raffle. All proceeds will benefit the Living Stones Prison Ministry Re-Entry Program. Speakers will share how Living Stones serves the incarcerated and about the importance of re-entry and how to help. All are welcome.

#### **Calendar**

**July 15-19, 2015- ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI**

**October 9-10, 2015- SWWA Synod Women of the ELCA Convention, Peninsula Lutheran, Gig Harbor** /end