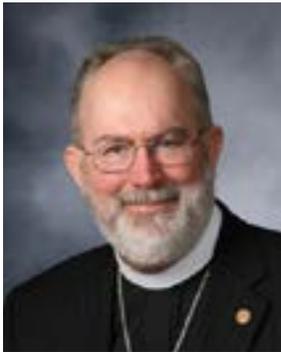


# The Spirit

## In Christ The Future Is Known by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



*Always being made New*, this phrase will serve as the theme of our Synod Assembly and of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemoration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We know that we are in a time of rapid transition. Much of the ways we used to

function as a congregation, synod or Churchwide Organization is under question today. Can we still do it that way? What will the church look like in the future?

This year, as we elect a new bishop, makes this theme very real for this synod. We will have a new leader. We will still be the same people. We still live in the same communities. Much of our world is changing. We had hoped that the church would be a place where we could count on the sameness of the past. But God does not work that way.

As followers of Jesus we should recognize that the gospel turns the old world upside down. We

are being made new each day. Our reality as Lutherans is that we seemed surprised when this new thing happens. God is at work in our lives and in the world to do a new thing. God uses grace to build a community of faith. God calls us to share this newness not just for ourselves but also for the neighbor. We are forgiven not by our being good, but by God's grace apart from our goodness.

I want to propose that we should expect new things to happen among God's people, in church. We ought to provoke each other into living new lives. The old constant in our lives and in the church's life is that we are being made new. Even in the face of death we are given new life. That is the reality of our world in Christ.

Much of our anxiety is due to our fear of the unknown. In Christ the future is known in this promise that we will be a new creation. I don't know all of what that means. I do know that the future is in God's hands. That is the newness that gives life and hope to the world. That is the work of God through the church. God is doing a new thing. That would be you.

**All Are Invited**

### **A Thank You Celebration For Bishop Chris Boerger**

Trinity Lutheran Church, 6215 196th St SW, Lynnwood

**Thursday, May 16, 2013**

5 pm — Hors d'Oeuvres Buffet

6 pm — Thank You Program

7 pm — Worship

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson Preaching; Bishop Chris Boerger Presiding

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## Upcoming Events In Our Synod

- **The 2013 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly** will take place Thursday, May 14, through Saturday, May 18, at the Lynnwood Convention Center in Lynnwood. On-line registration is now open. Please register before Friday, May 10, at [www.lutheransnw.org/assembly2013](http://www.lutheransnw.org/assembly2013). Materials are being added weekly, so be sure to check back on a regular basis to familiarize yourself the documents. Please share the information about the event on Thursday, May 16, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood. This event is to thank Bishop Boerger for his ministry as Bishop of Northwest Washington Synod and includes a worship service with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson. All are welcome. (See first page of this publication.)
- Registration is now open for the event **Joining With God In Our Neighborhoods and Communities** with Alex Roxburgh. Alan has dedicated his life to helping churches find their way in a time of great disorientation and disruption. This event is a special opportunity

for your congregation to begin a process of discovery and engagement with what God is doing in the neighborhoods where you live. This day will introduce you to mission habits and practices, not to strategic plans and procedures. This event will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 1, at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue. Cost is \$20 and includes lunch. For questions contact Debra Caldwell at [debrarcaldwell@gmail.com](mailto:debrarcaldwell@gmail.com) or Jerry Buss at [jerry.buss34@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.buss34@gmail.com). Register today at [www.lutheransnw.org/roxburgh](http://www.lutheransnw.org/roxburgh).

- **The Women of Region 1** (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana) will gather together for a weekend of fun, fellowship and learning from June 21 through June 23 at the Healthman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Dr, Vancouver, WA. Keynote Speaker is author Jane Kirkpatrick (to learn more about Jane visit [www.jkbooks.com](http://www.jkbooks.com)). An introduction to the fall *Gather* magazine Bible Study by author Bishop Kay Ward. Registration begins at 3 p.m. on June 21, with dinner at 6 p.m. The event ends at noon on Sunday, June 23. Need more information? Contact Nancy Quale at 425-746-6559 or email her at [nquale@comcast.net](mailto:nquale@comcast.net).

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### Go! Night A Success

by Becky Cole, Director Children & Family Ministries, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Kirkland

On March 8, 150 youth and 40 adults from 17 congregations throughout the synod attended our Junior High/Middle School *GO! Night*.

We started the night at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church in Kirkland and Camp Lutherwood led our *Living it up* with a Lutherwood style opening. Pr. Katy McCallum Sachse led us in Holden Evening Prayer for worship.

We jumped on trampolines and ate pizza at midnight at Sky Mania, Kirkland, before heading to Kingsgate Ice Arena for ice skating, hot chocolate, coffee and cookies. At 2:45 a.m., we were all back at Holy Spirit. Some people watched a movie, others played board games, some slept, and others found the photo booth and inflatables irresistible.

We wrapped it up with breakfast before heading home Saturday morning.

**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.

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