



## 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.*

March 2015

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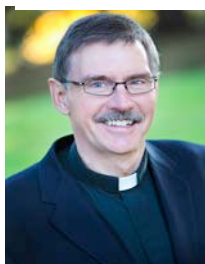
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Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

## In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”

*Bishop Richard E. Jaech*



Dear Friends in Christ,

*“In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”*

Beginning in the earliest centuries after Christ, small numbers of Christians adopted the custom of going out into the desert to live for prolonged periods of time, in order to better follow the Way of Christ. Known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers, these Christians believed that the arid wastelands of the desert helped their faith journey in the following ways:

- ❖ The emptiness of the desert forced them to let go of the daily comforts and routines of life that often distracted them from God.
- ❖ The dangers of the desert (wild beasts, scorching heat) helped them to turn to God for their entire survival and well-being.
- ❖ The clear air of the desert prompted them to look clearly and honestly at their own lives, including their wounds and struggles.
- ❖ The sense of God's presence and protection in the desert stirred them to re-commit themselves to faithfully follow the Way of Christ.

*“In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”*

The season of Lent offers to us a healing time in the desert. Remembering the Israelites who spent 40 years in the desert wilderness, Lent gives us 40 days in which our own faith and trust in God might be healed and restored. With Jesus and his disciples, we are invited to follow the Desert Way of being purified, examined, healed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

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In the coming 40 days of Lent, I encourage you to let the Spirit ask you these desert questions:

- ❖ What old ways, old patterns or old fears have become deadly burdensome to you and need to be left behind?
- ❖ What are the struggles and pains in your life that are urging you to turn to God for help and support?
- ❖ What in your life do you need to look at clearly and honestly?
- ❖ How is the Spirit stirring you to entrust yourself to God and to follow Christ?

Lent is the time when God wants to cleanse, heal and change us. By risking everything and going into the desert, God raises us to new life.

*"In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start."*

In Christ,

Bishop Rick Jaech



In mid- January, I had a very informative visit with retired Pastor George Larson who told me about the history of Lutheran ministry with Native American people on the lower Olympic Peninsula. We talked with Roy DeBoer, who is a member of the Lummi Tribe and has been active in the leadership of our Synod, serving for many years on our Synod Council. We visited the gravesite of Chief Seattle (*shown above*), which is located in the town of Suquamish, near Poulsbo.

*Bishop Visits continued next page*



**On Martin Luther King, Jr., weekend, January 18, I worshipped at Peace Lutheran Church on the Hilltop in Tacoma (shown above). Pastor John Stroeh preached a great sermon and I enjoyed hearing from church members about all the great ministry they are doing in their neighborhood.**

**On January 25, I preached at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Olympia (shown below), on the Sunday of their Annual Meeting. All three Sunday worship services were condensed into one service, with a great turnout, wonderful music and singing, and a clear commitment to continue growing in their ministry.**



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*Bishop's visits continued from page 3*

On February 7, we celebrated the Ordination of Pastor Keith Marshall at Christ Lutheran, Lakewood, where Keith had served for many years as Youth Minister. Pastor Ralf Kalms, of Christ Lutheran, preached an inspiring sermon. Keith was installed a week later by Bishop's Associate Pastor Kim Latterell as pastor of Hope Lutheran, Enumclaw.



It was my joy to preach at Trinity Lutheran, Enumclaw (*below*), on February 15 and hear about the great ministry they are doing in the most northeastern corner of our Synod. Trinity has a great youth ministry and collaborates with Hope Lutheran in Enumclaw.



*Bishop's Visits continued next page*

*Bishop's Visits continued from page 4*

On February 10, I joined with Episcopal Bishop Greg Rickel to install Father James Thibodeaux (*shown below left*) as pastor of St. Christopher Community Church (*shown bottom right*), a Federated Episcopal and ELCA Lutheran congregation located on Steamboat Island, west of Olympia at the Celebration of New Ministry service.



On February 22, I preached at the Lutheran Church of Christ the King in Midland, located between south Tacoma and Parkland. Among its many ministries, Christ the King is the site and major organizer of the largest FISH food program in Pierce County and also operates the Kings Manor Assisted Living Center for 65 residents. During the Children's Sermon, they laid hands on me in a blessing.



I give thanks for all the great ministries in our Synod!  
*Bishop Jaech*

## Congregations in transition

*Lord, We pray for your wisdom, insight and peace for the congregations in our synod who are now working through a time of pastoral transition, interviewing or extending a call to a new rostered or lay leader or staff.*

### **Mobility- March 2015**

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	C	Michelle Manicke
Elim, Port Orchard	P	I	Pulpit Supply
Holy Trinity, Port Angeles	P	I	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	Lauren Vignec

#### *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*

## ELCA Ministries

### **ELCA Youth Gathering- “Rise Up Together”**

There are 156 people registered from Southwestern Washington Synod for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit in July 15-19, 2015 in Detroit. That's 30 more people from our synod than last year!

The community organizing group is planning amazing service opportunities for our youth in addition to the worship, speakers, music, faith formation and wonderful things they'll be doing together. “Why work so hard to gather so many young people in one place?” The response is really quite simple:

**We were meant to be together, and we are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together.**

The theme for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering, *Rise Up Together*, was discerned by a diverse group of people to intentionally reflect a diversity that mirrors the population of Detroit.

### **"Malawi: Flood recovery and community resilience"**

Lutheran Disaster Response Blog originally posted 2/23/2015

In January, Malawi was hit with unprecedented flooding after days of heavy rains. Approximately 230,000 people were displaced due to the emergency and more than 200 people died – with more than 100 people still missing. Overall, approximately 630,000 people in the southern African country have been impacted by the devastating floods.

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*Photo courtesy of Evangelical Lutheran Development Service.*

Two of the most impacted districts are Chikwawa and Phalombe. Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS), a program of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi, is active in these districts. With ELDS, Lutheran Disaster Response is helping provide assistance to 22,000 people in Chikwawa and Phalombe districts. Assistance will be focused on emergency shelter, health, food security, water and sanitation.

- Temporary shelter items will include plastic sheeting, nails and poles.
- Health efforts will include first-aid training and distribution of bed nets to reduce malaria infection, which is currently higher than normal due to the water.
- Water and sanitation support will include distribution of buckets, water treatment products used to make water potable and hygiene kits. One hundred latrines will also be constructed to serve households in the districts.

Members of the communities where ELDS will be active will also take part in a community-based psychosocial and disaster-risk management program to help build capacity and resilience to the effects of disaster.

In order to ensure that communities are fully represented, ELDS will work to integrate cross-cutting issues into the project so that women, children, elderly parents and people living with HIV/AIDS are reached.

While disaster recovery is just beginning, Lutheran Disaster Response will continue to accompany the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi throughout their whole journey in working to rebuild communities and bolster resilience. If you would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response's work in responding to the flooding in Malawi, please visit the [Lutheran Disaster Response giving page](#).



## Companion Synod Relationships

*"When companions engage one another in authentic relationships, everyone's lives are changed."*

*- Peggy Contos Hahn, assistant to the bishop for global mission,  
Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA*



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

Companion synod relationships of the ELCA connect Lutheran churches throughout the world with ELCA synods and congregations. These relationships are concrete expressions of the communion and fellowship with the more than 140 Lutheran member churches of The Lutheran World Federation. Each of the 65 synods has at least one international church companion and many have additional relationships, resulting in more than 120 companion synod relationships. The Southwestern Washington Synod works in Namibia with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN); Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN) and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church- ELCIN (GELC\_ELCIN). Namibia is on the south-west coast of Africa.

These relationships are rooted in "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world — together. Companion church relationships enrich and deepen our ministries by exposing us to global challenges and perspectives as we seek to work with one another to build up the body of Christ and the world.

## Be Best You Can Be in Companion-Synod



Do you want to take part in our synod's companion relationship with Namibia, but aren't sure if you have the skills? Are you worried about misunderstanding someone from another culture, offending them or not learning from them? Lay people and clergy alike are invited to a workshop to become the best companion-synod participant possible, hosted by the Rev. Barbara Berry-Bailey, ELCA assistant director for companion relations for Africa. It takes place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, March 20, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church by The Narrows (6730 N. 17<sup>th</sup> St., Tacoma). The cost, which includes lunch, is \$20. Register by email to [swwsynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu) or call Allison at 253-535-8300, and send your \$20 payment to the Southwestern Washington Synod, 420 121<sup>st</sup> St S, Tacoma, WA 98444.



## Team Going to Namibia

A team of six people from our Southwestern Washington Synod have formed to visit Namibia, in south-west Africa, in May in order to grow our synod's companion relationship with that country. The travelling team includes Christal and Emma Hillstead of Christ the King, Tacoma; Joan Nelson, and the Rev. Ron Kempe of St. Mark's by The Narrows; and the Rev. Suzanne and David Appelo of Gull Harbor, Olympia. Thanks to generous donations from across the synod several gifts of scholarships to Oshigambo High School, a school for youth in grades 8-12 in Namibia, will accompany them. Please pray for our team and who they will meet.

Two more trips are being planned in the next year to Namibia from our synod- one in October 2015 and the last in Spring 2016.

### Hospitality

## 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.*

### **Nancy Little-Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church, Sequim, WA**

When our son was in high school a friend his age from our church had serious problems with his family and wound up on the streets of Mexico City, where we lived, and a very dangerous place to be without a home. Our son found him and brought him home to our house and he lived with us off & on until we had to leave Mexico. Legally he couldn't come with us and we felt heartbroken to leave him. He stayed and managed to finish his education and became an attorney. We still see him when we can. He is a fine young man.

### **Tam Leitch-Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland, WA**

As we were setting up to hold our plant sale in the park, we all noticed the homeless man who seemed to spend most of his day in the park move from bench to grass, to bench. On Sunday, when the weather was perfectly awful, he finally approached Mary and asked if we had some water, so she gave him a bottle. She regretted that she hadn't offered him some hot coffee. Before the day was over, she'd been able to share with him coffee and some of the snacks we had out for our volunteers.

*Stories of Hospitality continued next page*

*Stories of Hospitality continued from page 9*

**Nancy Woodward- Bethany Lutheran Church, Spanaway, WA**

Last Saturday I coordinated a Mother-Daughter Tea for our church. The theme was pies. Ladies brought pies to share for dessert. Our guest speaker spoke about the pie baking our congregation does to raise money to support our college/military programs. A shoebox with goodies, prayers and love are sent to each of them every month. Our college kids are popular each month with other students!! They are all excited to see what is in the shoebox.

**Pastor Dan Wiktorek-Twin Harbors Lutheran Church, Grayland, WA**

We welcomed a family from Slovakia who were in the states for several months on a Fulbright Studies Program. They participated in our worship, on occasion provided special music, gave a guest lecture, and we showed them how to grow cranberries! As a consequence, we have a sister-church relationship with a Lutheran congregation in Slovakia, near Brateslava. Our pastor sometimes has articles published in their newsletter and we receive news from them, praying for each other.

## Loving the Neighbor

*By Pastor Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, ELCA missionary to Liberia. Originally posted on the Lutheran Disaster Response blog*



I've been thinking about the Good Samaritan story lately and the concept of neighbor.

"Who is my neighbor?" the Pharisee asked Jesus. Even if we are not well-versed in Christian faith or the Bible, we know the story of the Good Samaritan and the definition of neighbor. Or do we?

Recently, I was called as a missionary to Liberia, West Africa. Due to the terrible Ebola epidemic that has swept West Africa – most especially Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea – I found myself back home in Minnesota, where I grew up. For a time, I was living in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area of Minnesota. It sounds weird, but I was a missionary to Liberia deployed to Minnesota. I soon found myself connected with the Liberian community in Minnesota, which is home to the largest Liberian immigrant community in the U.S. Approximately 30-40,000 Liberians live and work in Minnesota, many of whom have been in the Minneapolis area for more than 20 years.

*"Loving the Neighbor" continued on next page*

*“Loving the Neighbor” continued from page 10*

Seeing the reality of life for Liberian Minnesotans, given the Ebola crisis in West Africa, brought to mind the concept of neighbor and how it has been playing out in their lives. I had several opportunities to worship, preach and speak at services and events held in Lutheran churches. During some of those opportunities, there were Liberian Minnesotans present and I heard stories about how Ebola in West Africa has affected the Liberian community in Minnesota.

At a memorial service for victims of Ebola attended by about 500 people, there were stories of loss and of Ebola victims who were loved. We heard from the fiancée of the man who died in Dallas, Texas. One man shared about losing 7 family members to Ebola. He and others prayed and testified.

The stories were hard to hear, but what was even harder to hear were the stories of children being bullied at school because they are Liberian and might have Ebola. Or stories from adults who were sent home from work for sneezing or coughing because they are Liberian and might have Ebola. And stories of people’s long-time co-workers and friends (some as long as 20 years) becoming distant and fearful around them because of Ebola. These are people whose only connection to Ebola is that they are Liberian and have relatives living where the epidemic is.

At Lutheran church services, people shared the same stories of bullying and being ostracized because of being Liberian. To top it off, a local politician ran an ad the night before the elections in Minnesota, telling people his opponent would not be able to protect them from Ebola (and by extension seemed to say, “Be afraid of your Liberian friends and neighbors.”)

I need to say that during this same time, the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod spoke at the memorial service for Ebola victims. The Bishop of the St. Paul Area Synod wrote a pastoral letter detailing the realities facing our Liberian brothers and sisters in Minneapolis/St. Paul and the surrounding communities to the congregations under her care. These actions were very important because Lutherans abound in Minnesota and their witness is key to living as neighbors together. It was a start, from a certain level of the Lutheran church. Some of the congregations I met with, many of them fairly recent immigrant churches (within the last 100 years), are starting to be home to more recent immigrants. In addition, a few Liberian Minnesotans shared stories about friends who had not turned away. In the story of the Good Samaritan, the man from Samaria overlooked everything that his culture and social structure told him. Instead, he saw someone who was human, like him, and needed relationship.

What we sometimes overlook is how hard it is to be neighbor to people who seem different from what we know—especially when that difference is connected to fear and stereotypes that fill our senses. Being a neighbor is a hard and time-consuming process that moves us away from seeing difference and into being connected in real and meaningful ways. It’s living in love, risking in love, being connected in love. Remember, love casts out fear.

*“Loving the Neighbor” continued next page*

*"Loving the Neighbor" continued from page 11*

Things like our fear of Ebola, what we see in media reports about people, and even popular opinion can't be allowed to take over and keep us from real and true relationship with the neighbor.

I found myself thinking how different some situations would have been if we asked, "Who is my neighbor, and what does it mean to be a neighbor?" Those are not abstract, academic questions. They are a basic part of being a Lutheran Christian; a basic ethic of how to live the way of Jesus. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It is as simple and as difficult as that.

### Training opportunities



## **Join Pacific Lutheran University for the 2015 Powell-Heller Conference for Holocaust Education**

Free and open to the Public  
Pacific Lutheran University campus, Tacoma  
March 4-6, 2015

### Featuring:

- Film screening with director and Emmy nominee Steven Pressman
- Presentation by Ela Stein Weissberger, child survivor of Terezin
- Presentations and panel discussions with scholars and thought leaders
- The Raphael Lemkin Student Essay Awards and Lecture
- Friday sessions for learners of all age, students and educators

[Register \(link\)](#)

[Conference Schedule \(link\)](#)

[2015 Speakers \(link\)](#)

The Powell-Heller Conference is free and open to the public thanks to the enduring support of the Kurt Mayer Endowment and sustaining gifts from generous donors and sponsors.

## **20% of America's Children are At Risk for Hunger**

Child Nutrition is the theme for the annual Pierce County Offering of Letters Workshop  
Saturday, March 7, 10-12, (Registration at 9:30)

Lutheran Church of Christ the King, 1710 E. 85th St, Tacoma

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*Child Nutrition workshop continued*

This Workshop will equip Pierce County congregations to hold an Offerings of Letters. Hear from speakers who experience Child Nutrition programs right here at home, and receive a free kit of materials (including a DVD) for conducting a workshop. BREAD FOR THE WORLD, the sponsor, is the ecumenical Christian non-partisan organization that provides resources for effective advocacy. Its focus for 2015 is CHILD NUTRITION. REGISTRATION is free. Advance registration by March 1 is preferred. Contact Fran Blair at [fblair39@centurylink.com](mailto:fblair39@centurylink.com) or phone her at [253-588-8402](tel:253-588-8402), leaving your name, congregation and phone number. Funding is from the Presbytery of Olympia. Christians in every congregation in Pierce County are invited to join in advocating on their behalf.

## **Peer Ministry Leadership Training**

**April 17-18 at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett**

Does your youth ministry need a boost? Looking to empower teen leaders? Peer Ministry Leadership provides an opportunity to engage youth in peer-to-peer relationships through listening to, welcoming, and accompanying others. This two-day interactive training is designed for youth ministry leaders (both adults and teens) seeking to build a leadership team for a thriving youth ministry based on this model, and will be led by Lyle Griner, national director and co-creator of the program. This event is a "train the trainers" seminar to give you the tools to go back to your congregation and lead this leadership program in your congregations.

The best group you can bring is 1-2 adults committed to growing your student leadership and 2-3 high school youth who are, or can become, part of your core leadership team. Think of the up-and-coming young person that has potential waiting to be tapped – invite her/him!

The low-cost event is hosted by Trinity's Children, Youth & Family Center, in partnership with the Northwest Washington Synod and our own Southwestern Washington Synod youth committees. For more information, visit [http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter/cyf\\_peer.html](http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter/cyf_peer.html), or direct your questions to Rev. Dave Ellingson at [\(425\) 249-4722](tel:425-249-4722) or [david.ellingson@tlc.edu](mailto:david.ellingson@tlc.edu).

## **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 Centre in Federal Way. Pastor Mary Lindstrom will be the keynote speaker & pastor. Cost: Full weekend - \$185, includes 4 meals and two overnight lodging. Commuter or Saturday only \$120, 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](mailto:c.wilpone@comcast.net)

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## **Stewardship and Generosity Workshop**

**Keynote Speaker: Grace Duddy Pomeroy** will talk about "Generational Generosity" and share about the motivations and passions that move various generations to generous giving. Grace will also lead a practical workshop on year-round stewardship. Additional workshop offerings will include Stewarding the Environment and Endowment Building Strategies.

**When:** Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-3:00pm

**Where:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma

**Who:** Congregational Leaders, particularly those involved in Stewardship and Planned Giving

**Bio:** Grace Duddy Pomroy joined Kairos as Executive Director of Operations in 2014. Prior to coming to Kairos, Grace served as the Assistant Director of the Center for Stewardship Leaders at Luther Seminary. She has degrees in math and religion from St. Olaf College and a Master of Arts degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary. She is the author of the recent year-round stewardship resource published by the ELCA, "Stewards of God's Love" and an active member of the Minneapolis Area Synod stewardship table.

Grace has a passion for walking beside both lay and rostered leaders in congregations as they venture to join God's mission in the world by being good stewards of all that God has entrusted to their care. She firmly believes that stewardship is not about budgets, but about the multiplicity of ways that we can use what God has entrusted to us, both as individuals and congregations, to love God and our neighbor. As a Millennial herself, she enjoys exploring the many ways that congregations can engage adults under 40 on their journey to living more grateful, generous lives.

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27*

## **Worship as Spiritual Formation: Exploring Worship and Community Song as Lifelong Cultivation of the Missional Life**

On **Saturday March 14**, songwriter/liturgical theologian **Richard Bruxvoort Colligan** will be leading a workshop at University Place Presbyterian Church on worship as Spiritual Formation. Richard is a delightful and engaging leader, and his roots are actually in the ELCA. His music is in the "Witness" Sunday School Curriculum and the Splash CD for the early childhood curriculum. He has also helped write material for the Augsburg "Spark" and "Whirl" Bibles, and published the first two volumes of his Psalm Project music with Augsburg. This workshop will be a wonderful day, including a great lunch, for only \$15. Online registration is at [www.olypres.org](http://www.olypres.org).

## Synod Assembly Registration and hotel registration has begun

To register as an elected voting member or visitor to the Synod Assembly, please go to [www.regonline.com/2015SynodAssembly](http://www.regonline.com/2015SynodAssembly) for registration and information. We're looking forward to a fun , educational and busy couple of day in Vancouver, WA May 15-16<sup>th</sup>. Hotel reservations can be made online at <http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/P/PDXVAHH-SWW-20150514/index.jhtml>. Our low hotel rates expire on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

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

### Super Bowl Sunday Challenge Raised Food and Money

Five congregations in our Synod – Christ Lutheran in Federal Way (*shown right*), Spirit of Life in Port Orchard (*shown below*), Lutheran Church of Christ the King in Tacoma, Poulsbo First Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran in Federal Way and United Lutheran in Tacoma, took on the Souper Bowl Challenge to collect canned food and funds for local food banks and Living Stones Prison Congregation in Shelton. Together, they raised over 1500 items of food and over \$700 for area food banks, plus \$189 for Living Stones Prison Congregation.



*Congregations continued next page*

*Congregations continued*

**“Come Fly With Me,”** an evening of food, fun, and JAZZ to benefit the Puyallup Food Bank. The musicians are members of **Pilgrim Lutheran Church** and some PLU students.

**When:** Friday, March 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Pilgrim Lutheran Church, 10510 136<sup>th</sup> Street E, South Hill Puyallup

**Cost:** Suggested donation for your Boarding Pass is \$10 per seat, or reserve a table for 8 for \$60. Matching Funds will be provided by Thrivent Financial, Rainier Chapter. Everyone is invited.



In January, members of **Peace Lutheran Church in the Hilltop area of Tacoma** came together to participate in the blessings of two homes (*shown above*) that the church recently purchased and refurbished for their affordable housing ministry. The homes are located across the street from their church and community center. Church members form Transition Teams to assist the families with social services and work skills.

**St. Mark Lutheran, Lacey** has started a Thursday Evening service at 6pm in their Parish Hall. The service lasts one hour and includes a new way of experiencing God, Grace, and Community that is informal, interactive, engaging, and family friendly. They'll have food, prayer and blessing. St. Mark believes it's a good alternative for families, people who work on Sundays, and those desiring a new experience in church.

**Rachel Knoke**, approved candidate for ordination in the Southwestern Washington Synod and intern at **Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma**, will be ordained this weekend at Big Canoe Lutheran Church in Decorah, Iowa. Pastor Rachel will serve as Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Calendar**

**March 4-6, 2015-** Holocaust Workshop at PLU

**April 17-19, 2015** - Synod Women of the ELCA's Spring Retreat at Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way. Contact: c.wilpone@comcast.net

**May 15-16** - Synod Assembly at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA. [Registration](#) link.

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

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