



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.

September 2014

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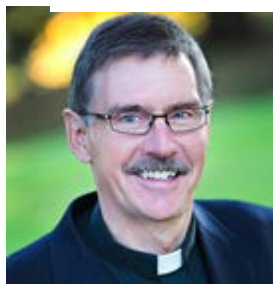
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Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Message from Bishop Jaech



Dear Friends,

Blessings to you as we move from our summer schedules into the start-up of Fall worship and education. I hope that you had at least a few interludes of rest and renewal over these past two months.

Sabbatical Start-Up Grants are Eagerly Waiting for Applicants

We have four Sabbatical Start-Up Grants of \$3,000 each that are still waiting for applicants. These grants, which are funded through our Wellness Dollars Fund, will help congregations begin a sabbatical program for their pastors and AIM's. Providing a sabbatical every five years is a wise and productive investment in ministry and staff.

This would be a good time of year to begin the conversation with your congregation about initiating a Sabbatical program. There is time in the coming months to move this decision through your Council and Annual Meeting and have a Sabbatical Program in place by next summer.

I heartily recommend the value of a Sabbatical Program. Please contact the Synod office for the Application Form, Instructions and a background overview of the value of Sabbaticals. Please let me know if I can help you with this process in any way.

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Visits our Synod on November 1

You will see this announcement in many places, because we are delighted that Bishop Eaton will visit us. On Saturday, November 1, from 10:00 – 11:30AM, Bishop Eaton will speak and answer questions at an Open Forum at the Karen Hille Phillips Performing Arts Center at PLU. Save this date now and let your members know.

Visits in September

I continue to enjoy visiting congregations around our Synod. Here are the congregations I will be with in September.

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Bishop's article continued

St. Christopher's Lutheran/Episcopal, Olympia

- First Lutheran, South Bend
- Chinook Lutheran, Chinook
- Naselle Lutheran, Naselle
- Ocean Park Lutheran, Ocean Park
- Pacific Lutheran University Congregation, Parkland

Blessings to all of you!
Bishop Rick Jaech

Matters of Faith

By Rev. Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate

Originally published in The Puyallup Herald- August 2014



So many of our national and communal discussions seem built and based primarily on our fears and phobias, our prejudices and partisanship. So often facts are dismissed and truths overrun by the loudest voices in the room. Instead of seeking common ground through shared wisdom, it's the far edges that dig us into trench warfare with one another. When and

why have so many turned their backs on the pursuit and embrace of wisdom? After all, for people of faith, it's clear that the bible highlights Wisdom as a core attribute of God, as a work of God, and as a gift of God to all who seek it. The Book of Proverbs begins by stating that awe and respect of God is the beginning of true knowledge, and that only fools despise wisdom and instruction. It says that Wisdom cries out in the streets, at the busiest corners and asks: "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

So, how might our discussions and perceptions be changed if we began with an agreement to pursue wisdom together? What if every conversation, or at least every attempt at conversation started by asking: "What might be the best answers, best positions, best responses to take based on what is wise by God's standard? The Book of James says that the wisdom from above, godly wisdom "is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy and that a harvest of right-living is sown in peace for those who make peace." What a contrast to our current state of affairs from top to bottom!

For instance, what might be wisest when it comes to unending and unyielding gun violence? If guns are the weapon of choice for criminals, the mentally ill, domestic violence, suicide, tragic child play, and conspiracy theorists, would it not be wisest to establish a workable set of regulations to guide and protect the families and neighborhoods of what in America is already, a 'well-armed civilian militia?' How does a deep resistance to any safety attempts show a godly wisdom, given James definition of what's truly wise?

Or again, in the matter of child immigration along our southern border, what might be peaceable, gentle, full of mercy, willing to yield/compromise responses that would prove God-pleasing? Ranting, raving, cursing, condemning shouts by adults against frightened, hungry children seems not to fit well or be all that wise. By first acknowledging the fear of violence and the hope for a safer

Continued next page

Matters of Faith continued

life that Central American parents feel for their children, feel so strongly that they allow their children to undertake such a treacherous journey towards America, could those fears and hopes become a common ground already stood upon by those of us who are parents ourselves? Is not compassionate care a wiser, godly and more faithful first response we would want shown towards our own children?

Imagine what could be accomplished if we put aside our partiality and our own hypocrisy. James also writes: “Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom, not bitter envy or selfishness or by being boastful and false to the truth.” Seems wise to me.

Congregations in transition

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

Mobility- September 2014

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor	P	C	Valinda Morse
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	I	Michelle Manicke
Christ, Federal Way	P	I	Chelsea Globe
First, Tacoma	P	C	Art Sortland
Good Shepherd, Olympia	P	I	Chuck Harris
Hope, Enumclaw	P	TR	Keith Marshall
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Ron Kempe
Peace, Puyallup	P	TR	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- Deaconness*

Mobility status key:

*NV – New Vacancy
TR – Transition
I – Interviewing
C – Calling*

Calls Accepted

Rev. Matthew March has accepted the call to serve **St. John’s, Chehalls**. Matt, his wife, Rachel and three children (Elizabeth, Angela and David) have moved up from the Grand Canyon Synod. Welcome Matt!

Installations

September 7 – Rev. Jonette Blakney, Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson, 10:30am

Sept 14th- Rev. Heidi Calhoun at Creator Lutheran, Bonney Lake, 3:00pm

Presiding Bishop Eaton visits in November

On Saturday, November 1st, the Southwestern Washington Synod is excited to sponsor a visit from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Eaton will speak for 90 minutes on the theme “Who is leading us and where are we going?” This time includes a question and answer period. The event will be held at the Karen Hille Phillips Performing Arts Center at PLU Campus from 10 – 11:30 a.m., with a coffee hour beginning at 9. Specific details will be available soon. Watch for Synod emails and follow us on Facebook and Twitter to learn more about her visit.

Divine Foolishness

Christ crucified is God's clearest and most complete act of love

By Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop of ELCA Reprinted by permission.



For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart" (1 Corinthians 1:18-19).

Uh oh.

Paul wrote this to the Corinthians who were going astray. They were quite smitten with the elegant formulas of the Greek philosophers. The wisdom of the wise was a good thing. Foolishness, on the other hand, was considered a moral defect. They had become boastful, and Paul had to remind them that not many of them were wise or powerful or noble according to the standards of the world.

The Corinthians had begun to believe that their own effort and understanding was the basis of their life and faith. It's clear they had not read Martin Luther's explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed.

Their cultural context is not so different from our own. We value knowledge and power and privilege. And while it might have been true that not many in the Corinthian church were "wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth" (verse 26) we are now. We can't claim to be the 99 percent. We are the 1 percent. So what does that mean for the church today?

I remember the moment in a lecture hall in divinity school when I came to the abrupt and shocking realization that theology was not rocket science. This was quite disappointing because I was in a university full of actual rocket scientists. How could I hope to be taken seriously by other disciplines in the university—by the law school, the medical school, the business school—when what I was studying was the life and times of a Galilean preacher? I longed for a lab coat, a briefcase, even a calculator—anything that would demonstrate that my discipline was just as sophisticated, and therefore valuable, as any other.

I wonder, sometimes, if the church is a little embarrassed by the foolishness of the cross. The foolishness is not just that the brutal and humiliating crucifixion of Jesus is actually the way God's love was manifested, but that God's love is so complete. This is the overwhelming simplicity of God. God loves us completely. There is no way or any need to dress that up. It just is.

A contemporary Christian mystic said, "The relationship with God is so simple and deep and true and the church just wants to glitz it up." Because this simple, deep, true relationship does not rise to the level of a complicated, technical, theoretical system.

We often obscure God with our "realistic," "wise" and "clever" schemes. So we set about launching programs. We develop five-year plans. We make sure that all of our congregations are fitted with correct signage. We look for synergies and metrics. Then we think out of the box, push the envelope, put language to it and circle back so that, at the end of the day, we've achieved a critical mass.

This is not to discount secular best practices or expertise. Heaven knows the church can

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Divine Foolishness continued

learn a lot from the business world. But it is to say that our starting point is our helplessness. Our starting point is to get human agency out of the way.

In a sense, Paul's letter to the Corinthians is a "come to Jesus moment." Do we want wisdom? Well, here it is—Christ crucified, God's clearest and most complete act of love. Come to Jesus. Do we believe it? Can we live it? This is what people are looking for—to be completely loved by the One who knows us completely.

Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that discipleship is "not hero worship but intimacy with Christ." Strangely, that intimacy actually propels us out into the world. In God's love we have been given our life so that, in love, we can give our life away. That is a divine foolishness.

Your Stories of Hospitality

Compiled by Bob and Kathy Mattson, 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 our synod newsletter.

Welcoming cyclists

We had a group of bicyclist, riding to raise funds for Parkinson's disease. (The group is called POPS – Pedal Over Parkinson's) traveling from the Canadian border to the Mexican border come to our church recently. They were greeted by about 30 of our congregants who served a potluck dinner with them. We were privileged to hear their stories and get to know who they are. They were welcomed to spend the night in our church lodge. The experience was one of faith and hope.

Submitted by Merry Quy/Pastor Julie Kanarr-Christ Lutheran, Belfair

A Performance for ALL

We welcomed hundreds of members of our community to our church to experience "The Wizard of Oz".

Submitted by Paul Muldoon Faith Lutheran, Shelton

A Thought

I do not know, but I will grow as I trust
I am called to be more than dust
That as I empty myself into service
I am served not by what I deserved
But by the grace you give ...

Submitted by Peter Stahl, Family of Grace Lutheran Church, Auburn

ELCA Ministries

Road Map to Food Drives: A By-Youth, For-Youth Guide to Feeding Communities

This new ELCA resource offers clear step-by-step advice for planning and preparing a youth-led food drive. This guide, new from ELCA World Hunger, will help your group act lovingly and wisely as you fight hunger in your community. Written by youth with input from service providers and community agencies, this resource will help you plan a unique leadership experience for youth in your congregation.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_FoodDrive_online_version.pdf

Dancing to make a difference

While serving in South Africa through the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program, Abby Henderson has witnessed the courage and resilience of young South African women, particularly as they face difficulties on an everyday basis. Sexual harassment and violence are ongoing concerns.

Abby is one of 59 young leaders who are working with

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Abby story continued



the ELCA's companion churches around the world, an opportunity made possible by the support of generous ELCA members and congregations. As a Teen Life Coach at Proudly Female, a program for 140 teen girls from two schools in Bellville, Abby mentors young women and encourages them to stay in school.

Unaccompanied and Migrant Children: Myths vs. Facts

(from Lutheran Disaster Response Blog 8/12/2014)

Since October 2013, approximately 60,000 children from Central America have crossed borders to arrive in the United States. This mass migration of children has garnered international media attention, and with it, a lot of contradictory information. So what is actually happening with this crisis at the border? Recently, a group from the ELCA traveled to the U.S. Texas/Mexico border to learn about the situation first-hand. The trip included visits with U.S. Border Patrol, social workers, pastors, an attorney, and the refugee children themselves.

Listed below are just five myths and their corresponding facts that tell what is really happening at the border. For further detail, and for more myths and facts, please read

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Migrant Children continued

MYTH: Border crossings are on the rise.

FACT: Border crossings are actually down from where they were in the 1990s, when more than 1.5 million people would come to the U.S. every year.

U.S. border apprehensions overview:

2000: 1,675,438 people

2008: 723,825

2013: 420,789

MYTH: These kids are here illegally.

FACT: Most of these kids are seeking out and surrendering themselves to U.S. Border Patrol; they are not running. When a child comes into contact with U.S. Border Patrol, Border Patrol has 72 hours to process him or her. If possible, the child is repatriated. If not, the child is processed and given a "Notice to Appear" (NTA), which references his or her court date. Because of this processing, the child is neither here undocumented nor illegally.

The ELCA and other humanitarian organizations are caring for children who are awaiting review of appeals for asylum or protection and for those who have been released from detention to join family or sponsors.

MYTH: These kids are carrying drugs and are just here to cause trouble.

FACT: Drug-related violence and exploitation is a primary reason these children flee. Drugs are being run by drug cartels, not by children from Central America who are seeking asylum.

Most of these children are seeking out and surrendering to U.S. Border Patrol in order to receive protection from exploitation and other risks. When asked why they left their homes, children say they were hungry or their parents sent them to try to protect them from being recruited into the gang violence and trafficking in their communities. They are not troublemakers; they are trying to avoid trouble.

MYTH: These kids have diseases that they will spread to us and our kids in school.

FACT: Lutheran Social Services of the South has cared for approximately 6,000 unaccompanied children in the past year, and they report fewer than a dozen children who have needed more than routine medical care. The primary health issues these children are receiving care for include dehydration, the common cold and dental needs.

MYTH: Taxpayers are paying for these kids to reunite with their families.

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Migrant children continued

FACT: When unaccompanied children are released from detention facilities while their cases are reviewed and resolved, they are released to a family member or a sponsor. They are not released until their transportation is paid for either by themselves or their family or sponsor. Often, family members send money and a bus voucher is given to be redeemed for a ticket at the bus station./



Get Ready for Global Church Sunday

The toolkit is now available at www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch, along with stores, posters, a bulletin insert and other resources. Sign up for the Global Church Sunday “event” at [www.Facebook.com/GlobalLinks](https://www.facebook.com/GlobalLinks). Learn more at <http://bit.ly/1zrqVFC>

A Prayer for Back to School from the ELCA Network (Children, Youth & Family Ministry)

A PRAYER FOR BACK TO SCHOOL:

Dear God, Thank you for the gift of children, youth and families. Please watch over _____ as they go back to school this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms. Help them soak up good knowledge and to dismiss any negative or worldly messages they may hear that do not bring glory to you. Help them treat others with kindness and respect, and to guard their hearts with the armor of Your Word. Give them joy and peace as they put their trust in you. Amen



2015 Synod Assembly

The theme for the 2015 Synod Assembly in Vancouver, WA will be “The Three Great Listeners”. This year’s event will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver. We’ll have plenty of space for displays, workshops, worship, learning and social opportunities. Our planning team is off and running—more information soon.

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

Looking for musicians, actors and actresses of all ages

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is sponsoring the production of a new musical titled, "Parables."

Production dates are November 21, 22 and 23rd. Auditions will be held September 5th and 12th at 7:00 PM and September 6 and 13th at 1:00 PM at United Lutheran Church, 1231 South 76th St, Tacoma, WA. Rehearsals and performances will be at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 3315 South 19th St, Tacoma, WA. Please come (bring a picture of yourself) and tryout, you won't be turned away! If you have questions you can email them to parablesthemusical@outlook.com. You can also call [253-531-4920](tel:253-531-4920) and ask to speak with Leslie Woldseth.

AGAPE* Concert on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:30pm at **St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Vancouver** (5607 NE Gher Road, Vancouver) on Wednesday, Sept. 3 and on Saturday, September 6th at 7:00p.m. at **Silverdale Lutheran Church in Silverdale** (11701 Ridgepoint Dr NW, Silverdale) All are WELCOME to either or both! (Dinner precedes concerts at each location.) Admission by donation. AGAPE* (also known as David Scherer) has been touring full-time as a musician for the last twelve years, performing for hundreds of thousands of youth across the US, and in eight different countries. Combining beatboxing, dancing, storytelling, poetry and his fluency in Spanish, AGAPE* connects with his listeners in a way that they really "get it". AGAPE* brings an authentic approach by translating the theological depth of his seminary training into simple songs and stories that can be understood by every listener.

Faith Lutheran, Shelton has everyone that regularly works in their kitchen get a Food Workers Permit online and their cards are posted in the kitchen. Smart and safe.

Trinity, Tacoma (Parkland) is hosting a Conversation, Book Signing and Reception on Tuesday, September 16th at 1pm with author **Peg Bowden**. **A Land of Hard Edges: Serving the Front Lines of the Border** is a series of true stories and personal reflections by Peg Bowden, a retired nurse, who volunteers at a migrant shelter on the Mexico border. The author lives in the Arizona borderlands, a sort of third country, with one foot in Mexico and the other in the United States. Check out her website: www.arroya.org

Resurrection Lutheran, Tacoma WELCA (Women of the ELCA) have invited the women from **Christ Lutheran, Federal Way**, to join together for WELCA. Christ Lutheran hadn't had a WELCA group previously.

Job Opportunities

Spirit of Life Lutheran Ministries (ELCA) seeks part-time Finance Steward to manage the financial and business resources of its ministries. Candidates should have experience and high competence in financial and business management for congregations and/or non-profits and be proficient in the business financial management software and general accounting procedures. This is a part time salaried position. Salary to be determined by experience level. Complete position description is available at www.spiritoflifelutheran.com. Interested candidates should submit resume and cover letter asap to Spirit of Life Lutheran Ministries - 3901 SE Mullenix Road, Port Orchard, WA 98367 - [360-876-5094](tel:360-876-5094).

194th Regional Support Wing

The Washington Air National Guard's 194th Regional Support Wing headquartered at Camp Murray, are looking for qualified Chaplains. Their current chaplain will be retiring soon. All who are interested are welcomed to apply. The Chaplain will continue their ministry services including Sunday services and pastoral counseling. This is a great opportunity to serve your community and your country as a minister in the Chaplain Corps. They are looking for someone, hopefully, in the S. Tacoma area that has a Biblical degree or equivalent consisting of 72 semester hours or more of graduate studies to join their Chaplain Corps. The link below will direct you to the Chaplain job listing:

<http://mil.wa.gov/jobs/documents/VacancyAnnouncement194RSWChaplain.pdf>

Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma is currently seeking a part-time **Youth Leader** to interact with and inspire the young people of Trinity, to provide a variety of Christ-centered opportunities for personal growth in faith, fellowship, service, and involvement in the congregation and the larger Christian community. Compensation package includes an apartment at Trinity. For more information and to apply, send resumes to Pastor Jeffery Gaustad at prjlg@msn.com

Calendar

September 7 God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday

September 21- Children, Youth and Family Ministry Service of Blessing at 4pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia.

October 5 Global Church Sunday

October 19 Bread for the World Sunday

January 25-28, 2015: Bishop's Convocation and Prayer Retreat for Rostered Leaders, Seabeck Conf Center (Prayer Retreat is Sunday evening – Tuesday morning and Bishop's Convo is Tuesday morning – Wednesday afternoon)

May 15-16, 2015: Synod Assembly at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA

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