



The Spirit

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News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Chicks For Ethiopia by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints~ and this, not merely as we

expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us,
(2Corinthians 8:3-5)

I have commented before that we need to be on guard to avoid the conflict between sharing the Gospel of Jesus and sharing God's compassion in acts of kindness.

I do hear people criticize the church either for only focusing on the physical needs of others or only focusing on the spiritual needs of others. This is a false dichotomy. We are called to do both.

Now we have a project that allows us to do both at the same time. Our Global Missions Committee is working to raise funds for a chicken hatchery in Ethiopia. This project will be built on the grounds of the former Haik Orphanage that we have supported in the past. It is another example of what our ministry of accompaniment can do in a sister church.

The project will accomplish the primary task of providing a sustainable food source to the people of this area. That is a reason for us to support this

project with our companion synod in Ethiopia. The uniqueness of this project is that it will also provide funds for training lay evangelists for the church.

Our companion synod has grown through the work of the trained evangelists. They need funds to continue this training. The "profits" from the hatchery will provide a sustainable income for this training.

One of the strengths of our culture is that we like to think big. We want projects that will do big things and fix major issues. That strength can be a weakness when we overlook the little things that the rest of the world depends upon.

The Chicken Hatchery is one of those "little things" that often are overlooked. Our relationship with this companion synod and the good work of the members of our Ethiopian work group has made us aware of this possibility.

I want to commend this project to you. If God has called you to help feed those who are hungry, here is an opportunity. If God has called you to help raise up workers for the harvest, here is an opportunity. I invite your support of this unique and yet simple project for reach out with food and with the Gospel.

(Editor's Note: Packets of information were delivered to each congregation in the Northwest Washington Synod containing a DVD and other materiel that explains how to participate in the Chicken Hatchery Project in Ethiopia. Please consider how you can be a part of this ministry. For more information contact Ken Halvorson at halverson7@verizon.net.)

Here 'n There

- **Ballard First Lutheran in Seattle** received a thank you note from The Church of Steadfast Love because they had loaned their van for a trip to Holden Village. A couple of the comments were: "Because of your van, we got to see the beauty of this great state of Washington. Thanks so much." "Whoa! Smooth ride. Thank you for your generosity. It is much appreciated."
- If you give to **ELCA World Hunger** between now and the end of the year you can double your gift. Generous friends of ELCA World Hunger have joined forces to create a pool of matching funds to double your gift--dollar for dollar. Between now and December 31, all gifts from individuals will be automatically matched, up to \$250,000. Visit www.elca.org and click on hunger on the homepage.
- Members at **Bethany Lutheran in Seattle** are holding a shoe drive. Members bring new shoes or boots for children for two Sundays in December. The shoes/boots are blessed before they are delivered to the children at the Mukilteo ECEAO Preschool.
- Members at **Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island** have donated more than 250 pounds of produce to Helpline. The produce comes from the garden at Bethany as well as members' gardens.
- **Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland** donated \$1,050 to Hopelink. Hopelink offers vital services to poor, homeless and vulnerable people in the Kirkland area.
- **Faith Lutheran in Seattle** collected 963 pounds of food and \$2320 for the University Food Bank.
- **Kent Lutheran in Kent**, in conjunction with the City of Kent and Catholic Community Services, is once again opening its doors to families, women and men living in their cars, woods or on the streets during cold weather. Temperatures have to be below 32 degrees. And, **Our Saviour's Lutheran in Arlington** has partnered with Arlington congregations to offer a Severe Weather Shelter. The congregations take turns hosting the shelter.

Any Tuesday or Wednesday, when the temperature is below 32 degrees, you will find members with those in need in the sanctuary for the night.

- **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** opens its doors to students from Oak Harbor High School (across the street from the church) for Mocha Monday. Members offer food, fellowship and a place to do homework. During October the congregation welcomed more than 100 students at a time.
- The Sunday School children at **Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon** are collecting pennies to be donated to *Pennies for Peace*. The pennies will be presented to Dr. Greg Mortenson (author of *Three Cups of Tea*) when he speaks at Skagit Valley Community College in January. (Editor's Note: Mortenson will be speaking on January 27. Information can be found on the calendar on the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org.)
- Last year members at **Central Lutheran in Everett** were able to gift 105 baskets of holiday food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year members are gifting 106 baskets to honor their 106th anniversary as a congregation.

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