



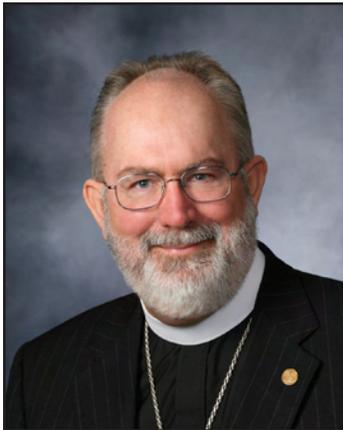
# The Spirit

Volume 26, Number 9

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

October 2009

## Together We Study The Book Of Acts by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



In my report to the congregations and rostered leaders of this synod from the 11<sup>th</sup> Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA I invited the synod to be in Bible Study of the book of Acts for the months of October and November.

In our recent debates I heard questions about the importance of scripture in our life as a church and I heard conflicting understandings about the role of the church in the world.

I want to take these comments seriously. I have always found the book of Acts as a challenging description of the church and its many issues. The story of how the church came into being is an important one for us to know. I believe that we will find that we have much in common with these early believers and their story can inform ours.

So I invite you to read the book of Acts. In the coming days I will post thoughts and reflections of my reading on the web. This is not intended to be the final word on the issues raised by the texts. Rather, I invite you to look over my shoulder as I re-engage with this part of the Bible.

Your study can be in family groups, as an individual, as a small group or in some form of congregational gathering. The format is not as important to me as the fact that we together will be looking at the same portion of scripture

for these two months. I intend to bring this to conclusion by the first Sunday in Advent, November 29.

The writer of Acts saw the church as an inspired community. That community would have to define what the role of a disciple of Jesus would be in a changing world. The structure of the synagogue would influence and give way to the assembly of the followers of Jesus.

This new gathering would make decisions, guided by the Holy Spirit that would change long held views of what it meant to be a follower of God. This new church would reach out to people outside itself so that the story of Jesus could reach the whole known world. This assembly would wrestle with how to use the variety of gifts given to it by God.

The book of Acts will raise some discomfort in us as we see the power and the conviction of the early church. We need that discomfort to instruct us on how we might reach out with power and conviction to our time and our places. We are the heirs of this legacy. How we move into the world in response is a significant question that must be addressed.

So I invite you to join me in this time of prayer and study. I pray that we will learn from God's Holy Spirit what it means to be the church of Jesus Christ and how that church is to act in God's world. I invite you to join in this time of prayer and reflection.

*Editor's Note: You will be able to easily access the Bible Study on the homepage of the synod's website at [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org).*

# Auction For Open Door Ministries

Open Door Ministries is an extended ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. Open Door provides pastoral care and referrals for persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as the gay and lesbian community. Since 1992, Open Door has provided pastoral care for well over 1000 persons.

The Annual Gala Dinner and Auction is the only fundraising event that supports this ministry. This year's dinner and auction will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Brockey Center on the South Seattle Community College Campus in West Seattle. The college is known for its fine Culinary Department, which will be serving the meal.

Cost for the evening is \$65 per person before Nov. 1 and \$75 per person beginning Nov. 1. We

are expecting more than 200 people and have a goal to raise over \$50,000.

Some of the items for bid at this year's auction are:

- Two seats in the Diamond Club section at Safeco Field
- A catered Eritrean Feast for eight people;
- Two nights/three days in a cabin at Kayak Point
- Twelve bottles of quality Washington State wines
- And much more.

To register for the event, please contact Darleen Atik at 425-672-8692 or by email [darleenatik@comcast.net](mailto:darleenatik@comcast.net).

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## Here 'n There

- **First Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon** provides a dinner meal the last Tuesday of every month at Friendship House, a shelter for the homeless. **Fir-Conway Lutheran in Mount Vernon** provides a meal the first Sunday of each month. (For 23 years Friendship House, a private shelter, has provided shelter helping those less fortunate. They provide three meals a day and more than 4000 meals a month.)
- Members of **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** reach out to community teens with *Mocha Mondays*. Students not only receive food, lots of food, but also friendship and a warm greeting. This ministry began last fall with five to ten students attending each gathering. By spring more than 25 were attending *Mocha Mondays*.
- **University Lutheran in Seattle** shares its kitchen and dining hall with *Teen Feed*. (*Teen Feed* is a meal program that serves the forgotten or marginalized homeless youth who live in the U-District.) Because *Teen Feed* is able to use the facility they are able to serve more than 800 meals each month in a safe and welcoming environment.
- The youth of **First Lutheran of Bothell** will be preparing and feeding the homeless at the Compass Center in Seattle on Sunday, Sept.

27. Following dinner they will join **The Church of Steadfast Love** (the worshipping community at the Compass Center) for worship. And, the youth from **Our Savior's Lutheran in Stanwood**, served a meal at the Compass Center on August 19!

- Members of **Nativity Lutheran in Renton** participated in the Renton CROP Walk. The Renton walk raised more than \$25,000.

*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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Information for the November 2009 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, October 7.