



News for the
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Soundings

August 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 7

Honored for 75 years of Parish Ministry: Pastor Norris Stoa

by The Rev. Paul Hoffman, pastor, Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

On a warm, sunny afternoon in late June about 40 family members and friends gathered with Pastor Stoa in the chapel of Columbia Lutheran Home in Seattle to celebrate a rare occasion. It was the 75th Anniversary of Pastor Stoa's ordination to the ministry. Not many pastors have the privilege of marking this anniversary – if you do the math you can see that one must be almost 100 to reach such a milestone. Pastor Stoa turned 99 on February 22.

The service was simple and beautiful. We sang some songs, read Scripture, prayed and the Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, was on hand to present a beautifully framed certificate marking these 75 years. Randi Valdok and her hospitality team provided some of Pastor Stoa's favorite Norwegian cookies, along with coffee. He greatly

enjoyed the opportunity to visit with all three of his children, several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and friends during the social time. And, on display were many pictures, certificates and memorabilia from his 99 years.

During the service, I read a letter about Norris Stoa's ordination service, which had been written by Norris' mother to her brother (a Chicago judge at the time). The letter gave great descriptions, which allowed all of us who attended the anniversary event an opportunity to re-live the actual service from 75 years ago.

As one would expect, Pastor Stoa joined in the leadership of the brief anniversary service by both offering a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing the congregation with the final benediction

A Word From The Bishop



Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders.

1Timothy 4:12-14 NRSV

The importance of gathering for worship and study is key to our life together. The development and use of the gifts in us is also essential to the work God has called the church to do. Paul's admonitions to Timothy remind us of this. It also reminds us of the fact that there are young people who have these gifts and who will serve as leaders in Christ's church now.

I notice in the synod calendar on our website that our campus pastors are again asking us to let them know of the members of our congregations who will be attending college next fall. I will confess that I had a spotty track record of filling out the information cards when I was in the parish. Things have changed. From this office I see the remarkable work being in campus ministry. The relationships that are developed will continue after the campus experiences are history.

Names are now emailed to the campus ministry. I want to encourage you to do this. Let the campus ministry at the school your members will attend know about their arrival. Ask your students if they are connected with the campus ministry at school. Be in conversation with the campus pastors about how they and you can build on this mutual ministry.

We are connected to and financially support all of the campus ministries in Region 1 (Washington, Alaska, Oregon, Idaho and Montana). We have two campus ministries on the territory of this synod and a third is being established (Covenant House at the University of Washington and Shalom Center at Western Washington University and a new Chinese campus ministry at the University of Washington). These are places where the leaders of the church are being formed and already leading. This is a ministry with students, not a ministry to students.

So, I encourage you to let the campus ministries know that your young people are coming to the campus. The students can be encouraged, like Timothy, to develop the gifts that are in them through the gathering around word and sacrament and in the fellowship of one another.

Editor's Note: Please fill out the referral form found at <http://uwcrossroads.com>. Send all your forms to Lutheran Campus Ministry at the UW, and they will send your referrals to each Lutheran Campus Ministry site or Partnership Congregation for you.

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A Word From
The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the August issue of Soundings is Wednesday, July 1. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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The Year With Luke:
Lectionary Series C

Eye Witnesses and Servants of the Word

Luke's account of "the things about which you have been instructed" (Luke 1:4) will be the Gospel reading each week beginning with Advent 1 on November 29th. We begin the church year as Luke presents himself as a writer who conveys to us "an orderly narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us."

In order to be more familiar with Luke's story and to help us understand the writer's intentions, the Northwest Washington Synod Bible Book of Faith work group is hosting a series of educational opportunities on the Gospel of Luke. These opportunities will provide helps for us to better understand the background, structure, and special emphases of this writing, from which he have much to learn.

Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg, professor emeritus of Religion at the University of Iowa and internationally known New Testament scholar, will lead a three-week series on the Gospel of Luke. Each series will be the same, but will be offered at different locations throughout the Synod.

The opportunities all take place on Sundays. Locations and date choices are:

- September 13, 20, 27 – Faith Lutheran, 2750 McLeod Rd, Bellingham; 360-733-3970
- October 4, 11, 18 – Bethlehem Lutheran, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville; 360-659-2022
- October 25, November 1, 8 – Central Lutheran, 1710 11th Ave, Seattle; 206-322-7500
- December 6, 13, 20 – Holy Spirit, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland; 425-823-2727

Everyone is invited to participate at the location they prefer, but host churches are located for cluster groups to meet with minimal travel.

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The educational opportunities will begin at 12:30 pm on three successive Sundays. The time will allow for members of cluster congregations to travel to the host congregations. The event will begin with a light lunch hosted by the four congregations. While there is no charge for the lunch, a basket for contributions toward luncheon expenditures will be available.

The presentation will begin about 1 pm and last for about 45 minutes and be followed by a discussion, question, and answer period. Bring along a Bible so that you can participate in the discussion. It will be helpful to attend all three sessions, since each will build on the other. However, if you are unable to attend all three, please feel free to attend those you can.

To facilitate planning for the lunch and the session, we and the host congregation will appreciate your emailing biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org. We look forward to meeting you at this educational series.

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Eye Witnesses and
Servants of the Word

Open Door Ministries will be holding its Ninth Annual Autumn Dinner and Auction from 5 to 9:30 pm on Saturday, Nov. 7, Brockey Center, South Seattle Community College. All proceeds from this auction will support the ongoing ministries that Open Door provides. Please consider donating an item, service or certificate to the auction. Providing services, or experiences, such as boat rides, catered meals, yard work, home baked goods for a number of months, condo in Hawaii, certificates, etc., are very big items that draw great bidding responses. Please contact Sylvia Maier, 206-367-4316, maiersyl@yahoo.com for procurement forms or for questions answered about possible items. Donation deadline is Wednesday, Sept. 30.

Open Door Ministry
Auction

Save The Date

Fall Bishop Convo

The fall Northwest Washington Synod Bishop Convo will be held October 18-20, 2009 (Sunday 4 pm through Tuesday noon).

This is a time for renewal, learning, worship and collegiality for all rostered personnel and spouses at Harrison Hot

Springs Resort and Spa. Our guest speaker is Professor of Reformation History and Theology Jane Strohl, PLTS (www.plts.edu/strohl.html) and Bishop Wm Chris Boerger.

Cost: \$310 (double), \$510 (single), \$620 (couple).

Payment can be made by check to: Northwest Washington Synod, 5519 Phinney Ave. North, Seattle, WA 98103.

Registration and payment deadline: Friday, Sept 18.

Please note that since this event is located in Canada you will need a passport. For more more information about Harrison Hot Springs visit www.harrisonresort.com.

Prayer Retreat

Rooted In Christ's Love

Zion Lutheran in Ferndale will host a community-wide prayer retreat from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, Aug. 22.

The theme of the retreat is *Rooted in Christ's Love*, based on Eph. 3:16-18; the day will include sessions and workshops on spiritual practices including labyrinth, rock formations and advocacy as it relates to prayer.

Workshop leaders include Marie Marchand (Director of Whatcom Peace and Justice Center), Myra Smith (Director of Laughing Flower Labyrinth Design) and Singer/song-writer Garrison Doles (The Song Chapel). The retreat is free. Refreshments will be provided. You are welcome to bring a dish for sharing at lunch. Concert by Garrison Doles will take place from 2 to 3 pm.

Please register by Mon, Aug. 16, by calling 360-366-5567 or email office_zion@comcast.net. Zion's address is 7215 Valley View Rd., Ferndale.

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly will begin with worship on Monday, Aug. 17, and conclude Saturday, Aug. 23, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Host synods are: Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod.

For the 50 days leading up to Aug. 17, which began on June 29) this church is invited to pray for wisdom in discernment for the ELCA and voting members of the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. A guide is available on the Churchwide Assembly website with suggestions for daily prayer; scripture readings; and hymns. Presiding Bishop Hanson says: "...I invite you to join in 50 days of renewed and focused prayer around the Scriptures that will be used at the assembly, when your co-workers in the Gospel are daily gathered, centered and sent into mission."

Editor's Note: Information about and during the 2009 Churchwide Assembly can be found at www.elca.org/assembly

Faith Lutheran in Everett joined together with Zion Lutheran, Memorial Community Church and the South Everett Neighborhood Center (a non-denominational family support center of Lutheran Community Services) to provide a free lunch for all children ages 18 and under from July 13 through 17. (The plan was to serve at least 70 meals per day.) The meals were provided by the Everett School District. Lunches were served at Faith.

"We are certainly responding to Jesus' commands to welcome the stranger and to feed the hungry," said Pastor Kari Reitan, Faith Lutheran in Everett. Pastor Kari said that they hope that next summer they will be able to offer the lunches for a longer period of time.

Preparing for
the 2009 ELCA
Churchwide
Assembly

50 Days of Prayer

Responding to Jesus' Command

Installation

The Rev. Julie Hutson



The Rev. Julie Hutson (second from left) was installed at Luther Memorial in Seattle on June 21. With her are Jan Cherry, Diaconal Minister, School of Theology, Seattle University; the Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, and the Rev. Dennis Andersen, pastor at Bethany in Seattle.

The Rev. Rismiller Retirement

A retirement party was held for the Rev. Jim Rismiller, pastor at Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton, on June 21.

Amidst more than 300 friends and family Pastor Jim was roasted with lots of fun and laughter. Speakers included Bishop Chris Boerger; Pastor Phil Rue (ret), Family of Grace in Auburn; Dick Lodmill, Glendale Lutheran in Glendale; the Rev. Kirby Unti, pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran in Renton, representing the South King Cluster.

Pastor Jim and his wife, Carol (shown with him in the photo) received money as a gift (from all the congregations he has served) for their travel fund. Pastor Jim and his wife gave 10 percent of their gift to the Renton Lutheran project in Renton.



Tour de Revs At Peace in Seattle



Getting ready to hop on for a spin: Pastor Kari Reiten, Faith in Everett; Pastor Lydia Wittman Grebe, Zion in Ferndale; and Nicole Klinemeir, Youth Director at Peace in Seattle.



The three pastors of the Tour de Revs are standing, getting ready to hop on their bike to head to Alaska, with Bishop Boerger (second from left); Kai Kindem (in front of Bishop); Kai's father, Pastor Erik Kindem.

More than 100 people turned out on July 9 coming from as “far north” as Pastor Lydia Wittman Grebe (Zion, Custer) and Pastor Kari Reiten (Faith, Everett) to relatives of one of the Revs who came from Tacoma. A group of Lutherans, Cyclists, community members, local food bank representatives, members of the Democratic Caucus were all present to welcome the Revs, see the amazing bamboo triplet bike, share food in fellowship and hear the message of Revelation, Revolution, and Revenue on behalf of the poor and hungry. (They capped KIRO’s 11pm news with that statement!) Media coverage included KOMO radio, Kiro-TV, the West Seattle Herald and the West Seattle Blog. Kris Kindem, Pastor Erik’s wife, probably had the best camera with best photos. Check out the Tour de Revs website and blog at www.tourderevs.org.

LPPO Update

Kirstin Docken

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www.lppowa.org.

It was 9:30 am, April 27, 2009. I hopped in a taxi outside Union Station in Washington D.C. “To the Convention Center, please.” I hate taxis; they are so expensive. But, President Obama had been invited to speak at the Sojourners Convention and there was no way I was going to miss that.

“What’s happening at the Convention Center?” my taxi driver asked.

“It’s called the *Mobilization to End Poverty*, hosted by Sojourners,” I answered.

“Christians from all over the country are gathering and President Obama might be speaking to us!”

“Wow. That is so great. Are you here by yourself?” said the driver.

“No, actually I’m meeting six other people from my church, Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle.”

“That is great,” he said

It was great! What an experience. President Obama was not able to join us in person, but he did send a video address encouraging us in our efforts that week and in our continued work as we returned home.

The days in Washington, D.C. were a whirlwind of activity. We listened to great speakers, everyone from Van Jones (the President’s new Special Advisor for Green Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) to Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, to our very own Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Mark Hanson.

We visited “The Hill” and met with the staff of Senators Murray and Cantwell and Congressmen McDermott. We asked our Representatives to:

1. Dedicate increased funding to Foreign Aid;
2. Lead the charge to cut domestic poverty in half by 2020;
3. Reform our nation’s health care system this year.

While it was inspiring to be in a conference with over 1000 Christians from all denominations, ages, and backgrounds; to lobby with more than 30 fellow Washingtonians; to dine with dozens of Lutherans from all over the country; and to bond with people from my Seattle church, this event in April was just the beginning of a *Mobilization to End Poverty*. Our work has just begun!

To find out more details on how your congregation can be involved in the *Mobilization*, please contact me or contact Patrick Meagher, Minister of Outreach at Phinney Ridge Lutheran (pmeagher@prlc.org). Our group of seven is willing to speak at Adult Forums, Bible Studies, and Temple Talks.

Some stats on the *Mobilization to End Poverty*:

- More than 1150 people attended the *Mobilization*, representing 44 states and six countries.
- Eighty-two Senators and 210 Representatives received visits from attendees during Capitol Hill Day.
- Twenty-four denominations were represented by *Mobilization* attendees.

For additional details on Sojourners and the *Mobilization*, please visit www.sojo.net.

Eucharistic Sharing in a World of Need event with Dr. Samuel Torvend, Professor of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University and author of *Luther and the Hungry Poor: Gathered Fragments* will be held from 8:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John United Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle. Call Pastor Carol Jensen at St. John United (206.784.1040) for more information. The event is sponsored by the LPPO and the Synod World Hunger Committee, and St. John United Lutheran.

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LPPO

**Feeding
Those In
Need**

Here 'n There

- **The Rev. Phil Petrasek** is retiring and has no need for his two Slabbinck chausables. They are contemporary in design, one white and the other purple, good condition, each on a hanger in a bag designed for the chausable. If interested, or need more information, please contact Pastor Phil at 360-384-1422 (office) or 360-303-7380 (cell phone), weekdays 8:30 am to 4 pm.
- Members of **Faith Lutheran in Everett** responded to the ELCA's video contest. Winning videos will be announced at the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August. Winning videos are based on public favorites as well as criteria used by judges. Rick Steves, *Europe Through The Back Door*, is one of the judges. Contest info can be seen at www.elca.org/ELCA/Video-Contest.aspx.
- **Zion Lutheran in Ferndale** has about 60 copies each of the Lutheran Book of Worship (Green Hymnal) and the Service Book and Hymnal (Red Hymnal) available for free. Please contact Faye Bone, 360-371-6284.
- Members of **Gift of Grace Lutheran in Seattle** (2102 N 40th St; corner of N 40th and Meridian Ave) are holding a service of remembrance at 11 am on Saturday, July 25. Please bring names and/or photos of those you love. Lunch and fellowship will follow the service..
- **Kent Lutheran in Kent** has received a grant that will help them in a range of work that will result in a worship environment that speaks of God's presence, mystery and love. The Worship Renewal grant was awarded by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship in Grand Rapids, Mich. In 2009 Kent Lutheran is celebrating their 120th year in downtown Kent.
- In the middle of summer, **Elizabeth Gregory Home (EGH)** in Seattle is busier than ever by providing critical housing and drop-in-center services to women in need. (EGH was established by **University**

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- † **The Rev. Sai Wai (Paul) Cheung**, Grace Chinese, Seattle
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**
- † **The Rev. Joel Lohafer**, Hope, Lynden
- † **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad**, St. Peter, Clinton
- † **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

We Pray For:

- † **The Rev. Paul Bartling (ret)** admitted to Swedish Hospital on July 13 with pneumonia and complications. Please keep his wife, Ruth, and family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 14275 Sherwood Rd NW, Seattle, WA 98177.
- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell, Immanuel in Everson**, was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. Please keep Mary and her family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to: 20333 Revilo Dr, Burlington WA 98233.
- † **Mary Jonasen, wife of the Rev. Marvin Jonasen**, pastor at Northlake Lutheran, Kenmore, who had surgery on June 16. Cards may be sent to: Northlake Lutheran Church, PO Box 82603, Kenmore WA 98028-0603.
- † **Bette, daughter of the Rev. Rita and Steve Anderson**, underwent emergency surgery on June 15 to resolve complications from earlier sinus surgery. The surgery was successful. In addition, Rita learned that one of her sisters died unexpectedly of a heart attack. Please keep Rita, Steve and their extended family in your prayers. (The Rev. Anderson is on leave from call.)
- † **Viola Kragthorpe** passed away on June 20 at the age of 89. She was the wife of the **Rev. Maynard Kragthorpe (ret)**. Services for Viola were held on July 12 at Magnolia Lutheran in Seattle. Cards may be sent to: 11825 - 14th Ave S, Seattle WA 98168-2141.

Thank You:

- † **The Rev. Chris Berry, Campus Pastor, Western Washington Univeristy, Bellingham**, would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards that he received after the death of his brother, Scott, on June 15.

Within Our Family



Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Daniel Shaw	Emmanuel Lutheran, Tacoma	7/1/2009
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
Daniel Shaw	To Southwestern Washington	7/1/2009

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Here ‘n There

Lutheran in 2006). To learn more, visit www.elizabethgregoryhome.com. In honor of Pastor Ron Moe-Lobeda’s 25th anniversary of his ordination the members of University Lutheran gave a gift of \$5,000 to EGH.

- In July the mission focus for members of **Central Lutheran in Everett** was the Haik Orphanage in Ethiopia. More information is available on the Synod’s Global Mission page at www.lutheransnw.org/committees/gmc/ethiopia.asp.
- In the month of June members of **Lord of Life Lutheran in Renton** supported *Vision*, a house for homeless women and their children. Residents are encouraged to stay 18 months to two years to receive the support and education they need to help them move into permanent housing and to provide sufficiently for themselves and their family. For more information about this ministry visit www.vision-house.org.
- **Trinity Lutheran in Lynwood** has several music opportunities this summer: The Dreyer Brothers (Country Gospel Music) during worship on Sunday, Aug. 9, at 7:45 am, 9 am and 10:30 am; and Knut Erik Jensen (Piano Recital) at 7pm on Friday, Aug. 28.
- **The Rev. Ronald F. Marshall, pastor of First of West Seattle**, had his sermon on Genesis 22, *Take the Test*,” published at Lutheran Forum Online.

Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marilyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	C	Dennis Shaffert, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	NV	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	TR	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Linda Larson, Interim
North Bend, Mount Si	PR	C	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
 A = Associate
 AIM = Associate in Ministry
 DM = Diaconal Minister
 A/SP = Associate with Special
 Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
 C = Calling
 NV = New Vacancy
 V = Vacancy
 SC = Synod Call
 TR = Transition process
 P = Profile presented (receiving
 nominations)
 TR/DO = Div for Outreach
 Transformation Process

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