



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

Soundings

Vol. 25, Issue 10

November 2009

A New Ministry And Immigration

by **Diakonda Gurning, Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship**
(Synodically-Authorized Minister)

This past August I attended the Eleventh ELCA Churchwide Assembly and witnessed a 873 – 82 vote that called for a comprehensive reform of U.S. immigration policies and processes, called for suspension of immigration raids until reform is enacted, and asked for a message on immigration this year.

In our synod, we have several ethnic specific ministries predominately serving immigrants, both documented and undocumented. These folks came to United States for a better life, fleeing persecution, oppression in their home country or for economic justice. They left everything: their house, their jobs, their friends,

their lives. The only thing they carry with them is their hope.

We know that being hopeful is not about doing nothing while hoping that somehow everything will change for the better. We know out of hope our parents or grandparents, or maybe great-great-grandparents, made it in this land far away from their country.

From my experience the stories of today's immigrants, who are in the midst of our congregations, are very similar to our ancestors. Whether they are Scandinavian, Latino, German, Chinese or Indonesian they are hard working people.

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A Word From The Bishop



Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel...

Philippians 1:27 NRSV

I have been asked by a group of pastors to be available to answer questions related to the sexuality decisions at the recent Churchwide Assembly. One such meeting is from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Prince of Peace in Everett (9320 Meadow Lane).

As I said in my pastoral letter to the Northwest Washington Synod after the assembly we need to continue in dialog post assembly. This meeting on November 14 will be an opportunity for you to ask questions about the Churchwide Assembly and the recent Conference of Bishops meeting regarding the human sexuality social statement and the ministry policy decisions.

We have known for years that we have a number of different interpretations of scripture related to homosexuality. This church has been involved in study for the past eight years on various topics related to this subject.

The decisions of the Churchwide Assembly continue to reflect the differences of perspective about how to respond to questions of sexuality and qualification for rostered leadership in this church. I hear a variety of rumors from across the church and the synod about the meaning of these decisions and the responses of congregations and individuals to these decisions.

Paul admonishes the church in Philippi to strive side-by-side with one mind for the faith of the gospel. I agree. That will not come by the bishop saying this is the one mind we are to have. It will come as we remember our calling through baptism into the Body of Christ. It will come as we focus on the ministries that God has placed before us to accomplish in the name of Jesus.

Archbishop Wilton Gregory at the 10th anniversary service for the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification noted, “None of us can clothe ourselves in Christ without putting on the whole Christ. We are made righteous so as to be in a communion of shared love with the whole body of believers from whom we can learn so much and to whom we can give so much if we seek the path of unity. That is Christ’s path, and He longs to take us with him. Let us go with him, singing for joy! Amen”

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A Word From The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the December issue of Soundings is Wednesday, November 4. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod’s website.

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Jon and Juni Recognized

The Rev. Jon (ret) and Juni Nelson, long-time social justice advocates in our region, were given the Gertrude Apel Pioneering Spirit Award at the 90th anniversary of the Church Council of Greater Seattle on September 30.

Jon is best known for his outspoken criticism of the Trident submarine base where he was arrested several times and for his long-time (more than 30 years) involvement in a prison ministry at the state prison in Monroe. Juni is best known for her amazing work with children through her child care center as well as raising 14 children (three by birth and 11 by adoption; as well as dozens more that they foster-parented for varying periods of time). They both say that their witness to the world would not be possible without the other.



Juni and the Rev. Jon (ret) Nelson at their home with the Gertrude Apel award.

The Gertrude Apel award is named after the first woman to serve as the Church Council's executive director (1930) and, to this day, is the longest serving member. In a time when women did not "lead" organizations, Rev. Apel was a tireless ecumenical leader and amazing organizer. She had a talent for fostering cooperation and always getting things done.

Congratulations to the Rev. Jon and Juni Nelson.

Q & A

Everyone is invited to attend a meeting with Bishop Boerger from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 14, at Prince of Peace in Everett (9320 Meadow Lane). This will be a time to ask questions of the bishop on the decisions made at the churchwide assembly in August regarding homosexual behavior.

Thank you for taking time to respond to the questions in the on-line survey regarding how you would prefer to receive Soundings.

This past summer I asked the readers of Soundings what they had thought of receiving an email with links to a Soundings posted on-line.

More than 125 of you responded. And more than 95 percent of you said that you preferred to receive Soundings as an email versus a print format.

Your comments helped me come to the decision that it was necessary to make a change.

So beginning this month Soundings and The Spirit will officially be posted on the synod website and an email will be sent with specific links of interest to every congregation, rostered leader and extended ministry.

For those who still prefer to receive a paper copy, that format will continue to be made available. If you have not already made this known to the synod office, please contact office@lutheransnw.org; 206-783-9292; 5519 Phinney Ave North, Seattle, WA 98103. Again, thank you for your responses.

The Bishop's Convo Committee would like to know your opinion about this year's Fall Bishop Convo held from Oct. 18-20 at Harrison Hot Springs, BC.

The survey is an on-line survey and is on the Fall Bishop's Convo page on the synod's website. (Go to the synod's homepage and under Spotlight click on Fall Bishop's Convo. On Monday night a direct link will also be available under Spotlight.) Please take the time to share your thoughts with the committee. Thank you.

Soundings Survey Your Responses Were Heard

by Margit
Peiffle, Synod
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Bishop's Convo Give Us Your Opinion

LPPO Update

by **Matt Keadle**
Seminary Intern

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www.lppowa.org.

Greetings! This is Matt Keadle, the new LPPO seminary intern for 2009-2010. It is with joy and anticipation that I begin this year among you in the state of Washington. As with past interns, my time will be shared between LPPO and St. John United Lutheran Church in Seattle.

A few words about my own story:

I grew up in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, graduated from Valparaiso University, and then accompanied my wife, Chris, as she did her first years of graduate work at Indiana University toward a PhD in Latin American History. In 2006, I entered seminary at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, and my early pastoral identity was shaped by my experiences in the city, working at a homeless shelter and in culturally and racially diverse urban congregations. Most recently, my wife and I spent a year in Mexico, where I took seminary classes in the first-ever Mexico Semester Program at the ELCA's Lutheran Center in Mexico City.

While I have only been on the job for a few weeks, one thing has already become very clear: Relationships are critical to the work that we do at LPPO. This may seem obvious, but it can easily become lost in a sea of policy details and theological principles. Our relationships, in fact, make up the bridge that gets us from faith to effective action. It is partly for this reason, then, that my work this year at LPPO will center on building closer relationships between LPPO and the ELCA congregations of Washington State.

One way we hope to build these relationships is through our Advocating Congregations Program. Advocating Congregations become congregational partners with LPPO, working closely together with us on educational efforts, public witness on legislative issues and financial support. In doing so, these congregations add

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Diana Butler Bass featured *The WAY* at Phinney Ridge in Seattle in her 2006 best selling book, *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

The WAY is an expression of the ancient catechumenate process for forming new Christians. Bring a team of clergy and laity to *Faith and Font*, a catechumenate training event to learn how to use the catechumenate in your local setting. Leaders are Pastors Paul Hoffman and Beverly Piro of Phinney Ridge and lay catechists from the Seattle area.

All sessions will take place at Phinney Ridge and include worship with the congregation on Sunday morning. Registrants are invited to secure their own accommodations. Discounted registration is offered to congregations bringing three or more participants. A brochure and registration information is available at www.catechumenate.org (Click the Events tab on the left side of the page) or at www.prlc.org. Questions may be addressed to Pastors Hoffman or Piro at 206.783.2350 or by email to phoffman@prlc.org or bpairo@prlc.org. Registration deadline is December 30, 2009.

**Adult Faith
Formation**
January 22 to 24,
2010

their collective voice to the voices of individual advocates speaking up on behalf of neighbors in need. We hope to see as many congregations as possible become a part of this program, so that through it we might work more closely together in striving for justice and peace in the state of Washington and beyond.

As you consider whether your own congregation might consider this program, we want to hear from you. What are the policy issues most affecting your congregation? How can we better be an advocacy resource for you? Please don't hesitate to call or email us, and do consider inviting an LPPO staff person for a Sunday or weeknight visit. We'll look forward to hearing from you, speaking with you, and seeing you soon!

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LPPO Update

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Immigration

They built families, homes, communities and their churches.

Like our ancestors we know immigrants. We are immigrants and yet we don't necessarily know immigration law, which is complicated and difficult to understand. But our faith requires us to do justice by learning as much as possible. As Lutherans we have many resources to help us:

- Go to the LIRS website (www.lirs.org) and read all the materials about our faith commitment and our actions.
- Share the information with your congregation, your neighbors and your friends.
- Engage conversation with immigrants. Host immigration discussion.

This is the most important faith issue impacting our church and our nation. You are critical in making the difference.

(Editor's Note: Diakonda Gurning was a synod voting member to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship worships at Phinney Ridge in Seattle.)



Bishop Boerger, center, in 2008 with members of the Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship as one of their own congregational members agreed to a voluntary deportation. Diakonda Gurning is in the back row to the right of Bishop Boerger.

Over 200 joy-filled Lutherans from congregations all over North Puget Sound filled the Grand Ballroom of the Bellevue Hilton in October to attend *Journeys to Joy*, the fundraising brunch in support the programs of Lutheran Community Services Northwest.

Journeys To Joy A Success



*LCS Refugee Services Director,
Salah Ansary.*



*The Rev. Jerry Buss,
Director of Evangelical
Mission/Assistant to the
Bishop.*

After a delicious brunch buffet, entertainment was provided by David Barela, Director of Music at Gethsemane in Seattle, on piano, and Eleanor Stallcop-Horrox, one of Seattle's finest classical singers. They delighted the audience with songs from musicals and

operas.

The keynote speaker was LCS Refugee Services Director, Salah Ansary, who shared his journey from Afghanistan to the Pacific Northwest. We also heard from Paula Medina, through an interpreter, of her gratefulness for help she received through her involvement with the Cascade People's Center, the LCS family center in the Denny triangle.

Through the generosity of our supporters \$95,000 was raised

to help us help those who are touched by our programs. LCS truly appreciates all the congregations represented at *Journeys to Joy* who gave of their time, talents, and treasures.

Bible Book of Faith

Roger Anderson, Bible Book
of Faith Synod Advocate

biblebookoffaith@
lutheransnw.org

The Book of Faith Workgroup is hosting several opportunities for engaging in conversation with and about scripture. Each of these opportunities helps us as a community to enter into conversation so that scripture becomes more familiar, we become more fluent in our first language of faith, and we understand the texts better.

Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg, professor emeritus of New Testament at the University of Iowa, is leading a series of conversations on the Gospel of Luke. These conversations help us better understand the Lukan gospel tradition. The topics covered are: *Luke Among the Gospels; What Makes Luke Special?*; and *The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus According to Luke*.

The next series will be held at Central Lutheran in Seattle on November 1, 8 and 15. The last series will be at Holy Spirit in Kirkland on December 6, 13 and 20. The session begins at 12:30 p.m. with a light lunch followed by conversation from 1 p.m. until 2:15 p.m.

A series for rostered leaders on gospel pericopes or weekly lessons for Series C is scheduled:

- Conversations on Tuesday, Nov. 10 at First Lutheran in Mount Vernon with Pastors Chris Berry and Gretchen Cohan; and at Bethel Lutheran in Shoreline with Pastor Wayne Bacus and Dr. Roger Anderson will look at texts for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.
- Conversations on January 26 at Central Lutheran in Everett, led by Pastors Lydia Wittman Grebe and Walt Rice, and at St. Luke's Lutheran in Bellevue, led by Pastors Jane Prestbye and Erik Wilson Weiberg, will look at texts for Lent, Holy week, and Easter. The sessions will be held from 9 am to 3 p.m. at a cost of \$10 for lunch.

The Book of Faith Workgroup is planning additional conversations planned for next year.

The Annual Gala Dinner and Auction

This year's Open Door Ministries' 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. Cost for the evening is \$65 per person before Nov. 1 and \$75 per person beginning Nov. 1. To register contact Darleen Atik at 425-672-8692; darleenatik@comcast.net.

Global Formation Event Nov. 13 and 14

This event will gather congregational leaders for a day and a half of worship, extended workshops, and sharing around global and domestic mission. The event will take place at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia. Cost is \$35 and includes three meals. For more information visit the calendar on the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org

Fall Bazaar and Kid's Harvest Festival

On Nov. 7 Central in Bellingham is holding two events on one day: Fall Bazaar and then a Kid's Harvest Festival. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m. a wonderful mix of our past heritage and local culture; featuring lefse, timeless treasures, lunch, goodies, crafts, and several local crafters and artists. Then from 4 to 7 p.m. there will be face-painting, lots of fun games with prizes (don't worry parents- it's not all candy), bounce-house, all in a safe and family-friendly environment. For kids pre-k to 6th grade. Cost is \$1 or free if you bring a non-perishable donation for the food bank. For more information: 360-734-7180, or email office@centrallutheran.net

Jesus, Justice, Jazz Concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14

An exciting event to benefit world hunger, featuring Christian artists David Scherer (Agape) and Rachel Kurtz, will be held at the Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby

Upcoming Events

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Upcoming Events

Ave., Everett. Two workshops will also be held at Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, prior to the concert: *Service Projects That Matter and Taking Root*. Visit www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter.

Luther and The Hungry Poor

St. John United in Seattle is hosting Professor Samuel Torvend for a half-day conference on the Reformation roots of our Lutheran service to the poor: *Luther and the Hungry Poor*. The event will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. John United in Seattle.

Extravaganza 2010

The 2010 Extravaganza is scheduled for February 4-8 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The event draws more than 500 adults, pastors and lay, who work with youth in congregations of the ELCA. The event is organized by ELCA Youth Ministry Network. For more information visit www.elcaymnet.org.

Diaconal Ministry: Discernment, History and Formation

This J-Term course will introduce participants to the historical, theological and social contexts of diaconal ministry throughout the history of the church. Emphasis will be placed on the discernment process for those who may be considering the possibility of their own calling to ministry. Event is January 12-21, 2010 at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. More information is available at www.elca.org/deaconess/jterm.

Festival of Preaching in Seattle

Pastor Scott Kramer, Lakeridge in Seattle, and Pastor Paul Hoffman, Phinney Ridge in Seattle, are on the steering committee for the *Festival of Preaching* event to be held April 19-21, 2010. The event will be held at Plymouth Congregational Church in downtown Seattle. There is an early bird registration discount. More information about the event can be found at www.festivalofpreachingnw.org.

Here 'n There

- **Prince of Peace in SeaTac** is one of 11 congregations in the area that supports Hospitality House, a homeless women's shelter, by providing a week's worth of meals.
- Members of **Bethesda in Mountlake Terrace** will be providing a day of service in support of the Community Lunch Program through Central in Seattle. Members will be serving and cleaning up afterwards.
- High school students from **Wooden Cross in Woodinville** will be serving and having dinner with the Tent City IV community on Monday, Oct. 26.
- On October 11 members from **University in Seattle** shared a potluck with the members of New Covenant Baptist Church. New Covenant is a Korean congregation that occupies the University's facility and shares their sanctuary on Sunday afternoons. Also on October 11, University Lutheran members gathered to celebrate with members from University Temple United Methodist Church, along with other partner congregations in the University District, in the full communion fellowship the ELCA now has with United Methodist Church.
- Members of Trinity Prayer Group, **Trinity in Freeland**, meet every Wednesday morning at Maple Ridge Assisted Living.
- Choral and musical groups from eight area churches, including **Our Saviour's in Arlington**, performed a benefit concert on October 4 to raise money for the homeless and others in critical need. The event was well attended and raised more than \$4,000.
- The congregation of **Bethany on Bainbridge Island** recently gave scholarships to support six men from the Church of Steadfast Love in Seattle to attend Holden Village.
- The Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Division of the ELCA approved a \$21,000 grant to **Our Redeemer's in Seattle**. The grant is to help the

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Yard Sale

With A Unique Twist

St. Luke's "enlarged their footprint in the community" at the yard and bake sale held in September. Fourteen community participants brought their items and set up shop in the narthex because it was raining.

More than the money that was raised it was the hospitality that St. Luke's extended to the community; the relationships that began that day made for a very worthwhile event. Organizations that benefitted from some of the proceeds that day were Eastside Baby Corner and Hopelink; both organizations that provide so much for eastside residents. As they say in the credit card commercial - Outreach to the Community: Priceless.

Outreach happens in many different ways; we will never realize who we might have touched that day just by opening our doors for a yard sale. As we all know - God works in mysterious ways and a yard sale might just be one of those.

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Here 'n There

congregation develop connections with their neighborhood through: communication tools, 9 a.m. worship and other music outreach events; and through small group ministry and a mid-week evening gathering (to include a meal, choir, worship and small groups).

- **The Rev. Daniel Sorensen, Prince of Peace in SeaTac**, was called to active duty for a one year (Oct 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010) to serve as the Chaplain Candidate Program Manager in Norfolk, VA.
- **Central Lutheran in Seattle** has a new website: www.loveiscentral.org.
- **Reminder:** Congregations are able to post events and activities on the synod website Calendar at www.lutheransnw.org/calendar. Congregations are also able to post job openings www.lutheransnw.org/jobs.

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. Mikkel Hustad**, St. Peter, Clinton
- † **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council
- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell**
- † **The Rev. Phil Petrasek**

We Pray For:

- † **Margaret and Jim Culbertson** (long-time members of Our Savior's, Everett, and members of Our Saviour's, Stanwood) were visiting family in South Carolina and discovered that Jim had a brain tumor and needed surgery. Margaret serves the synod as Mission Interpreter, working with the Global Mission Committee and the Stewardship Committee. Cards may be sent to Margaret and Jim c/o Our Savior's, PO Box 2927, Everett WA 98213.
- † **Solveig Schweiss, wife of the Rev. Jacque Schweiss (ret.)**, has been moved to a rehabilitation facility and her condition is improving. Cards may be sent to the Schweiss family at 2020 NW 195 St #202, Shoreline WA 98177.
- † **The Rev Bob Anderson (ret.)** is home in hospice care. He and his wife, Mary, welcome our prayers through this difficult time. Cards may be sent to: 7111 W Linden Ave #402, Seattle, WA 98103
- † At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for our companion synods: We pray for our country and the world during the current financial crisis. We pray for peace.

Within Our Family



Northwest Washington Synod Transitions		
	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
G. Mark Griffith	Mount Si, North Bend	9/13/2009
Julie Josund	Edmonds, Edmonds	9/19.2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	Bethany, Bainbridge	10/15/2009
Installations		
Diana Bottin	Trinity, Kirkland	9/27/2009
Eric Finsand	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	9/13/2009
G. Mark Griffith	Mount Si, North Bend	10/11/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	Bethany, Bainbridge	11/15/2009
Deanna Wildermuth	Holy Trinity, Mercer Island	9/27/2009
Ordinations		
Diana Bottin	Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor	9/26/2009
Resignations		
Martin Taylor	Fir-Conway, Mount Vernon	9/16/2009
Transfers in/out of Synod		
G. Mark Griffith	From SW Washington Synod	9/13/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	From Greater Milwaukee Synod	10/15/2009

Needed

The Church of Steadfast Love/Compass Center in Seattle would love to have new and used Bibles to distribute. Also, the congregation has a large (probably 7 by 9 foot) picture of Jesus from Renton Lutheran that we would love to find a new home for. Contact the Rev. Kristy Daniels at kdaniels@compasscenter.org, 206-357-3100.

Trip to Ethiopia

Ken Halvorson, Global Mission Chair, will be traveling to Ethiopia from Oct. 19-Nov. 6 to visit leadership and village churches in the NW Ethiopian Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church. He will travel with Pastor Berhanau Waldemariam, Bethel Ethiopian Church in Seattle.

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
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	P	Michael Swain, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	TR	Mitch Watney, Interim
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Supply
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	P	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir Conway	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	P	Linda Larson, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	NV	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