

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
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News for the
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Soundings

July 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 6

Make It Simple

by Jerry Buss

Director of Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop

Make It Simple is a new stewardship resource, which combines themes of simplicity and generosity. It is designed for stewardship education and for conducting an annual response for financial support of God's mission.

The whole resource is available on the synod's website, lower right hand corner of the homepage: www.lutheransnw.org. The resource is available for free.

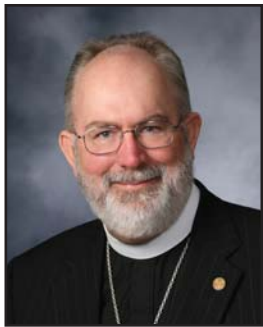
If you don't have internet access where you'll be using

the videos, you may purchase a DVD through Augsburg Fortress for \$25. (The format is DVD; Item No: ITEM000666.)

Within *Make It Simple* are many tools to guide your use of it. If your congregation or cluster would like more training, please contact me at the synod office to arrange for training. The Rev. Mary Lindberg, on our synod's roster, is and one of the authors of the resource and is also available.



A Word From The Bishop



For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

I am playing fast and loose with the text, but I want to ask what is your ministry plan. We go through phases of emphasizing strategic planning in the church. My observation is that some of us do this very well and others ignore the process. Too many of us establish plans that sit on the shelf until the next planning process replaces what has not been used in the past.

The fact remains that planning is an important tool to prioritize our work and to measure our effectiveness. To have a plan is to establish a direction that we personally and corporately want to move towards.

I want to suggest that it is important for individual pastors to have ministry plans. The work we do can often look like firefighting. We respond to the individual pastoral care issues that happen. That is significant, but it can also undermine our goals to reach out beyond our congregations into the communities we are called to serve.

So the questions remain, what do you plan to accomplish this year or in the next five years? How will you know if you are reaching your goals? Do you have anyone looking at your goals to help you revise them if needed?

We ask congregations to envision their preferred futures as part of the call process when there is a pastoral vacancy. How those visions are put into place is important work for the new pastor and the congregation.

One of the continuing goals of the Synod Staff is to support the work of congregations. That is a very broad goal. Our view is that helping you in the planning process

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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	I	Dennis Shaffert, Interim
Bellingham, Christ the Servant	PR	I	Jim Miley, Interim
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	I	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

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
John T Okan	Immanuel, Everson	6/1/2009
Daniel Shaw	Emmanuel Lutheran, Tacoma	7/1/2009
Deanna Wildermuth	Holy Trinity, Mercer Island	6/7/2009
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
John T. Okan	From Northwester Minnesota Synod	6/1/2009
Daniel Shaw	To Southwestern Washington	7/1/2009
Deanna Wildermuth	From Eastern North Dakota Synod	6/7/2009

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Here ‘n There

■ **Three ELCA pastors** have embarked on a ambitious goal to raise \$5 million for the World Hunger Appeal by riding around the country on a bamboo bike built for three. Their story can be found on www.tourderevs.org.

■ Amidst organized chaos **Ballard First in Ballard** raised \$4000 at their silent auction event. The money will be used for playground improvements.

■ **Diaconal Minister Jan Cherry** had been appointed to represent the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA on the Central Committee of the DIAKONIA Federation.

■ **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** provides a dinner meal the last Tuesday of every month at Friendship House, a shelter for the homeless.

■ **Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville** is sponsoring the second Wednesday of every month at the Salvation Army Canteen Soup Kitchen. This ministry serves people in need in the Marysville community every Wednesday night. They serve around 40 people.

would be a significant step in supporting the work of congregations. You can anticipate this question about your ministry plan to be part of our conversations in the coming months. There will not be a standardized form to fill out. This is to be your process and your plan. Without a plan or a vision, the people perish. We live in the mission field and we have significant resources. We now need to plan how we will use those resources in responding to God’s call to serve.

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A Word From
The Bishop

The Synod Office is undergoing a partial remodel from Monday, June 15, through Friday, June 26. If you are unable to get through to us by phone, please email us at office@lutheransnw.org. We thank you for your patience as we completely reorganize the administrative functions and workspaces of the office to provide office space for the new Director of Evangelical Mission/ Assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Jerry Buss.

**Synod Office
Remodel**

Soundings is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.

office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org

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.

Synod Staff:

The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org

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Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

Global Mission Event

The Northwest Washington Synod Global Mission Committee would like to invite you and your congregational leaders to attend a two-day workshop this fall.

Hosted by the Northwest and Southwestern Washington Global Mission Committees, the Churchwide Global Mission Staff will be leading this event. Over the two days we will worship, eat, fellowship and learn together. Each setting will be an example of what could be replicated in your church to increase awareness of the different cultures that surround us.

This workshop is designed for a congregation to bring a small team of lay leaders and their pastor so that each person chooses a special track to learn about. Once returning home you will have the tools and the momentum to introduce cross-cultural ministry in your congregation, either in your community or on mission trips.

Workshops are designed to meet multiple sessions and build from session to session. Themes to choose from include: Preaching, Stewardship, Social Justice (Hunger), Global Mission, Global Travel, Worship, Education and Renewing Congregations.

The event will take place Friday, November 13, and Saturday, November 14 at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia. Cost is \$35 per person.

For more information visit the event on the synod's website, located under Calendar, at www.lutheransnw.org/calendar.

A member of our Global Mission Committee would be happy to come and talk with your committee, council or pastor if they would like to know more.

For more information about our synod's Global Mission Committee visit www.lutheransnw.org/committees/gmc.

Within Our Family



We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † **The Rev. Sai Wai (Paul) Cheung**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**
- † **The Rev. Joel Lohafar**, Hope Lutheran in Lynden
- † **The Rev. John LaMunyon**, Samammish Hills Lutheran in Sammamish
- † **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad**, St. Peter in Clinton
- † **Richard Bridges**, member of Synod Council

We pray for:

- † **The Rev. Paul Stone (ret.)** was hospitalized in early May after an accident at home. Cards may be sent to Paul and Carol Stone; 16903 32nd Place NE, Lake Forest Park, WA 98155.
- † **The Rev. Warren Strain (ret.)** fell in mid-April and had to have surgery. Warren and his wife, Lavina, are the parents of the Rev. Philip Strain, Trinity Lutheran in Kirkland. Cards may be sent to: Warren and Lavina Strain, 7808 NE 51st St Apt 229, Vancouver, WA 98662.
- † **The family of the Rev. Malcolm Unseth.** Malcolm passed away on April 25. He was Pastor Emeritus of Ballard First Lutheran in Ballard and was a member of Queen Anne Lutheran in Seattle. Cards maybe sent to: Lois Unseth, 3221 NW 65th, Seattle, WA 98117.

Congratulations to:

- † Charles Byron was born to **Anna Wagner, Diaconal Minister**, Highline Medical Center, and her husband, Tom Wagner, on May 4. Cards may be sent to: The Wagner Family; 714 South 206th St; Des Moines, WA 98198.
- † **The Rev. Norris Stoa (ret.)** will be honored for his 75th anniversary of his ordination at 4 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, at the Columbia Lutheran Home Chapel in Seattle with a brief service and reception.

Here 'n There

- **The Synod Stewardship Team** sends its appreciation for your faithfulness in the 2009 mission support. Some of our congregations are facing difficult financial situations while others are not. The mission support received by the Synod is down approximately \$44,000 compared to this time last year, and expenditures are being monitored carefully. As we exercise interdependence across the synod, a special thank you to those congregations who are able to step forward with additional support.
- **Members of Trinity Lutheran in Freeland** will attend a worship service at Bethel Ethiopian Church in Seattle on June 28. The reason? Trinity Lutheran is beginning a companion relationship with the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia and the congregation wants to experience worshipping with a Lutheran Ethiopian congregation.
- Each fall the Sunday School children at **Faith Lutheran in Redmond** put together a list of charities to receive their offering money. Then the children vote on their favorite two causes. This year the children elected to make a donation to *Cheerful Givers* and *World Vision*. *Cheerful Givers* makes birthday gift bags available to under-privileged children. The donation to *World Vision* is to buy insecticide-treated beds nets to protect children from malaria-carrying mosquitoes in Africa.
- In June **Fir-Conway Lutheran in Mount Vernon** is focusing on *The Russian Seminary as their* benevolence. (For ease, the congregation shortened the name. The official name is the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Central Asia-ELCROS.)
- Every summer since 1994 members of **Queen Anne Lutheran in Seattle** offer a summer midweek worship experience using *Holden Evening Prayer*. Conversation about faith accompanied by rootbeer floats following the worship service.

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Summer Visitor

A Youth From Ethiopia

This summer, Tsegie, an 18 year old girl from Ethiopia is visiting the US. The Northwest Washington Synod is in a companion relationship with the North Central Ethiopia Synod. Tsegie is a member of a church in that synod.

The ELCA is sponsoring youths from many countries to visit the US during July 2009. Tsegie, along with approximately 50 youth from other countries, will be given one week of orientation in Chicago, spend one week visiting youth in their sponsoring Synod, attend one week at a multicultural youth leadership event and attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans.

Tsegie will be in our synod from July 11–19. She will be available to meet with different congregations during her visit to share her faith and her country. She is currently serving the Lord in her church as a choir leader. She loves to play guitar and keyboard. Her hope is to let others know about her church, culture, worship style and share the Mekane Yesus way of preaching with congregations. Tsegie would like to meet with youth from your congregation, especially if you have youth going to the National Youth Gathering.

Total cost of this experience is \$4,000. Churchwide is paying half. We need to raise the other \$2,000. Some money has been pledged already. Any amount is appreciated. We are excited that our youth will have an opportunity to meet a teenager from Ethiopia.

There are three needs: Two or three host families with whom Tsegie may stay; congregations who wish to have Tsegie visit their youth for a day or evening; and funds for her stay. Please send donations to: Camano Lutheran Church, Att: Teresa Luce; 850 Heichel Rd; Camano Island, WA 98282. For more information contact Brenda Mendez; brenda.mendez@verizon.net; 360-629-4855.

Gethsemane
Lutheran

Sharing Its Own Good Fortune

Gethsemane Lutheran Mission Endowment Committee has awarded \$45,000 among eight recipients in varying amounts. This was made possible by the interest accrued from the Mission Endowment Fund.

We are so thankful for the generous bequests given to the Mission Endowment Fund since its inception, just a few years ago. This is the second year that grants have been given. Hopefully, this will give congregation members and friends incentive to render gifts to the Mission Endowment Fund, whereby more grants may be awarded to ministries and programs committed to carry out witness to the Gospel in areas of stewardship, social ministry and evangelism. The following entities received grants:

- ◆ Gethsemane Community Services, which provides a variety of services to the homeless and marginalized individuals in Seattle.
- ◆ Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA, providing 20 seminary students to experience a cross cultural ministry in a distant mission setting.
- ◆ The Church of Steadfast Love, a congregation in the Compass Center, serving both Spanish and English speaking members, enabling increased faith development and community building.
- ◆ Elizabeth Gregory Home, Seattle, serving women recovering from hopelessness, by providing transitional housing and other services to help them stabilize and become self-sufficient and thrive.
- ◆ Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness, Seattle, to help support work to create the political will to end homelessness in Seattle and adjacent cities.
- ◆ Lutheran Community Services NW – Cascade People’s Center, Seattle, to support the center as a family

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time to be in touch with your representatives, invite one of us from LPPO to offer a ‘Preach and Teach’ at your congregation, and become familiar with social issues of our communities and state through our Advocacy Alerts.

We look forward to serving and striving with you.

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, November 21, at St. John United Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Ave. N., Seattle.

This event will feature two presentations by Dr. Torvend: *Jesus and the Hungry Poor* and, *Luther, the Eucharist and Our Current Need*. Small group sharing about our congregations’ ministries on behalf of the hungry; a eucharist; and a simple celebratory lunch will complete the day.

The event will help Lutherans and others who care about the impoverished in our communities draw more deeply on our biblical and Reformational heritage, strengthening the connection between our weekly gathering around the Lord’s table and our feeding those in need. There will also be time for advocating on behalf of the hungry.

Please bring a non-perishable food item and/or cash donation for local food banks. We also will have a basket for donations for lunch that we will forward to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Call Pastor Carol Jensen at St. John United (206.784.1040) for more information. Sponsored by the LPPO and the Northwest Washington Synod World Hunger Committee, and St. John United Lutheran.

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LPPO

Feeding Those In Need

LPPO Update

Kristi Kleinbeck
Seminary Intern

lppointern@lcsnw.org
206-464-4133;
www.lppowa.org.

Greetings from your Lutheran Public Policy Office.

We are proud to be celebrating our 25th year of Advocacy. We formally did so in April at our Sixth Annual Fundraiser & Dinner, held in the Campion Ballroom of Seattle University. There, we honored the life of the Rev. Charlie Mays, the Children's Alliance and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Vancouver through awarding them Evergreen Justice Awards. It was our pleasure to also premiere our 25th Anniversary video. In it, our Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson tells us,

“Anniversaries such as LPPO’s become an occasion to look back, look back with gratitude for all that you have done and that God has done through you for the people of the state of Washington, particularly for those who live in poverty, who are on the margins of society and for the very creation itself. But anniversaries are more importantly a time to lean into God’s future, to get up on our toes with expected hopefulness – recommitting ourselves, expressing courage and compassion and expected hopefulness for that future.”

Leaning into that future, we celebrate highlights of the past months - ecumenical Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia with 240 individuals; St. John United and University Lutheran, both of Seattle, becoming ‘Advocating Congregations’; formation of a new Congregational Relations committee; an update of our resources and database; and even our new presence on Facebook (under ‘Lutheran Advocacy Wa’).

With the difficult Legislative Session over, we invite you and your congregation to explore or ‘recommit’ what it means for you to live out your baptismal calling and be a Public Church. The summer months are a prime

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Gethsemane

support and community effort, providing support networks and information.

- ◆ Grace Chinese Lutheran Church, Seattle, supervising and supporting a Chinese Christian seminary graduate to partner with Covenant House (Lutheran Campus Ministry in the UW neighborhood) to coordinate and supervise program activities to reach Chinese students and integrate them into Christian campus activities and local churches.
- ◆ Iglesia Luterana El Camino De Emaus (Lutheran Church, The Road to Emmaus), Burlington, enriching the Hispanic community and strengthen the congregation.

Gethsemane Lutheran Mission Endowment Fund looks forward to hearing from these ministries how these grants will enable them to perform their tasks in proclaiming the Gospel to their respective communities.

Grant applications for 2010 will be available in November 2009. For grant applications, please visit Gethsemane Lutheran’s website at www.urbanfaith.org.

ELCA World Hunger *Ethics of Eating* Leadership Training Event will be held Friday, July 10, through Monday July 13, at the Campbell Farm in Wapato. (The Campbell Farm is a retreat Center on the Yakima Reservation.)

At this event a diverse group of leaders will think about ways to respond to the justice and lifestyle issues that arise from the interconnections between what we eat and the food distribution in this country.

Contact Romelia Almaraz for more information at Romelia.Almaraz@elca.org or 773-380-2696) ELCA World Hunger is underwriting this regional event.

Ethics of Eating

Good News

by Margie Fiedler

margiefiedler@elca.org

208-664-7973

The ELCA Mission Investment Fund has a “special” now thru July 1 that I wanted you to know about.....for the congregation and possibly for your own household.

We’ve added .50 percent to our rates on MissionPlus investments. Along with a great rate, you enjoy checkbook availability, a Visa debit card and the freedom to add to or withdraw from your investment anytime.

Plus, your investment is liquid, and there are no fees. And you can take comfort in knowing that in the 90-plus-year history of Mission Investment Fund and its predecessors, no investor has ever lost money on an investment. Most of all, you get the added satisfaction of helping to build your church.

The money you invest helps the Mission Investment Fund make loans to ELCA congregations and related ministries for building and renovation projects.

Take action now to get the most benefit from this offer. For all the details, go to: www.elca.org/mif and click on What’s New?

Preparing for
the 2009 ELCA
Churchwide
Assembly

50 Days of Prayer

For the 50 days leading up to Aug. 17, 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](http://www.elca.org/churchwideassembly) website with suggestions for daily prayer (beginning on June 29); 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.”

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.

Four listening sessions with our voting members were planned for May and June. There are still two more sessions planned in June. This is an opportunity for congregational members to express their opinions regarding the various resolutions and other decisions that will be made at this year’s churchwide assembly.

- ♦ **Thursday, June 18**—7 to 9 p.m. at Salem Lutheran, 2529 Laventure Road, Mount Vernon; 360-336-3600
- ♦ **Saturday, June 20**—10 a.m. to noon, University Lutheran, Seattle; 206-525-7074

At the 2008 Synod Assembly voting members elected nine people to attend the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. (Bishop Chris Boerger and Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry and Synod Vice President, attend automatically because of their leadership positions.)

Those elected were: The Rev. Chris Berry, Western Washington University Campus Pastor; Diakonda Gurning, Synodically Authorized Minister, Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship; Glenn Ryder, Denny Park in Seattle; The Rev. Jianhua (Jimmy) Hao, Grace Chinese, Seattle; Millie Fosberg, Burlington in Burlington; The Rev. Pam Russell, Prince of Peace, Shoreline; Richard Bridges, Trinity in Lynnwood; Sarah Tveit, Burlington in Burlington; and Vanessa Unti, St. Matthew in Renton.

For more information about the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly please visit www.elca.org/assembly.

Editor’s Note: Due to illness, Richard Bridges has stepped down as a voting member. The Synod Council will appoint his replacement, the person with the next highest votes for that position, at the July council meeting. The person with the next highest votes is Steven Chapman, member of Central Lutheran in Seattle.

2009 ELCA
Churchwide
Assembly

Listening Sessions