



Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 3

March 2010

Ongoing Need In Haiti

(The ELCA and our partners are in Haiti. A new situation report was posted on the ELCA Disaster Relief dated 2/5/2010.)

Since the earthquake in Haiti one month ago, the ELCA has received more than 27,000 gifts totaling more than \$4.2 million to support humanitarian relief efforts in Haiti. According to ELCA Treasurer Christina Jackson-Skelton, the ELCA received an additional \$320,000 in a matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, bringing the overall total to more than \$4.6 million in gifts to the ELCA.

“We’ve seen a phenomenal response,” said the Rev. Daniel Rift, director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal. Rift said members of the ELCA have been “faithful in their giving, bearing witness to the hope for the Lutheran church and communities in Haiti.”



Building shelter.

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A Word From The Bishop



“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”

Hebrews 13:2 NRSV

For those of us in the Synod office and on the planning committee it is time to think about the 2010 Synod Assembly. This year we will gather on May 14 and 15 at the Comcast Arena in Everett. Our theme will be *Living the Good News of God's Welcome*. Dr. Amy Oden from Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington D.C. will be our speaker. Dr. Oden presents the theme of hospitality in a way that would be consistent with the author of the book of Hebrews.

It is time now for the rest of the synod to begin preparations for the assembly. Resolutions that will be acted upon need to be submitted by March 1. Nominations for Synod Council and the 2011 Churchwide Assembly are also due by March 1.

I have frequently heard, since last summer's Churchwide Assembly, that our members do not know how to affect the decisions of the larger church. It is through resolutions and memorials that issues are placed on the Synod Assembly agenda and on the churchwide assembly agenda. The people who will represent us in 2011 will be elected at this synod assembly. One half of the Synod Council, the Vice President and the Secretary of the Synod will also be elected at this assembly.

I ask your prayerful consideration of who you would recommend to the nominating committee. I hear people say that no one is listening to their point of view. I would ask them to consider being nominated to one of these offices so that their point of view might be represented and so that they could listen to the other points of view that are being presented.

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Representative government is messy. It involves looking at the whole picture and not just at one's own interests. It does require listening and maybe some compromise. There are many possible structures that the church could have chosen as a means of organizing our life together. Representative structures are not mandated by the scriptures. They are the method we in the ELCA have chosen.

I invite your nominations and your resolutions. Your concerns will be addressed if they are presented on time. If you need help in writing a resolution or in finding the proper forms for submittal to the nominating committee please call the Synod Office.

I read the book of Hebrews to be saying that we need to be showing hospitality to each other as we come together in this year's Synod Assembly. That hospitality begins now as we prayerfully plan for this assembly and as we support each other in anticipation of how God will use our work at this Assembly.

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A Word From The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the April 2010 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, March 3. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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Earthquake in Haiti

One-quarter of Haiti's population has been directly affected by the earthquake and that presents an overwhelming challenge for those responding with humanitarian aid, said Rift. "The only way to truly, effectively respond is to build long-term partnerships with Haitians," he said.

Financial gifts from the 4.6-million-member ELCA are used to purchase and distribute medicine, drinking water, food, emergency shelter, sanitation and hygiene kits and other materials to aid survivors of the earthquake. Lutherans are also working to provide psychosocial services and other support.

The funds are distributed to three partner organizations of the ELCA working on the ground in Haiti -- The Lutheran World Federation (LWF); Lutheran World Relief (LWR); and Church World Service (CWS).

Chris Herlinger, CWS communication officer, was on assignment in Haiti this month. In a Feb. 10 CWS news release, Herlinger said that in a perfect world the distribution of humanitarian aid after a major disaster would occur without a hitch. "Everything would be orderly, and proceed with due precision," he wrote.

Haiti is far from a perfect place, wrote Herlinger. "Humanitarian practice, even during relatively small emergencies, is hard and imperfect work -- a fact often not fully understood or appreciated by donors and even non-emergency staff members of humanitarian groups," he said.

"When compounded by the many challenges posed in Haiti -- bad infrastructure even before the quake, the massive scale of damage, the toll the quake has taken on everyone -- some acceptance of imperfection and the need to improvise become part of the daily realities of aid workers," he wrote.

During his trip, Herlinger said he met Emmanuela Blain, a medical doctor helping to coordinate Action by Churches Together (ACT) and LWR's distribution of food and non-food items, including CWS kits in and outside of Port-au-Prince. Blain told Herlinger, "You need to be patient to do this kind of work."

(Editor's Note: This article is from an ELCA press release dated Feb 12, 2010. For the full release visit www.elca.org and click on News Releases on the far right side of the page. If you would like to make a financial contribution or to learn more how the ELCA is helping please visit www.elca.org/earthquakehaiti.)

A series of four webinars from the Alban Institute will be hosted at the Synod Office beginning Tuesday, Feb. 23. The webinars take place on four consecutive Tuesdays through March 16.)

Each webinar addresses ways of connecting your congregation's ministry to the community surrounding your church's location. The cost for each webinar will be divided up between those who attend (estimated cost is \$5 per person for each webinar). Jerry Buss, Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop, will arrange for the webinar so you do *not* need to register individually. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. so the group is in place when the webinar begins at 11 a.m. Each will last one hour. You are encouraged to bring lunch to eat during an optional follow-up discussion that will be finished no later than 1 p.m.

You are welcome to bring friends and members of your congregation. If you plan to attend, please email Jerry so he'll know how many people to expect:

buss@lutheransnw.org.

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Earthquake in Haiti

Webinars Offered

Connecting Ministry and Neighborhood

[www.alban.org/
learningdetail.aspx?id=8903](http://www.alban.org/learningdetail.aspx?id=8903)

Important Dates

2010 Synod Assembly

The 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place May 14 and 15 at the Comcast Arena in Everett.

Important deadlines are: **Resolutions and Nominations are due March 1.**

A link to the resolution and nomination forms is located on the homepage under Spotlight.

On-line registration will be live this week. Deadline for final registering on-line is May 6. We encourage you to register on-line to avoid delays and long lines. Display request forms need to be received by April 14.

This year the Northwest Washington Synod has only mailed one piece of information to congregations. As additional information becomes available it will be posted on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2010/. At the Comcast Arena voting members will receive a notebook with all the necessary materials.

Our keynote speaker is Dr. Amy Oden. Dr. Oden is Dean and Professor of History of Christianity at Wesley Theological Seminary in Washington DC. In pursuing her interests in the history of Christianity and hospitality, she has recently finished a book project entitled *God's Welcome: Hospitality for a Gospel-Hungry World*.

Our Churchwide Representative is the Rev. Ruben Duran, Director for New Congregational Development in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA.



Courage for the Future—During these times of economic hardship, the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State (LPPO WA) plays a vital role--advocating in the halls of power on for a just and sustainable world.

In carrying out this work, LPPO is only as strong as the participation of our advocates and partners.

In this spirit of partnership, you and your congregation are invited to Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington's annual fundraising dinner and silent auction on Sunday, April 25th, from 4:30 to 7:00pm at Renton's Spirit of Washington Event Center. The evening's theme, *Courage For the Future*, celebrates LPPO's intention to remain a strong voice for justice across Washington State. To RSVP, donate an item for the auction, or otherwise support the event, visit www.lppowa.org.

And remember you can invite LPPO to your congregation to preach and teach on Sundays throughout the year.

Lutheran Immigration Services (LIRS) is asking congregations to dedicate a Sunday in February or March to focus on advocacy for immigration reform.

A Stand for Welcome Sunday can increase awareness about the difference people of faith can make on behalf of migrants at risk. With just a few intentional minutes you can ignite people for action and help them connect to an important cause for justice. *Stand for Welcome Sunday* resources include bulletin insert, mythbuster, Bible study and a postcard.

All these resources and more are available at www.lirs.org/sfw.

LPPO Update

by **The Rev. Paul Benz**

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

A Stand For Welcome Sunday

Whither Iran

The Reflections of an American-Iranian

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, Our Redeemer's Lutheran in Seattle is offering an evening with Abdi Sami, an Iranian-American cinematographer.

Abdi travels back and forth to Iran a number of times every year and therefore has good insights into what is going on there. (Abdi was the cinematographer for Rick Steves' recent film on Iran.)

If you are interested in understanding more about the culture and current politics of this key Middle Eastern country, please join us from 7 pm to 8:30 pm. The church is located at 2400 NW 85th Street. (Parking is available to the west of the church.) For more information, call 206-321-497. This program is jointly sponsored by Our Redeemer's Peacemaker Taskforce and the Rauschenbusch Center of the Church Council of Greater Seattle. The program is free. Refreshments will be served.

Love Fearlessly, Do Justice

God calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Too often, though, fear persuades us to "let someone else" stand up for our oppressed neighbors around the world and in our own cities. But God has the power to fill us with a love that overcomes fear and empowers us to do justice.

In over two decades of living in the Central American country of Honduras, Dr. Kurt Ver Beek has come face to face with oppressive employers, violent land-grabbers, brutal gangs, and corrupt politicians. Ten years ago he helped found the Association for a More Just Society.

You are invited to a unique evening with Dr. Ver Beek at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church (www.hs1ckirkland.org), 10021 NE 124th Street Kirkland. Come ready to be challenged and inspired. For more information, call 1-800-897-1135 or email jill@ajs-us.org or Pollie@gn101.org.

Spring Bishop's Convocation

Please note that the one day Spring Bishop's Convocation that was scheduled for Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Bellevue, *may have to rescheduled*. The committee apologizes for the inconvenience. Once details are worked out you will be notified. Thank you for your patience.

2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

The 2010 Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 14, and Saturday, May 15, at the Comcast Arena in Everett. Please see Bishop Boerger's article beginning on page 2 and an Assembly article on page 6.

2010 National Worship Conference

The 2010 National Worship Conference, jointly sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada is called, *Taking Care of the Neighborhood: Worship as Public Work for the Common Good*, and it will be held July 4-7 at the Vancouver School of Theology, on the UBC campus. Deadline for early-bird registration is March 15. For more information including speakers and registration please visit <http://nationalworshipconference.org>.

Holden Youth Weekends

What are the Holden Youth Weekends?—The Holden Youth Weekends are retreat events for high school youth groups and their leaders, held at Holden Village. The program includes sessions, small group conversations, a service project and free time activities. The theme for 2010 is: *Thr33 – exploring the third day of Creation to the Trinity*. Choose from three weekends in May: Sat., May 1 to Mon., May 3; Sat., May 15 to Mon., May 17; or Sat., May 22 to Mon., May 24. Registration opened Feb. 1. More information at: www.tlc.edu/holden. For more information, email holden@tlc.edu.

Upcoming Events

Here 'n There

- The Chrism Mass is scheduled for 11 am on Tuesday, March 31st at Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle. The service is designed for pastors, for renewal and support as you go into Holy Week, but congregational members are also welcomed. There will be a light lunch after the service. Please contact the Rev. Bev Piro, bpiero@prlc.org, at Phinney if you plan to attend.
- In January **the congregation of Fir Conway** had a special offering for Tierra Nueva. Tierra Nueva is an ecumenical ministry. The vision of this ministry is to serve migrant farm workers, new immigrants and permanent Hispanic residents in Western Washington.
- **The congregation of First Lutheran in Bothell** announced that the proceeds from their Heritage Fair held in October was distributed to local and international organizations. \$7500 was shared among 15 organizations. And the combined choirs of First Lutheran in Bothell and Bothell United Methodist Church filled the Methodist Church sanctuary with Vivaldi's *Gloria* on December 13.
- Members of **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** held a roadside clean-up on January 9 along their adopted stretch of Highway 20 north of Oak Harbor.
- The members of **Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle** were thanked by Lutheran Community Services Northwest for their food donation. LCSNW was able to help eight families around King County. They were Bhutanese families recently arrived from Nepal, Burmese people from Thailand and two Russian families.
- **Magnolia Lutheran in Seattle** began offering a Sunday morning adult education class called *The Bible: You Don't Have To Check Your Brains At The Door*. The class is being led by Alan Waite and is held on Tuesday evenings. Alan is a graduate of California Lutheran University and has been active in the Lutheran renewal movements.

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Here 'n There

- **Ken Halvorson, chair Synod Global Mission Committee and a member of Trinity Lutheran in Freeland**, will share his reflections on his recent trip to Ethiopia, one of our synod's companion synod's, to his home congregation of Trinity Lutheran in Freeland on February 21. And the 2009 Holiday Bazaar generated \$10,500.
- The childcare at **Our Saviour's Lutheran in Arlington** has started something new. The Childcare children now have chapel once a week instead of once a month. Pastor Marillyn Schultz will lead the chapel, or a member from Our Saviour's.
- Tape Ministries uses the parsonage at **Prince of Peace in SeaTac**. They donated \$10,000 to the congregation as a thank you for allowing them to use the facility.
- **Prince of Peace in SeaTac** has 20 children registered in their Kid REACH Tutoring Program and 20 volunteers tutoring them.
- Members of **Central in Everett** were able to help the Maritime Ministry: they gave \$200 in cash plus filling 23 ditty bags filled with donated items.
- Six women from **Gloria Dei Lutheran in Alderwood Manor** gathered for a day of hand work. By the end of the day there were 14 completed items plus 12 crocheted items.
- **Queen Anne Lutheran women** baked and packed 18 boxes of cookies for shut-ins and friends of the church; adopted two families from Queen Anne Helpline and held a bake sale that raised \$1200 to benefit the MaaSai Girls' School in Tanzania. ■ For Thanksgiving members of **Prince of Peace in Everett** delivered 36 baskets to need families in their community. They then delivered food and gifts to 38 families for Christmas. Their newsletter said, "In a time of economic downturn, this

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Within Our Family



We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- † **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. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- † **The Rev. Chauncey Christofferson (ret)**

We Pray For:

- † **The Rev. Stan and Diane Jacobson** who returned to Washington from Mexico for a period of time to tend to some health issues with Diane's mother. They will be at home (after Monday, January 25) at 25331 - 62nd Ave S #T-108, Kent WA 98032 or by phone 206-445-3576.
- † **The family of Ken Olson, husband of Roselyn Olson, Associate in Ministry.** Ken passed away on January 21. A memorial service was held on February 12 at St. Luke's Lutheran in Bellevue. Cards may be sent to: Roselyn Olson, St Luke Lutheran Church, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue WA 98004.
- † **Marian Guntermann, mother of the Rev. Penelope Guntermann, mother in law of the Rev. Michael Clifford, both of Lutheran Counseling Network,** died of cancer on February 3. Her diagnosis had come less than a week before her death. The family will gather together in Portland to grieve their loss. Cards may be sent to: Penelope Guntermann, c/o Lutheran Counseling Network, PO Box 55518, Seattle WA 98155.
- † **The Rev. John O'Neal, Sr. (ret.),** Southwestern Washington Synod, father of the Rev. John O'Neal, Jr., Grace Lutheran in Des Moines, died on February 10.

He was 94 years old. John is survived by his wife, also a Lutheran Pastor, the Rev Margaret O'Neal. A Memorial Service was held at Bethlehem Lutheran in Tacoma.

Cards may be sent to: Rev. John O'Neal, Jr., Grace Lutheran Church, 22975 - 24th Ave S, Des Moines, WA 98198; and the Rev. Margaret O'Neal, Multi Care Allenmore Hospital, 1901 S Union Ave, Tacoma, WA 98405.

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Within Our Family

† **Pat Christensen, wife of the Rev. Dick Christensen (ret.)**, died early February of cancer. A Memorial Eucharist service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27 at Faith Lutheran Church, 2750 McLeod Road, Bellingham, WA 98225; 360-733-3970. Cards may be sent to: Dick Christensen, 220 Milton St, Bellingham, WA 98229.

† **Marilyn Bomgren, wife of the Rev. Chuck Bomgren (ret.)**, died on February 6, of cancer. A Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 - 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA 98007; 425-746-2529. Cards may be sent to: Chuck Bomgren, 366 - 224th Place SE, Issaquah, WA 98029.



On January 24, 2010, the **Rev. Henry Ericksen (ret.)** preached at Ascension Lutheran in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, for the 50th Anniversary. Pastor Henry started that

congregation. He and his four children and their spouses flew in for the celebration.

News and Notes

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Resignations		
Shannon Anderson	Central, Seattle	2/21/2010
Joel Ingebritson	Bethlehem, Seattle	5/31/2010
Martin Taylor	Roster of the ELCA	3/31/2010
Mitch Watney	Grace, Des Moines	2/21/2010
Calls Accepted		
Mitch Watney	Metro DC Synod	2/22/2010
Deaths		
Robert J Anderson	Seattle, Washington	1/9/2010
F. Warren Strain	Vancouver, Washington	1/16/2010
Retirements		
Jean Barrington	Trinity Community, Point Roberts	1/31/2010
Sarah France	Morning Star, Monroe	2/28/2010
Troy Faith Ward, Diaconal Minister	Josephine Sunset Home, Mount Vernon	3/31/2010
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
Mitch Watney	to Metro DC Synod	3/7/2010

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Here 'n There

was an effort above and beyond. We are grateful and so were our receiving families.”

- **The Rev. Marvin Jonasen, Northlake Lutheran in Northlake**, has written a book called, *Why Have All The People Gone: The State of the Christian Church in America*. It was released in early January.
- **The Rev. Ronald F. Marshall, First Lutheran of West Seattle**, published his sermon, *Bless St. Mary*, based on Luke 1:48, at Logia online (Blogia), posted January 30.

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	I	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	I	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	I	Michael Swain, Interim
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	TR	John O'Neal, Pastor; Mitch Watney, Interim Associate
Everett, Zion	PR	I	Michael Ross, Interim
Ferndale, Christ	PR	TR	Christen Anderson, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	I	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	NV	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	NV	Supply
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