



Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 5

May-June 2011

Church in the Digital Age Faithfully Navigating the New World of Social Media

We are living in a world where words like “Twitter”, “Facebook”, and “Google” are much more common than words like “worship”, “fellowship”, or even “church”. Even in our own congregations, the new digital age is reaching our pews. No longer is it “enough” to simply have a church website. Today, effective social media and online communications mean finding ways to engage our visitors and parishioners using tools that are new to many of us.

On Saturday, May 7, join Will Boyd, owner of 3 Story Church, a leading church website and communications firm, for a journey into this brave new world of social media and online communications for churches. This will be a

fun and informative workshop that will put the changes that are happening around us in a language that churches can understand. Topics that will be covered include:

Reaching Out Through Facebook and Twitter
Podcasting and Online Video
What Makes for an Effective Church Website
and more.

You will also have the opportunity to ask whatever questions are on your mind as we explore together how God is calling us to enter this new space.

Will Boyd has been helping churches navigate these waters for more than four years. He has worked with congregations and organizations all over the

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A Word From The Bishop



**The Rev Wm
Chris Boerger**

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters.

1 Corinthians 1:10-11

This article always begins with a scripture verse and this month I am at a loss. I want to write about making sure that your constitution is up-to-date. That is not a subject that scripture addresses. The fact is that most of us go to the constitution when there are quarrels among us. That is not the time to write the rules. The rules were written to help us resolve our conflicts or to separate from each other when appropriate with important safe guards.

Twice in my tenure as bishop I have had to raise the possibility of discipline of a congregation because the congregation's and the ELCA constitutions were at odds. In section 9.22. of the ELCA constitution it says: "All congregations of this church shall abide by the provisions of 9.21., 9.62 and 7.46." of the ELCA constitution. These three chapters deal with the criteria for membership in the church, the mechanisms for disaffiliation from this church and for removing a pastor from the call. In the process of merging our predecessor churches, congregations were not required to change their congregational constitutions.

When a congregation is in conflict with the synod or churchwide, or when a congregation is in conflict with its pastor, it is critical that the rules governing the ending of the relationship be clear and consistent. We will work to try to resolve the problem without resorting

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to the constitutional processes. When this is necessary, it is important that they agree.

As a corporation of the State of Washington the congregation can use the process in its constitution. If that process is different from the one described in the ELCA constitution, I am required to act on this breaking of our mutual agreement to use the same processes. It would be best if we all used the same language in the first place. So, I am asking that you check your constitutions. It is very important that the language of the model congregational constitution be used, especially in chapters 7 and 9.

St. Paul calls on us to find our unity in Christ. When we cannot or will not do that, then the constitution becomes our fallback position. The Synod Office is ready to help you with any question you might have about the governing documents of your congregation.

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A Word From The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the July 2011 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, June 1. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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It's Painless!

“It’s painless,” says the Rev. Laurin Vance, pastor at Burlington in Burlington, about taking the Health Assessment.

Have you taken the ELCA Health Assessment?

You will receive \$150 if you do plus, if you continue working on improving your health through the year, you will receive an additional \$300.

And, you will save your congregation 2% on medical costs this year. A total of \$33,000 for the synod.

You have until Saturday, April 30.

Visit www.elcabop.org. It’s confidential and will take you ten minutes.



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Technology

country such as Plymouth Congregational Church in Seattle, Central Woodward Christian Church in Michigan, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Sojourners Magazine, and more.

Cost is \$30 per person, or \$25 per person for groups of three or more from same congregation.

The event will be held from 8:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 7, at University Christian Church, 4731 15th Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105.

To register and for more information visit <http://www.clnorthwest.org/050711event.htm>.

A premiere interfaith conference of Jews, Christians and Muslims will take place Friday, May 6, and Saturday, May 7 at Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral, Seattle: *I Am My Brother's Keeper: Confronting Islamophobia*.

Iman Feisal Abdul Rauf is the keynote speaker on Friday night. The title for his talk is: *What's Right with Islam is Right with America*. An American Sufi, Iman Abdul, drew national attention for his plans to build the Islamic community center two blocks from Ground Zero. His session will take place from 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Saturday will include more speakers, workshops and an interfaith prayer service at the close of the sessions led by Episcopal Bishop Greg Rickel, Iman Fazal Hassen, of the Eastside Islamic Center, and Rabbi Jim Mirel of Temple B'nai Torah.

On Saturday registration opens at 8:30 a.m. Sessions will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be hosted by several local mosques.

Cost for the conference is \$55, including Saturday lunch and dinner. More information including schedule, speakers and registration is available at www.confrontingislamophobia.org. The Northwest Washington Synod is one of the sponsors for the event.

Did you attend the Spring Bishop Convo on April 5 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett?

The Convo committee would like you to take a survey to give them your feedback on the event. You should have received an email with a link to the survey. If you haven't, or if you by mistake deleted the email, you can find the link on the synod's home page or on the Bishop Convo page on the synod's website.

I Am My Brother's Keeper: Confronting Islamophobia

What Did You Think?

The Work of Worship

An event called *The Work of Worship: A workshop for worship leaders* will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor, 3215 Larch Way, Lynnwood WA 98036; phone 425-776-

2444.

This workshop will be led by Tara Ward and Ryan Marsh (Church of the Beloved) and Aimée and Joel Pakan (Tangled Blue).

What will we do?

You will worship: You will experience a worship which has gone through a collaborative process by the presenters. You will work: You will be asked to be a part of the work of creating worship for the faith community. And you will dialogue about the *Work of Worship* with the presenters from the context you are currently leading.

What is the cost?

\$30/person (lunch included), or \$20/person if five or more register from your church, and \$15/student.

Registration Deadline Approaching

The deadline for registering for this year's Synod Assembly is fast approaching. **The deadline for online registration is midnight on Thursday, May 5.** Remember, if you register online you will be able to quickly move through the check-in line to get your notebook and your information packet. And that means you will have more time to visit with others and to get a cup of coffee or tea.

On Friday, May 13, registration opens at 8 a.m.; new voter orientation will begin at 9:15 a.m.; and opening worship and the opening of the assembly at 10 a.m.

This year's synod assembly focus is on the ELCA's Malaria and HIV/AIDS Global Health Initiatives.

Malaria

Malaria is preventable and treatable, yet far too many still die from this disease. A child dies from malaria every 45 seconds. Today, we are in a special moment when we can turn this around. Already, the rate of death from malaria among children has been reduced by a third. And now you are invited to join with the ELCA in working to eliminate deaths from malaria -- for good. The ELCA Malaria Campaign will help our companion churches in Africa provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, mosquito control and comprehensive health education -- methods proven to be highly effective in fighting malaria. More information on what the ELCA is doing can be found at www.elca.org/malaria.

HIV/AIDS

Named the "single greatest reversal in human development" in modern times, the HIV and AIDS crisis has claimed more than 25 million lives. But amid the sobering realities of HIV and AIDS there is cause for great hope. We are seeing real progress in efforts to: halt the spread of HIV through effective prevention, treatment, and care; eliminate the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive; and reduce the conditions of poverty that contribute to the spread of HIV. More information about what the ELCA is doing can be found at www.elca.org/aids.

Learn about the ELCA and global engagement through this fold-out world map brochure, which includes short companion relationship stories. Contact 800-638-3522, ext. 2580 or order online at www.elca.org/ resources. Shipping and handling are free for orders under 50.

Assembly Focus

2011 ELCA Global Mission Report

LPPO Update

Advocating Congregations Network— Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) is building a statewide network of advocating congregations who say yes to: their members standing up/speaking up on the critical issues of the day; they see advocacy as a part of our baptismal vocation (striving for peace and justice in all the earth); they see the distinction and complement between the hand of charity and the hand of justice. Please contact David, Ryan or Paul at lpoooffice@lcsnw.org or 206-464-4133 if you are interested in knowing more.

ELCA Social Policy—LPPO is always willing to facilitate conversation in your congregation on the multitude of societal issues that our social policy covers. Currently the draft statement on Genetics is available at www.elca.org/socialstatements or your congregation should have a copy. If you'd like LPPO to coordinate something on this or any social statement in please contact us.

Washington Association of Churches (WAC)—LPPO is in conversation with WAC to create one statewide religious advocacy organization. Currently a negotiating team of six has been meeting regularly. Questions or concerns please contact Carol Jensen (statewide council chair) at revcjen@aol.com or Paul Benz – director at pbenz@lcsnw.org.

Job Opening

First Lutheran in Bothell has an opening for a Worship Organist/Keyboardist. This position reports to the Pastor and Worship and Music Committee. It is a salaried, exempt, part-time position (10-12 hours per week). For the qualifications, responsibilities and terms of employment for this position please visit www.lutheransnw.org.jobs. Or contact the Rev. Tor Kristian Berg, First Lutheran Church, 10207 NE 180th St., Bothell, WA 98072; tberg@bothellfirstlutheran.org

Here 'n There

- **Central in Everett** will be hosting a special luncheon after worship on Sunday, May 22, to honor Pastor Jeff Russell and his 20 years of serving Central.
- Members from **Bow in Edison** were recently thanked for their financial support by Friendship House.
- This year, during Lent, members of **Our Redeemer's in Seattle**, are remembering those people who do not have food, money or resources to simply live. And, on Good Friday, April 22, members will be holding a 24-hour prayer vigil beginning at noon. Members are invited to take one-hour during the vigil.
- The Concordia College-New York Tour Choir will be singing at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, at **Ballard First in Ballard**.
- On Palm Sunday members of **Faith in Seattle** held a Spring Food Drive. These donations of food and cash help support the University District Food Bank in Seattle. The Food Bank is also supported by members of **University in Seattle**. University Lutheran was recently thanked for their financial gift. The food bank supports 1,000 families each week.
- **Members of Nativity in Renton** will be participating in the Renton CropWalk to help the hungry on Sunday, May 15. And, the Nativity Choir will be performing the National Anthem at the Tacoma Rainiers game on Friday, July 1. The game begins at 7:05 p.m. at Cheney Stadium.
- **Members at Mount Si in North Bend** have been learning about global cuisine during their Lenten suppers and how their gifts to ELCA World Hunger are making a difference. The offering taken during these suppers will go to ELCA World Hunger.
- **Members of Kent in Kent** held a Sudanese Worship in April. The services were conducted in Nuer. Beginning in May, and between services, members will have an opportunity to explore the rich history and traditions of the Church in Africa. Each week the focus will be on a different country in

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Here 'n There

Africa to learn more about our Christian and Lutheran brothers and sisters on the other side of the world.

- **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** will be splitting their Lent and Easter offerings between ELCA Disaster Relief and ELCA World Hunger .
- Daniel and Arielle Knapp, two talented children from **Holy Trinity on Mercer Island**, recruited other musically talented children to play in a benefit concert for the children of Japan affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami. The concert was held on April 17.
- The youth at **Light of the Cross in Bothell** recently held a car wash to help offset out-of-pocket medical expenses for a Jackson High School senior who recently had a double lung transplant.
- **WELCA** is now collecting inventory for its June 17 and 18 rummage sale. Half of the proceeds from the sale will support WELCA's mission programming, and half will support Cathy and Jyoti Mutschler's living/medical expenses during Jyoti's illness. Cathy has served as Youth Director for Faith in North Lakewood. Her daughter, Jyoti, has been healing since last July from a brain illness at the UW Hospital.
- In 2010, **through their Hot Meals Program, members at Gethsemane in Seattle** served: 8,000 sandwiches; 500 gallons of soup; 5,000 glasses of juice; 480 plates of crackers and pickles; 480 goody (dessert) plates; thousands of cups of coffee; hundreds of donated desserts and sandwiches from Starbucks; and 52 movies.
- Members at **Central in Bellingham** shipped the following totals to LWR in 2010: 180 quilts; 107 School Kits; 159 Health Kits; 124 Layettees; and 25 extra bath soap bars.
- Come rain or shine members at **Central in Everett** will be picking up trash in their neighborhood in mid-May. With trash bags, gloves and hand sanitizer they will go to their assigned area and pick up garbage.

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell, On Disability**
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife,
Marita
- † **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife
Linda
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

We Pray For:

- † **Betty Houston, mother of Mary and mother-in-law of the Rev. Marvin Jonasen**, died peacefully on April 7. Though in her last years she struggled against cancer, her 89 years of life were filled with service and the blessings that abounded for her in living her faith. Cards may be sent to: Mary Jonasen, 20214 - 13th Drive SE, Bothell, WA 98012.
- † **The family of the Rev. John S. Lindsay, pastor of the Church of the San Juans, and his sister Susan Berg, wife of the Rev. Tor Berg, pastor at First in Bothell. Kurt Lindsey, their brother**, died on March 19 of complications from cancer. Donations may be made to the American Cancer Society. On March 30, **John Harold Lindsay, father of Pastor John S. Lindsay and Susan Berg**, died at his home in Woodinville, where he and his wife had come to live with their daughter Susan. He had been in Hospice care. Cards may be sent to: Pastor John Lindsay, Lutheran Church in the San Juans, PO Box 2535, Friday Harbor, WA 98250-2535; and Susan Berg, First Lutheran Church, 10207 NE 183rd St, Bothell, WA 98011-3417.
- † **The Rev. Chuck Davis (ret.)** continues to have health difficulties. Chuck and his wife Nancy ask for prayers. Cards may be sent to: Chuck and Nancy Davis, 18227 NE 176th St, Woodinville, WA 98072.

Within Our Family



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Within Our Family

- † **Dennis Lis-Sette, husband of the Rev. Kathryn Buffum**, underwent by-pass surgery on March 31. Cards may be sent to: St Matthew Lutheran Church, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton WA 98056-2713.
- † In early April **the Rev. Luther Gabrielsen (ret.)** was in Providence Hospital in Everett following surgery for a broken femur. Pastor Gabrielsen is a member of Advent Lutheran in Mill Creek. Cards may be sent to: The Rev. and Mrs. Luther Gabrielsen, 2022 - 160th Place SE, Mill Creek WA 98012.

Prayers of Celebration:

- † **Zoe Grace was born to the Rev. Julie Blum, pastor at Maple Leaf in Seattle**, on March 28. Julie declares that “Zoe is precious with blue eyes and strawberry blond hair. Thanks be to God!” Cards may be sent to: Pastor Julie Blum and Zoe, Maple Leaf Lutheran Church, 10005 - 32nd Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125-7801.
- † **Dinah Rae was born to the Rev. Rachel Bass Guennewig, pastor at Columbia City Church of Hope, and husband Rob**, on March 27. Her parents are delighted! Cards may be sent to: The Bass Guennewig Family, Columbia City Church of Hope, 2818 South Angeline St, Seattle, WA 98118-1712.

Gatherings

There is still time to register for the gatherings this summer.

The Lutheran Men’s Gathering will be held from July 22-24 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center in Denver. For more information and to register visit www.lutheranmeninmission.org.

The Eighth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA will be held from July 14-17 in Spokane. For more information and to register visit www.lutheransnw.org/committees/welca

 Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Dennis Andersen	St. James, Portland	5/1/2011
Elizabeth Felt	Peace, Port Ludlow, WA	4/29/2011
Jason Lukis	Grace, Des Moines	3/21/2011
Joshua Thomas (Episcopal Priest) Interim	Church of the Apostles, Seattle	3/20/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/1/2011
Installations		
Tom Hamren	Shepherd of the Valley, Startup	4/10/2011
Jason Lukis	Grace, Des Moines	4/3/2011
Cindy Salo	Central, Seattle	5/22/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/10/2011
Leaving/Joining the ELCA		
Prince of Peace	Everett	3/14/2011
Ordinations/ Commissionings/ Consecrations		
Elizabeth Felt	Trinity, Freeland	4/29/2011
Jason Lukis	Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn	3/21/2011
Occasions/Events		
Luther's Table, Renton	Grand Opening	4/16/2011

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Paul Anderson, Interim
Bellevue, St. Andrew's	A/SP	C	James McEachran, Pastor
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	I	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Red Burchfield, Interim
Duvall, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Supply
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	C	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	C	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	I	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Shoreline, Bethel	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Stanwood, Freeborn	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