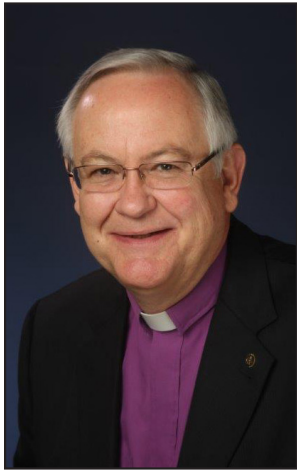


The Spirit

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What Makes for Success?

by the Rev. Kirby Unti, Bishop



But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

Mark 9:34-35 (NRSV)

It is the season for graduations. It begins so soon in today's world. Kim takes care of a little boy named Cooper who now is a proud graduate of Lord of

Life Lutheran Preschool. I asked him what graduation means and he said, "It's when you're done with one school, you get the summer off and then you go to kindergarten." So there you have it!

Graduation is stirring my memories of graduating from Inglemoor High School in 1970. I have fond memories of all the activities that topped off our Senior Year. I was elected to be the class speaker and spent hours working on my speech. The compelling line, "It is going to take a hell of a lot more than tear gas and guns to hold this generation down." We were a generation that believed that we would change the world and there would be war no more. Sad to say, we went on to be the greatest consuming generation in all of history. Like in the movie *The Big Chill*, we traded in our ideals for a place at the table of corporate America.

I was also elected by my peers as the "Boy Most Likely to Succeed." My counterpart was my classmate and dear friend Sara Forhan. Sara certainly lived into

the recognition. She became a medical doctor specializing in gynecology and went on to work for the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. She was a near 4.0 student so it came as no surprise.

On the other hand, I was the class clown and found my way into the principal's office on more than one occasion. I remember Mr. Siverson would simply shake his head and say, "Unti, I expect more out of you."

So, did I "succeed"? I have been deeply blessed by serving as a pastor. It is a humble honor to be able to serve the church and people of this community. I have no regrets, and yet I dare say in the eyes of many of my classmates I have not lived up to the title they gave me. I can already hear the question at the 50th Reunion: "What the hell is a bishop?" Every pastor knows how easy it is to stop the conversation when you announce what you do.

So I asked five year old Cooper, "What do you think a bishop is?" Cooper's response, "A bishop is in charge of all the pastors." (Hold onto your ideals, young Cooper!) But a call to bishop, a call to pastor, a call to be a follower of Jesus is not likely to be something that will impress my classmates.

Little does Cooper know, now that he is a big graduate, he gets to spend the rest of his life deciding what makes for success. Is it the high paying job, the nice house and the fast car, or is it something else? "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Hang in there, Cooper!

Stay in touch and in the know!

Synod Website Calendar - www.lutheransnw.org/calendar

Do you receive the Weekly Update eNews? www.lutheransnw.org/subscribe

Grants for Mission & Ministry

Youth & Young Adult Grants

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA is our opportunity to invest in the future of this church, deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors and communities in the United States and around the world.

The campaign seeks to raise \$198 million by January 2019 in support of new and expanded churchwide ministries in these **priority areas:**

Renewing Congregations
New Congregations
Disability Ministries
ELCA Fund for Leaders
ELCA World Hunger
ELCA Malaria Campaign
International Leaders
Missionaries
Young Adults in Global Mission
and ...
Youth & Young Adults

The goal of 4 million dollars for Youth & Young Adults, gives us the opportunity to expand our ministries to cultivate young leaders, embrace a culture of diversity and inclusion, and build a robust network of support. **Core values will include:**

Form faith in youth & young adults;
Develop and multiply youth and young adult leaders;
Start new ministries or enhancing current efforts;
Promote collaboration and creativity;
Engage youth and young adults of color;
Accompany communities & persons living in poverty

Applications must be submitted on behalf of a partnership of two or more ELCA-related ministries, one of which must be a congregation or synod. Grants are one time, lump sum grant amounts. Amounts will range from \$5,000 to \$40,000. Recipients are expected to establish measurable outcomes, provide two updates on their project. Recipients also agree to participate in at least one online gathering of grant recipients.

Initial applications will be received until September 1, 2015. Applicants will be notified and funds dispersed by the end of September 2015.

Read more about this grant process and how to apply here: www.lutheransnw.org/spotlight

ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants

Applications due July 10.

ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to reach communities in need. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

One aspect of World Hunger are the Domestic Hunger Grants. These grants support ministries that offer hope and assistance to many thousands of people who experience poverty and hunger in the United States. These grants do more than just give food to people who are hungry — in addition to immediate relief programs, ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants fund projects in community development and community-based organizing and advocacy that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty.

In 2015, this program allocated a total of \$739,075 to support 324 domestic projects and programs ranging from congregational food pantries to weekend backpack programs for children to job training and living-wage advocacy campaigns. In our synod ELCA World Hunger-funded Domestic Hunger Grants make a difference.

The Domestic Hunger Grant application became available May 1. Completed applications are due July 10, 2015.

For more information and to apply, head to: www.elca.org/domestichungergrants

(Info from elca.org)

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