



Moments for Mission

Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.

August 2014

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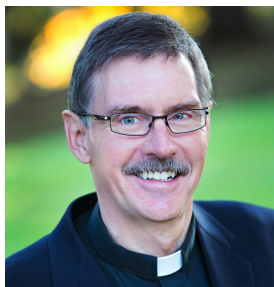
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Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

Message from Bishop Jaech



Dear Friends,

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”
 Hebrews 13:2*

I think of summer as a time for carefree refreshment and rest, but the last six weeks have been continually interrupted by tragic and discouraging events. First, Malaysia Flight 17 is shot down in the Ukraine and the victims' bodies are left desecrated on the ground while brutal war keeps raging around them. Then, fighting erupts in Gaza and Israel as both Israeli and Palestinian teenagers are kidnapped and killed, thousands of rockets are fired by Hamas and Israel, and hundreds of innocent adults and children are killed.

As I watched the news each night, my heart grew increasingly heavy, both because of the immediate suffering of people and also because these are ingrained conflicts that have gone on for hundreds of years. How will they ever end?

Meanwhile, there are the tragedies that are closer by: homes and animals destroyed by forest fires in our state, friends we know who struggle with poor health and unemployment, painful relationships in our families and church communities. Despite the gloriously sunny weather that has been nurturing in so many ways, I have found myself frequently pained and worried about our world's future.

I remember talking to a Lutheran pastor from Zaire a number of years ago who was a speaker at a Byberg Preaching Workshop. She had been the first female Lutheran pastor ordained in her country and was now working as the regional Lutheran World Federation coordinator for relief and development projects.

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Someone in our group asked her, "Do you feel optimistic about the future of central Africa?" She answered, "I do not use the word 'optimistic'. Given the huge struggles with poverty, hunger and illness, it seems too shallow to speak of optimism. The way I express it is that I am insistently hopeful. I cling to God's promise of blessing and healing for us. I insist on hoping that God will follow through on that promise and I commit myself to being a part of God's healing, life-giving work."

Martin Luther frequently said, "God is with us and for us." Even when we feel alone and abandoned...even when we struggle with self-judgment and despair, ...even in the midst of a summer when fires and warfare rage, God is working within us and among us, continually bringing forth new life.

May God bring healing, rest and strength to you, especially in these complicated times. May God deeply bless your ministry, as God works through you to bring new life to others. May we all dare to insistently hope and hold on to God, and so open ourselves to the power and vision of the Spirit.

Bishop Jaech's Visits to Congregations- July 2014

I continue to enjoy very much my visits to the congregations of our Synod. In July I visited:

Messiah, Vancouver
Trinity, Vancouver (pastoral staff)
St. John, Chehalis

In the month of August, I will visit:

St. Paul Episcopal, Seattle, (Dr. Samuel Torvend's wedding)
Bethany, Longview
Bethlehem, Tacoma
Peace, Puyallup
St. John's, Lakewood

Congregations in transition

Lord, We pray for your wisdom and insight to the congregations in our synod who are now interviewing or extending a call to a new pastor:

Mobility- August 2014

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor	P	I	Valinda Morse
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	TR	Michelle Manicke
Christ, Federal Way	P	TR	Chelsea Globe
First, Tacoma	P	C	Art Sortland
Good Shepherd, Olympia	P	I	Chuck Harris
Hope, Enumclaw	P	TR	Keith Marshall
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Ron Kempe
Peace, Puyallup	P	TR	Linda Nou
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	TR	Richard Hermstad
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson	P	I	Frank Miller
St. John's, Chehalis	P	C	Jeannine Daggett

Mobility position key

*P – Pastor
AP – Associate Pastor
AIM – Associate in Ministry
DM – Diaconal Minister
DC- Deaconess*

Mobility status key:

*NV – New Vacancy
TR – Transition
I – Interviewing
C – Callina*

Calls Accepted

Jonette Blakney has accepted the call as Pastor to **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in Stevenson**. Jonette will be ordained by Bishop Jaech on Saturday, August 23rd at 3pm at St. Mark's by the Narrows, Tacoma. She will be installed by Rev. Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate, at Shepherd of the Hills on September 7th.

The Rev. Heidi Calhoun has accepted the call to serve as Pastor to **Creator, Bonney Lake**. Heidi recently completed the ELCA candidacy process, transferring from Presbyterian Church (USA). Heidi will be installed by Bishop Jaech on Sunday, September 14th at 3pm.

Candidates approved for ordination in the ELCA:

Chelsea Globe and Rachel Knoke

Report from ELCA Presiding Bishop

Big look at Small Catechism

What does this mean? Old as well as young need its enduring, concise instruction

By Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton This column originally appeared in the July 2014 issue of The Lutheran.

Reprinted with permission.



Several years ago my husband's bishop tried initiating a diocese-wide call to the catechumenate to engage those preparing for confirmation in a period of study and formation. We call it confirmation class or catechism, something generations of Lutherans have gone through. But this was a new experience for the Episcopalians in his diocese. He set about developing a curriculum for prospective confirmands, only to encounter resistance. How do Lutherans get participation in multiyear catechetical instruction? I told him: "Five hundred years of hazing."

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Small Catechism continued

We do have a history of communicating the faith from generation to generation. Martin Luther wrote the Small Catechism after the Saxon Visitation of the late 1520s, which examined the religious practices in the parishes of that part of Central Europe. He discovered a stunning lack of understanding of the basics of the Christian faith among laypeople and pastors. So in the Small Catechism he gives a concise but rich explanation of the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, the commandments, baptism, communion, the Office of the Keys and confession.

The Small Catechism became an important part of faith formation in families. Millions of us throughout the centuries and world have studied and memorized it. Catechism has been a rite of passage in the Lutheran movement. It could be argued that no other experience is more universally Lutheran than studying this little book—not language, not hymnody, not cuisine, not worship style. “What does this mean?” and “This is most certainly true” are two of the most recognizable phrases in Lutheranism.

It's been said, “Youth is wasted on the young.” I'm not suggesting that studying the catechism isn't beneficial to middle-school students. But confining catechetical instruction to that age group and expecting fully formed disciples at the end of the process is probably a little unrealistic.

All of this has me wondering how we can bring our Lutheran traditions, unashamedly and gratefully, into our relationships with ecumenical and interreligious partners. The ELCA is fully committed to ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. We have six full communion partners: the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Reformed Church in America, the United Church of Christ, the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church and the Moravian Church. As the ELCA, we also claim the evangelical part of our name. Set free by the grace of God through the death and resurrection of Jesus and moved by the Spirit we want to tell everybody the good news.

Some argue that emphasizing our Lutheran identity is an impediment to dialogue and evangelism. I would argue that if we aren't clear about who we are and what we believe it's not possible to have deep and authentic encounters with others. It's hard to have meaningful give-and-take with mush.

There was a time in the 1980s when church growth experts urged us to shed denominational identity in favor of more generic, and so appealing, names for congregations. St. Paul Lutheran Church became the Church at Pheasant Run. It's like selling our inheritance for a mess of marketing pottage. Of course we are baptized into the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. Of course our identity is in Christ and not in a 16th-century Augustinian monk. But there is something distinctive about our Lutheran voice that needs to be heard in ecumenical and interreligious conversations and in the public square. If we aren't clear about this we run the risk of sliding into relativism.

It might be time for all of us to dust off our Small Catechisms (or find it in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 1160) and take another look at the basics of the faith. Staff at the Lutheran Center in Chicago will be doing just that this fall. My guess is that places like Microsoft or McDonald's take great care in immersing their people into their corporate culture. We are Lutheran Christians. With great humility we can be unapologetic about being Lutheran. It would be wonderful if we as the ELCA prepared for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 by studying the Small Catechism together. We have a common language with which to talk about faith, engage Scripture and make sense of our world. Catechism is not just for the young.

This is most certainly true.

Stories of Hospitality

Your Stories of Hospitality

Compiled by Bob and Kathy Mattson, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tacoma

Worship participants at our 2014 Synod Assembly were invited to share their stories of hospitality. Bishop Jaech identified two kinds of hospitality: home hospitality and road hospitality. Home hospitality is how we prepare and welcome people into our homes and congregations; includes efforts to help people feel comfortable and appreciated. Road hospitality is how we welcome folks while we are living our vocation in the world. Road hospitality includes efforts to engage our neighbors, both planned and unplanned, as we welcome strangers as Christ in our midst. Stories that were shared at the Synod Assembly will be shared in our monthly newsletter.

Throughout the Bible, God commands us over and over again to take notice and take care of those around us. Hospitality is a conscientious pursuit to welcome strangers and friends into our churches, homes and lives and to help them feel loved and accepted. In Jesus name we receive and serve them:

-From Pastor Norm, Living Stones Prison Congregation, Shelton, WA

“Found in an environment not known for its hospitality, the men of WCC defy the constraints of their environment to welcome, care for, and be with others who live and visit their confines. At every worship a visitor receives a warm welcome accompanied by the hand-shakes and welcomes of 5-10 men. They take seriously the thought that ‘We are blessed in order to be a blessing (to others)’”



-From Bishop Jaech:

“I have been warmly welcomed by every congregation I have visited in the Synod. They have fed me with their stories about the important ministries they are doing. Then they fed me with delicious potluck dinners! I am thankful that God has brought so many people together in one Synod, each with their own gifts and wisdom.”

-From: Anonymyous/No church name

“I received unexpected hospitality when a man suddenly appeared in the parking lot at Costco where I was struggling to load a 40lb. bag of dog food. This was significant for me because I am a chaplain and spend my day at the bedside of patients who are suffering and I usually take on their burdens. But in this instance my burden of the heavy dog food bag was taken from me without hesitation by a stranger. It was good to receive and be filled.”

ELCA Ministries

ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response

The World Health Organization has declared the Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic a “worldwide health emergency.” The virus, which started in Guinea and spread to Liberia and Sierra Leone, has now spread to Nigeria. It is being reported that more than 1,770 people have been infected with the Ebola virus, with approximately 961 having died as a result.

Lutheran Disaster Response, in partnership with Global Health Ministries and the Lutheran Church in Liberia, assisted in the [shipment of personal protective equipment](#) to Phebe Hospital and Curran Lutheran Hospital in Liberia. The personal protective equipment, which consists of hazmat suits with hoods and boots and disinfectant, is scheduled to arrive at Roberts International Airport in Liberia on Saturday, Aug. 9.

Lutheran Disaster Response continues to gather information from our partners and our global companion churches in West Africa as we earnestly pray for healing and relief from this deadly virus. We will walk with our brothers and sisters who are facing the risks of the Ebola virus as we add our efforts to the international community that is working to contain the virus.

If you would like to support Lutheran Disaster Response’s work in providing assistance against the Ebola virus disease in West Africa, [please visit the Lutheran Disaster Response giving page](#).

What is Ebola virus disease?

Ebola virus disease (EVD) was formerly called Ebola hemorrhagic fever. It is a severe illness in humans that is spread through direct contact with bodily fluids and indirect contact with contaminated materials, such as bed linens that have been contaminated by an infected person's bodily fluids. There is no evidence that EVD can be spread through airborne transmission.

Initial symptoms of EVD include fever, weakness and muscle aches. Progressed symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and internal and external bleeding. The incubation period for the virus is up to 21 days, and an infected person is not contagious until she or he starts experiencing symptoms.

There is no vaccine for EVD, nor is there a cure. Treatment consists of supportive therapies to treat the symptoms. Transmission can be prevented by avoiding close contact with Ebola patients and by wearing proper protective gear while caring for patients. Outbreaks typically occur in Central Africa. It is being reported by the World Health Organization (WHO) that this current outbreak is the first major outbreak in West Africa.

Young Adults in Global Mission

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program invites ELCA young adults ages 19-29 into a transformative, year-long journey in international service. As they offer themselves in service, ELCA young adults are shaped by the witness of our global neighbors. They share in the journeys of companion churches and organizations in one of nine countries around the world.

A year of service through the Young Adults in Global Mission program invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world, providing critical support to ministries and projects in communities of need. It also invites volunteers into a journey of self-reflection, providing space to consider their sense of identity, God's work in the world, and their place within it all.

Young adults serve in the spirit of accompaniment, walking alongside global companions in a manner that practices mutuality, interdependence and solidarity. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization, all through the lens of faith.

Candidates for Young Adults in Global Mission apply to the program at-large rather than to a specific country. Applicant preferences are taken into account but the final decision about where volunteers serve is made by Global Mission staff and YAGM country coordinators in mid-April. Current YAGM country programs include: [Argentina/Uruguay](#), [Central Europe \(Hungary\)](#), [Jerusalem/West Bank](#), [Madagascar](#), [Malaysia/Mexico](#), [Rwanda](#), [Southern Africa and United Kingdom](#)

Applications for the program are due Feb. 15 each year for service beginning that same August.

We are a church that believes God is calling us into the world – together. Come, imagine yourself in the world!

For further information or to sponsor a YAGM, contact them at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2520 or visit their website at <http://www.elca.org/yagm>.

Let Justice Roll 2014 High School Conference

Theme: Welcoming the Stranger: Loving our Immigrant Neighbors

What: A weekend immersion experience for high school youth exploring God's call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly..." The program will include cross-cultural conversations, field-trips, worship, and a fiesta with food, music and dance!

When: Friday evening, October 3 to Sunday morning, October 5.

Where: El Camino de Emaus, Burlington, WA

Cost: \$95 per student (includes lodging, meals, and programming)

Visit TLC.edu/cyfcenter/cyf_ljr.html for more information. Questions & Registration: Email ljr.tlc@gmail.com. Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran College. Let Justice Roll is planned by a network of social advocacy-minded church leaders around the Puget Sound area.

Fires in Eastern Washington

Washington and other NW states have been devastated by wildfire. After consultation with Lutheran Disaster Response, the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod has opened a restricted account at Region 1 where folks and congregations can send checks to support those who have been devastated by these events. Individuals and congregations can send gifts to be deposited to "Funds Held–NW Fires." The "giving code" for those sending in money with their regular congregational mission support is "456-NW Fires." Please mail checks to: ELCA Region 1; PO Box 94432; Seattle, WA 98124-6732.

10W is a Way to Start your Day!

Pastor Dan Bollerud, Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church-Anchorage

From our Brothers and Sisters of the Alaska Synod comes an interesting new Wednesday ministry called 10W. It stands for 10 minute worship and is prepared each week by some of the pastors from the Alaska Synod. Each 10W contains music, prayers, scripture, a short homily and a blessing. It was born out of discussions with those who consider themselves to be the Children of God, but whose lifestyle often comes into conflict with regular worship attendance. This ministry is designed to help busy individuals connect with their faith communities around the word when they are unable to connect in person.

Each Wednesday there are two worship services sent out via email, one for the

Revised Common Lectionary and one for the Narrative Lectionary. Whether you are sitting at home, on your way to work or on vacation, you can connect with the word through your computer or smart phone and stay connected to the community of Christ throughout the world and in your own congregation.

Go here: <http://10worship.blogspot.com/> or just Google "10w worship" and sign up where it says "Please join our email list"

Training Opportunities

Practicing Discipleship Retreat

"Framing Failure with Forgiveness and Faith Formation in a Missional Age."

A time of renewal and networking for those who serve in Congregational Children, Youth and Family Ministry. November 14-16th at Sursum Corda Retreat Center in Copalis Beach WA. Registration materials will be sent to congregations prior to it opening in September. Cost: \$80.00 for 2 nights, \$65.00 for 1. Contact Ingelaurie Lisher, AIM at ingelaurie@smlutheran.org with any questions.

Training opportunities continued

Training opportunities continued

Asian Ministry Study Trip

As a synod with significant opportunity to engage in neighbors of Asian descent, the Southwestern Washington Synod is invited to participate in the 8th Asian Lutheran International Conference (ALIC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia January 29-February 3, 2015 with other members from across the ELCA and the Southwestern Washington Synod.

“Understanding Jesus in Asia, Implications for Ministry” is the conference theme. In addition to the conference to Malaysia, additional travel opportunities will be offered to Korea and China as we learn about the culture of our synod’s ethnic specific ministries. Interested lay and clergy members may learn more by contacting our Director for Evangelical Mission, Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger at melanie.wallschlaeger@elca.org.

<file:///C:/Users/Allison.SWWASYNOD/Downloads/Brochure.pdf>

SAVE THE DATE EVENTS

God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 7th.

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. On Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014, the nearly 10,000 congregations of this church gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people. - See more at:

<http://www.elca.org/dayofservice#sthash.vNI7MjMw.dpuf>

Global Church Sunday, October 5th

On World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, 2014, congregations are invited to celebrate our church’s connection and common mission within Christ’s global church by sponsoring a Global Church Sunday. Celebrate by taking a special offering for an ELCA missionary or global ministry, hosting a coffee hour with treats from around the world or including global songs in your worship service. A toolkit of these and other ideas for congregations will be released this August. For more information, contact globalchurch@elca.org.

Bread for the World Sunday is October 19th.

Bread for the World Sunday is an opportunity for members of your church to join their voices with others around the country- in prayer and worship- to create hope for hungry people.

People around the world and in our own country are struggling to feed their families. Our prayers for them- and for our nation’s decision-makers- can be a powerful way for us to participate in God’s work of ending hunger in our time.

Bread for the World, along with Lutheran World Relief and the ELCA’s Washington Advocacy Office is pressing for the reform of US food aid. By urging Congress to allow greater flexibility and efficiency, our nation’s tax dollars can be used more wisely- to get food aid to more people, more quickly, in Africa and elsewhere. <http://www.bread.org/help/church/bread-sunday/>

Peace Community Center's "Urban Immersion" program

Peace Community Center, Tacoma has a new "Urban Immersion" program, "*Journey to the Hilltop*". This program brings groups to the Hilltop of Tacoma to LEARN: about the ministries of Peace Lutheran Church & Community Center; EXPERIENCE & SERVE: Tacoma's diverse Hilltop neighborhood; REFLECT: on what you are called to do in the world as a follower of Jesus; & APPLY: your new knowledge to your home congregation & community.

The opportunities are designed as week-long or 3-day (weekend) learning and service experiences for both youth and adults. If your congregation is interested in this experience, please contact Keri Pedrick, Director of Operations and Servant Leadership at Peace Community Center at kerri@peacecommunitycenter.org.

Our Congregations (news and neat ideas from our synod congregations)

Betty Hummel at Gloria Dei, Olympia received the Phoenix Award- Professional Field for her outstanding efforts on behalf of those affected by mental illness or chemical dependency. She was especially recognized for her work with the commitment to Veterans. Behavior Health Resources' Community Mental Health Foundation gives the Phoenix Awards as a way to celebrate those who have risen from the ashes of mental illness and addiction along with those who have helped them do so. Congratulations, Betty!

Holy Trinity, Port Angeles has started a "Getting to Know You team. This team will write brief stories about members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church offering a glimpse into the great diversity in their members.

Family of Christ, Vancouver donates to the Clark County Food Bank and has now provided 1,510,328 meals!

Job Opportunity

Lutheran Community Services NW- Tacoma Office is seeking a part time Fiscal Assistant, 20 hours a week. It is on 3rd floor, no elevator. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact Arlene Whittington, [253-722-5672](tel:253-722-5672).

Calendar

September 21- Children Youth and Family Ministry Service of Blessing at 4pm at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia.

January 25-28, 2015: Bishop's Convocation and Prayer Retreat for Rostered Leaders, Seabeck Conf Center

May 15-16, 2015: Synod Assembly at the Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, WA

/end