



# The Spirit

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2012

## Thanks Be To God

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



As we prepare to shout out the news of the resurrection at Easter, I am reminded how the saints before us lived with that promise. They were faithful throughout their lives knowing that they had been baptized into Christ's death and that the life they lived,

and continue to live, is in Christ. One such hero of faith for me was the Rev. Dr. Fred Danker. "Red Fred" was a professor of New Testament at Concordia Seminary and Christ Seminary-SEMINEX. Fred was a character of the first order. Fred joined the church triumphant on February 2, 2012.

Fred will be best known for his work revising and editing *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature*. This volume, known to all seminarians, is usually referred to as BDAG. The D stands for Danker. Fred was a meticulous scholar.

Fred was also a passionate teacher. In his class on the Pauline Epistles he began by telling us that when we got done with his class we would be able to preach on the textual notes that are included in the Greek New Testament. In his Luke class my assignment was to write a paper on Luke's use of the word *pan* (all). It was an impossible task. Fred wanted to plant the seed and let the growth come not only in class but over the life of the student.

Fred also liked to play chess. Any of us who were nerdy enough to carry portable chess sets around could count on Fred to challenge us to a

game in the commons. I had an appointment to play chess with him at his home that I forgot. Fred called to see if I was alright. I told him I had forgotten but could still come to his home. When I arrived he assured me that missing this appointment was not a big deal, but I might not want to miss an appointment with a visitor who had attended the congregation. Visitation and promptness are important. *Thank you, Fred.*

He also always had a red whistle around his neck. You could hear Fred "blowing the whistle on legalism" any time his understanding of God's grace was violated. When asked to bring a character reference to an investigation into his teaching, Fred brought an African American woman from the housing projects. Fred believes that the poor could be our best reference when it came to practicing what we preach.

At the time he was my professor he struck terror into my academic heart. As a brother in Christ Fred Danker was a role model, teacher, and friend. Fred now lives in his baptismal promise. Once again the saints of God are pointing the way and inviting us to trust that promise as well. *Thanks be to God.*

The 2012 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will be held Friday, May 18, and Saturday, May 19, at the Edward Hanson Conference Center, Comcast Arena in Everett. Registration for the Assembly is now live. Please register before midnight Friday, May 4 at [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org).

# Our Chicken Hatchery Project In Ethiopia

by Linda Halvorson, member at  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Freeland

“Little by little the egg walks,” is an Ethiopian proverb that describes well the progress we saw at the chicken hatchery site in Haik, Ethiopia. Ken Halvorson and I visited there this past January along with Pastor Berhanu (Bethel Ethiopian Fellowship of Seattle).

We toured the Hatchery, which is located on the site of the former Haik Orphanage. We were impressed by the knowledge and experience of the hatchery manager. At that time there were about 400 three-month old chickens, which will soon begin laying eggs for the three incubators. When these eggs hatch the chicks will be raised for two months and then taken to market. In a year’s time there will be much activity and use of more buildings on the site.

Our synod is funding this hatchery owned by the Mekane Yesus church so that in time profits will enable the church in Ethiopia to provide lay leadership training and seminary scholarships. Such education is much needed in the Mekane Yesus church which is rich in faith with growing membership, but economically very poor. In the meantime the hatchery will be meeting a need for chickens (protein) for the community. Two hundred children or disadvantaged persons will also be helped.

While in Ethiopia we had conversations with the church management at the synod office in Dessie, North Central Ethiopia. We also worked to create an Advisory Board which will function as a bridge between the hatchery and U.S. contributors. We were impressed that leaders from both *World Vision* and *Lutheran World Federation* were interested in this project, and they agreed to be on the Advisory Board. We also met Pastor Owen Baldwin from Whidbey Island, but living in Ethiopia with his wife, Charlene, and their son Serawit Hailu. Pastor Owen and Serawit also agreed to be on the Board.

We see God’s hand and blessing on this undertaking in such a wonderful way. It is God who gives the growth and we have the privilege of planting seeds for the kingdom, but God grows those seeds. We continue to pray that our partnership in the gospel will continue to flourish.



As leaders in the church we are called to pass on our faith. We know that healthy leaders enhance lives. How can we live well, centered as a whole person of God? How do we catch our breath, and become an agent of health and wellness in our faith community?

*That You May Be Well* is a workshop to provide you with a curriculum for your whole person well-being that you will be able to share with others in your congregation. If you are interested in living well and sharing good health, you are invited to join us.

*That You May Be Well* will take place from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 14, at Hope Lutheran Church, 900 E. Grover St. Lynden, WA 98264-1628.

Cost is \$20 and includes lunch and snacks (\$25 if space available after March 16). Register with Pam Colyar at 360-354-1934 or [pamparishnurse@gmail.com](mailto:pamparishnurse@gmail.com). Pastors, health ministers, parish nurses, lay leaders and any others interested in health and wellness are invited to join us.

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