



# The Spirit

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News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2011

## Ministry Together by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



Increasingly the Northwest Washington Synod and Compass Housing Alliance are working together to accomplish the ministry of both organizations in the Pacific Northwest.

Four joint ministries are:

- † The Renton Veterans Center building houses our new ministry, *Luther's Table*.
- † Our new ministry in Columbia City is working out of property given to Compass Housing when Bethlehem Lutheran Church closed.
- † Gethsemane Lutheran Church has partnered with Compass Housing Alliance in the redevelopment of their property.
- † The Church of Steadfast Love is our congregation in Compass Housing Alliance's downtown facility. It is the only mainline church offering regular worship in the Pioneer Square neighborhood on a weekly basis.

This is the way it should be. The church is property rich. Congregations have buildings that are not fully utilized. Congregations that close without distributing their property turn it over to the Synod. We are not equipped to be property managers. Compass Housing Alliance has been a faithful partner in helping us use the property we own in ways that expand the ministry of the church.

We have a number of social ministry organizations in this synod. I do not want to

speak of one at the expense of the others. With that understanding I want to thank Rick Friedhoff and the staff of Compass Housing Alliance for being a faithful and loyal partner in ministry.

When the ELCA was formed through merger, the expectation was that congregations would continue to support the larger church at the same level it had supported our predecessor church bodies. That assumption was wrong. Congregations still gave money to the synod, but often at a lower level than before the merger.

Compass Housing Alliance as a merged organization is facing the same dilemma. Congregations that supported the Compass Center and the Lutheran Alliance to Create Housing (LATCH) are now supporting the merged organization at the same level that they support one of the earlier organizations.

The ministry of the merged organization is the same as the two organizations supported previously. It would be my hope and request that the new organization be supported at the same level the two organizations were supported previously, if not at a higher level. I know that the financial realities we face will have an effect on the support you can provide.

It is important for me to say that Compass Housing Alliance is an important Lutheran ministry in serving the homeless, veterans and those in need of transitional housing. They are also a good partner in assisting us in our ministry of outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Here 'n There

- **Josephine Sunset Home** invites the public to attend the dedication of the new Memory Care Unit at 2 pm on Sunday, March 27, 2011. The afternoon will begin with a short worship service in the Josephine Chapel followed by a dedication and tour. The new secure unit includes 16 beds, a private courtyard, refurbished common areas and specially trained 24-hour caregivers. Please RSVP to Becky at 360-629-2126, ext 146 by Friday, March 25.
- In April **St. Luke's in Bellevue** will be sending dress lengths of donated fabric worldwide. To make sure that the recipients can make their own clothes, members will also include, thread, needles and buttons. Do you have a button collection? Contact Roselyn Olson, Associate in Ministry, at 425-822-7907 or email at [roselynnolson@slukes.org](mailto:roselynnolson@slukes.org).
- In February members of **Mount Si in North Bend** assembled 11 goody bags for college students filled with caramel popcorn, hot chocolate, fruit bar, candy, devotionals and a special Valentine card made by their youth groups.
- Seniors at **First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach** will be holding their third Senior Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, April 20, in the Fellowship Hall. The guest speaker is Kirsten Larson who will share her experiences of growing up as a teenager in Nazi-occupied Denmark during World War II. She was a runner of secret communications among members of the Danish underground. Kirsten and her husband, Leif, lived in Denmark until 1955.
- The senior high youth group from **Salem in Mount Vernon** served dinner at the Compass Housing Alliance on March 20.
- Members of **Our Savior's in Everett** received a letter from Operation Bootstrap Africa thanking them for their support. The letter mentioned that recent gifts have allowed them to help villagers build six new classrooms at Ilboro Primary School, pay teachers' salaries in Madagascar and support 270 students at the MaaSae Girls Secondary School.
- Jill Peterson, member of **Gloria Dei in Alderwood Manor**, traveled with her father to Tanzania to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro. She also visited the Masama Girls School delivering solar-powered calculators and pens to the school.
- Members of **Edison in Bow** received a thank you from the Warm Closet at Burlington Lutheran Church in Burlington. Edison donated 42 men's coats, 33 women's coats, 26 children's coats, 23 pairs of gloves, nine pairs of warm socks and eight hats. Edison also received thank you's from Camp Lutherwood, Josephine Sunset Home, Friendship House and Alger Food Bank.
- 2011 marks the 83rd Annual "Blessing of the Fleet". Through the decades members from **First in Ballard** have blessed the men and women who harvest the seas, praying for their safety. This year members gathered on March 13 at the Fishermen's Memorial Site at Fishermen's Terminal praying for this community.
- Members at **Luther Memorial in Seattle** are once again dreaming of home grown carrots, tomatoes and green beans. All grown in the church's garden plots. The neighborhood community is also invited to plant fruits and vegetables in these plots.
- Seven members from **Kent in Kent** are participating in the Kent Academy of Lay Preachers. Participants are exploring the development of a sermon and worshippers will receive the proclamation from these preachers during the next year.

*The Spirit*, a publication of the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is intended for members, leaders, and clergy of synod congregations and organizations. Congregations are encouraged to copy *The Spirit* and include it in their own newsletters. *The Spirit* can be downloaded from the Synod website.

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