



# Soundings

October 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 9

## A New Ministry For Students

by Zhenchuan Liu

The Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars in Seattle is a new mission of the Northwest Washington Synod, which offers Christ to China's future leaders.

We envision large numbers of mainland Chinese students, scholars, and their family members receiving Christian love in practical ways, and hearing an understandable

explanation of the Gospel message in their native language, Mandarin Chinese. We also envision that many of these future leaders of China will comprehend Christianity and approve Christian values and their significance for human society. We pray that many of these new believers will hear God's call into dedicated Christian service, some as a career and others as an avocation, to practice their professions and to engage in evangelism and



Zhenchuan Liu with the Rev. Jianhua Jimmy Hao, Grace Chinese Lutheran in Seattle, at the Spring Bishop Convo.

*continued on page 8*

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## A Word From The Bishop



If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you are disposed to go, eat whatever is set before you without raising any question on the ground of conscience. But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, out of consideration for the one who informed you, and for the sake of conscience~ I mean the other’s conscience, not your own. For why should my liberty be subject to the judgment of someone else’s conscience?

1 Corinthians 10:27-29 NRSV

As we go forward in implementing the decisions of the recent Churchwide Assembly, the question of “bound conscience” must be addressed among us. In some ways this has a very Lutheran sound to it. Martin Luther before the Diet at Worms said, “Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason . . . I am bound by the Scriptures I have quoted and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.” Luther here introduces the language of bound and captive conscience.

Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth speaks of respect for the conscience of the other. Too often the admonition of Paul leads to a debate over whose conscience is strong and whose is weak. I read the text as warning us not to use our freedom to harm the conscience of another person. We are both weak and strong at the same time.

As we move forward in this church, we will need to examine this concept in greater detail. Bound conscience is not a code word for freedom to sin. The law of God will

*continued on page 3*

still expose and convict us of sin. The bound conscience calls me to be attentive to the other and their view of sin. Out of love for the neighbor we are called to ask questions about where our consciences are bound. We are to be in communication and listen to the other.

This concept means it is not about me, it is about the other. God's love is for all of us. God's law speaks to all of us. Your sin and mine may have different symptoms or triggers, but I need to pay attention to how my actions will affect you. This is a call to live in community. It is my faith in Jesus that is a gift from God. It is also your faith. We now live in faith with each other. How will we respect and define our bound consciences will be a question with which we will continue to wrestle.

*Continued from page 1*

## A Word From The Bishop

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Deadline for copy of the November issue of Soundings is Wednesday, October 7. The current issue, and archived issues, can be found on the synod's website.

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## Summer Events

**Book of Faith**—More than 285 members of the ELCA came from across the United States to the *Book of Faith* “Jubilee” weekend in August and joined in conversation about an initiative in the ELCA to read and discuss the Bible. The event was held at Luther Seminary. The Rev. Eugene H. Peterson opened the three days of discussion in a dialogue presentation with Dr. Diane L. Jacobson, director for the Book of Faith initiative and professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary. Roger Anderson, Book of Faith, attended the event on behalf of the Northwest Washington Synod.

**Summer Music Academy**—The 28th Annual Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) Academy (LSM) took place in June at Luther College in Decorah, IA.

Four people from the Northwest Washington Synod attended the event with more than 125 other students. Those who attended from our synod were: Grace Gehman, Paul Georgeson, and Amelia Mockett of Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle and Brita Moore of Holy Trinity Lutheran on Mercer Island. The mission of LSM is to foster musical excellence and spiritual growth in a caring community for high school band, orchestra, choir and keyboard students from all faith backgrounds.

LSM 2010 will be held June 20 to July 18. For more information visit [www.lutheransummermusic.org](http://www.lutheransummermusic.org).

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## Service of Celebration

The Northwest Washington Synod and the Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Methodist Church will worship together to celebrate the full communion agreement adopted by the ELCA 2009 Churchwide Assembly. The service takes place on Sunday, Sept. 27 at Woodland Park United Methodist Church and at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, both in Seattle. Details are on the calendar on the synod website at [www.lutheransnw.org/calendar](http://www.lutheransnw.org/calendar).

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The Fifth Annual Consultation on the Missional Church will take place Nov. 6-7, 2009, Luther Seminary.

Join top scholars, denominational leaders, mission directors and church planters from around the world to discuss how the Spirit is leading in the planting of missional congregations for a new apostolic era.

Speakers include Dr. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director, ELCA Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit; Dr. Mary Sue Dreier, Assoc. Prof. of Congregational Mission and Leadership, Luther Seminary; plus many others.

Cost is \$225 per person; Students: \$95. Cost includes copy of previous consultation publication. Registration closes Oct. 16. Cost does not include housing. More information is available at [www.luthersem.edu](http://www.luthersem.edu).

The Fall Bishop Convo is a time for renewal, learning, worship and collegiality for all rostered personnel and spouses. The Convo will take place at Harrison Hot Springs Resort and Spa with guest speaker Professor Jane Strohl and Bishop Wm Chris Boerger. Check in begins at 4 pm on Sunday and Convo ends by noon on Tuesday. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 18

The Rev. Dr. Jane Strohl is Professor of Reformation History and Theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, CA. Her topic at the fall convocation is: *There Is No Neighbor Closer Than the One Who Shares Your Bed and Board: Luther on Marriage and Family*

**Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 18.**

For more information about Professor Strohl visit: [www.plts.edu/strohl.html](http://www.plts.edu/strohl.html). The website for Harrison Hot Springs is: [www.harrisonresort.com](http://www.harrisonresort.com)

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## **Planting Missional Congregations: Created and Led By The Spirit**

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## **Save The Date Fall Bishop Convo**

## LPPO Update

Kirstin Docken

*lppointern@lcsnw.org*  
206-464-4133;  
*www.lppowa.org*

This fall there are two major statewide issues that voters will face as the informational pamphlets and ballots arrive in October: Initiative 1033 and Referendum 71. (Explanation: an initiative is “from the people” and if approved establishes state law. A referendum is also “from the people” but puts a state law before the people for a vote of approval or disapproval. )

**Initiative 1033** concerns state, county and city revenue. This measure would limit growth in state, county, and city revenues deposited and subject to a state expenditure limit. This limit would be adjusted based on annual growth in inflation and population. This limit would exclude voter-approved revenue increases. Revenues that come in above the limit would be used to help reduce property tax levies.

The statewide council of the Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) has decided to oppose this measure. Our primary reason is that this measure, if enacted, would not only severely limit the amount of revenue local and state governments can raise but would have the indirect consequence of potentially decimating basic services normally funded by government such as public safety.

**Referendum 71** concerns the extension of marital rights to same gender partnerships and heterosexual partners over 62. This bill (SB 5688) was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor and only affects state registered domestic partnerships. General areas that this law addresses are health care related decisions, hospital visitation, etc.

LPPO statewide council decided to endorse referendum 71. Our primary reason is that we believe on the basis of equality, fairness and economic justice that state registered partnership should be entitled to the same basic rights that state registered marriages are privileged to have.

The Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg, professor emeritus of Religion at the University of Iowa and internationally known New Testament scholar, will lead a three-week series on the Gospel of Luke. Each series will be the same, but will be offered at different locations throughout the Synod. They are:

- Oct. 4, 11, 18 – Bethlehem Lutheran, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville; 360-659-2022
- Oct. 25, November 1, 8 – Central Lutheran, 1710 11th Ave, Seattle; 206-322-7500
- Dec. 6, 13, 20 – Holy Spirit, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland; 425-823-2727

These events will begin at 12:30 pm. with a light lunch. Though there is no charge for lunch, a basket for contributions toward lunch will be available.

The presentation will begin about 1 pm and last for about 45 minutes. It will be followed by a discussion, question and answer period. To be able to plan for lunch and the session, please email the committee at [biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org](mailto:biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org). We look forward to meeting you at this educational series.

(Explanation: If you support R-71 that means you support the existing law; if you disagree with the current law then you disapprove of R-71.)

For more information on these campaigns contact:

For reject R-71 Larry Stickney in Arlington at

[lstickney@valuesaction.org](mailto:lstickney@valuesaction.org).

For the approve R-71 contact Washington Standing for Families Together at [www.wasft.org](http://www.wasft.org).

For the support Initiative 1033 information contact Tim Eyman at [jakatak@comcast.net](mailto:jakatak@comcast.net).

For the No on 1033 contact Mindie Reule at [mindie@no1033.org](mailto:mindie@no1033.org).

## **The Year With Luke: Lectionary Series C**

# **Eye Witnesses and Servants of the Word**

*continued from page 6*

**LPO Update**

*continued from page 1*

## **A New Ministry**

Christian training of their countrymen.

We work with the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Covenant House, University of Washington, as well as near Edmonds Community College. This new mission has many activities: English language assistance, such as ESL and Talk Time; Bible studies in English; special interest groups, such as a gathering for pregnant women, child education classes, Western cooking class; host family arranging, etc. Our needs:

1. Prayers
2. Volunteers for Talk Time's English teaching
3. Volunteers for providing transportation such as picking up students at airport
4. Host Families for Christian holidays or other occasions
5. Pots and pans, lamps, etc. for student housing
6. Financial support

Thank you for the support that has already been provided by congregations and individuals in our Synod. Please help us make this new mission a lasting outreach to our neighbors from China who are studying in the Seattle area. Contact information for this new ministry is: Covenant House, Lutheran Campus Ministry; 4525 19th Ave., NE, Seattle, WA 98105; 206-524-7900; email [liuzc999@hotmail.com](mailto:liuzc999@hotmail.com).

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## **Supporting LCS NW**

Lutheran Community Services Northwest invites you to a fundraising brunch celebrating and supporting the work of our programs.

*Journeys to Joy* will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, Bellevue Hilton. This year's brunch will feature the personal story of LCS Multicultural Community Services Regional Director Salah Ansary and his 25 years serving refugees. For more information, contact Monica Hurley at 206-816-3223.



Open Door Ministries is an extended ministry of the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA. Open Door provides pastoral care and referrals for persons living with HIV/AIDS. Since 1992, Open Door has provided pastoral care for well over 1000 persons.

The Annual Gala Dinner and Auction is the only fundraising event that supports this ministry. This year's dinner and auction will be held from 5 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Brockey Center on the South Seattle Community College Campus in West Seattle. The college is known for its fine Culinary Department, which will be serving the meal.

Cost for the evening is \$65 per person before Nov. 1 and \$75 per person beginning Nov. 1. We are expecting more than 200 people and have a goal to raise over \$50,000. To register for the event, please contact Darleen Atik at 425-672-8692 or by email [darleenatik@comcast.net](mailto:darleenatik@comcast.net).

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## **Auction For Open Door Ministries**

Do you remember last winter? Were you prepared for the cold weather, power outages, etc?

September is National Preparedness Month, a helpful reminder that all of us could be better prepared for the unknown and the unthinkable. This year, Lutheran Disaster Response encourages you to be the *ReadyChurch*. Take time to prepare your family, your friends and neighbors, and your congregation by following the three simple steps: 1) Be Informed, 2) Make a Plan and 3) *Get a Kit*. Visit [www.ldr.org/ready](http://www.ldr.org/ready).

*Get a Kit* for your family to have in the event that something happens, and you need to support yourselves for a period of time. Putting together a kit means thinking about and assembling the items that you would need for at least 72 hours. For more information please visit [www.ldr.org/ready](http://www.ldr.org/ready).

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## ***Get A Kit***

## Churches Starting Churches

Is your congregation thinking about starting a new church or a second site? Maybe two or three congregations from your cluster would like to explore sponsoring a new congregation in a neighboring community.

The ELCA's annual *Churches Starting Churches Conference* will take place October 18-20 in Greeley, Colorado. Several congregations will tell their stories of how they came into existence, including Ryan Marsh, Synodically Authorized Minister, Church of the Beloved in Edmonds.

The keynote speaker is the Rev. Mary Sue D. Dreier, Associate Professor of Congregational Mission and Ministry at Luther Seminary. She was the founding pastor at People of Hope Lutheran in Rochester.

Workshops will take place to help with the practical aspects of how to go about creating a new congregation or a second site.

For more information please contact Pat Schmidt in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit in Chicago (1-800-638-3522, ext. 2677) or contact the Rev. Jerry Buss in the Synod Office.

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## Positions Open

Faith Lutheran in Redmond is presently searching for a choir director and a contemporary music director. These positions are part-time and involve our worship life during Sunday mornings and rehearsals on Thursday nights, along with seasonal musical events. Knowledge of Lutheran tradition, worship and musical skills all are a part of the qualifications. The choir will take up to 10 hours a week of time, the contemporary music position between 6 and 8 hours. Pay is dependant upon experience. For more information at 425-885-1810 or email [pastormark@faithluth.org](mailto:pastormark@faithluth.org); [www.faithluth.org](http://www.faithluth.org).

*For more information about these events and registration forms, visit [www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter](http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter) or contact Trinity Lutheran College at 425.249.4800 or [cyfcenter@tlc.edu](mailto:cyfcenter@tlc.edu).*

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## Youth Events

### **Let Justice Roll October 3-5**

A high school youth event for those interested in peace and justice issues, held annually at Holden Village. The program includes presentations on the biblical call to justice, small group discussions, a service project, and lots of time to relax, hike, and enjoy God's creation.

### **Jesus, Justice, Jazz Concert at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov 14**

An exciting event to benefit world hunger, featuring Christian artists David Scherer (Agape) and Rachel Kurtz, held at the Historic Everett Theatre, 2911 Colby Ave., Everett. Two workshops will be held at Trinity prior to the concert: Service Projects That Matter and Taking Root.

### **Holden Youth Weekends May 2010**

A retreat event for high school youth groups, held at Holden Village with the theme "3" focusing on the mystery of the Trinity. The program includes sessions, small group conversations, a service project, and free time activities.

### **Youth & Family Ministry Certificate Program**

A three-week intensive training event designed for youth and family ministry staff, volunteers, Christian educators, and pastors. The program, in January 2011, equips participants to lead effective youth and family ministry programs in their home churches.

The 2010 Extravaganza is scheduled for February 4-8 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The event draws more than 500 adults, pastors and lay people, who work with youth in congregations of the ELCA. The event is organized ELCA Youth Ministry Network. For more information visit [www.elcaymnet.org](http://www.elcaymnet.org).

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## Extravaganza 2010

## Within Our Family



### *We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:*

- † **The Rev. Sai Wai (Paul) Cheung**, Grace Chinese, Seattle
- † **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita
- † **The Rev. Paul Wuest**
- † **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad**, St. Peter, Clinton
- † **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council
- † **The Rev. Mary Bosell**, on leave from call

### *We Pray For:*

- † **The family of the Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop.** Reverend Nesse's mother, Esther Peterson, passed away on September 13. Cards may be sent to: 5519 Phinney Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103
- † **Davey, the 57 year old brother of Cathy Mutschler, Associate in Ministry**, Faith North Lakewood, was killed in a head on car crash on September 4. He leaves a wife, three children and one grand child. Cathy has gone to Southern Minnesota to be with the family. Cards may be sent to Cathy at: Faith Lutheran Church, PO Box 70, North Lakewood, WA 98259-0070.
- † **Solveig Schweiss, wife of the Rev. Jacque Schweiss (ret)** suffered a stroke on September 11. Both Jacque and Solveig were active with Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle, now Trinity Lutheran College; Jacque served on the faculty at LBIS and Solveig served as Registrar. Cards may be sent to the Schweiss family at 2020 NW 195 St #202, Shoreline WA 98177.
- † **Margaret and Jim Culbertson, members of Our Savior's, Everett**, are visiting family in South Carolina and discovered that Jim has a brain tumor and has

had surgery. Margaret serves the synod as Mission Interpreter, working with the Global Mission Committee and the Stewardship Committee. Cards may be sent to Margaret and Jim c/o Our Savior's, PO Box 2927, Everett WA 98213.

*continued from page 12*

## Within Our Family

- † **The Rev. John Greeny (ret)** is recovering from two surgeries. He is scheduled to be released in the next day or two and will spend some time in a rehabilitation center to help him heal. Cards may be sent to the Greeny family at 1415 - 84th St SE #170, Everett WA 98208-2128.
- † At the regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for peace.

- Members of **Nativity in Renton** participated in the Renton CROP Walk. The Renton walk raised more than \$25,000.
- Members **Peace in West Seattle** are once again picking up their knitting needles. This ministry called Peace Lutheran Threads Ministry provides knitted and/or crocheted blankets to local organizations in the West Seattle and White Center areas. Last year this ministry gave 46 blankets to West Side Baby, the Salvation Army White Center Corp and New Horizon's Ministry.
- The youth of **First Lutheran of Bothell** will be preparing and feeding the homeless at the Compass Center in Seattle on Sunday, Sept. 27. Following dinner they will join **The Church of Steadfast Love** (the worshipping community at the Compass Center) for worship. And, the youth from **Our Savior's in Stanwood**, served a meal at the Compass Center on August 19!
- **Gethsemane in Seattle** will be holding *Happy Hour Recitals* at 5 p.m. in the month of October. These recitals are for the downtown community workforce in order to

## Here 'n There

*continued on page 14*

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
<b>Calls Accepted</b>		
G. Mark Griffith	Mount Si, North Bend	9/13/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	Bethany, Bainbridge	10/15/2009
<b>Installations</b>		
Diana Bottin	Trinity, Kirkland	9/27/2009
Eric Finsand	Christ the Servant, Bellingham	9/13/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	Bethany, Bainbridge	11/15/2009
Deanna Wildermuth	Holy Trinity, Mercer Island	9/27/2009
<b>Ordinations</b>		
Diana Bottin	Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor	9/26/2009
<b>Resignations</b>		
Carl Schwinck	Freeborn, Stanwood	9/1/2009
Karen Ward	From the ELCA Roster	8/22/2009
<b>Transfers in/out of Synod</b>		
G. Mark Griffith	From SW Washington Synod	9/13/2009
Paul Stumme-Diers	From Greater Milwaukee Synod	10/15/2009
Karen Ward	To Episcopal Roster	8/22/2009

*Continued from page 12*

help them avoid rush hour traffic.

**Here ‘n There**

■ **Wooden Cross in Woodinville** will cook a hot lunch for the homeless people in the Capital Hill area at Central Lutheran in Seattle on September 25.

- **Kent, Kent, and Nativity, Renton**, teamed up for two youth servant summer trips. The first was to Portland, Oregon, and the second was to NE Pennsylvania for a YouthWorks! Appalachia.
- Choral and musical groups from eight area churches, including **Our Saviour’s in Arlington**, will perform at 2 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 4, at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center in Arlington. This is a benefit concert to raise money for the homeless and others in critical need.

*Editor's Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at [www.lutheransnw.org](http://www.lutheransnw.org) and click on Leadership. That website page is updated weekly, when necessary.*

### Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marilyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	P	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	PR	NV	Pending
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Supply
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	P	Martha Myers, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	P	Linda Larson, Interim
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	TR	Karen Hanson, Interim
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	TR	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	NV	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

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Table of Contents

*Bishop's Message* ..... page 2  
*Fall bishop Convo* ..... page 5  
*LPPO Update* ..... page 6  
*In Our Family* ..... page 12  
*Here 'n There* ..... page 13  
*Transitions/Mobility* ..... page 14-15