



## 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.*

May 2014

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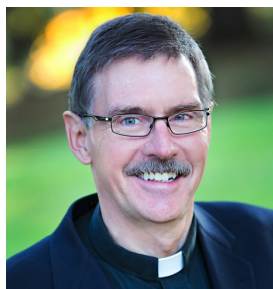
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Evangelical Lutheran  
 Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

### Message from Bishop Jaech

#### The Gift and Responsibility of Good Government



As Lutherans we cherish Martin Luther's insight and emphasis concerning the priesthood of all believers. Luther said that it is not only the priest that serves God, but we all serve God in response to the call we received in our baptisms. Our priestly service

itself through the specific roles or vocations that we choose: teacher, medic, parent, businessperson, scientist, carpenter, hi-tech worker, etc. Among these vocations, Martin Luther specifically mentioned the city mayor (*burgermeister*) and all government officials. Government, said Luther, is one of the institutions that God gives to us to provide a safe and healthy structure to our lives. Its purpose is to support the good and deter the bad in all public affairs. As one of the godly vocations, the Christian community is then called to offer guidance and support to public workers as they do their work.

In early April, I joined with 30 other ELCA bishops who gathered in Washington DC to meet with our congressional leaders. This event was organized and funded by our churchwide ELCA Office on Advocacy. We met with 75 senators and representatives and their top staff, learning about their work and concerns, offering our prayers and support and also voicing our hopes and recommendations on specific issues they are addressing. For example, I work with a team of ELCA bishops who focus on the complex issues in Israel/Palestine. When we were in Washington DC, our specific goal was to inform our government leaders about the important work of Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and ask for their support for the hospital. Augusta Victoria, operated by the Lutheran World Federation, is the one top quality hospital in Jerusalem that treats Palestinian as well as Jewish patients. One of their specialties is cancer treatment for Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza Strip who otherwise would have no adequate treatment available to them.

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*Message from Bishop Jaech Continued from Page 1*



*ELCA Bishops in Washington DC (Presiding Bishop Eaton, front row; Bishop Jaech middle of back row.)*

During the two days in Washington DC, I was able to meet with Rep. Denny Heck (who attends Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Olympia), Rep. Derek Kilmer and Rep. Adam Smith. In addition I met with the staff of Representatives Jamie Herrera Beutler and Dave Reichert and Senators Patty Murray and Marie Cantwell. They were all very responsive to the important work of Augusta Victoria Hospital and pledged to support its work. I was thankful that the Rev. Paul Benz, director of Faith Action Network (FAN) in the State of Washington, accompanied me on these congressional visits. FAN (which is a merger of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington and the Washington Association of Churches) is a ministry supported by all three ELCA synods in Washington State including our Southwestern Washington Synod. FAN monitors and supports the work of good government at the state level, just as the ELCA Advocacy Office works at the national level. Like Bread for the World, FAN promotes grass-roots ecumenical and interfaith response to the pressing social needs in our state. Along with supporting FAN in our synod budget, a number of synod congregations are advocating faith communities of FAN. (For more information about FAN, see their website at [www.fanwa.org](http://www.fanwa.org) )

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*Left to right: Bishop Jaech, Rep. Denny Heck 10<sup>th</sup> District , the Rev. Paul Benz of Faith Action Network*

It was noteworthy that all the congressional leaders I met, from both political parties, felt frustrated by the paralysis of Congress at the present time. They impressed me as people of high principle who wish to move Congress ahead and pass legislation that benefits our country and the world. I told them that I respected them for taking on such an important vocation and that I would support them with my prayers. I invite all of you to join me in praying regularly for our nation and the leaders who serve us.

*Almighty God, bless the public servants in the government of our state and nation, that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote our common life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (ELW, page 77).*

## **Bishop's Visits**

In the month ahead, Bishop Jaech will visit the following congregations and ecumenical partners in our synod:

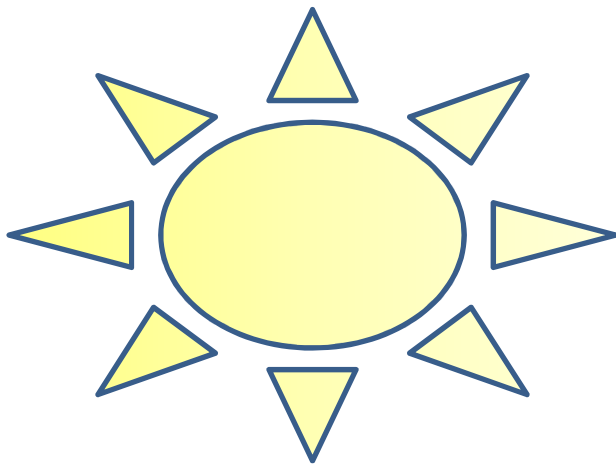
April 23	Gull Harbor Lutheran, Olympia
April 26	Peace Community Center Fundraiser, Tacoma
April 27	United Lutheran, Tacoma
May 2-3	Pacific Lutheran University, Board of Regents
May 4	Spanaway Lutheran, Spanaway
May 6	Ecumenical Breakfast and Workshop, Seattle University
May 11	St. Andrew Lutheran, Vancouver
May 28	Immanuel Lutheran, Centralia
May 29	Ecumenical Ascension Service, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Tacoma

## **Pastor John Rosenberg Gives Opening Prayer in US Congress**

Pastor John Rosenberg, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia, was invited to give the opening prayer in the House of Representatives, Washington DC, on March 25. Each day when the House and Senate are in session, invited clergy from around the nation are asked to speak an opening prayer. If a clergy person has not been invited for a particular day, the chaplain of the House or Senate prays. Congressman Denny Heck attends the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia, and extended the invitation to Pastor Rosenberg. The website of Good Shepherd has a link to a video clip of the prayer being offered. [www.gsolympia.org](http://www.gsolympia.org)

## **Ecumenical Ascension Day Service, St. Andrew's Episcopal, Tacoma**

On Ascension Day, May 29, an Ecumenical Worship Service will take place at 7:00PM at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Tacoma, WA. Historically, this has been a joint effort of the Southwestern Washington Synod Tacoma area Lutheran and Episcopal congregations, with all other denominations warmly invited. The preacher each year alternates between the Episcopal bishop of the Diocese of Olympia (all of western Washington) and the SWWA Synod bishop. Bishop Jaech will be preaching this year. The address of St. Andrew's Episcopal is 7410 South 12th St., Tacoma, WA.



He is Risen.

He is Risen

Indeed!

### **Copies of *With One Voice* available for free**

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia has 200+ copies of "With One Voice" available for free. These are gently used and each has a copy of Marty Haugens "Now the Feast and Celebration - Assembly Edition" attached to the inside cover. Please call if interested, [360-357-3386](tel:360-357-3386).





*Photo of Intern, Keith Marshall, Creator Lutheran, Bonney Lake as he and his son prepare for Easter service.*

## **Congregations in transition**

### **Mobility- May 2014**

<b>Call process</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Pastoral care</b>
Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor	P	TR	Valinda Morse
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	TR	Michelle Manicke
Christ, Federal Way	P	TR	Heidi Calhoun
Creator, Bonney Lake	P	I	Elaine Swigart
First, Tacoma	P	I	Margaret O'Neal
Gloria Dei, Kelso	P	C	Elten Zerby
Good Shepherd, Olympia	P	NV- July 2014	John Rosenberg-retiring
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Jeff Driscoll
Peace, Puyallup	P	TR	Linda Nou
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson	P	I	Frank Miller
St. John, Chehalis	P	I	Jeannine Daggett

#### **Mobility position key**

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

#### **Mobility status key:**

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

### **Ordination:**

Calls accepted: Rev. Jerrett (JT) Burk has accepted the call as Pastor to Mount Cross, University Place. JT and his family are transferring from the Western North Dakota Synod. He will begin his call Welcome JT and family!

## **My hope is built on nothing less...**

*By Rev. Dr. Melanie Wallschlaeger*

*My hope is built on nothing less...*

*Three things remain, faith, hope, and love...*

*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*

The concept of hope has guided people and communities of faith for centuries, reflected in scripture and hymnody.

Hope orients people of faith toward the future, a future that puts people and communities in a better place. For Christians, that future orientation is established through trust in God, because of what God has done in Christ. Hope is rooted in the resurrection of Jesus, an event that points to the work of God throughout history. It is in that trust of God's action that we orient ourselves toward a future where God continues to act. This is our hope.

The problem with hope in our present context is that it's often attached to a mere wish. We might say, "I hope this turns out well" or, "I hope I get that job" or, "I hope things will get back to normal." The mere wish is to be comfortable. This is not hope. Hope for a Christian is rooted in bold action that trusts God will continue to act. It's amazing what kind of work is possible in life when there is trust. When there is trust, there is hope for a good future. Both God and children of God work together.

The renewal of congregations must be rooted in hope, and not a mere wish to be comfortable. Sometimes we believe that money will make us more comfortable. Money can be a good tool, but without bold, mission-oriented action to serve our neighbor, money does little, if anything in congregations.

Interestingly enough, the Southwestern Washington Synod now has a Hope Fund. Because of the particular future orientation of Hope Lutheran Church in South Tacoma, they knew that their resources would serve their neighbors better if they could resource renewing congregations. In the death and closure of Hope Lutheran Church, new life in serving neighbor can be resourced through the money Hope gifted to the Southwestern Washington Synod. The questions for congregations about whether they are in renewal boil down to a few. Is renewal a wish to be comfortable? Or is renewal rooted in community-specific actions that reflect our trust in God and hope for our neighbors' future? The Outreach Board of the Southwestern Washington Synod will distribute the Hope fund to congregations that boldly embrace such hope, trusting that God will be in their future. Congregations and ministries supported through the Hope Fund will demonstrate vision and capacity to equip disciples, engage in evangelical outreach and form community partnerships. While the Outreach Board can accompany a few congregations with financial support, the Board continues to provide annual educational events for equipping congregational leaders for embracing hope for their future. For more information about congregational renewal resources, contact me at [melanie.wallschlaeger@elca.org](mailto:melanie.wallschlaeger@elca.org) or Pastor Peter Mohr at [RevPeterMohr@hotmail.com](mailto:RevPeterMohr@hotmail.com).

## **Synod Assembly – Hospitality: All are Welcome!** **May 16 & 17 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma**

The Synod Assembly is the annual gathering of voting members from the congregations, new mission starts and ministry partners from around the Southwestern Washington Synod. The assembly will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Tacoma (Parkland).

Bishop Jaech has selected the important theme of, “Hospitality: All are Welcome”. You will learn about the various aspects of this theme of hospitality, while joining about 300 people in worship, fellowship, listening to a Bible Study by Bishop Jaech, keynote addresses by The Rev. Daniel Peterson, presentations by our ELCA Churchwide Representative, Mr. Kenneth Inskeep, ELCA Executive for Research and Evaluation, plus conducting the business of the Synod. The Assembly serves as the highest legislative authority of our Synod. Our business this year will include the elections of several Synod Council positions and elected committee members, and voting on the 2015 Synod Budget. The hospitality theme will carry over to eight different workshops during two different sessions on Saturday afternoon. The workshops will focus on ‘Hospitality in your Congregation’, ‘Hospitality to your Neighbor’, ‘Hospitality to your Community’ and ‘Hospitality for a Changing World’. Workshops are open to non-voting members. See the [Synod Assembly webpage](http://www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly) for registration, nominating & other details. [www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly](http://www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly).

## **Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Upcoming Events**

### **Spring Retreat**

**May 16-18, 2014** Theme: “Who Knows My Name.”

Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way

“But now thus says the Lord, He who created you, O Jacob. He who formed you, O Israel, Fear not, for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine.” Isaiah 43:1

Retreat Speaker: Pastor May Lindberg, Community Engagement Coordinator for Compass Housing Alliance

\$180 for full weekend, including 4 meals and private room with ½ bath for 2 nights.

\$120 commuter (Saturday only), includes 3 meals. Partial Scholarships are available.

### **Fall Convention**

**October 11, 2014** Theme: “Open Hearts, Open Hands.”

Peace Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA

“And hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5:5.

### **Ninth Triennial Gathering**

**July 24-27, 2014** in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Theme: “Of Many Generations”

The Triennial convention is the highest legislative authority within the national WELCA

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*WELCA, continued from page 7*

organization. Women are elected in each of the 64 synodical women's organizations to serve as delegates.

See more at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/ninth-triennial-convention-pages-137.php>

Women of the ELCA website: [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

Synod WELCA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SwWaWomenoftheElca>

### **Annual Bible Study Event**

August 23 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma.

This event is the overview of the next Bible study in the ELCA women's magazine, *Gather*. The author of the Bible study, Dr. Carol Schersten LaHurd, will speak on the new women's Bible study, "Transforming Life and Faith". Dr. LaHurd has a Ph.D. in New Testament from the University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. She is also the author of the 1998 Bible study for WELCA From 2006-2010, Dr. LaHurd was coordinator of the Middle East peace-making campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Currently she teaches part-time at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is educational outreach consultant for the seminary's Center for Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice.



In this WELCA Bible study beginning in September 2014, you will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events we experience (new life partner, new child, new job, new home, etc.) You will read about people who have life-changing experiences and watch them turn to and with God as their minds, hearts, and daily lives are altered. You'll also reflect on the ways you, too, have been and will be transformed and called by God to serve God's mission in the world. **Download** more information about the 2014-15 Bible study. See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather-bible-studies-pages-55.php>

## **God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday**

As a church that believes "God is calling us into the world together," members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will participate in "**God's work. Our hands.**" **Sunday**, Sept. 7, 2014 - a day dedicated to doing service work alongside neighbors in communities across the country. On this day, the almost 10,000 congregations of the ELCA come together to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people.

In 2013, the 4 million-member ELCA celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the first "**God's work. Our hands.**" **Sunday**. ELCA members of all ages engaged in service projects that helped address critical needs in their neighborhoods and communities. Activities included cleaning parks and beaches, collecting food and preparing meals for people who are homeless, assembling care packages, and visiting the homebound and the elderly.

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**"God's work. Our hands."**, continued from page 8

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday reminds us that we are a church together for the sake of the world. Our lives have been changed by our relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and it's that encounter with Jesus that frees us to make a difference," said ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

"When one congregation or a group of congregations gathers for service in their local communities, they are the church in that place, taking care of that part of God's vineyard. But this is all work that we do together. When one congregation works to feed people who are hungry, that is also the entire church coming together," said Eaton.

More information about "God's work. Our hands." Sunday is available at [www.elca.org/dayofservice](http://www.elca.org/dayofservice).

The Spanish version of the "God's work. Our hands." Sunday T-shirt is now available for purchase. It's on its way in Arabic as well. We believe more languages will be available in the coming months.

[http://oldlutheran.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store\\_Code=OL&Product\\_Code=DOSESP&Category\\_Code=ELCA](http://oldlutheran.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=OL&Product_Code=DOSESP&Category_Code=ELCA)

## ELCA's Alt Year Experience

As a new ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Abundant Life Together provides young adults with a year apart in intentional community to explore vocation through theological, practical, and shared learning that transforms communities as participants grow together through personal reflection, rich relationships, leadership, and service.

While other "gap year" experiences take you deeper into a specific experience (often one specific full-time service), or are very loose about what the experience is (such as a travel gap-year), the ALT Year Experience combines a wide variety of experiences that encourage personal formation, faith exploration, and vocational discernment. The 2013 Pilot Site is in Toledo, Ohio and is hosted by Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in the heart of Toledo. If you are a part of the ALT Year Experience you will spend half of your time in structured community life and half of your time will be free for your own exploration, exercise, and rest. You'll be amazed what we can do together and how much you will grow as a person, through this mix of community structure and personal freedom.

**Abundant Life Together is guided by the following core values**

- **Young Adults:** we value the strengths, energy, and questions young adults (age 18-25) bring to God's ongoing activity in the world.

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- **Cultivating Faith:** we are inspired by the joys and challenges of a relationship with Jesus that leads us into an adventure of faith given through the gift of the gospel.
- **Courageous Experimentation:** we promote creativity, curiosity, critical reflection, and proactive initiative as a way of living out discipleship at the intersection of church and culture.
- **Abundant Community:** we value the wisdom and gifts discovered through relationships and collaboration between the host communities, ALT participants, and local congregations, bringing people together of different generations, cultures, and life-experiences.
- **Vital Partnerships:** we value the community and mutuality that forms when trust and respect permeate our relationships with each other and with the local and larger church, allowing for growth, learning, and transformation.

There is currently no tuition cost for an ALT Year. The ELCA is seeking to make this experience as inexpensive as possible so every young adult can have the opportunity to participate. The generosity of the ELCA, partner synods, partner congregations, and generous donors provide for the cost of administration, the director's salary, and the national and local budgets.

Participants are asked to pay for Living Expenses for the 9 month experience, which includes room, food, supplies, travel costs, and a monthly stipend-about \$5000. A portion of that cost is expected to come from a participant's own summer earnings or savings. To learn more [www.altyear.org](http://www.altyear.org)

### **Got ELCA-Primary Health Benefits? HELP!**

Our synod is at 61% - we need to reach a minimum of 65% by April 30 in order to get our 2% savings across the synod! That's just 4 ,more people! Take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment **TODAY**. You'll earn \$150 wellness dollars and help all the employers in our synod save 2% on health contributions for ALL of 2014. We need 65% of y'all to take this in order to get the 2% savings by April 30, so encourage one another to get it done! (AND \$150 is just the start, ELCA Primary members and eligible spouses can earn up to \$500 wellness dollars each!) <https://www20.mayoclinicembodhealth.com/index.cfm?redirect=1>

### **Has your congregation registered for the 2014 Synod Assembly?**

Hop to it! Help your synod staff best prepare by registering TODAY! [www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly](http://www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly)

## Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard Named President and CEO of Lutheran World Relief

Baltimore, April 11, 2014– Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard, of McLean, Va., will be the next president and chief executive officer of Lutheran World Relief (LWR), effective July 1. Speckhard succeeds the Rev. Dr. John Nunes, who served from 2007 to 2013. Speckhard will be the fifth president in LWR’s 69-year history.



this great cause.”

“I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to come to Lutheran World Relief and can’t wait to get started,” Speckhard said. “The organization is doing incredible work around the world to alleviate suffering and attack the root causes of poverty and it is inspiring to see how many Lutherans want to make a difference and are contributing to

“It is a privilege to welcome Daniel Speckhard as LWR’s president and CEO,” said Gloria Edwards, LWR’s board chair after the election of Speckhard in a special meeting last week. “He is a strong leader who has a deep passion for this work and a compelling vision for the future. The board looks forward to working with him to continue to grow the organization, connect with U.S. Lutherans, and reach even more people in need. The board is grateful to our Search Committee who have worked diligently to find an extraordinary candidate. We are convinced that we can make an even greater difference with the leadership of Daniel Speckhard.” *Continued next page*

Currently a senior advisor at Palantir Technologies and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, Speckhard has served in various high-level diplomatic roles in both Republican and Democratic administrations. Most recently, he was U.S. ambassador to Greece from 2007 to 2010. He has also served as deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office, deputy assistant secretary general for political affairs at NATO, and the U.S. ambassador to Belarus. Earlier in his career he was an expert on foreign assistance programs and the challenges facing countries in transition. He speaks Russian and French and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Atlantic Council.

Speckhard holds master’s degrees in economics and in public policy and administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

***WHO IS LWR? Lutheran World Relief works to improve the lives of smallholder farmers and people experiencing poverty in Africa, Asia and Latin America, both in times of emergencies and for the long term. With the financial support of US Lutherans and other donors, LWR strengthens communities through programs in agriculture, climate, and emergency support. LWR works with partners, supporters and technical assistance providers to achieve lasting results. For more information, visit [lwr.org](http://lwr.org). Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.***

## Be Part of the Solution to Child Hunger

Faith communities are in a unique position to help reduce childhood hunger during summertime. During arts or sports activities, congregational summer camps, vacation bible school, etc., you can help children enjoy a nutritious meal every day of the summer by considering one of the following:

1. **Sponsor** summer feeding sites.
2. **Operate** a summer feeding site for another sponsor.
3. **Provide** meals for a sponsor of summer feeding sites.

Summer meals are reimbursable by the State through a USDA program and make it affordable for faith communities to sponsor. There are people willing to help you make this work smoothly: In Washington state, contact Jennifer Mitchell, USDA's Summer Food and Special Projects Supervisor, [\(360\) 725-6056](tel:3607256056), [Jennifer.Mitchell@k12.wa.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mitchell@k12.wa.us). You can learn more with this [Summer Meals Resource Toolkit](#).

The USDA has also provided [the following information](#) to assist you in this process.

## Oso Mudslide Lutheran Relief Fund

The ELCA Northwest Washington Synod and Lutheran Community Services Northwest, in consultation with Lutheran Disaster Response, are partnering to help provide assistance to individuals and families impacted by the recent natural disaster in Snohomish County, Washington.



Lutherans have a reputation for being there for the "long haul" when disasters occur. Donations received will be used to address both immediate and long-term needs. Funds will be administered by LCSNW and distributed through the NW Washington Synod, local congregations and agencies in the affected area.

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*Oso mudslide, continued from page 12*

To make a secure online donation to help in this effort, go to:

<https://lcsnw.ejoinme.org/MyPages/OsoMudslideReliefFund/tabid/530026/Default.aspx>

If you would like to donate by check, please mail to:

Lutheran Community Services Northwest

Attn: Oso Mudslide Fund

4040 S. 188th Street, Suite 300

SeaTac, WA 98188

Please make checks payable to Lutheran Community Services Northwest and note "Oso Mudslide Fund" on the memo line. Thank you for helping us reach out to offer assistance and hope to these communities during this time of great challenge and loss.

## **New President/CEO for Lutheran Community Services NW**

Following an extensive nationwide search, the Board of Directors of Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) has selected David Duea (pronounced "dew 'ee") as their new President/CEO, effective July 1<sup>st</sup>.

David comes to LCSNW from HopeSparks Family Services in Tacoma, where he has been President/CEO since 2001. He has served in the non-profit field since graduating from Pacific Lutheran University in 1989 with a Bachelor's degree in Social Work. David has extensive experience working with non-profits that focus on youth and families. His passion is seeing hearts restored. His Lutheran roots run deep and you could say that his affinity for social ministry is even in his DNA - his father, Bob Duea, was Executive Director of Lutheran Family Service of Oregon in the late 1970's and early 1980's, and later worked for Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. David has coached over 20 different teams in a variety of sports. David and his family make their home in Gig Harbor, Washington.

David recently expressed his excitement in stepping into his new role : *I'm honored and humbled to have been selected for this position, and am looking forward to meeting all of the supporters, partners and stakeholders who are championing health, justice and hope. I am firmly committed to continuing the transformative work of Roberta and her team.*

## **A New Feature in *The Lutheran***



You may have noticed that *The Lutheran* magazine has a new feature called "Picture this" (see page 49 of each issue). They are looking for photographs that tell the tale of people's faith life or that of their congregation or the ELCA. Send your high-resolution photo to [lutheran@thelutheran.org](mailto:lutheran@thelutheran.org) with "Picture this" in the subject line, along with caption and contact information.

## Aligning Carbon Neutrality Goals with Educational Mission: Onsetting

Pacific Lutheran University is piloting an educational and participatory program to begin mitigating one of the largest contributors to PLU's carbon emissions – study abroad air miles. When the new president reaffirmed PLU's commitment to carbon neutrality by 2020 by



signing the American College and University President's Climate Commitment (ACUPCC), the study away and sustainability centers partnered to meet this goal in a meaningful manner. Global education is a pathway to distinction at PLU. However, as a result our study away program contributes 19.4 percent of the university's total carbon footprint at over 3,700 MTCO<sub>2e</sub>.

PLU entered a short video highlighting climate innovations on campus. The contest is part of the ACUPCC. Planet Forward is partnering with Second Nature to host this Climate Leadership Awards Video Voting Competition. [Second Nature](#), which seeks to create a sustainable society by transforming higher education, has selected the top climate-related ideas from colleges across the country. PLU is in the finals.

You can watch PLU's video [here](#). To vote for the PLU project, please click the Thumbs Up button next to their video.

## 2015 Lutheran Staff Association Conference

April 19-22, 2015 at Lutherhaven - Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Majestic trees...inspirational views... gracious hospitality...all describe Camp Lutherhaven, situated on scenic Lake Coeur d'Alene eight miles south of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. We are looking forward to hosting you in this welcoming, comfortable lakeside facility within easy reach of North Idaho, Eastern Washington and Northeast Oregon - about 90 minutes' drive from the Spokane airport.



The meeting rooms, chapel, and dining hall are all handicap accessible, as is the waterfront. The weather should be spring-like, but if not, there is a fireplace in every meeting room and cabin. Fresh, organic, fair trade coffee & tea will be available 24/7. Meals will be served family-style in the beautiful dining hall, overlooking the lake.

LSA exists to provide strength and encouragement to the lay ministry community. Members and attendees include lay staff of Christian seminaries, universities, colleges and schools, conference and retreat centers, denominational headquarters, and independent & virtual

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assistants as well as parish administrators, managers, and secretaries. Whether working alone or with many others, we all need time and space in which to share and be cared for, while learning new things and making new friends. Expected cost will be lower this year. More information soon.

## **Congregation Happenings**

### **Route 56ers in Vancouver**

By Susan Dollinger

Route 56 is **Family of Christ, Vancouver's** 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade youth group that uses the theme: "Route 56-Driving with God in Faith, Fun, and Service". Congregational Life Ministries Coordinator, Susan Dollinger, has empowered the kids to help each other learn about their partnership with Good Samaritan Ministries, of Beaverton, Oregon, who works with two schools in Zambia to help build desks for the children.

They learned that the children from Zambia have lost one or both of their parents, often to AIDS. Dollinger said, "Zambia is one of the world's poorest countries, but students there really want to learn. Some children will walk two hours to get to school and then sit on stumps and write on their laps. The Route 56'ers asked the congregation to bring in their empty bottles and cans, which were sorted, cleaned and given to people at Good Samaritans Ministries". The money from the bottles and cans go to carpenters in Zambia to build the desks for \$10 each (equivalent to 200 cans and bottles). These desks also serve as church pews on Sundays. Some money is also set aside for repairs to the schools that they work with.

Dollinger happily announced that, "as of today, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders have collected and processed 1700 cans and bottles and more are coming in. They will celebrate the joy of exceeding our goal by talking about: how it feels to set a goal and achieve it; how they saw God in the service project; how it feels to do a service project, especially for other children; and how this has made a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others."

**Our Saviour's, Bremerton** supports "OneChurch-One Family", a strategic partnership with local churches providing financial assistance to homeless families in Kitsap County. The mission of OneChurch-One Family is to demonstrate the love of God in Kitsap County by bringing homeless families into nurturing relationships with support teams from Kitsap County's churches, resulting in the families' ability to obtain long term housing, increasing their growth and stability. The church helps to provide a home for families to live in and then the church serves as mentor to provide spiritual and emotional support until that family can get back on their feet. Our Saviour's also partners with Kitsap Community Resources and Youth For Christ that do all of the pre-qualifying of the families. 74% of the families they work with move on to permanent or transitional housing.

**Faith, Elma-** Almost 25 years ago, the first Sunday of the month was designated as Pantry Sunday when they give non-perishable food and other items to food banks in Elma, Montesano and MCleary. They've continued this every month for the past 25 years.

**Faith, Shelton-** The **"Waves of Change"** program takes spare change on the second Sunday of every month in an effort to support the development of sustainable, clean water sources and provide funding for water transport, purification and storage for selected people through the world where water is not readily available. In February, they brought in over \$362 on that one Sunday.

**Calvary, Federal Way-** Calvary has **Braille Bibles** to give to whoever could use them— Full set NIV Bible in English Braille Grade Two, Zondervan 1984; Luther's Small Catechism 1991 Edition in English Braille Grade Two are spiral bound; Full set Revised Standard Version Bible in English Braille American Edition revised 1962 in hard cover ring binder. IF you are interested in these, please contact the church at [revlac@comcast.net](mailto:revlac@comcast.net) or [liz.calvaryelca@comcast.net](mailto:liz.calvaryelca@comcast.net).

**Messiah, Vancouver-** Messiah gave a grant to Fort Vancouver High School, enabling 142 students to take AP tests.

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