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

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.

December 2014

Message from Bishop Jaech

Dear Friends in Christ,

When Advent arrives, I enjoy reading again a reflection written by Frederich Buechner. Buechner talks about Advent as the time of holding your breath for that which is about to happen. This is how he puts it.



The house lights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised his baton.

In the silence of a midwinter dusk there is far off in the deep of it somewhere a sound so faint that for all you can tell it may be only the sound of the silence itself. You hold your breath to listen.

You walk up the steps to the front door. The empty windows at either side of it tell you nothing, or almost nothing. For a second you catch a whiff in the air of some fragrance that reminds you of a place you've never been and a time you have no words for. You are aware of the beating of your heart.

The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.

The Salvation Army Santa Claus clangs his bell. The sidewalks are so crowded you can hardly move. Exhaust fumes are the chief fragrance in the air, and everybody is as bundled up against any sense of what all the fuss is really about as they are bundled up against the wind-chill factor.

But if you concentrate just for an instant, far off in the deeps of you somewhere you can feel the beating of your heart. For all its madness and lostness, not to mention your own, you can hear the world itself holding its breath.

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Bishop continued from page 1

Advent is indeed that moment of waiting breathlessly for that which is about to happen, which is nothing less than God coming to change the world and us. The coming weeks will undoubtedly become a rush of shopping and planning for family gatherings and getting ready for church services. It can become too much at times and begin to wear us out.

In the midst of all that, I pray that you also have moments that catch you by surprise and give you a premonition of the gift that is about to unfold. The world can seem so hopelessly predictable and frozen. We are afraid we will be stuck in the same sadness forever. Yet Immanuel stirs...God with us and for us.

The conductor has raised the baton. What music is about to ring out!?

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Rick Jaech

Recent and Upcoming Visits by Bishop Jaech

October

Calvary, Federal Way
 Reformation Sunday Service with Bethany, Longview; Gloria Dei, Kelso;
 St. Paul, Castle Rock; Stella Chapel, Stella; and Trinity, Longview.
 Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA
 Galilean Chapel, Ocean Shores

November

Mt. View Lutheran, Edgewood, 110th Anniversary Dinner and Sunday
 Celebration
 Spirit of Life, Port Orchard
 Lutheran Community Services NW Celebration, Bremerton
 St. Paul, Winlock
 Hope, Enumclaw, Ordination of Pastor Chelsea Globe
 Peninsula Lutheran, Gig Harbor, Commissioning of AIM Marjorie Olason

December

Holy Trinity, Pt. Angeles, Retirement Celebration for Pastor Dick Grinstad
 St. Paul, Castle Rock
 Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson
 Trinity, Vancouver
 Bishop's Advent Eucharists in Vancouver, Tacoma (United), Tacoma (PLU),
 Aberdeen and Port Orchard

ELCA Conference of Bishops Addresses Immigration

Our story as God's people is repeatedly the story of immigrants in a new land: Abraham and Sarah following God to a new country; the children of Israel living in Egypt; the people of Judah suffering in Babylon. Therefore, how we treat the strangers and immigrants in our midst is also repeatedly addressed throughout scripture.

Once again our nation is debating our immigration policy. Many different voices are heard and should be considered regarding this complex issue. The church also has a voice in what values ought to inform the discussion. For that reason, the 65 Synod bishops who make up the ELCA Conference of Bishops have issued the following statement on immigration in order to bring the voice of the church to the public discussion. —Bishop Jaech

Immigration Statement

November 20, 2014

Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

As people of faith and leaders of the church, we support public policy that protects children, reunites families, and cares for the most vulnerable, regardless of their place of birth.

The treatment of immigrants is a core religious value. To welcome the stranger is to welcome a child of God. In the New Testament, Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger, for "just as you did it to one of the least of these... you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40)

Each day in our congregations and in our service to the community, we see the consequences of this broken immigration system: separated families, children returning home to find their parents have been deported, and the exploitation of undocumented workers.

By removing the threat of deportation for many people, we are showing compassion for people who have been here for years, working hard to provide for their families, obeying the law, and contributing to the fabric of our community.

While today's action addresses a pressing need, it does not provide a path to citizenship, establish policies that prioritize family unity, or create more efficient channels for entry of new migrant workers. Our hope is that congress will address these and related issues, including the practice of family detention, which undermines our values as a people of faith and a nation of welcome.

The Scriptures consistently show a significant concern for immigrants: *When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.* (Leviticus 19:33-34)

The positive role of immigrants in our history, economy and our community is unmistakable. We support this compassionate first step toward reforming an immigration system that is flawed and requires many of our neighbors to live in the shadows in fear.

Congregations in transition

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

Mobility- November 2014

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	I	Michelle Manicke
Elim, Port Orchard	P	I	Pulpit Supply
Good Shepherd, Olympia	P	C	Randy Faro
Hope, Enumclaw	P	C	Keith Marshall
Holy Trinity, Port Angeles	P	NV	Richard Grinstad (retires Jan. 2015)
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Ron Kempe
Peace, Puyallup	P	I	Linda Nou
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	TR	Richard Hermstad
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Pulpit Supply

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 – Calling

Calls Accepted

Pastors Stephanie McCarthy and Seth Novak have accepted the call as Pastors to Agnus Dei Lutheran, Gig Harbor. They began their shared call on November 23rd.

Pastor Amy Hessel has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd in Olympia. She will begin her call in January 2015.

Photo from Ordination of Pastor Chelsea Globe November 15, 2014



ELCA ministries

Bishop Eaton in Synod November 1st

About 300 people were in attendance to attend an information and funny question and answer time with ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton on November 1st at PLU.



She was in town for the 110th anniversary of Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood and graciously agreed to do a presentation sponsored by the Southwestern Washington Synod at PLU. The title was "The ELCA: Who is leading us and where are we going?" PLU recorded the event and the link to Bishop Eaton's presentation at PLU, sponsored by the Southwestern Washington Synod, is here: <https://vimeo.com/111137169>

ELCA Presiding Bishop and Ecumenical Leaders Provide Advent Devotions

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and leaders from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, the Anglican Church of Canada, and The Episcopal Church have written a series of weekly Advent devotions for members of the four denominations.

In addition to Eaton, devotions were contributed by the Rev. Susan C. Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, primate, Anglican Church in Canada; and the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, presiding bishop and primate, The Episcopal Church.

In his introduction to the devotions, the Rev. Donald J. McCoid, director for ELCA ecumenical and inter-religious relations, said the church leaders have met over the past five years "to

Continued next page

Advent devotions continued

share with one another, provide worship observances for the 10th Anniversary of Full Communion agreements, to advocate for creation and the environment and to call members to prayer for situations of war and turmoil. At their most recent meeting, the leaders agreed to provide Advent devotions for the four churches."

In her devotion for the first week of Advent, Eaton writes, "Advent is an odd season. It isn't culturally accessible. It doesn't lend itself to retail. There are no made-for-TV movies telling heartwarming stories about the great and terrible day of the Lord. It is an unsettled season that holds in tension the now and the not yet, longing and hope, judgment and redemption." The Advent devotions are available here: <http://bit.ly/1sNltGe>

Wartburg Seminary President Announces Retirement



Wartburg Theological Seminary President the Rev. Stanley N. Olson has announced his intent to retire at the end of this academic year. Olson has served as Wartburg Seminary's 13th President since January 2011. Under his leadership Wartburg has been strengthened both financially and academically and is prepared to continue to excel in the formation of valued leaders.

Wartburg Theological Seminary is one of eight theological schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Wartburg is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and educates women and men to serve the church's mission as ordained and lay leaders. Established in Dubuque, Iowa in 1854, Wartburg Seminary has now begun its 161st academic year.

An MIF4KIDZ Investment is the Best Christmas Gift for a Child

Do you have a child or teen on your Christmas gift list this year? Consider a gift that will introduce that child to the principles of sound investing-and help grow the church at the same time. Consider opening or adding to an existing MIF4KIDZ account offered by the ELCA Mission Investment Fund.

MIF4KIDZ accounts can be opened until a child's 16th birthday and mature on the child's 18th birthday-just in time to help pay for college tuition or other big-ticket items like a car or travel.

To give an MIF4KIDZ gift this Christmas, visit mif.elca.org/youthministry for more information and to download an MIF4KIDZ account application. For information on all MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at [877-886-3522](tel:877-886-3522) or your MIF Regional Manager, Joel Wudel, at [\(773\) 682-1765](tel:773-682-1765) or email him at joel.wudel@elca.org<mailto:joel.wudel@elca.org>.

Lutheran Disaster Response

Illinois: One year after the November tornado outbreak

By Megan Brandsrud



Pictured: Damage in Washington, Ill., caused by November 2013 tornadoes. Augustino/FEMA

One year ago, on Nov. 17, 2013, a storm system that consisted of 73 tornadoes moved through the Midwest. Illinois was severely impacted—the tornado system that hit the state was the fourth deadliest and costliest to occur in Illinois with six deaths and more than \$1 billion in damages.

Immediately after the storm, Lutheran Disaster Response began assessing the situation in collaboration with our affiliate, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. Since then, thanks to your support, we have been active in case management work in the communities of Washington, Brookport and Gifford to help

people who were impacted by the tornadoes navigate their way through the recovery process.

A House after the Storm

Ray and Marcina Warfield live in Brookport, Ill., where 44 homes were destroyed and 127 homes were damaged. At the time the tornado tore through their community, the Warfields were out of town visiting family. They were happy to have been safe from the storm, but when they returned, they saw that their mobile home had been destroyed in the tornado's path.

The Warfields applied for assistance with FEMA and initially planned to purchase another used mobile home. However, they changed their minds after meeting with a case manager through the long-term recovery group, which is supported in part by Lutheran Disaster Response. The Warfields' case manager suggested applying their resources toward a new home instead, which would provide them more security. Being in their 70s and having always lived in a mobile home, the Warfields were a little apprehensive, but they put their trust in the long-term recovery group.

Work crews and volunteers immediately began building the Warfields a new house on the property where their mobile home was. Every night, the Warfields would help out by cleaning the work site and throwing out trash. During the day, they spent time getting to know the crews working on their house and expressing their gratitude. In August, the Warfields' new home was dedicated and they moved in.

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Illinois continued from page 7

"Never in our dreams did we think we would live in a real home," Marcina Warfield said.



Pictured: Ray and Marcina Warfield stand in front of their new home in Brookport, Ill.

Thanks to your generosity, Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in Illinois to work with families, like the Warfields, who experienced loss from the tornadoes. We continue to work with the communities and provide case management to help those who were impacted adjust to their "new normal." Thank you for your prayers and support for Lutheran Disaster Response and the

communities of Washington, Brookport and Gifford. Please join us in giving thanks for the rebuilding that has happened and praying for continued recovery!

- See more at:

<http://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCALutheranDisasterResponse>

Global Mission

Rooted and Built in Jesus

"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith." Colossians 2:6-7a.

Rooted and built in Jesus! This is the core of the ELCA Global Mission work as the ELCA walks with more than 80 companion churches in other countries to participate in God's reconciling mission through proclamation and service.

Our living, daring confidence in God's grace propels us, along with our companions, to say "yes" to a world searching for renewal and wholeness. As part of a global Lutheran community, we gratefully receive the witness of global brothers and sisters whose faith, hospitality, resilience and zeal energize us and our own congregations. In response, we share our gifts and talents to address the root causes of poverty and [hunger](#) and meeting human needs, fight [malaria](#) and [HIV and AIDS](#), build communities that coexist in peace, and prepare women and men to preach the good news of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

ELCA Global Mission walking and working together, we seek to *accompany* our companions. Accompaniment is defined as *walking together in a solidarity that practices interdependence and mutuality.*

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ELCA Global Mission continued from page 8

The ELCA lives out accompaniment in relationships with global companions, striving to share God's love and participate in God's mission together:

- **Mutually:** All of us have gifts to support God's mission. There is no mission *to*, only mission *with* and *among*.
- **Inclusively:** We seek to build relationships across boundaries that exclude and divide.
- **Vulnerably:** Just as Jesus became vulnerable to us, we open ourselves to others.
- **Empowering:** We seek to identify and correct imbalances of power, which may mean recognizing and letting go of our own.
- **Sustainably:** To ensure local ministries last for a long time, we seek to embed mission in ongoing relationships and communities.

Our Friendship with Namibia Grows



Greetings in the name of Christ,

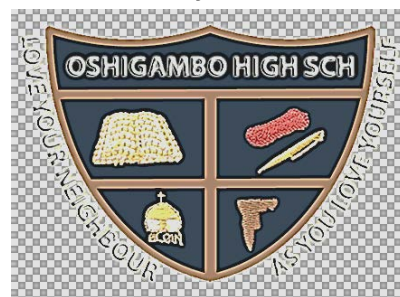
Would you believe it's been a quarter of a century that the Southwestern Washington Synod has been in an ELCA companion relationship with the Lutheran church in Namibia? In that time, we've prayed for one another; developed Christlike friendships; and learned as we accompanied one another.



This has been done through mutual visitations led by the synod's Namibia Task Force in conjunction with three other synods and the churchwide office.

I'd like to invite you and your congregation to join us. We're planning multiple visits there; and a leading Namibian clergy member will be visiting our synod in 2015. We're raising funds for Oshigambo

High School scholarships. And, we're coupling with PLU to welcome Namibia leaders whom we helped educate as they return here for a visit in February 2015.



I'd love to come to your congregation and invite you in, and give a presentation. To schedule a visit, contact me at [206-498-0920](tel:206-498-0920) or rachelpritchett@msn.com.

Rachel Pritchett, chair Namibia Task Force

Pictured above : Rachel Pritchett, Namibia Task Force Chair; An infant patient at Onandjokwe Lutheran Hospital in Oniipa, Namibia in 2010 receiving cap knit by members of Southwestern Washington Synod congregations, school shield for Oshigambo High School.

Support is needed for these ELCA Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission

Pastor Miriam Schmidt, *shown right*, who has ties in Washington and is pastor of the Bratislava International Church in Slovakia, and her husband, Jeremy Blyth, coordinate the work of the Young Adults in Global Mission serving in Hungary. 2015 goal: \$19,000 in additional annual support.



Four Young Adults in Global Mission serving from Washington: *Left to Right*: Caitlin Zimmerman in Southern Africa, Ashlyn Dell'Osa and Vicky Hart in the United Kingdom, and Emily Bishop in Rwanda. Goal: \$7,000 in support for each young adult.



For more information, contact globalchurch@elca.org or visit www.ELCA.org/globalchurch.

Hunger ministries

Piggy Banks for Hunger

In the Fall version of the ELCA Hunger Packet that was sent to every congregation, you received a “piggy bank” coin box. Just \$30 can provide a piglet to a family in need. When this little piggy grows up, she will give birth to as many as 16 piglets each year. Pigs help fertilize fields, provide food to eat and can be sold at market for much-needed income. What a BIG difference a pig can make! Distribute these FREE coin boxes to your Sunday school class, youth group or the entire congregation to collect your offerings. The boxes are available in packages of 10 and can be ordered here: http://resources.elca.org/ELCA_Good_Gifts-ELCA_Good_Gifts_Piggy_Bank_1.html



Almost all of the ELCA World Hunger resources are free, except for some of the larger curriculum books. <http://resources.elca.org/Products-Hunger.html>

If you have a passion for hunger issues and would like to be involved or at least share information about what you and your congregation are doing in this area, please contact Allison at the Synod Office at swwsynod@plu.edu.

Your Stories of Hospitality

Compiled by Bob and Kathy Mattson, members at 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. Hundreds of stories were shared- some will be included each month in the synod newsletter.



From: Resurrection Lutheran, Tacoma, WA

Darren Pendergast Hospitality Story

During a job search day in Totem Lake area, I missed a bus and started walking towards the area of the local transit center. After a while at a traffic light waiting to cross the road, a gentleman offered a ride. Seeing kindness in his eyes, I accepted. This gentleman went out of his way to provide help for someone in need. He later mentioned that he was a pastor. I never felt it was something that he was supposed to do, but God showed His presence

in my life through this pastor's caring.

From: Bethel Lutheran Church, Brush Prairie, WA

Ron Zschoche Hospitality Story

The Church of God Prophecy across the street burned down. Our congregation immediately offered our space to them so they could continue to worship. They are a charismatic Spanish language people-very poor. Over the years, they have rebuilt, but the friendship and sharing remains.

From: Christ Lutheran Church, Lakewood, WA

Anonymous

We have opened our hearts and wallets to a small African-American Church of God in Christ congregation by housing them at our location and by refurbishing their own new location.

Training Opportunities

Synod WELCA Spring Retreat, April 17-19, 2015

Dumas Bay Centre in Federal Way will be the site of the spring retreat for the Southwestern Washington Synod Women's Organization. "A Joyful Heart – A Dancing Spirit" is the theme, and Pastor Mary Lindberg from the Compass Housing Alliance will be the speaker. Registration information out this winter.

Bishop's Convocation for Rostered Leaders

Bishop Jaech invites all rostered leaders in the Southwestern Washington Synod to the 2015 Bishop's Convocation for rostered leaders. Theme: "A User's Guide to Power: How Pastors and AIMS can use their Power Well in a Church Setting" with Julie Diamond Ph.D. The Prayer Retreat that precedes it will be "Resting in God: Exploring Meditation" with Satya Jaech, MA. Both events held at Seabeck Conference Center.
www.regonline.com/2015BishopsConvo

Byberg Preaching Workshop for Rostered Leaders

January 12-15, 2015 at Cannon Beach, OR. The main speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Melinda Quivik who will speak on "Preaching in Times of Transition (i.e. all the time)" For more information and to register go to bybergpreaching.org.

Children, Youth & Family Ministry Training at Trinity Lutheran College

Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, WA, will offer a three-week Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry, January 5-23, 2015. The training is designed to equip church staff, volunteers, and pastors for effective leadership in congregational children, youth, and family ministry. Students learn in an interactive seminar format,



TRINITY
LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Children, Youth & Family Center

including discussions, videos, presentations, role plays, and more. Topics include biblical and theological foundations, Bible study methods, human lifespan development, creative programming, counseling and relational skills, and program administration. Housing is available. For more information, visit www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter or contact Rev. David Ellingson at 425.249.4722 or david.ellingson@tlc.edu.

"Your Offering, Changing Lives"

All pastors and congregation presidents received a packet in early November with a cover letter from Bishop Jaech and Pastor Melanie Wallschlaeger, which included a copy of the ELCA DVD, "Your Offering, Changing Lives" about mission support in the ELCA taped to the inside of the Stories of Faith in Action book with the green mission intent discussion sheet for your congregation and council's use.



Christian Education Network

of the ELCA

"... that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ..."

Colossians 2:2

Rostered leaders, lay leaders, & lay volunteers, are you feeling overwhelmed with responsibilities for faith formation and Christian education? There is help! You are invited to become a member of the **Christian Education Network of the ELCA**

Learn all about us at www.faithfulteaching.org New website – including a weekly blog, resources, links! New free Mentor Program for members! Monthly e-newsletter! Active Facebook group!

Region 1 contact: Lorie Hughes, Billings, MT (glsmahughes@bresnan.net; 406-656-3552)

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

Newborn Kit Ministry at Gloria Dei, Olympia.

The Newborn Kit Ministry is an instrument through which members of Gloria De Lutheran Church in Olympia channel their love and compassion for the health and hope of God's children around the world. By partnering with Global Health Ministries (GHM.org), this multi-generational ministry serves in a very special way as they provide Newborn Kits to areas in developing countries where they are needed. The new mothers feel that they are not alone, that someone cares, and that they can welcome their babies safely into the world. The kits go to such places as India, Madagascar, Papua New Guinea, and many countries in Africa.

Thirteen years ago the Midwife Kit Project started as a service project for the Rebecca Circle at Gloria Dei in the home of Pastor Phil and Mary Rue. Over the years, it has evolved into a congregation-wide endeavor. In 2010, Midwife Kits were renamed Newborn Kits with the goal being an incentive for prenatal care and delivery at hospitals. These kits provide an important health service as they help prevent causes of infant death in developing countries. The kits contain a bath towel, wash cloth, Ivory soap, a baby hat (most are knit or crocheted by Gloria Dei members), a baby t-shirt, flannel receiving blanket, and they have recently starting adding two cloth diapers and diaper pins. Gloria Dei members have a "Ripping and Serging Party" two weeks before packing day each Fall and Spring when they can cut off onesies and serge the bottom to turn them into t-shirts, rip flannel fabric or sheets to serge for receiving blankets, and inventory what items members and friends have donated to better prepare for packing day. The kits ship to Global Health Ministries and from there they go out on the big cargo containers with other medical supplies and equipment they ship to Lutheran hospitals around the world.

Continued next page

Newborn kit continued

Gloria Dei members just finished packing 786 kits in October. That brings their total Newborn Kits they have donated up to 12, 165 kits! “For this child I have prayed.”(1 Samuel, 1:27). As they pack the kits volunteers are encouraged to ponder the babies in poor countries around the globe.

The Newborn Kit group receives donations year round from Gloria Dei members and friends from all over the world. This fall the young children of Gloria Dei are having a service project day to make crafts to raise money for items. The Gloria Dei Preschool has made the Newborn Kits a focus for their donations.

If your congregation is interested in starting a Newborn Kit ministry, Penny Boyer is happy to give advice to help you get started. Her email is vboyer1@ywave.com

All Saints, Auburn celebrates Pastor Jan Otto’s 25th anniversary of her ordination. Members of All Saints, Auburn celebrated Pastor Otto’s anniversary of her ordination by giving her “Gifts of 25”- in the form of chrysanthemums, sea shells, mechanical pencils, postage stamps, art sketches, skittles, gas cards, restaurant gift cards, baseball cards, statements of affirmation, caramel apple suckers, roses, movie tickets, truffles, dollar bills, golf balls, pretzels.

First Lutheran Community Church in Port Orchard has used their additional building on their property as an opportunity to serve the community and serve the mental health needs in South Kitsap. Kitsap Mental Health Services has opened an office in First Lutheran’s building.

*"For a community to be whole and healthy,
it must be based on people's love and
concern for each other."*

Millard Fuller

Please join
Kitsap Mental Health Services
as we celebrate the opening
of our new
South Kitsap Office!

**Tuesday,
December 2, 2014**

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

**2535 Mitchell Road SE
Port Orchard, WA 98366**

**KITSAP MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES**

Congregations continued

Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission, Tacoma has recently met with the two new principals at First Creek Middle School in the Salishan area of Tacoma. They donated socks, sports equipment, school supplies and are keeping their support open.

On December 6th, **St. Andrew, Vancouver** will be having a “Walk and Knock”. This is an intergenerational food drive where they walk (or drive) to neighbors asking for food donations to support all of the food banks in Clark County.

Thirty-one members of **Grace, Port Townsend** wore their gold “God’s Work. Our Hands.” t-shirts and helped prepare the land and build the framing for a new Habitat for Humanity House in their community.

Calendar

January 12-15, 2015- Byberg Preaching Conference, Cannon Beach, OR

January 25-28, 2015- Bishop’s Convocation and Prayer Retreat for Rostered Leaders, Seabeck. Conference Center

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

/end