



The Spirit

Volume 26, Number 7

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

August 2009

Mission At Our Doorstep

by **The Rev. Jerry Buss, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop**



Here's a riddle for you: where can you be involved in international mission work without traveling a mile? This mission work might involve people from China, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Mexico, Pakistan and other nations. The answer: right here in the Northwest Washington Synod, and often in your own town or neighborhood.

The world has come to our doorsteps. We don't have to travel to other countries to do missionary work. And, in addition to the people who have traveled here, many of those born in our region are also people we can engage in conversations about faith and community.

Congregations in our synod raise thousands of dollars to support mission on other continents. Can we begin to have that kind of passion for mission right here in our midst? While I hope that every one of our congregations is a mission station, the following are new settings for mission in our synod within the last few years:

Congregation Name:	Population being engaged:
Living Truth	Chinese from Bothell to Lynnwood
Church of the Apostles	Young, urban dwellers in Fremont area of Seattle
Bethel Ethiopian	Ethiopian and Eritrean in north Seattle
El Camino de Emaus	Latino in Skagit County
Grace Chinese, E. King County	Chinese in Redmond, Issaquah, and Sammamish
Church of Steadfast Love	In and around Pioneer Square (Compass Center)
Church of the Beloved	Post-moderns and more in Edmonds
Grace Chinese, S. King County	Chinese from Renton and beyond
Indonesian Lutheran Fellowship	Indonesians from Seattle metro area
Chinese Student Ministry	Chinese students and scholars at area colleges

Compared to all other metro areas in the U.S., Seattle now has one of the largest concentrations of people from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Do we have the passion to support their exploration of the Christian faith, in which many of them have great interest?

What about mission in areas of fast population growth, where no ELCA congregation currently exists? Places like Snoqualmie Ridge, Clearview/Cathcart/Maltby, Birch Bay and others? Across the ELCA there is a need to start hundreds of congregations. We have been entrusted with doing the planning and raising the support for new congregations in our own context.

Mission Support is a term we hopefully know. It is our essential support for the work of our synod and churchwide organization. In addition to Mission Support, your congregation is invited to be a Mission Partner with any of the ten missions listed above. As you prepare your 2010 budget, will you please consider \$1000 or more in partnership support?

The other term I want you to know is *Mission Founder*, where "to found" means to start a new congregation. In order to start new missions in our areas of growth, congregations are needed

The Year With Luke: Eye Witness and Servants of the Word

by Roger Anderson, Bible Book of Faith Synod Advocate

Luke's account of "the things about which you have been instructed" (Luke 1:4) will be the Gospel reading each week beginning with Advent 1 on November 29th. We begin the church year as Luke presents himself as a writer who conveys to us "an orderly narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us."

In order to be more familiar with Luke's story and to help us understand the writer's intentions, the Northwest Washington Synod Bible Book of Faith work group is hosting a series of educational opportunities on the Gospel of Luke. These opportunities will provide helps for us to better understand the background, structure, and special emphases of this writing, from which he have much to learn.

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.

The opportunities all take place on Sundays. Locations and date choices are:

- September 13, 20, 27 – Faith Lutheran, 2750 McLeod Rd, Bellingham; 360-733-3970
- October 4, 11, 18 – Bethlehem Lutheran, 7215 51st Ave NE, Marysville; 360-659-2022

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as Mission Founders. More and more across the ELCA a single congregation is developing a second site in a neighboring community. This is one way of being a Mission Founder. A cluster of congregations can also join together to be Mission Founders. The mission belongs to us, right here in our synod. We need you: you with your passion for mission in Northwest Washington.

Editor's Note: For more information please visit www.elca.org, scroll to the bottom of the page and click on Evangelical Outreach and Congregation Mission.

- October 25, November 1, 8 – Central Lutheran, 1710 11th Ave, Seattle; 206-322-7500
- December 6, 13, 20 – Holy Spirit, 10021 NE 124th, Kirkland; 425-823-2727

The educational opportunities will begin at 12:30 pm on three successive Sundays. The time will allow for members of cluster congregations to travel to the host congregations. The event will begin with a light lunch hosted by the four congregations. While there is no charge for the lunch, a basket for contributions toward luncheon expenditures will be available.

The presentation will begin about 1 pm and last for about 45 minutes and be followed by a discussion, question, and answer period. Bring along a Bible so that you can participate in the discussion. It will be helpful to attend all three sessions, since each will build on the other. However, if you are unable to attend all three, please feel free to attend those you can.

To facilitate planning for the lunch and the session, we and the host congregation will appreciate your emailing biblebookoffaith@lutheransnw.org. We look forward to meeting you at this educational series.

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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Information for the August 2009 issue of *The Spirit* is due to the Synod Office by Wednesday, August 5.