

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Washington Synod
5519 Phinney Avenue North
Seattle, WA 98103-5299

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 1337
Seattle, WA

Return Service Requested

January 2009; Vol. 26, Issue 1

Table of Contents

Bishop's Message page 2
Multicultural Unit page 4
Bishop's Convocation .. page 6
Genetics and Faith page 7
News and Events page 8-11
Bible Book of Faith page 12
Within Our Family page 13
Transitions/Mobility ... page 14-15



News for the
Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Soundings

January 2009; Vol. 25, Issue 1

Sending Thanks

By Rachel Pritchett, Communicator, Southwestern Washington Synod

One year after a severe storm hit southwest Washington, Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop Robert D. Hofstad and others offer gratitude for recovery funds sent by the Northwest Washington Synod.

Some \$22,000 helped with extensive repairs at two of the hardest hit congregations — Saron Lutheran Church of Hoquiam and Christ Lutheran Church of Belfair, and for long-term community help through First Lutheran Church of South Bend.

At Christ of Belfair, raging waters from nearby Mission Creek swept through an education wing and retreat center. Members worked throughout 2008 to repair the

water-soaked education wing, also home to the community's largest day-care center. Today, the children are back in their regular digs.

But the damage was so extensive at the retreat center that members closed it for good.

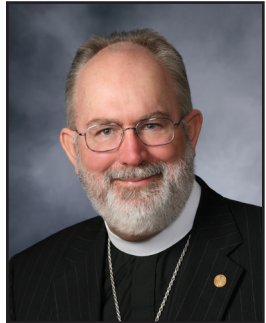
Winds up to 100 mph sent the enormous steeple tower at Saron of Hoquiam crashing into the street below. No one was hurt, but repairing the structure was a gigantic effort helped by contributions from the north.

The Rev. Linda Milks said, "We would like to thank all ... who kept us in their prayers and all who sent us offerings to help offset this cost to our congregation."

The Rev. Laurie Johnson of First of South Bend (and

continued on page 5

A Word From The Bishop



No longer drink only water, but take a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

1 Timothy 5:23 NRSV

St. Paul wrote his protégé, Timothy, with all manner of advice and counsel. It is important to note that this counsel also dealt with physical health. The church is concerned with the health of its members and especially its leaders. The ELCA Board of Pensions with its *Wellness Campaign* has raised this issue for each rostered leader covered by the boards health plan.

Last year the board moved toward a more “incentive” approach to encourage healthy living. The health risk assessment was the first step toward receiving support for meeting the deductible that come with the program. Next year the deductible will be going up to \$800 and the potential support will be \$400. So participation in the assessment and the follow up-could reduce the out of pocket deductible by half.

Last year this synod could have reduced by 2% the costs to congregations if 75% of the members (rostered leaders and covered spouses) had taken the assessment. Only three synods reached that plateau in 2008, West Virginia/Western Maryland, South Dakota and Montana. For this synod there could have been savings of \$35,000 to our congregations if we had reached the 75% level. We reached the 56.7% level.

In 2009 this program will again be in place. Everyone, including those who filled out the assessment in 2008, will have between January 1 and September 30 to take the assessment. The potential savings to congregations will be more than the current \$35,000. It is an issue of good stewardship of health and of finances. I want to encourage

continued on page 3

Editor’s Note: For the most up-to-date listing of transitions and mobility please visit our website at 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 Roethermel, Interim
Bainbridge Island, Bethany	PR	TR	Andrew Yee, Co-Pastor; Dennis Shaffert, Interim, Co-Pastor
Bellingham, Christ the Servant	PR	TR	Jim Miley, Interim
Bothell, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Bothell, Light of the Cross	PR	TR	Cindy Salo, Interim
Burlington, Burlington	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Edmonds, Edmonds	A	P	Michael Ross, Pastor
Everett, Zion	PR	TR	Mitch Watney, Supply
Everson, Immanuel	PR	TR	Mary Bosell, Interim
Issaquah, Shepherd of the Hills	PR	TR	Martha Myers, Interim
Mercer Island, Holy Trinity	PR	P	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	TR	Linda Larson, Interim
Mount Vernon, Salem	A/SP	C	Kevin Forquer, Pastor
Mukilteo, Harbour Pointe	PR	NV	Supply
North Bend, Mount Si	PR	P	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Luther Memorial	PR	I	Karen Hanson, Interim
Seattle, St Paul’s of Shorewood	PR	TR	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

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Jason Gackle	Seattle Lutheran High School	11/15/2008
Joe H. Kutzke	Bethlehem, Marysville	11/30/2008
Mary Lindberg	Immanuel, Seattle	11/15/2008
Jennifer Schultz	Salem, Mount Vernon	11/1/2008
Installations		
Joe H. Kutzke	Bethlehem, Marysville	12/7/2008
Jennifer Schultz	Salem, Mount Vernon	11/30/2007
Transfers In/Out of Synod		
Jason Gackle	From Eastern Washington-Idaho	11/15/2008

Here ‘n There

- The Synod Council has formed a Synod Office Space Search Committee to explore options for increased office space. An RFP has been posted on the synod website (under Spotlight on the homepage). If you have space available please review the RFP and email search committee staff liaison, Margaret Spatafore, at margaret@lutheransnw.org with your suggestion.
- Faith Advocacy Day will be held on Tuesday, March 17. Olympia. Packets will be arriving in your congregations by mid-January.

Free

The Rev. Steve Torrko (ret.) would like to pass on his vestments (albs, stoles, etc) to an intern or new pastor. If you are interested please contact Pastor Torrko at marclor2@msn.com or 425-392-9323.

all members of the plan to take the assessment early in 2009.

continued from page 2

A Word from the Bishop

For leaders in congregations who are not covered by the plan, please encourage those who are to take this assessment. It will address our health and it will provide finance benefit to the members and to the congregations who sponsor them. It is a way to address our ailments, frequent or otherwise.

Editor’s Note: *ELCA employers (congregations, synod offices, seminaries, organizations, churchwide ministries) will receive a 2% discount on their health contribution as soon as 75% of ELCA-primary plan members and spouses in their synod or organization take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment. (The 2009 health assessment campaign will open Jan. 1.)*

The Board of Pensions offers a financial incentive—\$100 into a personal wellness account—to encourage plan members to take the health assessment. Why? Because it helps plan members take annual stock of their health.

For a full explanation of the Wellness Campaign please visit https://www.elcabop.org/Home/BenefitsAdmin/2_percent_progress.aspx.

Soundings is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833. office@lutheransnw.org; www.lutheransnw.org

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

Synod Staff:
 The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop—boerger@lutheransnw.org
 The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop—nesse@lutheransnw.org
 Jim Goeben, Webmaster—jim@lutheransnw.org
 Elaine Harrison, Synod Relations Administrator—elaine@lutheransnw.org
 Margit Peiffle, Synod Communications Administrator—margit@lutheransnw.org
 Margaret Spatafore, Synod Office Administrator—margaret@lutheransnw.org

What Does This Mean For Me?

European American Lutheran Association

Dear NWWA Synod Lutherans:

I wanted to share this news about the European American Lutheran Association (EALA) as I have been on the NWWA Synod Anti-Racism Team for more than seven years and have been involved with Anti-Racism & White Power & Privilege Education for more than 15 years. Here is what was published about the EALA via the ELCA News Blog:

At the end of October 40 Lutherans of European descent met in Chicago to create a new association of the Multicultural Ministries Unit of the ELCA. We approved a constitution and bylaws for the new European American Lutheran Association (EALA) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and elected officers and a board for the new organization.

Let me share part of our Constitution's Preamble & Object /Purpose:

- "The European American Lutheran Association is a group of white Lutherans who seek to dismantle structures within the ELCA that give privilege to white people and disadvantage people of color," quoted from the Object & Purpose of the EALA Constitution.
- "We seek to reclaim for the ELCA our biblical heritage as one family created in God's image. We will stand as partners with our brothers and sisters of the other ethnic associations working within the ELCA to fulfill its commitments to anti-racist multiculturalism, and to become inclusive and anti-racist."

The EALA isn't something new, in fact, back in November 2006 the ELCA Church Council affirmed the EALA's creation as the church's sixth ethnic association.

"In a sense we are trying to create a new vision," the Rev. Sherman G. Hicks, executive director, ELCA Multicultural

continued on page 5

Within Our Family



We continue to hold in our prayers:

- † Paul Anderson, Associate in Ministry
- † The Rev. Sai Wai Pau (Paul) Cheung
- † The Rev. John Ericksen and his wife, Marita

† The Rev. Paul Wuest

We pray for:

- † The Rev. Kari Reiten, pastor at Faith Lutheran in Everett, sends thanks for the prayers. Treatment is working and Kari continues to improve.
- † Ken Olson, husband of Roselyn Olson, Associate in Ministry, who recently suffered a heart 'episode'. Please hold him in your prayers. Roselyn serves at St Luke's in Bellevue. Cards may be sent to Ken and Roselyn in care of St Luke's, 3030 Bellevue Way NE, Bellevue WA 98004-1978.
- † The Rev. Marvin E. Greene (ret.) died on November 20 at the age of 91 years. He died peacefully with his spouse, Maurine, and children present. Pastor Greene had been suffering with terminal cancer but was able to be at home with the care of Hospice. Pastor Greene was the father-in-law of former bishop Paul Swanson of the Oregon Synod and served congregations in Minn and Idaho. He retired after serving as a staff chaplain at the Good Samaritan Home in Boise. Cards can be sent to Maurine at: Hillcrest Retirement Center, 1093 Hilton, Apartment 101, Boise, Idaho 83705.
- † The Rev. Walt Pilgrim (ret.) died in October after a long illness, at the age of 74. Walt was an ordained pastor for 48 years serving for almost 30 years as a Professor of New Testament and Religion at PLU. He was the founder and director of LITE, the Lutheran Institute for Theological Education, Cards for the family may be sent to: Jeanette Pilgrim, 2410 Western Rd, Steilacoom, WA 98388.

Bible Book of Faith

by Roger Anderson,
Bible Book of Faith
Synod Advocate

biblebookoffaith@
lutheransnw.org

This year in the *Book of Faith* initiative focuses on conversation. The goal is to encourage members of the ELCA to read and start talking about the Bible and to be aware of different methods of interpretation. Several ideas for helping to become more familiar with scripture, its setting, and interpretation have recently become available.

A recent NOVA program, *The Bible's Buried Secrets*, highlighted information about the Old Testament. A program unit at the November Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Boston focused not only on the content of the program but on how the program was written, filmed, and edited. The program is available on DVD at www.shopPBS.org/education for \$24.95. If you want to order the program, use promo code BBS08 to receive a 20% discount on the program which will be available in early 2009.

Augsburg Fortress has recently released two study guides that are a part of the Book of Faith initiative. These materials can be ordered directly from Augsburg Fortress.

- *A Leader Guide for Opening the Book of Faith* (ISBN: 978-0-8066-8062-0) is available. The guide provides some good helps and clues, including usable handouts
- *Rediscovering the Book of Faith* (ISBN: 978-0-8066-8065-1) participant book and *Rediscovering the Book of Faith: Leader Guide* (ISBN: 978-0-8066-8067-5) are designed to provide general information about the development of the Bible, development of the canon, and general comments on interpretation.

Augsburg Fortress also just published *The People's Bible* (ISBN: 978-0-8066-5625-0). The focus here is on the role of culture in the development of the Biblical stories and on how cultures other than North America and northern Europe read and study the Bible.

Ministries, told the council. "This church has looked at 'multicultural' as basically 'ethnic-specific,' and that is not multicultural," he said. "It is time that we start giving the vision that is truly representative of the words and what I believe this church has been saying it wants to be and do."

Thanks for letting me share the news about the EALA. I was honored to be elected its very first president. Please let me know if you would like to join the EALA!

Kathy Long
member of Saint Andrew's, Bellevue

Editor's Note: *Kathy Long was elected as president to the European American Lutheran Association. For more information about the EALA please visit the ELCA website at <http://archive.ELCA.org/multicultural/EALindex.html>. For an ELCA press release including elected officers please visit <http://archive.elca.org/news/releases.asp?a=3989>*

formerly of Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor) chairs a local long-term recovery organization, the Pacific County Disaster Recovery Organization, that will be busy for some time filling unmet needs in the community where FEMA and insurance policies have dried up.

"That's how much damage we're looking at," Pastor Johnson said.

Of the help received from Northwest Washington Synod, Bishop Hofstad said, "The blow from this storm was lessened by the compassion and willingness to help from the Northwest Washington Synod, and we are deeply grateful."?

continued from page 4

What Does This Mean To Me?

continued from page 1

Giving To God

News and Info Bishop's Convocation

Spring Bishop's Convocation

Ancient Judaism, the New Testament, and our Lutheran Heritage: Refocusing the Images is the title of the 2009 Spring Bishop's Convocation to be held will be held on Tuesday, April 28, at Maple Leaf in Seattle.

How have the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls and revolutions in biblical scholarship in the past two generations changed our perceptions of Judaism at the turn of the era, and how do—or should—these developments lead us to rethink the origins of Christianity and enrich our Lutheran theology?

Our presenter for this one-day convocation is the Rev. Dr. George W. E. Nickelsburg (ret.) of Issaquah. He was a supervisor of archeological excavations, theologian, editor, recipient of numerous academic awards and honors, author of *Ancient Judaism and Christian Origins* as well as several other books and articles, creator of photographic exhibits, participant on inter-disciplinary panels and discussions, pastor, instructor and seminary professor.

Registration details will be available at a later time.

Location Input Requested For Future Convos

The Bishop's Convocation Committee seeks your input for future locations for the annual fall convocation. As you may know, all rostered leaders and their spouses are invited and encouraged to attend this two-night/two-day event for the purpose of spiritual renewal, continuing education and building collegiality. The committee is actively looking for a location that is accessible to all synod leaders. Some limitations in our search include distance, cost, size, availability and alcohol policies.

The committee has reserved Harrison Hot Springs, British Columbia, as our host for next year (Oct. 18-20, 2009).

continued on page 7

Events at Prince of Peace in Everett

To register please call
the church office at
425-337-6663.

Walk Through The Bible With Dr. Lowell Stime will be held from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7, at Prince of Peace in Everett

This year's seminar will feature the New Testament series. LBI-Trinity's beloved Dr. Lowell Stime will be our presenter for this engaging series appropriate for ages 10 through 100. The \$45 registration fee includes tuition, materials and lunch. Congregations with three or more participants are \$40 per person and all students through university age are \$30. Come and grow together as a family and enjoy one of our region's great Bible teachers.

Frosty Invites Synod Men To Spring Training—Long-time coach and mentor to many at Pacific Lutheran University, Dr. Forrest Westering (a/k/a "Coach Frosty"), will be the guest speaker at Prince of Peace in on Saturday, Feb. 28. Hosted by the Men's Ministries of Prince of Peace, the coffee pot is on and registration tables open at 9 a.m. The program will begin at 9:45 with an indoor tailgate lunch. This is an opportunity to check out Frosty's latest book, and materials for growing your congregation's men's ministry will also be included. Cost: \$10 per older guy, all young men (high school age and younger) are half-price.

The ELCA Justice for Women program is pleased to announce a theological conference to engage current and future Lutheran church leaders in euro-feminist, womanist, mujerista, Asian and other feminist theologies. The conference, held at the Renaissance O'Hare Hotel in Chicago, will feature many accomplished presenters, including Cynthia Moe-Lobeda (from the Northwest Washington Synod) and Deanna Thompson. Visit www.elca.org/justiceforwomen/conference

Justice For Women

State Advocate's Corner

by Rev. Paul Benz
Lutheran Public Policy Office
of Washington State

pbenz@lcsnw.org
206-464-4133
www.lppowa.org

Greetings Advocates. A blessed New Year to you. May this be a year where we see God challenging us and blessing us in our calling to be his public witnesses for justice.

As you all know our state, nation and world is in serious economic difficulties. The ranks of the hungry, homeless, and uninsured (health care) are growing daily. I urge you and your congregation to read, reflect on, and respond to the conference of bishop's pastoral letter. LPPO has copies, or go to the ELCA website (www.elca/conferenceofbishops.org).

On January 12 the state legislature convenes in Olympia and their primary task is to balance the budget that is short in revenue by almost \$6 billion. On January 11 (Baptism of our Lord) and the following Sundays I urge you and your congregation to pray for your state legislators.

Remember you can use the 1-800-562-6000 state legislative hotline number to communicate your concerns with the governor and your three state legislators. We are suggesting the following two-part message:

- We know there will be many devastating cuts in critical programs that provide critical basic needs for those who reside in our state, particularly those who are vulnerable and poor.
- We urge you to support revenue solutions so that the budget is not entirely balanced on cutting these critical programs.

During this legislative session consider doing an offering of letters – LPPO is very willing to help coordinate that. We are also willing to coordinate an advocacy Sunday at your church. Also, if you ever want to come to Olympia or meet with your legislators when they are home for the weekends please let LPPO know.

Genetics and Faith A Study Guide

A new adult study resource, *Genetics and Faith: Power, Choice, and Responsibility*, is now available. It features a five-session core exploring the relation of Christian faith and ethics to genetics.

There are also an optional additional eight sessions on topics including stem cells, genetics and human identity, and a primer on genetics with a glossary.

This study marks the initial phase of developing an ELCA social statement on genetics expected to be considered at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. A first draft of the social statement will be available next year.

The study is available online at <http://www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements-in-Process/Genetics/Link-to-the-Study.aspx>. Printed copies of the study (ISBN #978-6-0002-2205-5) are available for \$4 each from Augsburg Fortress. (A complimentary copy of the study can be obtained by calling 800/638-3522, ext. 2996.)

Other possible locations for future convocations include Seabeck Conference Center (Seabeck), The Firs (Bellingham), Alderbrook Resort (Union), Camp Brotherhood (Arlington), The Palisades Retreat Center (Federal Way), Sleeping Lady (Leavenworth) and Holden Village.

We welcome your input on these potential locations or any others that you would recommend to the committee. Please also indicate the most significant factors (in regard to location) that make it possible for you to attend the event such as cost, comfort or distance. Your response can be sent to estelle.morley1@gmail.com, preferably by Monday, January 12. Thank you.

continued from page 6

Bishop Convocation

Houses, Concrete, Sweat, and God's Kingdom (or what I liked most about my trip to Tijuana)

by Intern Pastor Coe
Hutchison, Trinity in
Lynnwood

The prophet Isaiah paints a dramatic and compelling picture of the Kingdom of God. In this kingdom, there is no weeping, everyone lives to an old age, peace prevails, creation is restored to unity and “people will build houses and live in them” (Isaiah 65:21). Isn't it interesting that having a home is such a key part of God's view of the Kingdom?

Many people in our world do not have adequate homes, so anything that we can do to help is an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and to help establish God's Kingdom on earth. We can all work for and hope for God's Kingdom.

The Spanish word for hope is *esperanza*. It is the perfect name for the organization that Trinity Lutheran Church knows as Esperanza International, located in Tijuana, Mexico.

Esperanza's strategy is to build community by working alongside families to help them build their own and their neighbors' houses. Trinity sends at least two groups each year (led by Cliff Bronson, Associate in Ministry). A group of 24 traveled to Tijuana in October to help build two houses. Now, more than a month later, most of the sore muscles have recovered, but our hearts will never be the same.

The work was hard. We mixed 100 loads of concrete for



The group from Trinity alongside their new Mexican friends.

continued from page 8

Tijuana

a total of 50,000 pounds, or 25 tons. Every pound of that concrete was moved by a bucket-line and poured by hand into floors, walls and ceilings. That means, on average, each person moved more than a ton of concrete. Then, just for a change of pace, we made concrete pavers, put up concrete block walls, tied up rebar, painted school rooms and moved a dump truck full of dirt (again, with buckets).

The memories of the hard work are fading. What isn't fading are the memories of visiting the girls' orphanage and the joy of playing games with them. We remember the tears and how our hearts ached when it was time to leave those little girls. We remember the fiestas and the dancing in the streets when the houses were completed, and the thanks and pride on the families' faces.

We were all changed. God built community in our hearts, as we built homes for our new Mexican friends. Isaiah envisioned having a home as part of God's plan for the Kingdom. What I hadn't realized was that God's plan also included concrete and sweat. But never has such hard work also been so sweet, so rewarding and left such an impression on our hearts. You couldn't ask for a better way to spend a week.

The 8th Annual Autumn Auction Gala was held in the Brockey Center on the South Seattle Community College Campus on November 8. The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, auctioneer, made the evening full of fun and laughter for the 210 guests. The auction netted a record \$55,000 for its ministry. The highlight of the auction was the viewing of a video especially created and produced for Open Door. Copies will be available for purchase in early 2009; contact Director/Chaplain, Rick Pribbernow at 425-359-9313.

Open Door Ministries Auction