



Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 6

July 2011

The Storyteller

By Rebecca MacVaugh, Lutheran World Relief

In West Africa, a *griot* is a storyteller, a singer, a history keeper and an agent of cultural change. It is a role honored throughout the region.

Dianne Johnson, Associate in Ministry, Lord of Life in Renton, may not look like your typical griot, but she has joined the West African tradition — and she's telling the story of malaria at churches, synod assemblies and house parties.

It all started when Dianne was asked to post a sign-up sheet for a mission trip to Tanzania. Before she knew it, she joined the trip herself. It would be just the first of three trips to the country to offer her aid in schools and in health clinics through the Lutheran Church in Morogoro, Tanzania.

Dianne was excited to learn about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI), a partnership between LWR, the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and United Nations Foundation to end malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. Her congregation...was already active with the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry, and the LMI gave her another way to mobilize her friends to help people suffering from malaria. *For the full story, please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on Dianne Johnson, griot under Spotlight.*

(Editor's Note: At this year's Synod Assembly Dianne shared information about malaria and two, low cost, high-impact strategies being used to prevent malaria: bed nets and indoor spraying. She asks that we learn about malaria, share the story and give generously.)

A Word From The Bishop



The Rev Wm
Chris Boerger

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Micah 6:8 NRSV

This verse from the prophet Micah is often quoted when the church addresses social issues. It is a foundation verse for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's "policies and procedures for addressing social concerns". We are called by God to be engaged in issues of justice and kindness as we live out our faith in Jesus.

The issue of social statements always brings out differences of opinion among members of Christ's church. The Living into the Future Together task force of the Churchwide organization is proposing that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly adopt a review of the process of adopting social statements and until that review is completed that no social statements be adopted by this church.

There will be a proposed social statement, *Genetics, Faith and Responsibility*, acted upon at this assembly. I invite you to read this proposed statement and communicate with the members of that assembly from this synod in advance of the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. (See page 3 for those attending.) The complete text is available online at www.elca.org/assembly. You can click on the Actions link to find this and other issues coming to the assembly.

Work has already begun on the next proposed study: criminal justice. While the process of adopting it is undergoing review, the work of preparing it has begun. The first step in this process is engaging in study around

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A Word From The Bishop

the issue. The study guide *Hearing the Cries, Faith and Criminal Justice* is now available.

This guide is for use in congregations, small groups, cluster studies or individual study.

The response form is to be submitted by October 15, 2011.

This is one way in which members of this church can and do have input into the content of these statements. I invite you to engage in this study and submit a response to the task force that will write the draft statement. The prophet Micah spoke the word of the Lord to Israel and Judah and to us. Defining justice, kindness and humility are part of our call to be children of God. These are not simple discussions. They are necessary because God has called us to this work. There is much more that we should do. Our Social Statements are only the beginning. I invite you to this work.

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Deadline for copy of the August 2011 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, July 6. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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Churchwide Assembly

Attending From Our Synod

At the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly voting members elected eight people to attend this year's Churchwide Assembly in Orlando. The Churchwide Assembly is from August 15 to August 19.

Voting members are: Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop, Christ the King in Snohomish (ex-officio); Georganne Robertson, Synod Vice President, Queen Anne in Seattle (ex-officio); Tony Rhodes, Advent in Mill Creek; Mark Kremen, University in Seattle; Kevin Bates, Advent in Mill Creek; Kirby Unti, St Matthew in Renton; Lydia Wittman Grebe, Zion in Custer; Elaine Harrison, Faith in Seattle; Kim Unti, St Matthew in Renton; and John Grebe, Zion in Custer. These names are also available at www.lutheransnw.org.

Thank You!

Bishop Boerger recently heard from the Board of Pensions that the Northwest Washington Synod achieved the 65% participation of our ELCA-primary plan member employees and spouses in the Health Risk Assessment.

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment. Because of your participation your congregation and this synod will save more than \$33,000.

If you took the assessment you have earned \$150 in personal wellness dollars. Continue working to improve your health the rest of the year and you could earn an additional \$300. For information about how to earn all of your 2011 wellness dollars please visit www.lutheransnw.org and click on the link under spotlight.

Our synod was one of 40 ELCA entities to reach the goal and receive a 2% rebate on health contributions.

Coffee House

Join others for an evening of fellowship and song at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 25, at Northlake Lutheran, 6620 NE 185th St, Kenmore.

This evening of music from the 60's and 70's (and more) will support of The Church of Steadfast Love, a ministry of the Compass Housing Alliance, through a free will offering. For more information, please contact Pastor Marvin at 425-830-9466

It has been a long journey but, thanks to Pre-School teacher Stephanie Gamelin, Faith Lutheran School at Faith Lutheran in Redmond is now a *Certified Early Childhood Center!*

What does this mean? It means that the school had to make many new safety and facility upgrades to meet the needs of their two-to five year-old population. This included: outlets, screens, flooring, exits, staff training, playground modifications, paperwork procedures, and staffing requirements to name a few! The school can now offer a full-day program for children ages two to five, as well as before and after school care for our two year olds to 4th grade students!

Faith Lutheran School is Growing

Due to early enrollment numbers Faith Lutheran School will be offering an additional class for three-and-four year olds. They also are also looking into the feasibility of bringing in a new building to accommodate growing elementary classes.

Certified!

Faith Lutheran School

National Conference In Seattle

The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians National Conference will be held July 31-August 3 at Seattle University in Seattle.

Keynote speakers are: Christian Scharen, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn; Pastor Pam Fickenscher, Edina Community Lutheran, Edina, Minn; John Ferguson, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn; and Anton Armstrong, St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

This summer attendees will be discussing: “Out of the abundance of music available for our congregations, how do we choose what to use?”

This challenging topic will be addressed at plenary sessions, panel discussion, and informally among those attending the conference. For more information visit: www.alcm.org or call the ALCM office at 800-624-2526.

Music Clinics

An Augsburg Fortress Summer 2011 Worship and Music Clinic will be held on Friday, July 29, and Saturday, July 30, at Trinity Lutheran in Lynnwood. John Ferguson, Professor of Organ and Church Music, and Christopher Aspaas, Associate Professor of Music, will lead the clinic. Both are on the faculty at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn.

The clinic will feature a variety of choral, organ, and piano reading sessions to help plan for the coming season (check out the music planning calendar). Expert clinicians offer valuable insights and ideas to help participants explore ways to revitalize and refresh worship in their local settings.

All attendees will enjoy a 15% discount on all featured Augsburg Fortress music ordered or purchased during the event. http://www.augsburgfortress.org/community/events/featured/music_clinics_summer2011/?redirected=true.

Faith Formation Conference

A summer conference on *Faith Formation, Discipleship, and Baptismal Living* will be held from August 1-3. Pastors, worship leaders and educators will gather at the Mercy Center in Burlingame, Calif, for the Annual Gathering of the North American Association for the Catechumenate. Featured speakers are Mark Stamm (SMU/Perkins School of Theology) and Jessicah Duckworth (joining the faculty at Luther Seminary in July). More information and online registration available on the NAAC website at www.catechumenate.org.

Fifty young adults have been selected to participate in the ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program.

Two from our synod were selected: Angela Bronson from Trinity on Mercer Island; and Erin Lee from Trinity in Lynnwood. Angela will be headed to the United Kingdom and Erin will be headed to Argentina /Uruguay.

Beginning in August 2011, the fifty young adults will serve for one year in a church, school or social service ministry. For more information about this program visit www.elca.org/yagm.

The Augsburg Fortress *Little Red Book* for 2012 is available (free) as a download in several formats. If you prefer the traditional format, you may pre-order one for \$9.95 including shipping. Links to both formats are available at www.augsburgfortress.org/redbook. There is a link for pre-order copies on the same link. Printing will be done in the pre-ordered quantity only. Place your pre-order by July 31, 2011.

ELCA Young Adults In Global Mission

Little Red Book

LPPO Reflection

For the past year, the Lutheran Public Policy Office has shared a seminary intern, Ryan Cosgrove, with St. John United in North Seattle.

This month's newsletter from the LPPO is part of Ryan's end of the year reflection.

My time at the Lutheran Public Policy Office is quickly coming to a close. It isn't hard to remember those first few days in the office. Overwhelmed by the workload and all the names of church leaders being casually tossed around. Over time I was able to settle in though, and what I saw was inspiring; the body of Christ living the baptized life.

Justice has always been important to me. I've always been inspired by those brave people who used their voice to advocate for the care of all people, especially the most vulnerable. I remember reading about Rosa Park's refusal to move to the back of the bus and being deeply moved.

Before this internship began, though, I think I had a bit of a naive understanding of these moments of justice. I had always imagined they sprang up immediately. That view, though, ignores all the planning, all the work that went into making that moment on the bus real and meaningful.

This year I've gotten to be a part of many important, but subtle, moments of social justice. I've seen how gently God works to make powerfully loving change in our world. I've spoken to people who have been calling these representatives for years about affordable housing, people who been gathering anyone interested together to raise awareness about human trafficking that happens in the Seattle ports. And the list could go on and on.

Slowly it dawned on me. These basement meetings over coffee are places where God is working. Meaningful change is going to take time, but when those moments are

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LPPO Update

ripe, I can think of a number of congregations and people who will be ready to act.

I keep coming back to all those people working thanklessly and unrecognized day in and out to feed the hungry and change the structures that create hunger; these members of the body of Christ living the baptized life. I've been changed by these people, and I am thankful.

To be a part of this change yourself visit the LPPO's website to learn more and join the LPPO E-Alert Network. I look forward to hearing from you.

ELCA World Hunger does more than just give food to people who are hungry: it addresses the root of the problem. In addition to relief programs, ELCA domestic hunger grants fund projects in organization and development that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty.

Did you know that your gifts to ELCA World Hunger help support ELCA congregations and other organizations that are working to end hunger here in the United States?

In 2010 *Community Lunch on Capitol Hill* was one of the recipients. They received a \$2,000 grant. *Community Lunch on Capitol Hill* provides hot, nutritious, and high-quality meals—on a shoestring budget—to hundreds of homeless and low-income people of Seattle. By sharing lunch twice a week, the congregation creates a community together.

Is your congregation fighting hunger in your community? You can apply for a grant (typically \$500 to \$6,000) to help support your ministry. The application deadline is July 15, 2011. (A link to the grant process is available on the calendar on the synod's website.)

World Hunger Grant Deadline

July 15, 2011

Here 'n There

■ **Read the Qur'an in Four Weeks** -- Check out this unique class with **Pastor Ron Marshall** (First of West Seattle, www.flcws.org), who has been teaching it four times a year since 2003. Classes are from 7-9 p.m., July 7, 14, 21, 28. The \$50 fee includes your own approved translation of the Qur'an, plus over a hundred handouts on the Qur'an by Islamic scholars. To register or make inquiries, contact Pastor Marshall at 206-935-6530; deogloria@foxinternet.com.

■ In the news:

In the June issue of *The Lutheran* **Luther's Table** and **Dan Erlander** were featured in two separate articles. Links to both of these articles are available on the synod's website at www.lutheransnw.org and click on the links in the middle box on the homepage. In the Spring issue of *The Story*, publication from Luther Seminary, **Lynne Ogren, Associate in Ministry**, Oak Harbor in Oak Harbor; and the **Rev. Kristy Daniels**, Church of Steadfast Love in Seattle were featured. Visit www.luthersem.edu/story to read the articles. Lynne is on page 6 and Kristy is on page 22.

In the Spring issue of *Wartburg's Magazine* the **Rev. Mark Griffith**, Mt. Si in Northbend, is featured.

- As you prepare to honor your graduating high school seniors, please take a moment to tell **Lutheran Campus Pastors** about your students. Please refer all students headed to or already at a college or university. Contact information on students will be forwarded to the appropriate Lutheran Campus Ministry site or partnership congregation, if there is one. A sample referral form is available at <http://uwlutherans.com>. Please forward contact info to: chscott@drizzle.com; or by phone 206-524-7900; or by mail Lutheran Campus Ministry, 4525 19th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

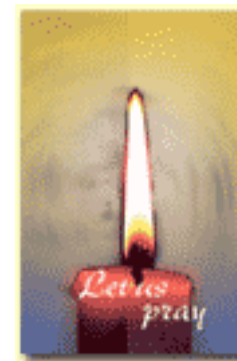
- ✚ **The Rev. Mary Bosell, on Disability**
- ✚ **The Rev. John Ericksen (ret.)** and his wife, Marita
- ✚ **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda
- ✚ **The Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.)**

We Pray For:

- ✚ **The Rev. Luther T. Gabrielsen** died on April 27 with his family around him. Pastor Gabrielsen served as a chaplain in the Air Force for 24 years and served Bethlehem in Marysville as pastor for 15 years prior to his retirement. A memorial service was held for him on May 7 at Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville. Cards may be sent to: Dolores Gabrielsen, 14905 Bothell-Everett Hwy #328, Mill Creek WA 98012.
- ✚ **Barbara Bersie, wife of the Rev. Dick Bersie (ret.)** died April 26. She had been sick and home bound for several years. Barbara is survived by her husband Dick and two daughters, Kari and Kristi. A memorial service was held on May 7 at Zion Lutheran Church in Kent. Cards may be sent to: Dick Bersie, 822 N Hilltop, Kent, WA 98031.
- ✚ **Kaare Asbjorn Berg, father of the Rev. Tor Berg**, First Lutheran in Bothell, died on May 3 at after a long struggle with dementia and cancer. The Berg children have now lost both their grandfathers in a short period of time. Cards may be sent to: Tor Berg, First Lutheran Church, 10207 NE 183rd, Bothell, WA 98011.
- ✚ **Dave Jones, brother of the Rev. Laurie Jones**, Ballard First in Ballard, died May 21 after a long battle with cancer. Services will be held later in the summer. Cards may be sent to: Laurie Jones, Ballard First Lutheran Church, 2006 NW 65th St, Seattle WA 98117.
- ✚ **The Rev. Bob Weinman (ret.)** has been in and out of

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Within Our Family



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Within Our Family

the hospital in recent months. In treating persistent pneumonia doctors discovered liver cancer. Bob and his wife, Jan, have recently moved to Ida Culver House. Bob says his prognosis is good. He asks for prayers of healing and strength. Cards may be sent to: Bob and Jan Weinman, Ida Culver House, 12503 Greenwood Ave N E303, Seattle, WA 98133.

- ✠ **Francis Baker, former Synod Council Member and member of St John United**, passed away on June 18. Cards may be sent to his wife, Erica Baker, at: 15824 SE 43rd Place, Bellevue, WA 98006.
- ✠ **Larry Johnson, Associate in Ministry**, Development Director at Holden Village, had a knee replacement on May 27. Cards may be sent to: Larry Johnson, 14308 - 165th Place SE, Renton WA 98059.

Prayers of Celebration:

- ✠ **The Rev. Ryan Fletcher**, Our Savior in Issaquah, his wife Natalie Francois, sons Samuel and Tobias and daughter Lydia welcomed Masame into their family with joy and thanksgiving. Masame is eight years old. The Fletcher family asks for prayers for a good and grace-filled transition for their new life together and the blessing this new child brings. Cards may be sent to: Ryan Fletcher and Natalie Francois, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 745 Front St S, Issaquah, WA 98027
- ✠ Prayers of thanks are offered to God from retired pastor **Maynard and Darleen Atik** on the birth of their first grandchild, James Jeffrey Atik, who was born on June 14. Parents, David and Raquel Atik, who live in San Diego, are doing fine and are enjoying their gift from God.
- ✠ **The Rev. Mark and Heather Griffith** are the proud parents to Sadie Eleanor. Sadie was born on June 7. The Rev. Griffith is the pastor at Mount Si North Bend. Cards may be sent to: The Griffith Family, 712 Ogle Ave NE, North Bend, WA 98045.

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Dennis Andersen	St. James, Portland	5/1/2011
Kristine Anderson Ostrem, UCC	Faith, Seattle	6/1/2009
Joanne Engquist	Gethsemane, Seattle	8/29/2011
Kari Reiten	Lord of Life, Renton	6/13/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/1/2011
Wesley Telyea	Saint Andrew's, Bellevue	6/19/2011
Installations		
Joseph Li	Bethel Chinese, Seattle	9/18/2011
Kari Reiten	Lord of Life, Renton	6/26/2011
Cindy Salo	Central, Seattle	5/22/2011
Jana Schofield	Christ, Ferndale	7/10/2011
Wesley Telyea	Saint Andrew's, Bellevue	6/19/2011
Leaving/Joining the ELCA		
Denny Park, Seattle	Affiliated with LCMC	5/18/2011
Zion, Kent	Affiliated with LCMC	5/17/2011
William Walles	Joined Evangelical Covenant Church	5/15/2011
Ordinations/Commissionings/Consecrations		
Zhenchuan Liu	First Lutheran, Bothell	6/11/2011
Wesley Telyea	Our Saviour, Issaquah	6/11/2011
Resignations		
Dan Sorenson	Prince of Peace, Seatac	6/30/2011
William Walles	Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley	5/15/2011

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

You can check for the most recent updates on the synod website at www.lutheransnw.org/leadership/transitions.

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	P	Paul Anderson, Interim
Bellingham, Our Saviour's	PR	I	Supply
Burien, Glendale	PR	NV	Red Burchfield, Interim
Duvall, Lord of Life	PR	NV	Supply
Everett, Faith	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Maple Valley, Shepherd of the Valley	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	P	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway	PR	TR	Michael Swain, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Point Roberts, Trinity Community	PR	TR	Supply
Seattle, Bethany	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	I	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	TR	Doug Stensby, Interim
Shoreline, Bethel	PR	NV	Interim Pending
Stanwood, Freeborn	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