



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

# Soundings

Vol. 27, Issue 1

January 2011

## Weather Does Not Chill Interfaith Spirit Of Thanksgiving

by Patrick Meagher, Outreach Minister at Phinney Ridge  
Lutheran in Seattle

Despite the chilly temps and icy roads, we enjoyed a hearty turnout for this year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service held at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church.

As in past years, area leaders from Islam, Buddhism, Judaism, and Christianity initiated representations of peace and thanksgiving from their respective traditions. The theme of the service—*One Nation, Many Faiths*—rang true as Americans of all beliefs gathered in harmony. The fellowship time after the service offered a chance for friends to catch up and new relationships to form.

Representatives and clergy from many communities of faith participated including: Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism, Temple De Hirsch Sinai, Masjid Umar Al-Farooq, St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Duwamish Tribal Services, and a number of mainline Protestant Churches in the area.

Phinney Ridge Lutheran is hosting a follow-up meeting of these same communities at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 22. At this event, there will be space to pose and answer questions about each faith, and to get to know one another better. All are welcome to attend.

## A Word From The Bishop



**The Rev Wm  
Chris Boerger**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Acts 2:42

This text from the Acts of the Apostles will be the theme verse for this year's service of Prayer for Christian Unity. I have been invited to be the preacher at this annual event. One of the responsibilities of a bishop is to be "the chief ecumenical officer of this synod." That means that I am able to be in relationship with other judicatory leaders in this area. The simple fact is that we have much more in common than the things that divide us. The divisive issues are not diminished, but the focus of the Acts lesson needs to be heard.

The early church came together to hear the word, for fellowship, for the sacrament and to pray. We are divided about who can come to the table. We can still study together, pray together and get to know each other. It is my conviction that as we do this study, prayer and fellowship we will find the way to eventually come to the table with mutual recognition and respect.

It is an honor for me to represent this synod at the ecumenical table. I also want to see this work move from the bishops, executive presbyters and conference ministers to the pastors and parishes of this synod. We often come together to respond to the needs of our community. That is essential and important work. I also believe that gathering for conversation, study and prayer is essential work.

The fact is that it is work and we need to be intentional in doing it. I would hope that ELCA rostered leaders would take the lead in reaching out to our ecumenical partners. These might be our full communion partners or those who have not yet walked through that

*continued on page 3*

process with us. I know that many of our congregations have had active ministries with the United Methodist congregations in their neighborhoods well before we declared full communion with that denomination. Your work with Roman Catholic parishes is ongoing even as we explore our relationship on a larger scale.

The fact is that Christ's Church is one church. Our denomination differences are not the image of the Body of Christ that we want to raise up. We will continue to play the Lutheran notes in the Christian symphony. It is a distinctive note, but it is not the whole song. I invite you to attend this year's service of Prayer for Christian Unity. If coming to Seattle on Monday, January 24, is not feasible, consider how your community of faith might reach out in fellowship, study and prayer with your sisters and brothers in Christ.

*Continued from page 2*

## A Word From The Bishop

*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.  
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Deadline for copy of the February 2011 issue of *Soundings* is Wednesday, January 5. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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## Gearing Up for 2011

### Health Assessment

The opportunity to earn a 2 percent discount on ELCA health contributions is back in 2011. It will work the same as this year -- our synod will earn a discount if 65 percent of our ELCA-primary plan members complete the 2011 Mayo Clinic Health Assessment between January 1 and April 30.

Taking the health assessment is the first step toward earning personal wellness account credits — \$150 for completing the assessment and \$300 more for completing follow-up activities.

### ELCA-primary health benefits

Visit the Board of Pensions website to learn what is new with the 2011 ELCA-primary health benefits and learn about the integration of the hospital and medical and mental health and substance abuse benefits into a single benefit administered by Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

### 2011 flexible spending account enrollment

If you have ELCA-primary health coverage you should have received information about setting up a flexible spending account for 2011. To set up an account, you need to return the enrollment form by December 31. (Faxed or post-marked by December 31.)

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## Come To The Water

The next *Come to the Water* Ecumenical Catechumenal Process Training Event will be held February 18-19, 2011 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington.

The cost is \$30/person and will include some meals. A pre-event will feature an opportunity to learn about and walk a prayer labyrinth. A brochure can be downloaded at <http://catechumenate.org/uploads/file/Water2011.pdf> or contact Pastor Martha Maier, [maierm@comcast.net](mailto:maierm@comcast.net) or 360-892-7160.

Statistics say that 80 percent of all caregiving for adults is done by unpaid family and friends.

This may include you if you can answer “yes” to any of the following questions:

- Do you care for a loved one who is chronically ill or disabled — even from a long distance?
- Do you often make time to help out an adult relative, close friend, neighbor, or church friend?
- Do you feel that time for “you” is rare because you need to help “them”?

All caregivers are invited to attend caregiver classes at Josephine, 9901 272nd Pl NW, Stanwood, WA on Monday, January 17, 2011, 10 am to 3:30 pm. Offered through a collaboration of Josephine Sunset Home and Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) in Tacoma, the cost is just \$10 per person and includes lunch and beverages. Topics include:

- Planning Ahead
- Finding, Creating & Using Resources
- Self-Care for the Caregiver
- Communication and Family Dynamics
- Dementia, Chronic Illness and the Family
- Financial Well Being

Please reserve your space with an RSVP by Monday, Jan. 10, to Becky Bunke at Josephine: [becky.bunke@josephinenet.com](mailto:becky.bunke@josephinenet.com) or 360-629-2126 x 146.

Based on the Wholeness Wheel created by the Board of Pensions, caregivers will receive resources and general strategies for caregiver spiritual, physical, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational, and financial well-being. The presenter is Patricia Witt, Associate in Ministry, Caregiver University Director at LCSNW. Pat understands caregiving on a personal level as she lives with one sister with a disability, and helps her mother and a second sister with a disability as well.

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## Installation Of The Rev. Jeffrey Spencer

The Rev. Jan Nesse, Assistant to the Bishop, installed the Rev. Jeffrey Spencer at Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 5.



*Back row: Rev. Juan Palm (Concordia LC, LCMS in Oak Harbor), Jim Leistikow, Rev. Jim Lindus (Trinity, Freeland), Rev. Duane Jensen (ret.), Rev. Chris Barry (WWU), Rev. Mikkel Hustad (St. Peter's, Clinton) and Rev. Jay Decker (ret.)*

*Front row: Rev. Larry Olsen (Edison, Bow), Rev. Jeff Driscoll (Peace, Silvana), Rev. Jan Nesse, Rev. Jeffrey Spencer (Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor), Rev. Marcus Stroud (Shepherd of the Hills, Concrete), Rev. Dr. Allan Swan (ret.) Presbyterian USA, Rev. Debra Benson (Anacortes, Anacortes) and Rev. Jerry Borgard (ret.)*

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## Good Gifts

ELCA  
Good Gifts are  
an opportunity  
to go beyond your regular  
congregational offering to  
support and strengthen  
the work of the ELCA.

There are 65 different  
“gifts” available for you to choose, from \$10 to \$500. Visit  
[www.elca.org/goodgifts](http://www.elca.org/goodgifts).



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## Installation Of Esau Cuevas

*Bishop Chris Boerger installing Mission Developer Esau Cuevas at Faith Lutheran in Everett for the South Everett Latino Ministry.*



The *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*—will take place from January 18 through January 25, 2011. The Seattle observance will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 24, at Seattle First Baptist Church, 1111 Harvard Avenue, Seattle WA 98122. Bishop Chris Boerger has been invited to preach at the worship service.

The 2011 prayers for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by Christians in Jerusalem, who chose as a theme Acts 2:42, ‘They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.’

This theme is a call back to the origins of the first church in Jerusalem; it is a call for inspiration and renewal, a return to the essentials of the faith; it is a call to remember the time when the church was still one. Resources can be found on the World Council of Churches website at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org).

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## Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity

## Chicks For Ethiopia

by Tina Georgeson,  
member of Phinney  
Ridge Lutheran,  
Seattle

Patty Maier, Dana Hogan and I feel blessed to be able to teach the 3rd, 4th & 5th graders at Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church because their servant hearts are just beginning to open and bloom. Every year we plan a servant project for the students to do and this year we chose the Chicks for Ethiopia Project.

Each year when Patty, Dana and I start planning the year's servant project we start with the Matthew 25:34-40 text.

Nurturing our students' servant hearts is of the utmost importance and is at the forefront of our planning every year. When Don Maier approached us and asked if our Sunday School class could help raise awareness and funds for this project; we enthusiastically said yes. The Chicks for Ethiopia Project was discussed and our class decided that we would help to raise the understanding of and finances for the people involved in building and running the chicken hatchery.



At the October Creation Celebration, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders hosted a booth to help inform the congregation about Chicks for Ethiopia. We played the short DVD, created a tri-fold display with information about the project and our 5th graders read picture books about creation and chickens to the younger students.

At the Advent Fair, the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders again host a booth; adding to our original display we will have two additional ways to raise awareness and funds.

At this time we have raised over \$125, with a goal of \$500, and we have raised the awareness of this ministry.



We are in one of the worst economic times in our state's history. Our state budget is currently about one billion dollars short, and in the next biennium (July 1 2011) close to seven billion dollars short of a balanced budget. Our governor and state legislators will be making deep cuts and eliminating critical state health and human service programs that serve the poor and vulnerable. Lutheran Public Policy Office (LPPO) urges you to consider using the following message via email or using the state legislative hotline (800-562-6000) where you can leave a message with your three state legislators and the governor all in one call:

*As a person of faith I understand that you will be making deep cuts and eliminating critical programs that serve the poor and vulnerable and that protect our environment during the 2011 session. As you go through the process of making these difficult decisions please keep the poor and most vulnerable in mind, use a balanced approach, and consider other options that are being talked about. Our church will also be praying for you.*

For more information on any of this and our statewide network of advocating congregations please contact our director of congregational relations, David Hacker at dhacker@lcsnw.org.

More than 175 people from congregations in the Northwest Washington Synod and the gay community attended the Tenth Annual Open Door Ministry Gala and Dinner Auction in November. About \$50,000 was made to help further the mission of Open Door Ministries. Among the items up for bid in the live auction were an Oregon Coast getaway, a night in downtown Seattle at the Pan Pacific Hotel with dinner at the Space Needle, a catered dinner for six, a boat cruise around Lake Washington with hors d'oeuvres, lunch and dessert aboard the pocket trawler "Gratitude".

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## LPPO Update

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## Auction A Success For Open Door Ministry

**Here ‘n There** ■ **Ballard First Lutheran in Seattle** received a thank you note from The Church of Steadfast Love because they had loaned their van for a trip to Holden Village. A couple of the

comments were: “Because of your van, we got to see the beauty of this great state of Washington. Thanks so much.” “Whoa! Smooth ride. Thank you for your generosity. It is much appreciated.”

- If you give to **ELCA World Hunger** between now and the end of the year you can double your gift. Generous friends of ELCA World Hunger have joined forces to create a pool of matching funds to double your gift--dollar for dollar. Between now and December 31, all gifts from individuals will be automatically matched, up to \$250,000. Visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) and click on hunger on the homepage.
- Members at **Bethany Lutheran in Seattle** are holding a shoe drive. Members bring new shoes or boots for children for two Sundays in December. The shoes/boots are blessed before they are delivered to the children at the Mukilteo ECEAO Preschool.
- Members at **Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island** have donated more than 250 pounds of produce to Helpline. The produce comes from the garden at Bethany as well as members’ gardens.
- **Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland** donated \$1,050 to Hopelink. Hopelink offers vital services to poor, homeless and vulnerable people in the Kirkland area.
- **Faith Lutheran in Seattle** collected 963 pounds of food and \$2320 for the University Food Bank.
- **Kent Lutheran in Kent**, in conjunction with the City of Kent and Catholic Community Services, is once again opening its doors to families, women and men living in their cars, woods or on the streets during cold weather. Temperatures have to be below 32 degrees.

*continued on page 11*

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And, **Our Saviour's Lutheran in Arlington**

has partnered with Arlington congregations to offer a Severe Weather Shelter. The congregations take turns hosting the shelter.

Any Tuesday or Wednesday, when the temperature is below 32 degrees, you will find members with those in need in the sanctuary for the night.

*continued from page 10*

**Here 'n There**

- **Oak Harbor Lutheran in Oak Harbor** opens its doors to students from Oak Harbor High School (across the street from the church) for Mocha Monday. Members offer food, fellowship and a place to do homework. During October the congregation welcomed more than 100 students at a time.
- The Sunday School children at **Salem Lutheran in Mount Vernon** are collecting pennies to be donated to *Pennies for Peace*. The pennies will be presented to Dr. Greg Mortenson (author of *Three Cups of Tea*) when he speaks at Skagit Valley Community College in January. (Editor's Note: Mortenson will be speaking on January 27. Information can be found on the calendar on the synod's website.
- The lay caring ministry at **Holy Spirit Lutheran in Kirkland** is hosting its annual Longest Night Service at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21. The longest night service will include prayer, singing, inspiration by their speaker and lighting of candles. The event is to acknowledge the pain that Advent and Christmas seasons can cause for some people. The inspirational speaker is the Rev. Jim Schoeld (ret.).
- Last year members at **Central Lutheran in Everett** were able to gift 105 baskets of holiday food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This year members are gifting 106 baskets to honor their 106th anniversary as a congregation.

*continued on page 13*

## Within Our Family



### 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:

† For the family of **Rose Wuest** who passed away on November 4. **She was the widow of deceased pastor Roland Wuest and mother of the Rev. Paul Wuest (ret.).** A service celebrating her life was held on November 19.

Cards may be sent to: Paul Wuest, 12718 SE 254th Ct, Kent, WA 98030.

- † For the family of **Helene Taylor. Helene passed away on December 8. She was the wife of the Rev. Don Taylor (ret.)** She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Don Taylor, and four children, 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Burial will take place at Eden Cementary on Guemes Island. A memorial service in celebration of Helen's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8, at Anacortes Lutheran in Anacortes. Cards for the family may be sent to Laurie (Taylor) VanderWeyst, 7607 - 72nd Drive NE, Marysville, WA 98270.
- † **The Rev. Luther Gabrielsen (ret.) and his wife, Dee,** are now home and thankful for the prayers offered on their behalf. Cards may be sent to: Luther and Dolores Gabrielsen, 2022 - 160th Place SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012.
- † In early December **Kirsten Atik, daughter of the Rev. Maynard and Darleen Atik,** underwent a procedure in her vein. Prayers are requested. Cards

may be sent to: Maynard and Darleen Atik,  
18026 - 69th Place W, Edmonds, WA 98026.

*continued from page 14*

## **Within Our Family**

### **Prayers of Celebration**

#### **† Matthew William Caseley, grandson of**

**Bishop Chris and DeDe Boerger**, was born on November 28 to Mary, daughter of Bishop Chris and DeDe, and Paul Caseley. Matthew joins older brother Benjamin. Cards may be sent to Chris and DeDe Boerger and the Caseley Family care of: Northwest Washington Synod Office, 5519 Phinney Ave North, Seattle WA 98103

### **Prayers:**

**† At the regular Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting**, we pray for our pastors, churches and members. We pray for congregations in transition. We pray for rostered leaders who also are in transition, such as relocating or retirement. We pray for our companion synods in Russia and Ethiopia. We pray for all countries in turmoil. We pray for peace!

#### **■ The Rev. Ronald F. Marshall, First of West Seattle**, published two articles, The Traversed

*continued from page 11*

Path: Kierkegaard's Complex Way to Religious Simplicity, in volume 22 of the International Kierkegaard Commentary (Mercer University Press), and Tears of Self-Forgetfulness: Kierkegaard on Self-Denial, in Why Kierkegaard Matters: A Festschrift in Honor of Robert L. Perkins (Mercer University Press). These two articles were a part of his continuing education program from the summer of 2009.

## **Here 'n There**

#### **■ The Board of Directors of Pacific Lutheran**

**Theological Seminary**, at its November meeting, voted unanimously and with great acclaim to extend a second six-year term to **President Phyllis Anderson**.

## Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

|  | Location/Event                     | Effective Date |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Calls Accepted</b>                                |                                    |                |
| Jeffrey Spencer                                      | Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor             | 12/1/2010      |
| Amanda Zentz   | First, Mount Vernon                | 10/1/2010      |
| <b>Installations</b>                                 |                                    |                |
| Jeffrey Spencer                                      | Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor             | 12/5/2010      |
| Andrew Yee   | Josephine Sunset Home, Stanwood    | 10/3/2010      |
| Amanda Zentz   | First, Mount Vernon                | 10/16/2010     |
| <b>Leaving/Joining the ELCA</b>                      |                                    |                |
| Mark Bankson   | Our Saviour's, Stanwood            | 10/31/2010     |
| Earl Ericksen (ret.)                                 | Burien                             | 9/27/2010      |
| Grant Gard (ret.)                                    | Camano Island                      | 12/3/2010      |
| Victor C. Langford III                               | St. Mark's, Seattle                | 10/20/2010     |
| <b>Ordinations/Commissionings/<br/>Consecrations</b> |                                    |                |
| Lara Forbes  | Gloria Dei, Alderwood Manor        | 10/16/2010     |
| <b>Retirements</b>                                   |                                    |                |
| Eduardo Cabrera                                      | El Camino de Emaus, Burlington     | 10/1/2010      |
| Mark Reitan  | Trinity, Lynnwood                  | 10/1/2010      |
| Clara Griffin, Associate in Ministry                 | Trinity, Everett                   | 10/1/2010      |
| <b>Transfers in/out of Synod</b>                     |                                    |                |
| Jeffrey Spencer                                      | From Southwestern Washington Synod | 12/1/2010      |
| Amanda Zentz   | From Oregon Synod                  | 10/1/2010      |
| <b>Occasions/Events</b>                              |                                    |                |
| Central, Seattle                                     | 120th Anniversary                  | 11/7/2010      |
| Northlake, Kenmore                                   | 50th Anniversary                   | 12/12/2010     |
| Our Savior, Issaquah                                 | 50th Anniversary                   | 11/7/2010      |

## Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

| In Call Process                  | Position | Status | Current, Interim/Supply Pastor     |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------------|
| Arlington, Our Saviour           | PR       | TR     | Marilyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim |
| Bellevue, St. Andrew's           | A/SP     | P      | James McEachran, Pastor            |
| Bellingham, Our Saviour's        | PR       | NV     | Supply                             |
| Burien, Glendale                 | PR       | NV     | Interim Pending                    |
| Des Moines, Grace                | A/SP     | I      | John O'Neal, Pastor                |
| Ferndale, Christ                 | PR       | P      | Christen Anderson, Interim         |
| Monroe, Morning Star             | PR       | TR     | Tim Wolbrecht, Interim             |
| Mount Vernon, Fir-Conway         | PR       | TR     | Michael Swain, Interim             |
| Nooksack, Clearbrook             | PR       | TR     | Supply                             |
| Point Roberts, Trinity Community | PR       | TR     | Supply                             |
| Renton, Lord of Life             | PR       | I      | Phil Reitz, Interim                |
| Seattle, Central                 | PR       | C      | Kathleen Anderson, Interim         |
| Seattle, Faith                   | PR       | I      | Red Burchfield, Interim            |
| Seattle, Gethsemane              | PR       | TR     | Maynard Atik, Interim              |
| Seattle, Magnolia                | PR       | TR     | Doug Stensby, Interim              |
| Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood  | PR       | TR     | Supply                             |
| 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