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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.

February 2014

Address

Why Not Us?

By the Rev. Kim Latterell, Bishop's Associate



Of late, I've been impressed with Russell Wilson (yes, the quarterback.) Not so much for his extraordinary abilities or even for his Super Bowl leadership. It's his stated shorthand philosophy and vision. To his work and to his life he brings his father's question: "Why not you?" which Russell morphs into "Why not me?" And then, "Why not us?" as he seeks to co-create a championship team. The driving force behind his questions is simply centered on the issue of why not...why not excel, why not be the best, why not give everything, why not dream of what can be?

As the smallest of the ELCA Synods, as a synod challenged by the infamous Pacific Northwest disinterest in organized religious expression, it seems all too tempting to simply say, well of course not us! The challenge is too great for our undersized stature, too great for our limited and often decreasing resources and our diminishing numbers. But Wilson and his father have a point. When it comes to striving to succeed, to be faithful, to make a difference, to build a team effort at winning over disciples of Jesus Christ and serving neighbors and loving enemies into friendship, why not us? Why not our best, every day, all-day persistence built on God's own promise of active words that accomplish what they say? Why dance with defeat or mediocrity or despair when the gifts of hope and endurance and trust are ours for the embracing?

Hasn't that been God's own invitation from the very beginning? An invitation over which Sarah laughed, Jacob cheated, David murdered, Gideon demurred, Jeremiah rebelled, Peter blundered, Saul persecuted...and yet God remained and remains faithful.

Our own faith history tells us again and again what God can do with undersized, late-to-the-draft, Johnny-come-lately walk-ons to create and build a faith community that can and does rise to the occasion and the call.

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Why Not Us? *Continued from Page 1*

Our Southwestern Washington Synod is both called and equipped to grow disciples, build community, care for the world. Wilson proves accurate. Size does not matter. Hope matters. Trust matters. Heart matters. Confidence matters. Effort matters. You and I matter. This world matters. So when it comes to turning the whole world right-side up, striving to live up to the crown already promised us (better than a Super Bowl ring), why not us?

Congregations in transition

Mobility

Call process	Position	Status	Pastoral care
Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor	P	TR	Valinda Morse
Beautiful Savior, Vancouver	P	TR	Michelle Manicke
Christ, Federal Way	P	TR	Heidi Calhoun
Creator, Bonney Lake	P	TR	Elaine Swigart
First, Tacoma	P	I	Margaret O'Neal
Gloria Dei, Kelso	P	I	Elten Zerby
Good Shepherd, Olympia	P	NV- Fall 2014	John Rosenberg-retiring
Light of Grace, Federal Way	P	TR	Sang Soo Kim
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Jeff Driscoll
Mount Cross, University Place	P	I	Howard Fosser
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	NV- Fall 2014	Kathleen Boyer-Visser
Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Shepherd of the Hills, Stevenson	P	I	Don Miller
St. John, Chehalis	P	I	Jeannine Daggett

Mobility position key: P – Pastor; AP – Associate Pastor; AIM – Associate in Ministry; DM – Diaconal Minister

Mobility status key: NV – New Vacancy; TR – Transition; I – Interviewing; C – Calling

Synod Calls: The Synod Council called the **Rev. Jeff Driscoll** to serve as Interim Pastor at Messiah, Auburn. They also called the **Rev. Jeannine Daggett** to serve St. John's, Chehalis as their Interim Pastor. Both pastors came to us from the Northwest Washington Synod. Welcome!!

2014 Synod Assembly

"Hospitality: All Are Welcome"

Friday, May 16 - Saturday, May 17th at Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma (Parkland)

The theme for this year's Synod Assembly is **"Hospitality: All Are Welcome"** Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson, faculty in the Matteo Ricci College at Seattle University. Our Churchwide Representative will be Mr. Kenneth Inskeep, ELCA Executive for Research and

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Synod Assembly *continued from page 2*

We're trying something a little different this year... We'll be holding the Synod Assembly at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland instead of a hotel. The assembly fee will only include a luau lunch at PLU on Friday, but no banquet dinner on Friday night. Instead, PLU has a couple of events you may want to participate in: A HERmonics/PLUtonics concert and the play Macbeth in the new Karen Hille Phillips Center for the Performing Arts that you may order tickets for with registration. We have some hotels reserved in nearby Puyallup at a lower rate. This information will be available at the time of registration, too.

We will have three tracks of workshops Saturday afternoon on the following related themes:

- Hospitality to our Communities
- Hospitality within our Congregations
- Hospitality to our Neighbor

Stay tuned for more information. Nomination information for elected positions and how to register will be out next week.

The Campaign of the ELCA

Always Being Made New: The Campaign of the ELCA

As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) we share a living, daring confidence in God's grace. This faith gives us the courage to proclaim the good news to a world that is longing to hear it. It sets us free to love and serve our neighbors.

Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is the first-ever, five-year comprehensive campaign for our church. In our first 25 years together as the ELCA, there is much to celebrate. And yet, God is calling us to do more.

Through this campaign we can:

- * Share the gospel
- * Start new congregations
- * Serve globally
- * End hunger
- * Overcome malaria
- * Train leaders
- * Send missionaries

Please pray for members of the ELCA and our church's life changing, life-sustaining ministries and consider making an initial gift to the campaign to support ministries that mean the most to you. Also consider how you and your congregation can take part in the next five years.

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ELCA Campaign *continued from page 3*

Together - in the name of Jesus Christ - we can achieve things that we could never otherwise imagine or do alone.

Learn more at:

www.ELCA.org/campaign

Phone: 800-638-3522

Email: campaignforELCA@elca.org

Learning and Growth Opportunities

HUNGER MATTERS

SATURDAY, MARCH 1, 2014

10-Noon at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N. K, Tacoma.



"HUNGER MATTERS" is the theme as Rep. Derek Kilmer (6th District WA) leads a conversation about policies that will reduce hunger. Here is an opportunity to speak face-to-face on a matter (sorry for the pun) that is of critical importance to us as Christians and as citizens, called to serve "the least of these."

Following this conversation an Offering of Letters Workshop will be led by Matt Newell-Ching, an executive for Bread for the World, giving information on Bread's emphasis for this year and providing kits and resources on how to conduct an Offering of Letters. The event will be Saturday, March 1, 10-12, at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 N. K St., Tacoma.

REGISTRATION: Pre-registration by Feb. 26 is encouraged for planning purposes, but walk-ons will be happily accepted. No registration fee. Register at piercecountyhunger@groups.facebook.com or at www.facebook.com/PierceCountyHunger or at the Christ Episcopal Church office, (253) 383-1569, M-F, 10-3. Coffee and on-site registration begin at 9:30 a.m.

"Sing a New Song: Embracing Mission and Ministry in Changing Communities"

Saturday, March 15 from 10 am - 2 pm.

at Peace Lutheran Church

2106 S. Cushman Ave, Tacoma

This workshop for church leaders and members shares the story of one congregation in Los Angeles whose ministry has continued to be vibrant, prophetic, and loving through the changes in their community, and the power of music in leading churches through change. *(continued)*

Sing A Song, continued from page 4

Led by Pastor James J. Lobdell and Mr. Donnie Williams, Church Musician and Gospel Choir Director, of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Inglewood, CA (Los Angeles). Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is part of the dynamic New City Parish, an urban coalition of eight ELCA congregations in Los Angeles, Inglewood, and Compton, California. Its collaborative approach focuses on the transformation of its communities through holistic ministries and social outreach. New City Parish seeks to proclaim a message of hope and advocate for the poor and marginalized, to teach people how to think critically for themselves, and to heal and comfort the hungry and suffering in center city communities.

Cost: \$15 donation. Lunch included. Sponsored by the SWWA Synod Outreach Board and Peace Lutheran Church. To register or for more information, call Peace at 253-383-1317.

"Moving Back into the Neighborhood": An introduction to the missional church

Led by Alan Roxburgh, pastor, teacher & author from The Missional Network
Saturday, March 15, 2014 9am-4pm
at University Place Presbyterian Church (West of Tacoma)

A conference for EVERYONE who wants to deepen their engagement with what God is doing in their community! God's people moved back into their neighborhoods to rediscover that God was already ahead of them creating and calling forth that which was new. Take some initial, exploratory steps into their neighborhoods, in order to discern what God is up to and to join the Holy Spirit in making all things new. [Register Here](#)

University Place Presbyterian Church
8101 27th St W, University Place WA 98466
\$20 /person includes lunch

Youth Ministry Workshop: Relationships Unfiltered with Andrew Root

March 27, 2014
8:00am to 4:30pm - FREE
Pacific Lutheran University, Regency Room - Anderson University Center

Andrew Root, a renowned expert on youth ministry, will lead an all day workshop designed for youth workers. Andrew is the Olson Baalson Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN.

More information next page

Youth Ministry Workshop, continued from page 5

There will be three sessions - Youth Ministry and the Relational Crisis, From a Youth Ministry of Influence to Place-Sharing, and The Shape of Faith Place-Sharing. Register by calling 253.535.7424 or send an email to crel@plu.edu. Admission is **free**. Lunch is included. Hurry, space is limited. www.plu.edu/congregations

Lutheran Staff Association 2014 Conference

March 9-12 - Cannon Beach, Oregon

Lutheran Staff Association (LSA) is a pan-Lutheran group of non-clergy staff serving Lutheran congregations, agencies and in specialized settings. They provide opportunities for education, inspiration, training, and networking for mutual support to their members. Their membership is drawn from Lutheran congregations and agencies in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. They are funded by membership dues, judicatory support, and donations. In the early part of each year, they hold a 4-day conference to provide opportunities to learn and laugh, sing and pray, grow in faith and connect with others working in similar ministries. Many congregations provide continuing education funds for their non-clergy staff so that they can attend the LSA conference annually. Your own spiritual growth as well as the ministry of your church or agency will be enhanced by your participation in this event. Check out their website for information on participating & supporting this important ministry! Please note: this year they are inviting non-clergy staff serving all denominations to attend <http://www.lutheranstaffnw.org/>

Conference on Pastoral Theology

June 16-18, 2014.

"God's Life without our wounded Cosmos: Christian theology and earth's future" More information out soon.

Article

Our Prayers May be Answered in Ways We Least Expect

by Martha Sirguy, a member at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Angeles.

We were at worship the Third Sunday in Advent, sitting with our son, Branden, and his family: wife Katie, eleven year old Emily, three year old Elise, and eight year old William who is challenged with developmental delays and who knows beyond doubt that he is a beloved child of God. A retired, visiting pastor was presiding and preaching for the day.

Offering was gathered and received at the altar along with the gifts of bread and wine. It was time to continue with the Great Thanksgiving, the opening to our liturgy for Communion. The pastor-for-the-day drew a blank! Anxiously he paged through the altar book containing the order of service; but it was to no avail. Having found not a glimpse of help, he announced we
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Our Prayers Answered, continued from page 6

would start with the Words of Institution. A dismayed glance at our competent and gifted pianist, Joy, suggested that his chosen starting place may not be the best place to begin. Joy, by now, seemed a bit uncertain as to where we were headed!

"No, let's begin _____," were Pastor's next words. Silence prevailed, more paging through the book at the altar. Then with a humble declaration of admission, Pastor stated, "I'm lost!" Someone in the congregation offered aid with the familiar blessing, "The Lord be with you!" Congregation and Pastor responded with the usual, "and also with you!" Sensing we were back on track, I was delighted when Pastor turned the blessing around and said to the congregation, "The Lord be with you," and the congregation dutifully responded, "and also with you!"

Supposing we were clearly on our way, I was amazed to discover another round of silence! Yes, more silence, as our Pastor again attempted to retrieve forgotten words. During this last round of silence something amazing happened. From my lap where Grandson William was sitting, came the lone, clear voice of a child. It was the voice of a child who has spent years with his speech therapist working on pronunciation and enunciation of words, correct shaping of lips, appropriate placement of tongue, slow/relaxed tempo, and much more, that others might understand.

William's words were not only clearly understood, they were the very words needed in the liturgy: "Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord." He gave not only the call (the pastor's words), but also the response (the congregation's words). Our most gracious (and by this time humbled) pastor took William's cue not unlike a duck taking to water, and we were on our way! The liturgy was offered, the Eucharist meal was served.

My own eight years of unceasing prayer for William, regarding his speech, and a litany of other requests, was honored. We might say prayer was answered. Not only was it answered, it was offered up to God, shared in community, and multiplied as blessing to others in a way I had never imagined! My heart danced, my spirit rejoiced!

Are we open to what God has in store, or are we waiting for a response to our prayer that fits our limited, human vision and understanding? God can and does do far more abundantly than all we ask or imagine.

Calendar

March 1: Hunger Matters, 10-Noon, Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

March 9-12: Lutheran Staff Association 2014 Conference, Cannon Beach, Oregon

March 15: "Sing a New Song: Embracing Mission and Ministry in Changing Communities", Peace Lutheran, Tacoma 10am-2pm

March 15: Moving Back into the Neighborhood, University Place Presbyterian Church, 9am-4pm

March 27: Youth Ministry Workshop at PLU, 8am-4:30pm Free.

May 16 and 17: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, at Trinity Lutheran Church, (Parkland) Tacoma

June 16-18: PLU Summer Conference on Pastoral Theology

Got ELCA-Primary Health Benefits?

If so, please don't forget to take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment before April 30th. You'll earn \$150 wellness dollars and help all the employers in our synod save 2% on Portico health contributions for ALL of 2014. We need 65% of all covered to take this in order to get the 2% savings, so encourage one another to get it done! (AND \$150 is just the start, ELCA Primary members and eligible spouses can earn up to \$500 wellness dollars each!) [Embody Health Assessment](#).

Interested in joining the Namibia Task Force?

The synod's Namibia Task Force meets to invite anyone with an interest in taking part in the synod's companion relationship with Namibia (ELCIN and ELCRN) to join. The task force hosts visiting pastors from Namibia, visits Namibia and helps with projects. Contact Committee Chair Rachel Pritchett at rachelpritchett@msn.com.

Job Openings

Kindergarten Teaching Position

Trinity Lutheran Church seeks a kindergarten teacher with Washington State Teacher Certification for our full day kindergarten program. Salary commensurate with experience, benefits include health insurance and contribution to 403b retirement account. For more information, please contact Pastor Jeffery Gaustad at Trinity Lutheran ([253-537-0201, ext. 103](tel:253-537-0201)), or e-mail at prgaustad@trinitylutheranparkland.org. To apply, please send resume and cover letter to Pastor Jeffery Gaustad, Trinity Lutheran Church, 12115 Park Avenue S., Tacoma, WA 98444.

Office Coordinator for Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center

Peace Lutheran Church and Peace Community Center seek a part-time (30 hours/week) Office Coordinator with an annual salary of \$23,000-\$25,000, paid holidays, Paid Time Off and other benefits. Please see full job description and benefits [here](#). Interested candidates should email their cover letter and resume to Kerri Pedrick at jobs@peacecommunitycenter.org by February 28th, 2014. The Office Coordinator is responsible for helping the Church and Center effectively fulfill their shared mission by providing administrative and receptionist duties. The position requires strong ability to prioritize multiple tasks, interpersonal skills, self-starter skills, proficiency in editing and desk-top publishing, and keen attention to detail. Responsibilities include: greeting and directing people, receiving and channeling messages, overseeing facility use and maintenance, carrying out duties in human resources, publicity and communication, ministry support, some staff management, keeping records of Church membership, and maintaining computer and office filing systems.

Mountain View Lutheran Church, Edgewood, WA seeks two positions-

Director of Youth (<http://mtviewlutheran.org/directorofyouthjobdescription.pdf>)

Life Together Coordinator

(<http://mtviewlutheran.org/lifetogethercoordinatorjobdescription.pdf>). –