



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.

April 2014

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

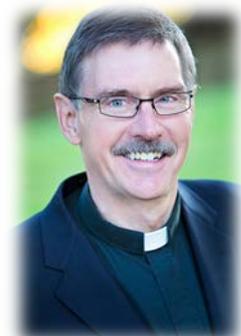
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A Message from Bishop Jaech

Dear Friends,

Knowing that I have been eight months on the job, people often ask me two questions, "What do you enjoy most about being bishop?" and "What has most surprised you?" The answers to the two questions are very connected.

What I enjoy most is visiting the pastors, AIMs and members of our synod's congregations. Starting with our northern-most congregations on the Olympic Peninsula and our southern-most congregations along the Columbia River, I have now visited 28 out of the 88 congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod and am zigzagging my way towards the center. (See the complete list of the congregations I have visited below.) I immensely enjoy meeting the people and staff of our churches and hearing how they are doing.



What has most surprised and delighted me is discovering the energetic, vital ministry that is happening in each congregation I visit. The "surprise" arises from the constant news we hear of a declining Church and struggling congregations. I don't want to deny that we ELCA Lutherans, along with most mainline churches in the United States, are facing significant change, challenges and uncertainty. Many congregations in our synod, both large and small, wrestle with the questions of membership, future mission and financial shortfall. Yet in each visit I make, I find an energetic, committed group of people who are centered in God's love and serving their community in exciting ways.

When I meet with a congregation, I ask them, "Tell me about your ministry. What are you enjoying doing as a congregation?" Hands go up, shyly at first, and the members begin to describe the wonderful mix of ministries they are doing: feeding hungry people, making quilts, singing in choirs, operating a health clinic, sending backpacks to a local school filled with food and study supplies, offering guitar classes, taking Seniors to doctor appointments, creating a community garden, building houses in Costa Rica, staffing a homeless shelter with other churches...the list goes on and on, with some

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common, but also unique ministries in each place. Even when congregations feel that they are struggling, the Spirit is alive and moving powerfully among them.



I witnessed a beautiful example of this two weeks ago at the closing service of Hope Lutheran Church in Tacoma. After 108 years of celebrating and living out the Gospel, the remaining members of Hope discerned that their time of effective ministry in that place was coming to a close. Yet, even in their “dying”, they chose to live as people of the Resurrection. They committed themselves to join neighboring Lutheran churches and become active in their ministry. Furthermore, they gave \$400,000 from the remaining funds to the Synod to start the

Hope Fund, which will be used in the years ahead to start new congregations and renew existing congregations. The outward structure of Hope Lutheran radically changed, but the ministry of the people of Hope powerfully continues.

This is both my joy and my surprise. Each time I visit one of our congregations, I see the spirit of Christ present in remarkable ways, first gathering and feeding God’s people and then sending them out to serve others in exciting ways. It’s true that the future shape of our Church is still emerging and there are important challenges to face. Yet, each day the people of the Southwestern Washington Synod are living out the Gospel in remarkable ways. Through God’s grace and power, we are alive and well.

Congregation Visits Made by Bishop Jaech (in alphabetical order):

Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor; Bethel, Brush Prairie; Community Christian Center, Federal Way; Dungeness Valley, Sequim; Family of Christ, Vancouver; Family of God, Bremerton; First, Poulsbo; Gloria Dei, Kelso; Good Shepherd, Olympia; Grace, Port Townsend; Gull Harbor, Olympia (Rev. Norm Arnold’s Ordination); Highland, La Center; Holy Trinity, Port Angeles; Hope, Tacoma; Immanuel, Vancouver; Light of Grace, Federal Way; Living Stones, Shelton; Messiah, Vancouver; Our Saviour’s, Bremerton; Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Port Ludlow; Prince of Peace, Forks; St. Andrew, Vancouver (RIC Regional Service); St. Mark, Lacey; St. Paul, Vancouver; Twin Harbors, Grayland; University Congregation- PLU, Tacoma; Vinland, Poulsbo; Zion, Camas. **Bishop’s Advent Eucharist Visits:** Bethany, Longview; Calvary, Federal Way; Dungeness Valley, Sequim; Faith, Elma; St. Mark’s by the Narrows, Tacoma.

Blessings to you as we move through these closing days of Lent towards the Easter gift of new life!

Bishop Jaech

Photo: Bishop Richard Jaech, Linda Conway and Pastor Randy Haas giving communion during Hope Lutheran, Tacoma’s last worship service on March 9th.

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- July 2014	John Rosenberg-retiring
Light of Grace, Federal Way	P	C	Sang Soo Kim
Messiah, Auburn	P	TR	Jeff Driscoll
Mount Cross, University Place	P	C	Howard Fosser
Resurrection, Tacoma	P	NV- May 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
DC- Deaconness*

Mobility status key:

*NV – New Vacancy
TR – Transition
I – Interviewing
C – Calling*

On Leave from Call: Rev. Randy Haas (Hope, Tacoma); Rev. Steven Olson (PLU)

Building Safe Communities- 3 Boundaries Trainings Offered

Boundaries Training

For all Rostered Leaders & Professional Staff

Thursday, May 29th 10am - 4pm

at Christ Lutheran Church in Federal Way

Join leaders from around the Northwest Washington and Southwestern Washington synods for an all-day boundaries training to help us understand how to keep ourselves healthy and to ensure that our needs as leaders are met without participation by those we serve. Boundaries Training provides clear information on misconduct prevention for people in positions of power and anyone who works with children and other vulnerable people. This training will be led by Pastor Mark Nelson, Coordinator for Missional Leadership of the Region 1 of the ELCA and Pastor Susan Kintner, Assistant to the Bishop of the Oregon Synod. The ELCA requires that all rostered leaders attend Boundaries Training at least once, early during their period of rostered service. Rostered leaders are strongly encouraged to take this training again if they have not taken the course in the last ten years.

Cost is \$20, includes materials and lunch.

Online Registration [Click Here](#) (through NWWA Synod)

"After Pastor" Training

For Rostered Leaders Who May Serve In A Church Where Clergy Misconduct Has Previously Occurred

Friday June 6th 10am - 4pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton

Clergy misconduct, and the resulting violation of trust, is a devastating event in the life of a congregation. While steps are taken to prevent misconduct, the unhealthy dynamics it can create within the congregation may persist for years. ELCA Misconduct Consultant Barbara Keller will lead a workshop for all pastors who, intentionally or unintentionally, find themselves in this ministry situation. Interim pastors are especially encouraged to attend, and all clergy are invited.

Cost is \$20, includes materials and lunch.

Online Registration [Click Here \(through NWWA Synod\)](#)

Boundaries Workshop for Youth Workers

For Those Working With Children & Youth

Saturday June 7th 9:30am - 12:30pm at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Renton

The NW WA and SW WA synods are hosting a half-day workshop on healthy boundary issues for those in congregations and ministries who work with children, youth, and other vulnerable

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Boundaries Workshop for Youth Workers *continued from page 3*

populations. This is a perfect event for full-time or part-time staff members and volunteers.

ELCA Misconduct Consultant Barbara Keller will lead this workshop.

Cost is \$10, includes materials and morning refreshments.

Online Registration [Click Here \(through NWWA Synod\)](#)

ELCA World Hunger monthly WebEx meetings

ELCA World Hunger has monthly WebEx meetings in which they talk about hunger related issues and new resources available on the ELCA website. The meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm (PT). In March, they discussed the ELCA Malaria Campaign & World Malaria Week, fundraising updates and Gender Equality Month & UN Commission on the Status of Women Report

On Tuesday, April 15th at 5:30 (PT), they will discuss ELCA World Hunger Fundraising Strategies and April being National Volunteer Month.

Synod Assembly Registration Open

Registration is open for the May 16-17, 2014 Synod Assembly held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland. www.regonline.com/2014SynodAssembly

Oso Community Mud Slide

By Bishop Kirby Unti, Northwest Washington Synod

Friends,

There has been an outpouring of love and concern for the people of Oso as we all try to come to grips with this sudden and tragic loss of life.

I have been in touch with those on the ground, including our closest congregations. They are reporting that the need people feel to react immediately is becoming a secondary crisis for the community.

Please hear that the immediate needs of Oso are being well attended to.

It will be the long range needs that will be more challenging. These families have not only lost their homes and all of their belongings, they have lost the very land their homes were built on. Our gifts to the Red Cross, Lutheran Community Services of Northwest Washington and Lutheran Disaster Response will help ensure the after care that will be needed in Oso and in other areas where our sisters and brothers face tragedy.

It has been said often that the most valuable gift that we have to offer at this time is our prayers for the community, the families most directly involved and the entire response team.

We will make every attempt to keep you all aware of the needs as they arise.

Grace + Peace,

Bishop Kirby Unti

Northwest Washington Synod, ELCA

Becoming a Rostered Leader in the ELCA

By Allison Ramsey

Candidacy is the thorough and thoughtful process of discernment and preparation leading individuals to approval for public ministries of the ELCA and participation as called leaders in the work God is doing in communities throughout the world. These public ministries include associates in ministry, deaconesses, diaconal ministers and ordained pastors. The church continually seeks men and women who will serve as faithful, bold witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Candidacy invites an active partnership of the candidates and their families and support systems, congregations, synods and their candidacy committees, special ministries, seminaries and churchwide units, all acting together on behalf of the entire church.

The Synod Candidacy Committee is appointed by the synod bishop to help determine, with the candidate, whether their character, ability, health and wellness, spiritual formation, preparation and commitment are appropriate for the ministry in which they seek to serve. It is

a process guided by the Holy Spirit that calls upon the gifts and insights of many people to raise up, prepare, certify and place public leaders in ministries of the ELCA. The Southwestern Washington Synod currently has 30 candidates in the process for ordained clergy and commissioned associates in ministry. Our Synod Candidacy Committee members are: Pastor Chuck Slocum, Pastor Sigi Helgeson, Ingelaurie Lisher (AIM), Pastor Steve Schumacher, Beachie Warren, Pastor Kim Latterell and Pastor Mark Nelson.

Are you open, curious, and attuned to what God is up to in the world? Are you wondering about the gifts and abilities God has given you for loving and serving your neighbor? Are you asking questions about how God is calling you to live and serve as a leader here and now? If so, we welcome you to contact the Synod Office about the possibility of candidacy in the ELCA, 253-535-8300 or swwsynod@plu.edu. You will find information online at www.elca.org/candidacy.

Got ELCA-Primary Health Benefits?

If you are a plan member of ELCA Portico Benefits, don't forget to take the Mayo Clinic Health Assessment by **April 30th**. <http://www.elcaforwellness.org> You'll earn \$150 wellness dollars and help all the congregations in our synod save 2% on health contributions for ALL of 2014. We need 65% of our synod's plan members to take the health assessment by April 30th 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 in wellness dollars each! We just need 28 more people to complete the survey from our synod in April to reach our goal. We can save thousands of dollars in our own synod. Collectively, the ELCA can save \$2.3 million if all synods (and employers/congregations within each synod), seminaries, and churchwide ministries qualify for the discount. That's a lot of money!

The Synod receives 2% back, too, in order to help with wellness costs within our synod. Our synod saved our funds from the last two years and our Synod Council voted to follow Bishop Jaech's plan to buy 42 Fitbits for our rostered plan members, give an additional \$4000 to Consultation to Clergy (an agency that provides counseling services to our rostered leaders and congregations), plus a new Sabbatical Seed Grant program that will assist with costs related to congregations providing sabbaticals to their rostered leaders. The sabbatical seed grant information will be out later this spring. <http://www.elcaforwellness.org>

Congregation Happenings

Historical Elbe Lutheran Church Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast

The Historic Elbe Lutheran Church, formally named Evangelische Lutherische Kirche, speaking to its German heritage, is holding their 29th annual volunteer appreciation breakfast at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Lakewood (just west of Tacoma) on Saturday, May 3rd at 9:30am. The speaker will be Mr. Donald Johnstone, a Nisqually Valley Historian, who will speak on "Why Elbe?" If you would like to attend, feel free to bring guests that are interested in the work and ministry of the Historical Elbe Lutheran Church. *Continued on page 7*

Elbe Church *continued from page 6*

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Historical Elbe Lutheran Church is one of the smallest churches in the country and was built in 1906 though the congregation started in 1886.

Elbe Lutheran is a church of the Southwestern Washington Synod and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that holds worship on the third Sunday of each month at 2:30pm, March – November. Their Host Pastor is the Rev. Gallen Gallimore, who schedules different preachers each month. In 1984, it became the (Southwestern Washington Synod's) "Bishop's Cathedral."

Silverdale Lutheran Church's Lay School of Theology

Rev. Dr. Ted Peters, will lead this year's Lay School of Theology at Silverdale Lutheran on Palm Sunday, April 13th. His first session is from 9:40-10:40am on "How Does Jesus Save?", which will examine the significance of the cross and what is often called "atonement."

Following the 5pm dinner, Dr. Peters will speak on "Sin Boldly! How God's Grace Saves Sinners." Dr. Peters says that it is difficult to justify one's faith in Jesus Christ in our age of aggressive atheism and secular critique. Our most effective justification is not found in theological argument but, rather, in living the Life of Beatitude. Trusting God rather than oneself for our justification yields a liberating transformation, a free and joyous investment in love for oneself and love for one's neighbor.

All are welcome to this free event. There is a suggested donation of \$10. The Rev. Dr. Peters is Research Professor Emeritus of Systematic Theology and Ethics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. He currently co-edits the journal, *Theology and Science*. His newest books include a book on meditation, *Short Prayers*, and an espionage novel about "the black op in the white collar," *For God and Country*.

Got Anymore Green Hymnals?

A mission start in Nebraska is looking for old green Lutheran Books of Worship. If your church has any they'd like to donate, please email Dan Colgen, Music Director at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Olympia at dan@gloriadeiolympia.org.

Salishan Lutheran remembers Pastor Ron Vignec through gifts to local school

When Pastor Ron Vignec, mission developer of Salishan Eastside Lutheran Mission in one of the lowest-income areas of Tacoma, died this past winter, his family asked that donations be made to Salishan Lutheran designated for their work at First Creek Middle School in Salishan in lieu of flowers. Salishan Mission has been able to give over \$5,100 to the school from funds donated to the church in honor of Pastor Ron.

Bethany, Spanaway's Office Administrator retires after 38 years.

Ruth Anderson spent the past 38 years as the Office Administrator for Bethany Lutheran, Spanaway- always cheerful, always helpful. Throughout her long ministry to the church, Ruth has worked for 7 pastors. She retired at the end of February. A retirement celebration was held to celebrate Ruth's ministry on Sunday, March 9th.



Photo- Ruthie Anderson at her retirement party at Bethany Lutheran, Spanaway. *Photo credit: Kevin Bacher.*

Resurrection Lutheran in Northeast Tacoma has received two grants from the Northeast Neighborhood network for their Community Garden of Peace . One is to plumb water to their community garden and the second is to build a community sign for the garden with a Little Free Library attached.

St. Andrew Lutheran in Vancouver- The WHO (Winter Hospitality Overflow) is seeing changes in the face of the homeless this winter. They are seeing more working poor and older persons on Social Security than ever before. They have expanded their day shelter to five days a week in February.

Our Saviours Lutheran, Bremerton- Their Stewardship Committee is challenging their members to raise \$5,000 for the ELCA Malaria Campaign and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Their challenge runs from March 2nd to August 31st.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fircrest- They will host The Rev. Miriam Schmidt and family on Sunday, June 8th. Pastor Miriam is an ELCA missionary in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Faith Lutheran, Shelton- Celebrated their 65th anniversary on March 6th. They started in 1948 with 13 members in attendance and now have over 540 baptized members and worship over 200 each Sunday.

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Grace Lutheran, Port Townsend dedicates painting by local author and illustrator Richard Jesse Watson



Grace Lutheran Church, Port Townsend, joyfully celebrated the dedication of the above 4' x 6' painting by Richard Jesse Watson in February. The painting hangs in the entryway of the church and welcomes all into worship. Richard Jesse Watson is a Port Townsend author and illustrator, specializing in children's books (<http://richardjessewatson.com/>). "The painting is an inspiration to our worship as it evokes the themes of the Holy Spirit represented as a dove and the bread and wine of Holy Communion," said Pastor Coe Hutchison. Congregation President Jim Hladecek noted that, "The painting blends both local scenes celebrating God's creation in water and mountains and the beautiful hues of the sanctuary's existing stained glass."

Richard Jesse Watson explained the development of the painting. "There's many a time I've gotten lost in a painting. Not lost like, 'Help me Obi Wan, you're my only hope...', but more, 'Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.'"

"I loved working on the commissioned painting for Grace Lutheran and enjoyed exploring the many layers and subtleties. The goal was to create a piece that reflected the ethos and welcoming spirit of the fellowship, while echoing the "bones" of the architecture, interior details, stained glass windows by Mark Gulsrud, and the exquisite artistry of Russell Jaqua. The painting combines realism and abstracted patterns, focusing on a white dove. This representation of the Holy Spirit reflects the scene from scripture where Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. That encounter moves me because it represents the quintessential archetype for anyone who has ever yearned for that which is beyond themselves."

Members of the public are encouraged to drop by and enjoy this painting. Please call the church at (360) 385-1595 to ensure that the building is open when you come by. /End