

Moments for Mission

Newsletter of the Southwestern Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The mission of the Southwestern Washington Synod is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.

April 2010

Easter Address

‘Last Enemy to be Destroyed is Death’

By the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding ELCA bishop

For a brief time, while the crucified Jesus lay in a borrowed tomb, it seemed as if death had triumphed once again. Threatened by a messenger of God’s expansive, steadfast love, yet another human mob succumbed to death’s seduction. They chose its brutal, silencing power and trusted its empty finality. Death’s murderous rebellion against the Creator of life seemed unstoppable.

Until that Sunday morning dawned. Mary, Joanna, Mary and the other women arrived at Jesus’ tomb prepared for a body emptied of life. Instead they discovered the grave emptied of its power and death itself buried in resurrection life. Jesus Christ, the first fruits from the dead, lives (1 Corinthians 15:20).

Now Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s compassionate love, is preparing your body for a resurrection life. In that life death can no longer imprison you in a grave nor hold you captive to its violent imagination and destructive power. Joined to Christ by baptism, your body is being brought into his resurrected life, into Christ’s new creation, and into the ministry of reconciliation and peace. In this new day your resurrected service of God’s steadfast love endures forever.

Southwestern Washington Synod

Assembly Time is Just Around the Corner

By Allison Ramsey, office manager

It’s time once again for my favorite time of year – the Synod Assembly, the main business and education gathering of the Southwestern Washington Synod. As a synod staff member, I get to meet new people from around the synod and continue relations with others. The 2010 Synod Assembly will be held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center on May 14 and 15 in Vancouver, Wash.

Continues



Please share this monthly e-newsletter. If you would like to subscribe, send a request to the synod office or rachelpritchett@msn.com.

EDITOR, WRITER

Rachel Pritchett
adjunct, fifth-time

SYNOD STAFF

Bishop Robert D. Hofstad

Rev. Ronald Hoyum
assistant to the bishop

Rev. Valinda Morse
assistant to the bishop

Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger
director for evangelical mission

Rev. Donald Fossum
two-fifths time

Allison Ramsey
office manager

Pat Durston
fifth-time office assistant

PHONE

(253) 535-8300

E-MAIL

swwsynod@plu.edu

SYNOD WEB SITE

www.lutheranssw.org

ELCA WEB SITE

www.elca.org

Inside
Calvary
Lutheran
Church of
Federal Way
copes with
Shooting.
Page 2

Assembly Time: Continued from Page 1

The theme is “Renewing your Congregation.” Pretty simple words for such a complex action. At this year’s assembly, we’ll have fewer business items than in the past, giving us plenty of time to focus on old and new resources for helping each of us renew our own congregations. Merriam-Webster defines renew using the synonyms “regenerate,” “revive” and “rebuild.” No matter how amazing your congregation is, which one couldn’t use new life in a specific area, try something new, or revive a part of it? Come to the assembly and learn.

Our keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Jim Wellman, a Presbyterian minister and chair of comparative religion at the University of Washington’s Jackson School of International Studies. Wellman will speak about the characteristics of a congregation that takes transformation and renewal seriously. He has written several books, his most recent being “Evangelical vs. Liberal: The Clash of Christian Cultures in the Pacific Northwest.” Prior to getting his doctorate, Wellman was a business-ethics consultant and youth minister.

Our ELCA representative will be the Rev. Brenda Smith. Pastor Smith is director for discipleship and evangelism in the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit. One of the things she’ll be presenting is a program called LIFT (Living into the Future Together), in which the ELCA asks “What is God calling this church to be and to do in the future?”

If you are not a voting member of your congregation, think about coming to the Saturday workshops. This is the first time that we’ve offered workshops only, for \$20. You can either register before by calling the Synod office at (253) 535-8300, or by stopping by the Synod room at the Hilton Hotel conference center in Vancouver.

Workshop options include: resources to help revitalize your congregation, transforming lives with the Living Stones Prison Congregation, building and using a simple labyrinth in your church facility, fair-trade resources, and Synod Council congregational visits.

Please join us at my favorite synod event, the 2010 Synod Assembly.

News**Calvary Congregation Coming to Grips with Tragedy**

FEDERAL WAY – The pain and disbelief was still fresh during a March 21 worship service at Calvary Lutheran Church, where just days before, a woman was gunned down during a counseling session.

“There is no getting around the events of Wednesday evening,” said the Rev. Lori Cornell. “A woman lost her life at our church.”

The woman and her former husband were receiving counseling when the man suddenly pulled out a gun and shot her several times. She died shortly afterward.

Cornell tied the terrible event to the Gospel text of day, Mark 2:1, in which Jesus heals a paralytic, lowered to him through the roof of a crowded home. Jesus spoke of forgiveness and restoration in that passage, Pastor Cornell said. While restoration seemed a long way off for this congregation this morning, she cautioned her flock “to not be so wounded by the event that hope can’t be reclaimed.”

Pastor Cornell later said she’d received e-mails from people all over the country offering prayers for the congregation and for the family of the woman who was killed.

Pastor Cornell’s husband, the Rev. Doug Chamberlain, said that when more times passes, the congregation plans to have a moment of blessing at the site of the shooting. Plans also are under way to help financially support the couple’s three children, he said. Bishop Robert D. Hofstad and wife Linda were on hand to deliver comfort to shaken members of the congregation.

Congregations in Transition

Mobility

Call Process	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
All Saints, Auburn	P	TR	Sarah Roemer
Christ, Belfair	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Steven Ray
Faith, Shelton	AP	I	Steve Olson
First, Port Orchard	P	TR	Joe Smith
Grace, Port Townsend	P	I	Beth Orling
Hope, Tacoma	P	TR	Randy Olson
Ocean Park	P	NV	Dawn Coffey
Our Saviour's, Cathlamet	P	TR	Les Foss
Peninsula, Gig Harbor	AP	NV	Paul Schroeder
Salishan, Tacoma	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Spanaway	P	I	Dennis Hartsook
Trinity, Enumclaw	P	NV	Doug Peterson
United, Tacoma	P	TR	Jan Otto

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

Transitions

Retires: The Rev. Linda Smith retired from Ocean Park Lutheran Church on March 1. The Rev. Dawn Coffey, who was on leave from call, is the interim pastor.

Called: The Southwestern Washington Synod has called the Rev. Eric Utto-Galarneau as chaplain at Grays Harbor Community Hospital of Aberdeen. He is leaving his call at Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Aberdeen, a position he shared with his wife, the Rev. Beth Utto-Galarneau. She has accepted the call to serve full time at Amazing Grace.

Transfers: The Rev. Brenda Satrum of Trinity Lutheran Church of Enumclaw transferred to the Montana Synod on March 31. Her husband, the Rev. Doug Peterson, will continue at Trinity until May 16, when he, too, will transfer to the Montana Synod.

News

Immanuel Raises Funds to Help One of its Own

CENTRALIA – It's never good news when cancer strikes, particularly when its victims are young, like Darrin Canfield, member of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Centralia.

The 44-year-old teacher got the news only in December and this month will receive a stem-cell transplant in Seattle as he continues to fight a virulent form of leukemia, according to Immanuel member Paula Barr

Since his diagnosis, the congregation has raised \$22,000 to help with expenses for his family that includes his wife and two daughters. Members raised the money through numerous auctions, dinners and fundraisers, according to the Rev. Paul Hermansen, who called Canfield one of the most active members of the congregation. Other churches in the Southwestern Washington Synod have joined in the support, as has the greater Centralia community, particularly the students and staff of Centralia High School, where Canfield is a teacher.

“There has been a huge outpouring of support,” Barr said. A Facebook page and Web site with updates on Canfield are readily accessible by typing his name into a Web search engine.

News

Finally, a Better Pipe Organ for Holy Trinity

PORT ANGELES – After years of living with a small and inadequate pipe organ, members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Port Angeles finally are enjoying one that has some of the old and some of the new.

Portions of the existing organ console were redone. Then it was connected to pipes taken from the organ at Trinity Lutheran College's former location in Issaquah. The college had to leave the instrument behind when it moved to Everett.

Holy Trinity's bigger and better organ then was moved from where it stood near the pulpit to the choir area. Last December, members dedicated the two organs made one, modified by Richard Bond of Portland.

"Since completing the organ, congregants have been genuinely impressed at the improved sound, and have indeed increased their participation in congregational song," said Joy Lingerfelt, minister of music. The organ is said to be the largest in the north Olympic Peninsula.

Moment of Blessing Held

TACOMA – Synod members joined in a moment of blessing for Jennifer Paulson, a teacher shot to death by an alleged stalker as she arrived at Birney Elementary School on Feb. 26. The March 1 blessing took place near United Lutheran Church. The Rev. Gary Petersen of Redeemer Lutheran Church of Tacoma attended the large gathering. He said, "Thanks to all for their leadership in helping acknowledge the life of this young woman, Jennifer Paulson, and her ideals to teach and care for children, and in the shock of such a death to offer love and hope and the promises of God."

Teachers Get a Big 'Thanks' in Port Orchard

PORT ORCHARD – Educators of all kinds were thanked and prayed for during a special service Feb. 28 at First Lutheran Community Church in Port Orchard.

Led by the Rev. Joe Smith, worshipers looked back on their lives and remembered the teachers who help shaped them.

"We always had to push to do better," said one man in a videotaped presentation of members' memories of beloved teachers. "Mediocrity wasn't an option," he said.

Pastor Smith said, "We want people who are involved in education to know that God is with you." He and members pledged support for teachers in whatever way they could.

Reading from a special litany prepared by the National Council of Churches, Smith said, "As your faith community, we pledge to be with you on your educational journey. We affirm that each of you is a precious gift from God. We will do all that we are able to ensure that your schools are positive places filled with hope and the resources necessary for learning."

The congregation's Christian-education teachers weren't forgotten during the service. Pastor Smith asked anyone who'd been a Sunday school teacher to stand up, and about half of the medium-sized congregation came to their feet.

With that, the educators were asked to approach the altar, where Smith and visiting Southwestern Washington Bishop Robert D. Hofstad performed a laying on of the hands for each and every educator, asking each about their valued work along the way.

This is not the first time the congregation in this small, Navy shipyard town has lifted up valued members of the community. Health-care workers got similar recognition in a heartfelt service earlier in the year, and more recognition of special groups is planned.

Pastor's Corner

Unanimity, not Uniformity, in Community of Christ

By the Rev. Randy Faro, St. John's Lutheran Church of Chehalis

I recently met an individual who, when he found out that I am a pastor, had questions for me relating to his experience within the Christian community. His concern had to do with why so many people who professed to be followers of Jesus Christ held him at arm's length or even treated him with scorn. When I asked him if he had any idea what might have provoked such a rejection, he said, "That's easy. Various parts of the Bible speak differently to me that it does to them." When I replied that this seemed to answer his question, he responded, "Pastor, who Jesus is and what His death and resurrection means has never been an issue. What I don't get is why some others think I have to agree with them on every point of interpretation on every part of the Bible before they want to rub shoulders with me as a brother in Christ."

I had to tell him that this is exactly what I do not understand either. I don't know if the side-issues that caused my new friend's felt rejection had to do with abortion, sexuality, method of baptism, speaking in tongues, which day of the week one should worship, or any of a score of other Scriptural items that some Christians use as a litmus test for "true" Christianity.

But it was expressly stated that there was never any question or debate about what the incarnation, atonement and resurrection of Jesus means in terms of reconciling us to God. Which is exactly what Jesus prays for in John 17 and what Paul means in his letter to the Philippians when they speak of unity in Christ. So I'm in the same boat with respect to puzzlement over why with some people the side issues (what Martin Luther called *adiaphora* – matters not regarded as essential to faith) take precedence over the gospel proclamation itself. I always feel like asking for their list of items with which I must be in agreement before they consent to being part of the same worshipping community.

While it is human nature that people will come up with different interpretations on these side issues which results in grouping together with like-minded folk, the most damaging and unbiblical effects are when one group accuses the other of heresy or downright abandoning the faith. What do you do when another is considered a sister or brother in Christ, but that other thinks of you as an infidel?

It is such a blessing to feel accepted and loved even if another and I are not in agreement on each and every issue of Scriptural interpretation. My read on various portions of the Bible, my political philosophy and my approach to some social issues varies considerably from that of many others within my community in Christ. But that is the key phrase: community in Christ.

New to Read

ELCA Draft Statement on Genetics Available

The ELCA has made its draft social statement on genetics available to read at www.elca.org. The statement will receive final consideration at the 2011 churchwide assembly.

Have a story for the newsletter?

Contact the Synod office or Editor Rachel Pritchett at rachelpritchett@msn.com with your news. If you'd like to regularly receive this newsletter, contact the synod office.

Our Congregations

From newsletters across the synod, for keeping up

Federal Way Church Uses Location to Advantage

No church stands out more in busy downtown Federal Way than Calvary Lutheran Church, scene of the recent shooting death of a woman receiving counseling there. *See Page 2.*

The congregation with its sweeping steeple sits aside Interstate 5, a transit center and busy 320th Street. Due in part to its location, homeless people have always been drawn to it, explained Certified Lay Minister Janice Olson, and the congregation has always reached out to them.

Four times a week, as many as 20 homeless people arrive for a sack lunch prepared by volunteers.

Every Thursday, the church hosts a community dinner for as many as 100 persons, and has been doing so for the last 18 years, Olson said. Beyond that, Calvary takes part with others in an effort called Reach Out, which provides shelter and care for single homeless men during winter.

Retiring: The Rev. Dick Foege and wife Mary are retiring this year from **Emmanuel of Tacoma**. Mrs. Foege, the congregation's music director overseeing Joyful Sound, Gospel Ladies, handbells and the Children's Academy of Music, retired in January. He will leave in August.

Mayor and teacher: Bremerton Mayor Patty Lent has time in her busy schedule to teach Sunday School at **Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**.

Defibrillator planned: The women of **Bethel of Brush Prairie** held a coffee hour March 14 to raise funds for a defibrillator for the church, to help in critical moments after heart disease strikes.

Resigns: Adam Smouse, hired last year to lead worship at **Messiah of Vancouver's** emerging second site, has resigned to follow a new calling. The congregation plans to hire a replacement.

\$20,000 raised: The recent auction to support the RockSolid Community Teen Center at **Bethel of Brush Prairie** raised \$20,000, which will allow leaders to keep the center open for another year.

Commissioned: **Hanna Nowakowski** was commissioned into the Community of Lay Ministers Feb. 14 by the Rev Skip Getman at **Immanuel of Vancouver**.

To Holden for renewal: Members of **Amazing Grace of Aberdeen** plan a trip to Holden Village from July 19 to 25 for a time of renewal and to remember the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Piano fund: **St. John's of Chehalis** has started a fund-raising campaign to replace an inadequate piano in its sanctuary. White keys are going for \$25 each, with black keys going for twice that. A leg costs \$100.

Youth Bound for Gulf Coast: Youth from **Saron of Hoquiam** held a potato feed and auction March 16 to help support a mission trip they are planning for next summer to the Gulf Coast.

Key changes: **Catherine Greene** is the new organist and choir accompanist for the traditional service at **Peninsula of Gig Harbor**. The congregation at **Bethany of Spanaway** honored **Arlene Hoveland** on March 21 with a reception thanking her for serving as organist, pianist and choir director for 23 years.

Microlending: **Trinity of Parkland's** Kiva Microlending Club has lent \$450 to three entrepreneurs around the world. One recipient is a caterer in Peru who will use her loan to purchase ingredients and replace old utensils. Another is a woman from Togo who will purchase more inventory for her small grocery stand.

Feeding the hungry: **Christ of Belfair** continues to partner with others in the North Mason Coalition of Churches and others to feed the hungry. Efforts include Sunday suppers, giving kids food for weekends and school breaks, summer lunch boxes for kids, and Christmas boxes. Some 850 people were fed in the past year.

Upcoming Events

Evangelism Training Offered

Anyone between ages 14 and 100 is invited to a day of evangelism training April 10 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Tacoma. Leading the event will be Robert Kolb, professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary of Missouri. The instruction is free and takes place between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at the church, at 1315 North Stevens St., Tacoma; (253) 752-3571.

Marriage Encounter Scheduled

Lutheran Marriage Encounter plans a spring weekend April 10 and 11 at Dumas Bay Center in Federal Way for couples seeking to strengthen their unions; Mark or Ginny Sims, (253) 941-4520.

Organist Featured at Spanaway

Spanaway Lutheran Church will be the location of an April 23 pipe-organ concert by Eun Mi Oh, with Glendale Lutheran Church of Burien. The concert is at noon, and the church is at 16001 "A" St.; (253) 531-7000.

Region 1 Pastors' Conference Coming

The 2010 Region 1 ELCA Pastors' Conference will take place April 12 to 14 in Victoria, B.C.; www.region1pastors.com.

Trinity College Hosts 'Left Behind' Critic

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing is the presenter of the 2010 Lavik Series at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, taking place April 16 and 17. Rossing is the author of *The Rapture Exposed: The Message of Hope in the Book of Revelation*, a critique of fundamentalist "Left Behind" theology; www.tlc.edu/lavik.

Lay School of Theology Slated at Emmanuel

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Tacoma presents retired Luther Seminary professor Mark Kolden at its Lay School of Theology to take place April 26 to 29 at Emmanuel. Kolden will speak on "Ecclesiology: How the Church is Run and Why it Matters." To accommodate persons who work, two identical sessions will be held each day, the first at 10 a.m. and the second at 7 p.m. They will be in Room 200. The tuition for the series is \$15. The church is at 1315 North Stevens St.; (253) 752-3571.

Lay Ministers, Congregation Host Prayer Retreat

Members of the Community of Lay Ministers of the Southwestern Washington Synod and the congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Vancouver invite all to a prayer retreat May 1 at St. Andrew. The retreat, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature Peg Edera speaking on labyrinths and how they can be used for prayer for individuals and groups. The cost is \$20 for persons who have registered by April 23, or \$25 at the door. Lunch and materials are included. To register, send a check made out to St. Andrew Lutheran Church to the church, at 5607 NE Gher Road, Vancouver, WA 98662-6152. Write "Experiencing Prayer" in the memo line; (360) 892-7160.

Upcoming Events

Christian Rock Band to Perform

Lost and Found will perform in concert at 6 p.m. May 2 at Poulsbo First Lutheran Church. The cost is \$10 at the door and free for children 10 and younger. The church is located at 18920 Fourth Ave. NE; (360) 779-2622.

Byberg Preaching Workshop in May

The annual Byberg Preaching Workshop will take place May 3 to 5 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; (360) 770-2774 or tkyllo@verizon.net.

High-School Youth Invited to PLU

Pacific Lutheran University in Parkland invites high-school youth to join in on a special weekend of fellowship, worship and service on May 8 and 9 at the university. The cost is \$20 per person; www.plu.edu/crel.

Join Confirmands at Holden Village

St. Mark Lutheran Church of Lacey will host an Eighth-Grade Affirmation of Baptism Retreat at Holden Village over Memorial Day weekend, May 29 through 31. It invites other congregations to participate. For more information, contact the Rev. Rachel Wangen-Hoch, St. Mark associate pastor, at (360) 401-0372 or wangen-hoch@live.com.

PLU Summer Conference: Who Tends to Pastoral Leaders?

“The Spiritual Formation of the Pastoral Leader” is the topic of the Pacific Lutheran University Summer Conference on Pastoral Theology, taking place June 28 to 30 at the university. The conference, designed for ordained and lay leaders, will feature Timothy Wengert of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; theologian Patricia Lull, Samuel Torvend of PLU and the Rev. Katy McCallum Sachse of Kirkland as worship leader. To learn more, contact the Rev. G. Lee Kluth, office of Congregation Relations, PLU, at kluthgl@plu.edu or (253) 535-7423. To register, visit www.plu.edu/crel.

Theology on the River Event Planned

The Rev. John Lund of the Emmaus Campus Ministry of the ELCA says clergy, rostered leaders and their families and friends are welcome to join in on a five-day float trip down Montana's Blackfoot River July 30 to Aug. 4. During the float, participants will explore theological perspectives to reconnect with creation; (406) 396-4974 or john@montanalcmm.org.

Calendar

April 2: Good Friday

April 4: Easter

April 10: Evangelism event, Emmanuel of Tacoma, *see Page 7*

April 10: Fort Vancouver Cluster gathering of the Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, St. Paul, Vancouver

April 10 to 11: Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Federal Way, *see Page 7*

April 12 to 14: Region 1 pastors' conference, Victoria, *see Page 7*

April 16 to 17: Trinity Lutheran College lecture, *see Page 7*

April 23 to 25: Spring Retreat, Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, Olympia

April 26 to 29: Lay School of Theology, Emmanuel of Tacoma, *see Page 7*

May 1: Prayer retreat, Vancouver, *see Page 7*

May 2: Lost and Found performs, Poulsbo, *see Page 8*

May 3 to 5: Byberg preaching workshop, Idaho, *see Page 8*

May 8 to 9: PLU event for high-schoolers, *see Page 8*

May 14 and 15: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, *see Page 1*

May 29 to 31: Confirmands at Holden Village, *see Page 8*

June 25 to 27: Women of the ELCA Region 1 gathering, Kalispell, Mont.

June 25: Clergy Boundaries Training, location TBA

June 26: Boundaries Training for lay and clergy, location TBA

June 28 to 30: PLU Summer Conference, *see Page 8*

July 28: Mount Rainier Cluster gathering of the Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, Puyallup

Aug. 21: Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA Bible Study Event, Silverdale

Oct. 8 to 9: Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA convention, Longview

October 15-16: Ethics of Eating Event, PLU and Trinity Lutheran Church, Tacoma

End of newsletter