

# 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.*

February 2010



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

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## Haiti Earthquake Response

### ELCA Presiding Bishop Issues Update

January 22

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

*“If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;  
if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.”*

– 1 Corinthians 12:26

Almost two weeks have passed since the devastating earthquake in Haiti. The outpouring of gifts from members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to ELCA Disaster Response has enabled a swift response on behalf of this church.

Thank you for your generous financial support which now totals more than \$1.6 million.

Thousands of other gifts are still being counted. Our community-based partners are already providing:

- ◆ Two water purification systems to bring clean water to 25,000 people.
- ◆ Emergency food and medical supplies to thousands.
- ◆ Blankets and tents to shelter 10,000 people who are homeless.

Funding, distributed through three partners, will increase as giving continues.

◆ \$300,000 has been sent to The Lutheran World Federation (LWF), a key responder and member of Action by Churches Together. The funds support LWF efforts to provide shelter to people left homeless by the quake.

◆ \$150,000 has been sent to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), Baltimore, for material aid.

◆ \$150,000 will be sent to Church World Service (CWS) for construction of temporary water systems and distribution of water purification materials. *Continues*

### A Message from Bishop Hofstad

**The recent earthquake in Haiti is a tragedy beyond comprehension. While our understanding may not include the full extent of the devastation, there is one thing we can both comprehend and understand very clearly: Our response!**

**Our call, as bearers of the name of Jesus Christ, is to respond with the same overwhelming love and care as that of Jesus. May we have the strength and courage to act fully on this call.**

– *Bishop Robert D. Hofstad*

## **Haiti Earthquake Response**

### **ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Continued***

In addition, \$25,000 has been sent to Lutheran Services of Florida for initial support to refugees and Haitian Americans entering or returning to the United States.

I encourage you to visit the [ELCA Disaster Response](http://www.elca.org/disaster) (www.elca.org/disaster) Web site for updated information, worship resources, bulletin inserts and details on how to offer financial support. General mission-support dollars and gifts to ELCA Vision for Mission make it possible for 100 percent of your gifts designated for Haiti Earthquake Relief to be used entirely for this response effort.

To give today, go [online](http://www.elca.org/haitiearthquake) (www.elca.org/haitiearthquake) or call (800) 638-3522.

In God's grace,

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**Editor's note:** Numbers noted by Bishop Hanson are being constantly updated.  
Visit [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) for the latest.

## **Thrivent Announces Challenge**

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has announced a challenge to its members that could result in \$3 million for Haiti relief through Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Response, Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod World Relief/Human Care and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod Committee on Relief. Donations may be made to [www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti](http://www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti) or by calling (800) 236-3736. Thrivent leaders anticipate that givers will donate \$2 million, to which Thrivent will add another \$1 million.

## **Congregations in Transition**

### **Mobility**

<b>In Call Process</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Pastoral Care</b>
All Saints, Auburn	P	TR	Sarah Roemer
Christ, Belfair	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Steven Ray
Faith, Shelton	AP	TR	Steve Olson
First, Port Orchard	P	TR	Joe Smith
Grace, Port Townsend	P	C	Beth Orling
Hope, Tacoma	P	TR	Randy Olson
Our Saviour's, Cathlamet	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Peninsula, Gig Harbor	AP	NV	Paul Schroeder
Salishan, Tacoma	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Spanaway	P	C	Dennis Hartsook
St. Paul, Castle Rock	P	I	Linda Nou
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

## News

### **Bishop's Convocation Features Discussion of Violence**

SEABECK – The 2010 Bishop's Convocation for pastors of the Southwestern Washington Synod took place the last week in January in Seabeck. Featured speaker Diane Jacobson, professor at Luther Seminary, took them through a tour of the most difficult Old Testament passages to discuss in the context of today's modern world – passages that dealt with seemingly God-approved wars and crimes against women.

She began with the subject of rape and the three Old Testament stories that deal with it, the Rape of Dinah contained in Genesis; the Rape of Levite's Concubine in Judges; and the Rape of Tamar in 2 Samuel.

Each contains violent depictions of powerless and often voiceless women, always without retribution for the rapist in the short term, but often with widespread chaos coming in the end.

"It's so discomfoting. How do you deal with this as moderns?" Jacobson asked.

She then turned to the Book of Joshua, where she recounted the bloody annihilation of the Canaanites.

Jacobson encouraged pastors to talk about the difficult passages with their members.

"Scripture invites conversation; it is in itself holy conversation," she said.

### **Bishop Hofstad to Meet with World Religious Leaders**

Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop Robert D. Hofstad will accompany ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson and others on a February visit to Europe where they will meet with Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams in London; the head of the Greek Orthodox church in Istanbul; and the pope in Rome, where they will have a private audience to discuss the post-Reformation world. The group of 15 also will travel to Geneva, Switzerland, to meet with Lutheran World Federation leaders.

Others in the contingent traveling in February include Presiding Bishop Hanson's wife, Ione, three other ELCA bishops and churchwide staff. Bishop Hofstad is paying for his own trip.

"I'm very honored to be one of only four bishops," he said.

Bishop Hofstad is chair of the Ecumenical Relations Committee of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and has been a member of the committee since becoming bishop.

### **Retirement Community Gives Generously**

TACOMA – The Rev. Richard Hermstad of Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community reports that in the past five years, residents have given about \$40,000 IN offerings to four local charities.

"These offerings come mostly from people who are on Medicare, Medicaid or Social Security," he said. "None of it stays at TLRC."

Beneficiaries include Lutheran Community Services northwest, FISH Food Banks of Pierce County, Peace Community Center and Hospitality Kitchen of Catholic Community Services.

"It's quite amazing," Pastor Hermstad said, "that a community of people who struggle with many issues in life is so generous."

## **News**

### **Faith Advocacy Day Becomes Interfaith Event**

*By the Rev. Paul Benz, director, Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington,  
www.lppowa.org, lppooffice@lcsnw.org*

Faith Advocacy Day is Feb. 16. If you have not previously attended Faith Advocacy Day – or you have not attended for many years – we invite you to consider joining us. This year’s theme is “Lift Every Voice.”

This is the first year Faith Advocacy Day is an interfaith advocacy day. In just a few years, this day has transitioned from a Lutheran event to an ecumenical event to – now – an interfaith event. People of all faiths from across Washington state will be gathering in Olympia to voice their concerns to legislators and advocate for justice.

The day begins at the United Churches of Olympia with an interfaith worship service, followed by an overview of the day and briefings on important issues in the current legislative session. Our primary focus will be on the state budget including the \$2.7 billion shortfall and our support of a substantial revenue package to balance the budget. Then, the 200-plus people of faith will move to the Capitol, where they will meet with their district legislators and House and Senate leaders.

Interfaith Advocacy Day promises to be a great day. We hope you will join us on to advocate for all of God’s creation. Please invite people from your congregation, as well as your Jewish and Muslim neighbors, to attend with you.

Visit our Web site for registration and transportation details. We also have resources for individuals and congregations who want to participate, but are unable to attend. Send an e-mail request for more information.

**Transition:** Kirstin Docken Showalter, our office manager from 2008-2009, has departed to the Midwest and East Coast to pursue graduate school and international service opportunities. We are joined again by David Coombs, who can be reached at (206) 464-4133.

### **A Patio Set, A sandwich Board and Presto, Evangelism**

CHINOOK – The Rev. Chris Ode of Chinook Lutheran Church found a very unusual but effective way to introduce himself to this seaside community last summer.

Fresh out of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and eager to meet all the church-goers and others in Chinook, Pastor Ode noticed the church was straight across the road from the local post office, where everyone goes. He also noticed the church was on Highway 101, a popular summertime tourist byway.

The young pastor set out some lawn furniture at this junction, along with a sandwich board that read, “Meet Chinook’s New Pastor.”

He sat down and waited.

“I figured worse comes to worse, no one stops, and I work on my sermon,” he said.

But the sermons didn’t get written then.

All kinds of curious persons stopped to talk to Ode – townspeople, other pastors and tourists.

Conversation ranged from light to deep. Some of those he met began coming to church at Chinook, including one couple who hadn’t been to church for some time, but had been looking for a place to reconnect.

Ode, who grew up at Messiah Lutheran Church of Auburn, plans to set out the patio set again next summer.

## News

### **Chinaconnect to Serve Rural, Impoverished Inner China**

PORT ORCHARD – The Rev. Steven Ray, former development director for China Service Ventures, now is helping build a new organization, chinaconnect, which will serve impoverished inhabitants of rural China who've missed the economic growth of China's coast.

Focused on the Guizhou Province between central and south China, chinaconnect's leaders are forming groups to take part in high-school service projects, health and congregational visits, and English instruction opportunities in the remote region.

"These are places where we've been invited," said Pastor Ray, referring to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in China and Chinese government officials. Ray is the director for the new organization.

Already, chinaconnect is planning a project in the region in July, where high-school students from the United States will paint a rural school and build relationships with young people in China.

China Service Ventures now is concentrating on a new youth camp in Xinyang Province. Chinaconnect was formed to continue more diversified service opportunities, according to Ray.

The group now is solidifying its nonprofit status, and meanwhile is flying under the nonprofit status of a group called Into the Field. In time, Ray and his board hope to make chinaconnect an independent Lutheran organization within the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Chinaconnect's Web site is [www.chinaconnectonline.org](http://www.chinaconnectonline.org). Ray can be reached at [steveray.chinaconnect@gmail.com](mailto:steveray.chinaconnect@gmail.com). Ray is with the Southwestern Washington Synod serving as interim pastor at Elim Lutheran Church of Port Orchard.

### **Watts Returns from White House Internship**

TACOMA – Lona Watts of United Lutheran Church in Tacoma has returned home after serving as a White House intern in Washington, D.C.

Watts helped handle president correspondence, but in the process witnessed many historic moments, like the visit of the prime minister of India.

"As President (Barack) Obama's first state welcome to a foreign dignitary this event will be remembered in history books, and I was incredibly fortunate to be in attendance," she stated.

Watts served in Washington, D.C. from September through December.

Watts holds a bachelor's degree in political science and communications from the University of Washington. She'd discovered her passion for public service and government while serving as an intern in the Washington House of Representatives and as a legislative page.

Besides the president, Watts heard from Vice President Joseph Biden, First Lady Michelle Obama and many senior advisers.

"This will hopefully help me to establish a career in public service," she said.

Watts is known to many involved in this synod's youth programs. She has served as president of the board of ALYVE, Associated Lutheran Youth in Various Endeavors, organizing youth events near and far away. As the Region 1 member at large to the national Board of the Lutheran Youth Organization, Watts got the chance to travel around the county, meeting other youth leaders.

## **Our Congregations**

*News from among our 94 congregations, for keeping up*

### **Dungeness Valley Church Receives Health Grant**

SEQUIM – Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church of Sequim has received a \$38,000 grant from the Washington Department of Health to expand work done by its clinic.

According to John Beitzel, executive director of the clinic, the grant will be used to educate people about avoiding and caring for chronic conditions such as diabetes.

“You’re really talking more about education than treatment,” Beitzel said. The clinic, located at the church, expanded its services into chronic-disease education in 2008, he said.

The grant covers a two-year period.

“Well, we were elated,” Beitzel said when asked how clinic leaders reacted when they found out about the grant award.

### **Olympia Congregation Celebrates ‘Welcoming’ Declaration**

OLYMPIA – The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia celebrated its decision to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation during worship Jan. 31.

According to Glenn Blackmon of the congregation, Reconciling in Christ is a national program that recognizes Lutheran congregations and synods that offer a specific welcome to people of all sexual orientations. Good Shepherd adopted its welcoming statement in November, and it can be read at <http://lcgs-ric.org/>.

### **Highland Gets New Sound System, Play Area**

\$15,000 gift to Highland Lutheran Church from an old-time LaCenter family member enable the congregation to buy and install a much-needed sound system at the church. The Rev. Erik Niemi explained it serves both the sanctuary and fellowship hall. It “went live” in November.

Also new at Highland is a covered play area. Niemi has been pastor at the church for four years.

**Sycamore Tree Preschool auction:** Sycamore Tree Preschool at **Our Saviour’s of Bremerton** plans a silent auction May 8 to 21 to support the preschool. Items can be brought to the church until March 1. For more information, contact the preschool at (360) 792-2213.

**Food on the 4th: Messiah of Vancouver** has a new method for collecting food for the local food bank that’s hard to forget. Willing members are issued a cloth grocery bag to take home. On the fourth weekend of the month, worshippers bring their bags to the church filled non-perishable items. The bags have a Food on the 4<sup>th</sup> logo on them. The program began in January.

**New altar area: Christ of Lakewood** has a new altar area in its sanctuary, installed with the help of Joe Brown, Dale Moultime, Patrick Reed, Art Hoff, Mike Marsh and Michael Marusich.

*Continues*

## **Our Congregations**

**Raking on the run:** Youth and families at **Pilgrim of Puyallup** in November participated in the congregation's Rake-n-Run, in which they helped out with yard cleanup at four homes whose residents needed help.

**Kits Packed:** Members of **Gloria Dei of Olympia** recently packed 637 midwife kits to send on to the ELCA Global Health Ministries. Tireless hands prepared the kits during a special packing day.

**All themed up:** Members of **First of Poulsbo** now have T-shirts and discs printed with a special disc golf logo to use in its new course at the congregation's Fredericksen Wilderness Park at Dogfish Creek in Poulsbo.

**New Web address:** **Christ the Servant of Lacey** has a new Web address to go along with its updated Web site: [www.servelacey.org](http://www.servelacey.org).

**Trinity music:** **Trinity of Parkland** has a new "Trinity Consort," an unusual combination of 11 musicians that will prepare two musical projects annually. The group includes instruments ranging from recorders to tubas.

**Receives award:** Rachel Pritchett, editor of Moments for Mission and reporter for the Kitsap Sun, received a first-place national award for feature writing from Scripps Howard News Service for a piece about the emerging green funeral industry.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Project Cope Training to Help Exiting Inmates Slated**

The Rev. Eric Wangen-Hoch of Living Stones Prison Ministry will help conduct a Project Cope training session for persons interested in helping men coming out of prison. It will be from 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 6 at Peace Lutheran Church, 2106 Cushman Ave., Tacoma. No registration is necessary and there is no cost. For more information, contact Pastor Wangen-Hoch at [pastoreric@hotmail.com](mailto:pastoreric@hotmail.com).

### **Leadership Training Slated**

Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA will hosts its annual winter leadership training from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 6 at Peace Lutheran Church, 214 East Pioneer Ave., Puyallup. The training offers a chance to learn about resources available through the church, as well as a time for companionship and inspiration. Refreshments and lunch are provided at no cost. To learn more, contact Carol Fossum at [carolfossum@comcast.net](mailto:carolfossum@comcast.net) or (360) 620-5368.

### **Earth Ministry Hosts Greening Congregations Workshop**

Earth Ministry will host a Greening Congregations Youth Workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. Feb. 6 in Seattle. Participants will explore how they can help congregations operate with an eye on the environment. The free workshop will be at University Lutheran Church 1604 NE 50<sup>th</sup> St. For more information, contact Clare at (206) 632-2426 or at [clare@earthministry.org](mailto:clare@earthministry.org).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Big Doings with Lutheran Community Services Slated**

**Silverdale:** Silverdale Lutheran Church is the setting for “Songs for the Journey,” featuring Lutheran church vocal and bell choirs presenting their favorite music. The concert, hosted by Lutheran Community Services Northwest, is at 3 p.m. March 7. An offering will be taken to benefit LCSN endeavors. For more information, call (360) 377-5511.

**Tacoma:** LCSN offers all to come have fun at its 2010 South Puget Sound Spring Brunch, to take place March 14 at Tacoma’s Landmark Convention Center. A 12:30 p.m. social hour will be followed by brunch at 1:30 p.m. and a program. For more information, contact Lynn Naumann at (206) 816-3223.

### **Silverdale Lutheran Hosts Lay School of Theology**

Silverdale Lutheran Church presents its Lay School of Theology in March, featuring the Rev. Ruben Duran of the ELCA churchwide office discussing “Mission Motivation.” It takes place in two sessions on March 20, the first from 3:30 to 5 p.m., followed by dinner, and a second session from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The only cost is a donation for dinner. For more information, call the church at (360) 692-9263.

### **Region 1 Pastors’ Conference Coming Up**

The 2010 Region 1 ELCA Pastors’ Conference will take place April 12 to 14 in Victoria, B.C. The theme is “Jesus, Ebenezer and Luther: Surviving the Changes.” More information on the conference is at [www.region1pastors.com](http://www.region1pastors.com).

### **Byberg Preaching Workshop Comes in May**

The annual Byberg Preaching Workshop will take place May 3 to 5 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. For more information, contact the Rev. Terry Kylo at (360) 770-2774 or [tkyllo@verizon.net](mailto:tkyllo@verizon.net).

### **Plan Now for Synod Assembly**

May 14 and 15 are the dates of the 2010 Assembly of the Southwestern Washington Synod, taking place at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Wash.

Each year, synod participants hear from inspirational speakers and take part in educational workshops, vote on new leaders and resolutions, and have a wonderful time in fellowship. This year’s keynoter will be the Rev. Dr. James Wellman, who has done extensive research on Christian communities in the Pacific Northwest and is the author of “Evangelical vs. Liberal: The Clash of Christian Culture in the Pacific Northwest.” The churchwide representative will be the Rev. Brenda Smith, ELCA director for discipleship.

“Renewing Your Congregation” is the theme of this year’s assembly.

To register or to receive information on deadlines for resolutions and displays, visit the synod Web site at [www.lutheransw.org](http://www.lutheransw.org). The deadline for resolutions is Feb. 15. The early-registration deadline is April 13. For further information, call the synod office at (253) 535-8300 or e-mail the office at [swwsynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu).

## Upcoming Events

### **Join Confirmands at Holden Village**

St. Mark Lutheran Church of Lacey will hold an Eighth-Grade Affirmation of Baptism Retreat at Holden Village over Memorial Day weekend, May 29 through 31, and invites other congregations to participate. During the retreat, eighth graders and others who will be confirmed this year will choose confirmation scriptures, write statements of faith and service and enjoy all that the retreat center on the eastern side of the Cascades has to offer.

Organizers ask that participating congregations send an adult along. Registration forms will be sent in February. An organizational meeting is set for noon Feb. 3 at St. Mark, 2109 College St. SE. If unable to attend, contact the Rev. Rachel Wangen-Hoch, St. Mark associate pastor, at (360) 401-0372 or wangen-hoch@live.com.

### **Lutheran Summer Music Academy Scheduled**

The Lutheran Summer Music Academy has announced that its month-long music training opportunity will take place from June 20 to July 18 at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. The academy offers high-school students of music an opportunity to expand those through in a caring, Christian community. For more information, contact Susan Olstad, director of admissions, at (888) 635-6583. To learn more about the academy, visit [www.lutheransummermusic.org](http://www.lutheransummermusic.org).

### **Udbyes Give Invitation to Join Norway Tour**

Andreas Udbye, treasurer for the Southwestern Washington Synod, and wife Kari are leading a tour of Norway on July 11 to 23. The tour begins in Oslo, continues through Stavanger and Bergen and includes a visit to the fjord county. The cost is \$3,550 per person. For a brochure and registration information, call Andreas Udbye at (253) 564-2822 or the Rev. Neal Snider at (253) 583-8293, who is assisting with arrangements.

## Calendar

**Feb. 6:** Project Cope training to help men exiting prison, Tacoma, *see Page 7*

**Feb. 7:** PLU Sunday, more information at (253) 535-7423 or [crel@plu.edu](mailto:crel@plu.edu)

**Feb. 16:** Faith Advocacy Day, Olympia, [lpoooffice@lcsnw.org](mailto:lpoooffice@lcsnw.org), *see Page 4*

**Feb. 23:** Bishop's Eucharist, Evergreen Conference, 10 a.m., Light of Grace of Federal Way

**Feb. 25:** Bishop's Eucharist, Coastal Conference, more details coming

**March 7:** Lutheran Community Services Northwest concert, *see Page 8*

**March 13:** Olympic Cluster Spring Celebration, Southwestern Washington Synod Women of the ELCA, First of Port Orchard

**March 14:** Lutheran Community Services Northwest brunch, Tacoma, *see Page 8*

**March 20:** Silverdale Lutheran Church Lay School of Theology, *see Page 8*

**March 20:** South Sound Cluster Event, Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, Faith of Shelton

**March 27:** Narrows Cluster Event, Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, Peace of Tacoma

**April 12 to 14:** Region 1 pastors' conference, *see Page 8*

**April 23 to 25:** Spring Retreat, Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA, Black Lake Bible Camp

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

**May 14 to 15:** Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, *see Page 8*

**June 20 to July 18:** Summer Music Academy, Iowa, *see Page 9*

**June 25 to 27:** Region 1 Gathering, Southwestern Women of the ELCA, Kalispell, Mont.

*End of newsletter*