

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.*

July/August 2010



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

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News

From here to Namibia, the Distance Isn't Really So Great

ONIIPA, NAMIBIA – To see the Lutheran church at work in north Namibia is to understand this synod's role in global mission.

A group from the Southwestern Washington Synod recently had that extraordinary opportunity to witness the work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN).

This vital church has been a longstanding refuge for people who are sick or who have disabilities – through grinding poverty, war and liberation from South Africa, and the AIDS/ HIV scourge that touches nearly one in five adults.

“I think first we went through difficult times, and people learned to trust their problems to God,” said ELCIN Presiding Bishop Thomas Shivute, who welcomed the group.

For many years, this synod has been among four in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America with companion relationships in Namibia. Delegations from congregations here have regularly visited, and many contribute funds for ELCIN projects. In return, ELCIN members have visited synod assemblies and congregations here, telling of the strong and supportive role it plays in the lives of Namibians. Namibians are strong Christians, most of them Lutheran, thanks to work of missionaries from Finland and Germany long ago.

The ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation have directly supported ELCIN's projects in the past by sending teachers and monetary support, but in 2010 have pulled back, due to financial limitations, according to the Rev. Philippus Henok, ELCIN education and training secretary.

Continues

Recent visit

A contingent from the synod led by Bishop Robert D. Hofstad visited north Namibia, Africa, in late May and June as part of a companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia. Visitors included Linda Hofstad, the Revs. D. Randall Faro of St. John's Lutheran Church of Chehalis and John Stroeh of Peace Lutheran Church of Tacoma; Jerry and Cindy Schultz of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia and Rachel Pritchett, synod communicator. Here is the first of two reports on the visit. Look for the rest in the September issue of Moments for Mission. To read Pastor Faro's reflections, visit www.stjohnschehalis.org and select The Visitor Newsletter.

Namibia: Continued

The most recent synod delegation was taken to some of ELCIN's projects, which include Oshigambo High School, a hospital and a rehabilitation center.

Oshigambo High School is among the best Namibia has to offer. Competition is unbelievably tough to get in, and affording the \$832 tuition is an even tougher hurdle for most families. The school nonetheless has produced the country's top corporate, educational and political leaders, all the way up to Prime Minister Nahas Angula. In September, it will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

For delegation members, it was hard to believe that such academic accomplishments occurred in this school so run-down it was literally crumbling to the ground in spots.

Long cracks and gaping holes in classroom walls had been repeatedly patched. Wires dangled dangerously from rickety fluorescent lights. The few books and supplies carefully stacked in corners were years old. Triple locks went on doors at night to keep thieves at bay, themselves desperately poor in this forgotten far corner of the desert.

It was "an environment over which most American parents and teachers would scream bloody murder," said delegation member the Rev. D. Randall Faro of St. John's Lutheran Church of Chehalis, Wash.

Among the 366 uniformed and determined students who've made the competitive cut was senior Maria T. Nangolo, 17, who hopes to continue her studies at a university in South Africa.

"I feel proud," Nangolo said, "because not everyone gets a chance to come here, and I've learned a lot." She wants to be a doctor in holistic medicine.

The Washington delegation brought gifts, which were received during a raucous assembly. They included soccer uniforms and shoes for the whole team, and three scholarships totaling \$2,580 donated by Redeemer Lutheran Church of Fircrest, Wash., the funds coming from the estate of member Mildred Gault.

Bishop Robert D. Hofstad told the cheering students, "You are the greatest learners in Namibia." Thankfully, a remodel of the school is planned, but funding is very uncertain.

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There has been progress. A library has been built with previous financial help from the Lutheran World Federal and Africa's First National Bank Foundation.

The synod delegation also delivered four 50-pound boxes of books for Paulinum Seminary in Windhoek, Namibia's capital, where future ELCIN pastors receive training.

ELCIN's Onandjokwe Lutheran Hospital in Oniipa is where many hundreds of AIDS patients and expectant mothers from throughout the region come every year, where tiny ones end up in a dark and miserably crowded nursery, perhaps victims of malnutrition or accidents.

About 20 cribs filled the nursery end to end. All were filled with babies with casts or with IV needles in their wrists. The synod group presented 250 hats knitted by church women back home. The nurses thanked them profusely.

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Continues

Namibia: Continued

The hospital has only one delivery room, where on some days 20 women give birth. "For birth patients, they don't have any privacy," said Finnish architect Jarmo Lehtinen.

Like the high school, a remodel supported by the Namibian government and Finnish interests is planned in the next five years. But raising the \$14 million (U.S.) is more a dream than reality.

A U.S.-funded AIDS clinic on the hospital's campus, Shanamutango Center, has administered much-sought-after antiretrovirals since 2004.

A few steps away is the ELCIN Rehabilitation Center, where blind and desperately poor people from the region are trained in a skill like weaving or basket-making. When they return home, they will use the skills to support themselves and their families.

"The number of people who have visual impairment is increasing day by day," Coordinator Petrus Ndongwi said. Many have been blinded by birth complications and poor nutrition.

The center also teaches people braille and produces braille books, along with scripture cassettes to send to sightless persons in the bush.

Handicapped women work at a nearby ELCIN crafts center. Inside, they make baskets, albs and stoles for pastors, and intricate white wedding dresses they rent out for income.

A deaf woman was making communion wafers when the synod group dropped in. She poured the batter onto a round iron and lowered the lid for just a second. She then transferred the thin sheet to a press where she punched the wafers out one at a time. Delegation member Linda Hofstad paged through a sign-language book until she found the word "together." She and the woman made the sign and embraced.

Members of the delegation now understand that Lutherans in southwest Washington have a reach that extends even to this distant land.

Next: How "accompaniment" plays out among Lutherans in Namibia.

News

Coast's Vast Beauty Surrounds New Chinook Service

Every Sunday at 7 p.m. this summer, members and friends from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Chinook head to the shoreline overlooking the confluence of the Columbia River and the ocean to worship.

It's part of the congregation's new "Sunday Summer Sunset Service at Seven" series, held in a member's back yard overlooking Baker Bay.

"We have much better sunsets than sunrises around here," said the Rev. Chris Ode, "and it made sense to take advantage of that."

Pastor Ode hope the service will attract tourists and visitors. To help that along, congregation members have put notices in many RV parts and grocery stores along the Long Beach peninsula.

The service even has music, provided by Matthew Downs.

"We were expecting to be a cappella, but then Matthew was dropped into our laps; truly the Lord will provide," Ode said.

Worshippers came up with the idea for the unique summer gatherings after one of their Easter sunrise services at nearby Fort Columbia State Park. To learn more about the summer services or about Chinook, visit the congregation's Facebook page at www.tr.im/chinooklutheran.

Congregations in Transition

Mobility

Call Process	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
All Saints, Auburn	P	TR	Sarah Roemer
Christ, Belfair	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Steven Ray
Emmanuel, Bremerton	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Emmanuel, Tacoma	AP	NV	Dan Shaw
Faith, Shelton	AP	I	Steve Olson
Family of Christ, Vancouver	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
First, Port Orchard	P	TR	Joe Smith
Hope, Tacoma	P	TR	Randy Olson
Naselle	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Our Saviour's, Cathlamet	P	TR	Les Foss
Peninsula, Gig Harbor	AP	NV	Paul Schroeder
Salishan, Tacoma	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Spirit of Life, Olalla	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Trinity, Enumclaw	P	TR	Dennis Hartsook
Trinity, Tacoma (Parkland)	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
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

Ordained

Coe Hutchison was ordained by Northwest Washington Synod Bishop Chris Boerger at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lynnwood. He will be installed at Grace Lutheran Church of Port Townsend on July 25. He is married to Janet.

Retiring

The Rev. Joe Aalbue of Family of Christ Lutheran Church of Vancouver will retire Aug. 1. He has served there since 1996.

The Rev. Don Little retired as pastor of the caring ministry at Trinity Lutheran Church of Parkland on June 6.

Called

Adrienne Strehlow has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Ocean Park Lutheran Church. The synod will send out information about her ordination and installation soon.

The Rev. John Schier-Hanson has accepted the call to serve as pastor at Spanaway Lutheran Church. He begins Aug. 8. He is married to Sara, an ELCA pastor on leave from call. They have a daughter.

The Rev. Tim Stewart, Trinity, Parkland has accepted a call through the ELCA Global Mission as pastor of the American Lutheran Church in Oslo, Norway. He will start his new call on August 16th. Tim will remain on the roster of the Southwestern Washington Synod.

Newly called as conference deans

The Rev. Beth Utto-Galarneau of Amazing Grace Lutheran Church of Aberdeen is the new dean of the synod's Coastal Conference.

The Rev. Dick Grinstad of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Port Angeles is the new dean of the Olympic Conference.

The Rev. Tom Tweed of Zion Lutheran Church of Camas is the new dean of the Fort Vancouver Conference.

News

‘All-For-One’ Helping Youth with Disabilities Discover God

Sally Park, member of Messiah Lutheran Church of Vancouver, is the mother of a daughter with Down syndrome. As she was raising her, she saw other children discovering God through classes, reading and discussions. But for her own Hadley, it was tougher.

So Park began the group “All-For-One,” where curious young people like Hadley meet twice a month to dance and have fun, to hang out and to explore questions of faith. The group meets at Messiah.

“Through trial and error, we have found an agenda that works and, more importantly, fills a serious need for a special group of people,” Park said.

That was two years ago. Since then, the meetings have become central.

“The groundwork has been laid to open it up to all who want to build relationships between one another and God,” Park said.

Reed Named President of Trinity Lutheran College

John Reed has been named as the new president of Trinity Lutheran College of Everett. He replaces John Stamm, who retired. Reed formerly was the school’s chief executive officer. Prior to that, he worked as marketing and student-recruitment consultant. A ceremony is planned for Oct. 16. To learn more, visit the college's website at www.tlc.edu.

Upcoming Events, Announcements

Free Lunchtime Concerts Offered in Tacoma

First Lutheran Church at the corner of South Sixth and I streets in Tacoma offers free live concerts for the public from noon to 1 p.m. every Thursday this summer in the church’s sanctuary. Billed as “Listen Live at Lunch,” the series will highlight music from these performers:

July 8: University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University including Richard Treat, John Scanlon and Duane Hulbert

July 15: Jazz by Neil and Evan Hulbert and Michael Volz

July 22: Rachel Nesvig on violin and Hardanger fiddle

July 29: Music for the harp by Genevieve Picard

Aug. 5: Pianist Kaleb Shelton

Aug. 12: Rainier Family Opera with Ryan Bede

Aug. 19: Pianist Joseph Williams

Going to Creation NW, but Don’t Have a Place to Stay?

Creation Northwest 2010, the largest Christian music festival in the Western United States, takes place at the Enumclaw Expo Center from July 21 to 24. Nearby Hope Lutheran Church of Enumclaw is opening its doors for people needing a place to stay overnight. It’s on a first-come, first-served basis, according to the Rev. Dan Wilson of Hope. For more information, contact the church at (360) 825-2420 or hloffice@skynetbb.com. Creation Fest also will have camping near the Expo Center.

Upcoming Events, Announcements

St. Mark's by The Narrows Plans Summer Arts Youth Camp

St. Mark's by The Narrows Lutheran Church of Tacoma invites all youth to come to its Summer Arts Youth Camp, to be held each afternoon from 1 to 6 p.m. from Aug. 8 through 12. Young people entering the sixth through 12 grades who like theater, singing, the visual arts or who play an instrument would enjoy this week of activities. The cost is \$75. For more information, contact Danielle Lemieux at danielle@smlutheran.org or (253) 752-4966.

What's On Our Plate?

Explore the connection between what we eat and how it affects the rest of the world at an event called 'What's on our Plate and Why Does it Matter? The Ethics of Eating'. The event will be held on October 15 and 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church and Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma. October 15th is World Food Day.

Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Jim McDonald, Managing Director of Bread for the World. An overnight youth track will also be available for high school students. For more information, contact Allison Ramsey at the Synod Office at swwsynod@plu.edu or 253-535-8300. Online registration will begin in August for this low-cost event.

The event is sponsored by the Southwestern Washington Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, Thriven Financial for Lutherans, Pacific Lutheran University Office of Congregation Relations and the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

Choral Camp Scheduled at Lutherwood Near Bellingham

Lutheran Music Program and Camp Lutherwood near Bellingham will present a choral camp from Aug. 15 to 20 for youth in grades five through nine at Camp Lutherwood. Norma Aamodt-Nelson, minister of music at Trinity Lutheran Church of Lynnwood, will teach. To learn more, visit lutheransummermusic.org or call (888) 635-6583. To register, visit www.camplutherwood.org/register/index.html.

Unity in Midst of Diversity Topic of Women's Gathering

The Revs. Jensen and Linda Seyenkulo will speak on "God's People: Unity in the Midst of Diversity" at an upcoming women's Bible study event.

Sponsored by the Southwestern and Northwest synodical women's organizations, the event takes place from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Aug. 21 at Silverdale Lutheran Church.

The event is an introduction to the 2010-to-2011 Lutheran Woman Today course of study. The cost is \$15; to register send a check made payable to SW WA SWO to Ely Smith, Bible Study Event Registrar, 510 Forrest Park Drive, Tacoma, WA 98466. Silverdale Lutheran Church is at 11701 Ridgepoint Drive NW.

Mark your calendars: The 2010 Convention of the Southwestern Washington Synod Women of the ELCA will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Oct. 8 and 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 9 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2021 Washington Way, Longview. The topic is "Renewing Strength" and will feature keynoter Diane Burton and the Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger as Bible study leaders. Wallschlaeger is the synod's director for evangelical mission.

Trinity College Sponsors Upcoming Youth Events

The Rev. Dave Ellingson, professor at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, reminds everyone with an interest in youth and family ministry and social justice to mark these upcoming events on their calendars:

“**Let Justice Roll**” takes place again this year Oct. 9 to 11 at Holden Village in Central Washington with the theme “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust for High School Youth.”

A **Peer Ministry Training event** will take place Nov. 5 to 6 at Trinity College. Led by Lyle Griner, it is appropriate for high-school youth and adults.

A **Youth Ministry Certificate program** also will take place at Trinity from Jan. 3 to 21. The course will be taught by Trinity professors and is appropriate for adult leaders of youth, including pastors, lay people and volunteers.

For more information on any of the events, visit www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter or call Ellingson at (425) 249-4722.

Church-Planting Conference Coming to Vancouver

Messiah Lutheran in Vancouver is hosting a Churches Planting Churches Conference from Oct. 17 to 19. The event is the only conference of its kind offered this year for congregations and pastors of the ELCA. It is suitable for those considering a satellite or second site, or working with neighboring congregations to birth an independent start. For more information, contact synod Director for Evangelical Mission the Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger at (253) 535-8300 at her office; (253) 225-9721 on her cell; or at Melanie.Wallschlaeger@elca.org.

Mission Trip to China Scheduled for October

The Rev. Steve Ray of Elim Lutheran Church of Port Orchard invites persons interested in “The Other China” to consider accompanying him on a visit from Oct. 19 to Nov. 2. Ray, also the executive director of Chinaconnect, says the group will focus its work in the rural areas of China that have been completely bypassed by new wealth coming from development, including the Jiangxi and Anhui provinces. To learn more, contact Ray at (877) 408-7056 or visit www.chinaconnectonline.org.

Opportunity to Increase Cultural Competency Coming

The first of a series of quarterly events to strengthen cultural competency will be Oct. 23 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Olympia. To be led by Trinity Lutheran College international-studies professor Stacy Kitahata, the series is in response to a resolution approved by the 2009 synod assembly to make worshipers more aware in this area. To learn more, contact the Rev. Eric Wangen-Hoch at pastoreric@hotmail.com.

Postings

Development director: Peace Community Center on Tacoma’s Hilltop has an opening for a development director, who will be in charge of executing fundraising goals and building a culture of philanthropy at the center. Applications for the full-time position will be accepted through July 9. For more information, contact Bill Hanawalt, executive director, at admin@peacetacoma.org.

Choir director: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia seeks a part-time choir director. Contact the Rev. Chuck Harris at charris@goodshepherdolympia.com.

Custodian: Mountain View Lutheran Church of Edgewood seeks a custodian. Applications will be accepted through July 15. For more information, visit www.mtviewlutheran.org.

Our Congregations

From newsletters and other sources, for keeping up

To benefit second site: Messiah of Vancouver and its second-site outreach ministry sponsored a Tee 'n' Tea golf tourney and tea June 12 at Tri-Mountain Golf Course in Ridgefield to benefit Ridgefield's Neighbors Helping Neighbors program and a mobile-meal effort. "We are eager to become good neighbors," said Lynda Laird, Messiah Lutheran Church's Second Site Outreach Coordinator. Recently, Messiah Lutheran Church and Preschool received a \$100,000 grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation to help in the cost of the second site. Messiah Lutheran Church has signed a lease for space and will open its doors for worship and ministry in the early fall.

Giving down: Total undesignated benevolences to the Southwestern Washington Synod as of May were \$299,504, according to a ELCA Region 1 report. That amount was down \$90,852 from the same period a year before.

Hope growing in the garden: Hope of Tacoma members are tending the church's new community garden, located not far from its fellowship hall. Hope is one of many synod congregations raising produce to eat local and donate to food banks. Meanwhile, members **of Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church** are contemplating one of their own.

Summer lunches: Family of Grace of Auburn again is pairing with the Auburn School District to provide free lunches to children when school programs shut down.

Used-book exchange: Bookworms at **Family of Grace of Auburn** are gathering up their old books for the Tattered Trader Used Book Exchange Sept. 19 to 26.

Church work: Work is going on this summer to redo some of the exterior at **Naselle Lutheran Church**, including work on the foundation and entrances.

Mission trip wrap-up

Kenya: A group from **Creator Lutheran Church of Sumner** soon will be on their way to Nairobi, Kenya, to work with orphans and poor residents of that city.

Port Angeles: Twenty-two people from **Holy Trinity of Port Angeles** recently volunteered at nearby Franklin Elementary School.

San Francisco: A contingent from **Family of God of Bremerton** traveled to San Francisco just before the Fourth of July to serve there. They worked with Bay Area rescue missions and the San Francisco Food Bank, to name a couple of projects. Read about their trip at <http://fogyouthmission.blogspot.com>.

Coeur d'Alene: Youth from **Family of Christ of Vancouver** have returned from a servant trip to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where they camped alongside youth with special needs.

Puerto Rico: Fourteen youth and supporters from **Christ of Lakewood** were in Puerto Rico for a week just before the Fourth of July to help children in poverty there.

Lummi: The Lummi Indian Reservation near Bellingham will be the destination of a group of high-schoolers from **Spanaway Lutheran** in July, where they will perform service projects.

China: Young people from **Emmanuel of Tacoma** will be in rural China July 14 through 29 with the Rev. Steve Ray of Chinaconnect.

Continues

Our Congregations

Yard sale: Ocean Park's annual yard sale early this summer netted \$975.

Service in the planning: A group at **Our Saviour's of Bremerton** currently is at work design a new contemporary service there.

Faith stories: To mark its upcoming 50th anniversary, the congregation at **Resurrection of Tacoma** is gathering faith stories from its members.

Cross in the garden: Christ of Belfair now has a large cross in its memorial garden, designed and made by member Allan Sande and installed by Dick Quy.

Mission Sunday a success: More than \$6,500 was raised during a recent Mission Sunday at **Messiah of Auburn**. Proceeds will be sent to Heifer International.

People:

To be commissioned: Joanne Antonelli of St. Andrew of Vancouver will help train nursing supervisors at a Somaliland hospital near Ethiopia in August. She will be commissioned July 25. Her blog is at <http://jantone1.wordpress.com>.

Retiring: Hope of Tacoma recently honored **Evelyn Patane** for her many years of service as the Hope custodian. She will be replaced by Jewel Lom.

New: Jennifer Barnes is the new part-time secretary at **St. Paul of Vancouver**.

Have Information for the Newsletter? Send information to the synod office or directly to Editor Rachel Pritchett at rachelpritchett@msn.com or (206) 498-0920.

Calendar

July 8: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

July 15: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

July 21 to 24: Creation Northwest 2010, www.creationfest.com, *See Page 5*

July 22: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

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

July 29: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

Aug. 5: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

Aug. 8 to 12: Summer Arts Youth Camp, St. Mark's, Tacoma, *see page 6*

Aug. 12: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

Aug 15 to 20: Choral Camp, Bellingham, *see Page 6*

Aug. 19: "Listen Live at Lunch" concert, noon, First of Tacoma, *see Page 5*

Aug. 21: Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA Bible Study Event, Silverdale, *see Page 6*

Oct. 8 to 9: Southwestern Washington Women of the ELCA convention, Longview, *see page 6*

Oct. 9 to 10: "Let Justice Roll" youth event, Holden Village

Oct. 15 to 16: Ethics of Eating Event, PLU and Trinity in Parkland, *see page 6*

Oct. 17 to 19: Church-planting conference, *see Page 7*

Oct. 23: Cultural-competency training, Gloria Dei, Olympia, *see Page 7*

Oct. 23: Healthy Homes, Healthy Families event, Mountain View Community Center, Edgewood

Nov. 5 to 6: Peer ministry training, Trinity College, Everett, *see Page 7*

Nov. 13 to 14: Global Formation Event

Jan. 3 to 21, 2011: Youth ministry certificate instruction, Trinity College, Everett, *see Page 6*

Jan. 23 to 25, 2011: Prayer retreat, Seabeck

Jan. 25 to 26, 2011: Bishop's Convocation, Seabeck

Feb. 12, 2011: Cultural-competency training, Silverdale

March 4 to 6, 2011: Synod Combined Jr/Sr High School Gathering, Black Lk Bible Camp, www.swwayouthministry.org

May 13 to 14, 2011: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Grand Mound

May 18 and 19, 2012: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Vancouver, Wash.

June 7 to 9, 2013: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Tacoma