

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.*

March 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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Synod News

Bishop Returns from Visitation with World Religious Leaders

*By John Brooks, ELCA communications director,
and Rachel Pritchett, synod communicator*

Southwestern Washington Synod Bishop Robert D. Hofstad has returned from an extraordinary visit with world leaders in Europe that included Roman Catholic Pope Benedict XVI, Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I.

Bishop Hofstad accompanied ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson and other ELCA representatives on the trip to sustain the Lutheran church's initiative to maintain ecumenical dialogue.

While at the Vatican in Rome, the group received encouragement from Cardinal Walter Kasper, leader of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, who urged his guests to stand firm for unity after an ELCA decision to allow for the possibility of gay and lesbian persons to serve as clergy.

Bishop Hofstad responded, "If our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters can say to us, 'Do not go away from each other too fast,' then how can we in the ELCA be running away from each other with such speed, at least in some anecdotal instances? How can we be running away from each other so fast when we have a commitment from people like yourselves, and a hope to say 'please let us not run away from each other too quickly?'"

"That's a very encouraging word, and that's a word that I'm going to take back to my colleagues," Bishop Hofstad said.

On Feb. 27, Bishop Hofstad delivered a report on the trip to the Synod Council, and said he was impressed with the dialog the ELCA has with a tremendous range of religion representatives, from orthodox to reform.

"It truly is a diverse group of denominations that we are actively dialoging with," he said.

The group of 15 also met with Lutheran World Federation leaders. More information and photos from the visit are at www.elca.org.

Congregations in Transition

Mobility

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

Retiring: Pastor Linda Smith of Ocean Park Lutheran Church retired Feb. 28. A celebration of her ministry took place that day at the church.

Synod News

Wellman Headlines Upcoming Assembly

The Rev. Dr. James Wellman, authority on Christian communities in the Pacific Northwest, is the headliner for the 2010 Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly.

The assembly takes place May 14 and 15 at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Wash.

Wellman, who lives on Bainbridge Island, is the author of “Evangelical vs. Liberal: The Clash of Christian Culture in the Pacific Northwest.”

The theme of this year’s assembly is “Renewing Your Congregation.” Besides meeting and listening to Wellman, assembly participants will hear from inspirational speakers, take part in educational workshops, and vote on new leaders and resolutions. They will have a wonderful time in fellowship, especially at the banquet, where Bishop Robert D. Hofstad will announce the recipient of his Bishop’s Award.

To register, call the synod office at (253) 535-8300 or e-mail swwsynod@plu.edu.

News

More Going On Than Eating at Community Dinner

LAKEWOOD – The monthly community dinner at St. John’s Lutheran Church has turned out to be something much more.

A third of the people coming to the church are homeless, hungry and in need of clothing and food. But now others are coming who simply need someone to talk with. Some are older, on fixed incomes, and secluded during the week in their small, modest apartments that make up much of Lakewood.

Some come because they feel they don’t fit in other environments, but can find a measure of companionship here in this place.

“It’s a huge window on the world,” said the Rev. Albin Fogelquist, who mans the reception table to greet everyone who comes every fourth Saturday of the month at 4:30 p.m.

Sometimes deep discussions follow.

“It’s like a Saturday night church service,” Pastor Fogelquist said.

A small number of visitors end up coming to St. John’s for Sunday worship.

Fogelquist has been at St. John’s for about a year. The congregation has struggled with declining membership. But the pastor is optimistic about the church’s highly visible location on Bridgeport Way in a military community where new people are always arriving.

He said he also believes the community dinners at St. John’s are building bridges into the Lakewood community, allowing his flock to serve as Jesus has instructed.

“There’s a reservoir of goodness in the church,” Fogelquist said.

Lutherhaven All-Church Camp Beckons

KITSAP COUNTY – Since 1955, young people from all over have come to the all-church camp at Olympic Lutherhaven.

With its A-frame lodge, cabins and canoes, the camp at Wildcat Lake sometimes shows its age compared to nearby camps at Miracle Ranch and Island Lake. But it remains a good place to get close to God in the out-of-doors.

“Our focus is on community and God,” said Mandy Harter, director of a weeklong all-church camp taking place July 31 through Aug. 5. She invites all youth now in third through eighth grades to sign up now and come join the fun.

“It doesn’t matter if youth are a member of the seven local Lutheran churches that support Lutherhaven, or if they’re even religious at all, said Harter, also the youth director at Family of God Lutheran Church of Bremerton.

“Anybody can come to all-church camp, even if you’ve never put a foot in church,” Harter said.

Harter is well-acquainted with the camp, first attending as a third-grader and now in her 18th year. Space is now available for all-church camp, and unlike some of the camps with more “razzle dazzle,” it’s only around \$160 for the week.

So for those looking for a place close to home for a week of fun at the lake, visit www.olympiclutherhave.org.

“It’s the kind of place that once you go you fall in love with,” Harter said.

Join in the fun

All-Church camp, from July 31 to Aug. 5, is open to all youth going from the third to eighth grades. For more information, visit www.olympiclutherhaven.org.

Upcoming Events

ELCA Presiding Bishop Hosts Town Forum

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will field questions on a variety of topics from members of the denomination at an online “Town Hall Forum” on March 7. The hour-long forum will begin at 2 p.m. Pacific time.

The forum will be webcast live from Chicago, where Hanson will be joined by an audience of ELCA members. The audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of the bishop, and online viewers can submit their questions at <http://www.ELCA.org/townhall> on the ELCA Web site. Participants can also post comments about the forum using Facebook Connect.

Two special musical events in Tacoma

First Lutheran Church of Tacoma will host a pair of special piano events at the church in March. The first will feature Pacific Lutheran University adjunct piano professor Amy Grinsteiner playing the Bach Goldberg Variations at 4 p.m. March 7.

A week later at 6 p.m. March 14, Grammy-nominated pianist and University of Puget Sound piano professor Duane Hulbert presents an all-Chopin recital at 6 p.m. The concert marks the 200th anniversary of Chopin’s birthday. The suggested donation is \$15. A silent auction will be at 5 p.m. Proceeds benefit First’s piano fund. The church is located at 524 South I St.

Lutheran Community Services Events Coming Soon

Silverdale Lutheran Church is the setting for “Songs for the Journey,” featuring Lutheran church vocal and bell choirs presenting music favorites. 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.

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, call (206) 816-3223.

Duran Addresses Mission Motivation at 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.

Free Caregiver Classes Offered

Tacoma Lutheran Retirement Community is the scene of upcoming classes on how to be a caregiver. The classes are presented by Patricia Witt, an associate in ministry, member of Trinity Lutheran Church of Tacoma and Caregiver University Coordinator at Lutheran Community Services Northwest. The classes take place March 20, April 17 and May 15, each from 10 a.m. to noon and with a different topic. For more information, contact Sue Hanna at the retirement community at (253) 752-7112.

Upcoming Events

Organists Featured at Spanaway's Fourth Fridays at Noon

Spanaway Lutheran Church will be the location of two spring pipe-organ recitals. University of Washington master's candidate Laura Ouimette performs March 26, and Eun Mi Oh, organist from Glendale Lutheran Church of Burien performs April 23. Both concerts are at noon, and the church is located at 16001 "A" St. For more information, call (253) 531-7000.

Region 1 Pastors' Conference Approaching

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.

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 Kyllö at (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.

Participants will take part in workshop and service opportunities that begin at noon Saturday. Topics will include leadership, sustainability and peace and justice. After dinner, the group Agape will perform. On Sunday, the University Congregation on the PLU campus will host a pancake breakfast before worship. The cost is \$20 per person. For more information or to register, visit www.plu.edu/crel.

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. It 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 enjoy all that the retreat center on the eastern side of the Cascades has to offer.

For more information, contact the Rev. Rachel Wangen-Hoch, St. Mark associate pastor, at (360) 401-0372 or wangen-hoch@live.com.

Have a story for the newsletter? Get ahold of the synod office or Editor Rachel Pritchett at rachelpritchett@msn.com with your news. Also, the synod office is working to enlarge its distribution list for Moments for Mission. If you'd like yours added, contact the synod office.

Our Congregations

Taken from newsletters from the synod's 93 congregations, for keeping up

Volunteer Dreams of Lutheran-Supported Habitat House

SILVERDALE – Retired contractor Leon Thomas of Silverdale is visiting the approximately 17 Lutheran churches in Kitsap County to raise funds for what he hopes turns out to be a Habitat for Humanity house completely built by local Lutherans.

The member of Silverdale Lutheran Church believes it's time for his local area to have a Habitat house with the Lutheran stamp on it. He believes the project will pull Lutherans together.

"I think that the Lutheran churches in this county are strong. I think it would be very nice if they all would work together and forget about politics," said Thomas, who's raised more than \$1,000 of the initial \$24,000 he'll need to get the project off the ground.

If successful, the house for a low-income family would be in Cornerstone Place in East Bremerton, a Habitat for Humanity neighborhood now under construction. To learn more, contact Habitat for Humanity of Kitsap County at (360) 550-2447.

Sign dedicated: Naselle Lutheran Church recently dedicated a sign shaped like a stained-glass window with a foundation of bricks used decades ago for homes for workers who built the nearby Bonneville Dam.

Studying the Bible online: Celebration of Puyallup has a new online Bible study at <http://CelebrationBibleStudy.blogspot.com>.

Expanding service footprint: First of Tacoma is opening doors for its members to participate in community service. Each member recently was given a brochure of activities such as collecting food or clothing, or participating in community meals or with local organizations. Some chose their favorites, and a coordinator then helped set them up.

Famine participants: Youth from Bethany of Spanaway took part in a 30-hour famine Feb. 26 and 27.

New e-mail: The Rev. Kenneth Robinson, retired from **Vinland Lutheran Church of Poulsbo**, and wife Sandra have a new e-mail address: KSROB7@comcast.net.

Helped after tragedy: Members of Spanaway's youth group His Way recently helped gather used shoes to donate to Children of the Orphans, the favorite charity of Molly Hightower, 22, of Port Orchard, killed in the Jan. 12 earthquake in Haiti. The shoes will be sent to Haiti.

Art exposure: Youth from Faith of Shelton visited the Seattle Art Museum on Feb. 21.

Community dinners: Messiah of Auburn's high-school youth served a meal at the Compass Center in Seattle on Feb. 19, and also passed out hats, scarves gloves and socks to the homeless there. Messiah also hosts a community dinner at the church from 2 to 3 p.m.

Rummage Sale: Faith of Shelton hosts a giant rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 5 and 6 at the church.

Calendar

March 7: Town forum by ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson, *see Page 4*

March 20: Lay School of Theology, Silverdale Lutheran Church, *see Page 4*

March 27: Southwestern Washington Synod Council meets, *call synod office for details*

May 14 and 15: Assembly of the Southwestern Washington Synod, *see Page 2*