

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.*

May 2010



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

Address

Some updates on emerging congregations

By the Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger, director for evangelical mission

Help wanted: prayerful midwives. God is birthing two new congregations in our synod.

Federal Way Chinese Fellowship (FWCF) gathers for dinner and Bible study every Friday. Led by Pastor Rowena Wang, the fellowship emerged from a growing home-based Bible study in Auburn and Federal Way. FWCF serves in missional partnership with host church Calvary Lutheran.

The vision of the partnership is one of two communities offering concurrent worship services and shared education time. As Pastor Rowena leads the fellowship of 20 adults and 15 children, the fellowship will move to a Sunday-morning hour and worship in separate spaces, but at the same hour as Calvary Lutheran. The two congregations will worship in the mother tongue of each community and share an English Sunday school where children from each congregation experience friendships and learning.

The two communities have partnered on several occasions including the blessing of the fellowship space where FWCF meets as well as a Lenten soup supper and worship. Federal Way Chinese Fellowship and Calvary will worship together on Pentecost Sunday at 8:30 a.m. to celebrate the Spirit's work among them.

Pastor Rowena Wang earned her master of divinity degree in Hong Kong. She shared a mission-developer call with her husband, Pastor Mike Wang, as the couple started Grace Lutheran Church of South King County in Renton. Pastor Rowena is mother of two children including a 2-year-old son, Tommy, and daughter Keren, born in April.

St. Christopher's Community Church (Episcopal Church in the United States of America or ECUSA) of Steamboat Island anticipates federation with the ELCA in January 2011. Partnering with a "dream team" comprised of Lutheran and Episcopal members, the congregation developed a federated ELCA/ECUSA congregation timeline and plan.

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An ELCA pastor developer will be called to serve as the first full-time pastor to the community in over 20 years. St. Christopher's (SCCC) is poised for growth as the only congregation on Steamboat Island. SCCC nearly closed 16 years ago, yet learned to connect with the surrounding community, growing worship attendance from 17 to 85. With combined assets of the ELCA and ECUSA, SCCC will expand the current structure and provide resources for further growth. SCCC has been a developing congregation of the ECUSA for 53 years. As a federated congregation of the ELCA/ECUSA, it will move from mission status to that of an established congregation under the spiritual guidance of an ELCA mission developer.

As the Southwestern Washington Synod welcomes these communities of faith, I offer three opportunities for partnership. Pray for God to be at work in these communities, their pastors and leadership as they share the good news of Jesus Christ in their contexts. Second, build relationships. As neighbors of these communities, extend yourself in relationship. Get to know Pastor Rowena and the people of Federal Way Chinese Fellowship and the future pastor of St. Christopher's next chapter of ministry. Your support and encouragement will not only benefit these new starts, but will likely inspire passionate discipleship in your own setting.

Finally, offer financial support as the Spirit guides you and inspires you to do so. This synod's 1,000 Mission Friends offers one way you can directly support to these congregations as well as other congregations in renewal or development. God is laboring to birth new life among us in the form of infant congregations. My role as director for evangelical mission and our shared role as brothers and sisters in faith to be the midwives, proclaiming and partnering in the midst of God's action. As we see what is born among us we marvel and say, "Thanks be to God!"

More from your synod

Last call to join in assembly

There's still time to make plans to attend the 2010 Assembly of the Southwestern Washington Synod, to be May 14 and 15 in at the Hilton Hotel Conference Center in Vancouver, Wash. Renewing congregations is the theme. Don't miss an opportunity to make a difference in the church at the synod level, to enjoy fellowship outside your congregation and to learn from motivating and inspiring workshops. Go to www.lutheranssw.org to register.

Knit, blog with Namibia visitors

Bishop Robert D. Hofstad will lead a group of seven from the Southwestern Washington Synod on a mission-and-visitation trip to Namibia from May 24 to June. 5. Track and comment on the group's progress as it visits ELCA-supported schools, an orphanage and seminary while joining in the celebration of Jesus Christ with Lutheran congregations in remote villages. Bookmark <http://NamibiaConnect.blogspot.com> and join in the conversation.

Also, Linda Hofstad is putting out a call for knitted hats for children, from preemie to school age, to deliver to those in Namibia. Bring them to the synod assembly May 14 and 15 in Vancouver and give to any of the synod staff. Or, they can be brought to the synod office. Patterns are needed, too.

The synod has a companion relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), which is active in north Namibia. Accompanying the bishop is wife Linda; the Rev. John Stroeh of Peace Lutheran Church of Tacoma; the Rev. Randy Faro of St. John's Lutheran Church of Chehalis; Jerry and Cindy Schultz of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia; and Moments for Mission Editor Rachel Pritchett.

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	I	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
Spirit of Life, Olalla	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Trinity, Enumclaw	P	NV	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

On leave from call: The Rev. Eric Allert of Spirit of Life of Olalla will be on leave from call, effective May 14. Spirit of Life has entered into the transformation process with the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission unit of the ELCA.

News

Domestic Hunger Grant application period opens

The application process for the ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants begins May 1 and the applications are due to the ELCA by June 30. ELCA congregations and partnering community organizations can access applications at www.elca.org/domestichungergrants. Domestic Hunger Grants provide relief and development assistance for those who suffer hunger and injustices related to hunger; and foster education and advocacy about hunger. Most grants are between \$1,000 and \$3,000. The applications are reviewed by the Synod Hunger Committee before review by the ELCA Hunger Program.

Have a story idea?

Get your news into “Moments for Mission,” the synod’s monthly e-newsletter. Contact the synod office or Editor Rachel Pritchett at rachelpritchett@msn.com. This year, the July and August issues will be combined rather than the June and July issues to more timely report on the synod assembly and the Namibia visitation. An assembly report will be in the June issue.

Upcoming events

Prayer retreat coming to Vancouver

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 \$25 at the door; (360) 892-7160.

Christian rock band in concert

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; (360) 779-2622.

Byberg Preaching Workshop to take place soon

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

Youth invited to special PLU weekend

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.

Conference explores ends to human trafficking

Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church of Gig Harbor and the South Puget Sound Women of Vision will host a conference featuring speakers engaged in the battle to end human trafficking June 5 at the church. All are invited to the conference titled "Break the Chain: A Conference of Human Trafficking and Modern-Day Slavery," from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The \$40 cost includes a box lunch. Register at www.wovsps.org.

PLU Summer Conference addresses pastoral theology

"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.

Upcoming events

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@montanalc.org.

Church-planting conference scheduled for autumn

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.

Our congregations

From newsletters across the synod, for keeping up

Ministry after tragedy: United of Tacoma jumped into action in February after a young teacher was fatally shot by a stalker at Birney Elementary School. United member Barb Larson, who teaches at the school, and United Office Manager Marcia Halstead helped contact retired Pastor Jim Riede, who hosted a support gathering for Birney staff and the community. It soon became apparent that United was not going to be big enough to handle the crowd of mourners, so the event was moved to nearby Wapato Park. United has a long relationship with Birney, and Pastor Jan Otto said members are continuing to offer help, including helping to send Birney's fourth-graders to camp.

Good Shepherd invites all to feast, be entertained: Members of Good Shepherd of Olympia will hold a spaghetti dinner and talent show at 4:30 p.m. May 1 to further work started by Dawn Fehring. The young woman was slain in her Kirkland apartment in 1995 while a student at Lutheran Bible Institute. Even though she was young, much of her life had been involved in sharing the love of Jesus Christ. Family and friends established the Dawn Fehring Love of God Awards, monetary award to be given to persons who have a commitment to spread the Gospel. The Good Shepherd dinner will raise funds to support the yearly awards. The dinner and show are the church, at 1601 North St. SE. For more information, call the church at (360) 357-6828.

Good-bye Eric: The congregation of **Amazing Grace of Aberdeen** said its formal so-long to Pastor Eric Utto-Galerie during a recent special service, now that he's the newest chaplain at Grays Harbor Community Hospital. At Amazing Grace, he shared a pastor slot with his wife, Pastor Beth Utto-Galerie. Susan Bylund of the congregation delivered remarks. "I liked Eric from the very beginning, a big tall guy seldom wearing clergy clothes but enjoyed shorts, T-shirts and bright orange crocs." He joins Pastor Dave Monsen, chaplaincy services director at the hospital.

Our Congregations

Gifts of Hope fuel many efforts: Eight of the synod's congregations who participated in the 2009 Gifts of Hope program for alternative Christmas gifts raised \$16,115 according to the Tidings, the newsletter of Trinity of Vancouver. The top three beneficiaries included a family that will receive eggs through the Chehalis Food Bank; a children's center in Kenya where a well will be built; and children in Pierce County who need supplemental food during the summer. Besides Trinity of Vancouver, participating congregations included Trinity of Parkland, St. Mark's by The Narrows of Tacoma; Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia, Gloria Dei of Olympia, Creator of Bonney Lake, Peninsula Lutheran of Gig Harbor and St. John's of Chehalis. Three Thrivent Financial chapters assisted in fund-raising. This was the fifth year for the Gifts of Hope program and the total mount raised now tops \$65,600.

205 and counting: Just since last fall, the quilters at **Chinook Lutheran** so far have sewn up 205 quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and that number is growing, according to Pastor Chris Ode.

To camp they will go: Outdoors-minded folks at **Creator of Bonney Lake** are looking forward to a July family campout, this year at Wenatchee State Park.

Sale a success: Faith of Shelton's March rummage sale netted \$2,810, and the congregation will gift local food banks and others with some of the proceeds.

HUB continues: The three congregations of **Hope, United and Bethlehem** (HUB) continue to work at sharing ministry, fellowship and resources with one another. Pastor Nina Body of Bethlehem and interim Pastors Randy Olson and Jan Otto meet frequently to give guidance to the HUB steering committee. During Lent, the churches took part in a round robin in which each congregation focused on a country, a missionary serving there, and made soups from that country. Holy Week included a dinner and communion at United; prayer around the cross for Good Friday at Hope; and an Easter vigil at Bethlehem. "Attendance from all three congregations is high and the enthusiasm is contagious," Pastor Otto said.

Time capsule: Members of **Resurrection of Tacoma** are planning a time capsule, to be opened 50 years from now. Included might be things such as faith stories to inspire the next generation.

Soon to depart: Vicar Tim Weisman's time with the congregation of **St. Paul of Vancouver** is fast coming to a close. Weisman's been there a year, and a celebration is slated for May 30.

Dorm done over: The Monday Morning Men of **Christ of Belfair** are hard at work remodeling a dorm on the premises. Work so far includes removing walls and showers.

New cooler: The old refrigerator gave out, so **Christ of Belfair** members Merry and Dick Quy selected a new one and Christ's child-care center footed the bill. The new double-door beauty is humming away. Christ Lutheran Childcare Center has a new Web site, by the way, at www.clchildcare.com.

Thousands raised: More than \$2,000 was raised in two hours at a recent spaghetti fundraiser at **United of Tacoma** to benefit ELCA Disaster Relief for Haiti, Samoa and Chile. Two Samoan congregations that worship at United prepared a traditional dessert called bene po po, made of banana, coconut and sweet bread and served with ice-cream. Contributions came from the three congregations, as well as neighborhood members.

Pastor needs vacation from vacation: Pastor Jan Otto of United of Tacoma is recovering from injuries sustained in an 8-foot-fall off a lava edge on the Big Island in Hawaii. Otto also reports she took part in a tsunami evacuation after the Chili earthquake on her Hawaiian vacation.

From our friends

Advocacy update from Lutheran Public Policy Office

By the Rev. Paul Benz, director, Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State

Two important issues working their way through Congress for you and your congregation to advocate on regarding the alleviation of poverty are:

- Enhanced funding for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), and
- Enhanced funding for the reauthorization of our nation's child nutrition programs that include the Women, Infant and Children supplemental-nutrition effort, as well as breakfasts and lunches at schools.

Calls or e-mails to your local congressional delegates' offices or their Washington, D.C., offices are helpful; however there is nothing better than a handwritten letter. If you do write, we recommend sending it by mail or fax to your local congressional office. They then will forward it on to the D.C. office.

For more information on the EITC issue, go to www.bread.org or www.offeringofletters.org (Bread for the World). For the child-nutrition issue go to www.frac.org (Food Research Action Coalition). Opportunities for people to write letters or send e-mails will be available at the synod assembly at the Lutheran Public Policy Office table and at the workshops.

The Washington State Legislature ended its regular session March 11, but because there was an impasse on the proposed revenue package, which helps alleviate cuts in health, human service and environmental programs, a special 30-day session had to be called. The office has a summary of the outcomes of our legislative agenda that was e-mailed out to all who are a part of our statewide network. It also is available at www.lppowa.org.

Calendar

May issue: Peace of Tacoma's Hilltop Scholars program featured in *The Lutheran*, www.thelutheran.org

May 1: Prayer retreat, Vancouver, *see Page 4*

May 1: Hunger grant applications open, *see Page 3*

May 2: Lost and Found performs, Poulsbo, *see Page 4*

May 3 to 5: Byberg preaching workshop, Idaho, *see Page 4*

May 8 to 9: PLU event for high-schoolers, *see Page 4*

May 14 and 15: Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, *see Page 2*

May 24 to June 5: Synod group visits Namibia, blog at <http://namibiaconnect.blogspot.org>

May 29 to 31: Confirmands at Holden Village, *see Page 4*

June 5: Human-trafficking conference, *see Page 4*

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

June 28 to 30: PLU Summer Conference, *see Page 4*

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

Oct. 15 to 16: "What's on Our Plate and Why it Matters" ethics of eating symposium, PLU and Trinity Lutheran

Oct. 17 to 19: Church-planting conference, *see Page 5*

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