

# 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.*

October 2009



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

**EDITOR, WRITER**  
**Rachel Pritchett**  
adjunct, fifth-time

**SYNOD STAFF**  
**Bishop Robert D. Hofstad**  
**Rev. Ronald A. Hoyum**  
assistant to the bishop  
**Rev. Valinda I. Morse**  
assistant to the bishop  
**Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger**  
director for evangelical mission

**Rev. Donald G. Fossum**  
two-fifths time  
**Pat Durston**  
fifth-time  
**Allison Ramsey**  
office manager

**PHONE**  
(253) 535-8300

**E-MAIL**  
[swwsynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu)

**SYNOD WEB SITE**  
[www.lutheranssw.org](http://www.lutheranssw.org)

**ELCA WEB SITE**  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

### Address

## Get Up, Church, and Tell All About God

*By the Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger, director for evangelical mission*

One of the greatest pleasures and adjustments to my daily life as pastor is the opportunity I have to travel to various congregations of the Southwestern Washington Synod for worship. An introduction into the worship life of any particular congregation gives me a sense of how God has gifted that congregation uniquely as well as how the congregation engages the mission field. I am encouraged by the variety of gifts I see unleashed in worship as well as the sense of excitement for mission among lay and clergy alike.

As director of evangelical mission, my primary call involves strengthening our synod's evangelical witness by equipping leaders and congregations to imagine and strategize new mission start congregations. While I work to get a sense of where God may be calling our next new start into creation, I am equally concerned about making sure that supportive systems for mission developers and emerging congregations are in place. Like other directors of evangelical mission of the ELCA, I am charged with the responsibility of facilitating three tables to support the Southwestern Washington Synod's strategic directives. They include 1) mission strategy table, 2) new and renewing congregations table and 3) mission support table. The table concept extends from both our communion table and family table. At the communion table, we receive gifts of bread and wine and become the Body of Christ offered to others. Around our family tables at home we share stories and conversations that shape who we are. These two images will create a metaphor for missional conversation that includes the active participation and imagination of every member. The table in either setting is never quite filled to capacity. I share this metaphor because I long to grow our sense of connectivity and partnership in God's mission.

*Continues*

### **Get Up, Church: *Continued***

The shift from serving in a congregational ministry setting to a synod and churchwide ministry setting has affected my family in some unexpected ways. For instance, as I sat with my daughters during worship this summer, my 6-year-old insisted, “Get up, Mom. Get up and tell them about God.” My daughter’s confusion makes sense. Before our move, Kendall’s only experience of congregational life included me as a presiding and/or preaching pastor. I have the distinct pleasure of teaching my child that I’m not the only pastor who can tell people about God. I also can teach her that telling people about God is in essence the call of every disciple. Perhaps I’ll be able to refocus the 6-year-old prophet to proclaim, “Get up, Church. Let’s get up and tell people about God.”

### **Congregations in Transition**

#### Mobility

<b>In Call Process</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Pastoral Care</b>
All Saints, Auburn	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Faith, Shelton	AP	NV	Steve Olson
First, Port Orchard	P	NV	Joe Smith
Grace, Port Townsend	P	TR	Beth Orling
Hope, Tacoma	P	TR	Randy Olson
Shalishan, Tacoma	P	TR	Pulpit Supply
Spanaway	P	TR	Dennis Hartsook
St. Paul, Castle Rock	P	TR	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**

#### **Second Site Worship Leader Hired**

VANCOUVER – Messiah Lutheran Church of Vancouver has hired Adam Smouse to be its new mission worship leader. Smouse’s responsibilities in the half-time position will include developing, planning and leading worship at the congregation’s emerging second site in north Clark County, as well as leading worship on Saturday evening at Messiah’s main campus.

Messiah, led by the Revs. Kathleen and Peter Braafladt, has been working for two years to establish a second site. Smouse will work with Lynda Laird, also recently hired as second-site outreach coordinator. He previously was a high-school pastor at a Vancouver-area church and also a worship leader for Global Music Evangelism, a nonprofit group.

## **News**

### **Luther Center for Learning Closes for a Year**

OLALLA – Citing financial hardship and a substantial enrollment drop, leaders of Luther Center for Learning have closed the school for the current academic year.

“During this time, the leadership of the church and the board of education will be working together to make the re-opening of the school possible, once these obstacles have been overcome,” said the Rev. Eric Allert of Spirit of Life. The school that has been offering Christian education for students from kindergarten through the eighth grade is a ministry of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church of Olalla. It most recently met at the church.

### **Ex-Synod Office Worker Brings Comfort, Stitch at a Time**

TACOMA – Longtime visitors to the synod office may remember Sharon Clowers, who served as Bishop David Wold's executive assistant in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Clowers is still busy, but now she stitches red, white and blue quilts for U.S. servicemen and women wounded in battle, as well as for families of service members killed in the line of duty. She and her quilting friends have produced many dozens of fine quilts, which are forwarded to a Vashon Island organization called American Hero Quilts. From there, they are distributed to service members through Madigan Army Medical Center and other hospitals.

“Hearing stories about people who get the quilts, that really tugs at our hearts a lot. We know that it's very much appreciated, and we're trying to show our love this way,” Clowers said.

She became involved two years ago after making a patriotic quilt for herself. She had some leftover fabric, and looking for someone who might need it, she found American Hero Quilts on the Internet. In the nine months that followed, she and members of her quilting guild, the Comforters Guild of the Needle Arts Guild of Puget Sound, made 63 quilts.

“As long as there is a need, we decided we'll keep going,” she said.

### **Martin Thrilled at New Navy Family Respite Program**

PORT ANGELES – She's a 20-year veteran of Lutheran Community Services Northwest, but a new program that gives respite care to Navy parents with exceptional-needs children has Nancy Martin thrilled anew.

“It's probably the most exciting program for me personally that has come along in many, many years,” said Martin, the LCSN manager who runs the program for this region from her office at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Known as the Navy Exceptional Family Member Program Respite Care, the program offers as many as 40 hours of free respite care a month to parents with children who have Down syndrome or autism, for example. Typically, a LCSN caregiver comes to the home to give the children one-on-one, quality time, allowing the parent to run to the grocery store, cook dinner or just take a nap. Besides Puget Sound, the new program that's a partnership between the Navy and LCSN also is being offered in Norfolk, Va., and in Washington, D.C.

Martin is a member of Dungeness Valley Lutheran Church of Sequim.

**News****Smashed Flat, Organ's on its Way Back**

*(Reprinted with permission from the Kitsap Sun)*

BREMERTON – The months have slipped by since January, when a pickup truck careened into Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, sending myriad pieces of its pipe organ flying.

Since then, organ maker Steven Cheyne-Cook has been skillfully building a replacement in his West Seattle shop, mixing a little that could be saved with a lot that is new. Luckily, he saved the drawings from the organ he designed and installed in 2000.

He and a helper are installing the organ now.

It hurt deeply when he returned earlier this year and saw for himself the damage caused by the truck, which slammed through the church's vacant sanctuary when its driver had a seizure.

"It was devastating. It was heartbreaking to see it," he said.

The rebuilt organ was so tall Cheyne-Cook had to assemble it outside his studio, then take it apart for its journey to Bremerton.

**Resources****Swine Flu Recommendations for Church Available**

The ELCA has suggested best practices for pastors and church leaders to minimize chances of worshippers contracting the H1N1 swine flu virus. They are based on recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. They can be accessed through the following link: [www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/Disaster-Response/Ongoing-Responses/Pandemic-Flu.aspx](http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Responding-to-the-World/Disaster-Response/Ongoing-Responses/Pandemic-Flu.aspx)

**Emergency-Preparedness Kits Offered**

Lutheran Disaster Response is offering emergency-preparedness kits for families. More information is at [www.ldr.org/ready](http://www.ldr.org/ready).

**ELCA Mission Investment Fund CD Available**

A new CD explaining the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund now is available. Designed as an adult-education tool, the free CD tells how the fund provides support for building and renovation projects throughout the ELCA. It is titled "Good News for Your Faith and Your Finances" and can be ordered by contacting David Dalton at (877) 886-3522 or [david.dalton@elca.org](mailto:david.dalton@elca.org).

**Upcoming Events****Women's Convention Coming Soon**

All women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America are invited to the convention of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, to take place Oct. 2 and 3 at Messiah Lutheran Church of Auburn. One of the Bible-study leaders will be the Rev. Greg Kaurin, pastor at Messiah. To learn more, contact Carol Fossum at (360) 620-5368 or [carolfossum@comcast.net](mailto:carolfossum@comcast.net).

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Youth Events Focus on Justice, Hunger**

Justice and hunger are the topics of two youth events planned for this fall.

The first, "Hearts4Justice," takes place Oct. 3 to 5 at Holden Village. The event will feature the Rev. Dr. George Johnson as speaker and Eric Thompson leading music.

The second event includes a hunger benefit concert and workshops, and will be held Nov. 14 at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett. Music is to be led by David Scherer and Rachel Kurtz.

### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Planned**

Lutheran Marriage Encounter has planned two autumn weekends for couples seeking to refresh their marriages. The first is Oct. 9 to 11 at the Phoenix Inn in Vancouver, Wash., and the second is Nov. 6 to 8 at the Courtyard by Marriott in Tukwila. Both weekends begin at 8 p.m. Friday and end Sunday at 5 p.m. The cost is \$45. For more information or to register, visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org) or call (800) 235-1010.

### **Reformation Hymn Festival Oct. 25**

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual Reformation Sunday Hymn Festival will be at 3 p.m. Oct. 25 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Tacoma. Once again, the popular ecumenical hymn festival will feature a variety of vocalists, instrumentalists, ensembles and choirs performing many types of sacred music. Audience singing is encouraged, and commentaries on the music will be given. The event is free, and a reception follows. For more information, contact the church office at (253) 383-5515, or [gloriadei@wamail.net](mailto:gloriadei@wamail.net).

### **PLU Invites All to Football, Brunch**

Pacific Lutheran University invites the greater Lutheran family to join in the fun of a free brunch and football game on Nov. 7 at the Tacoma university. Fun-seekers first will enjoy brunch with PLU families at the University Center, followed Lute football at Sparks Stadium in Puyallup. The day begins with registration from 11 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at University Center, and brunch starts at 11 a.m. The game kicks off at 1:30 p.m. For more information or to reserve a spot, call PLU's Office of Congregational Relations at (253) 535-7424. RSVP by Oct. 23.

### **Global Mission Event: Save the Date**

The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd will be the location of the 2009 ELCA Global Formation Event. Taking place Nov. 13 and 14, the gathering will match all people interested or active in global mission with a rich array of resources. The cost is \$35 per person. For more information, contact Missy Tade at [mtade@goodshepherdolympia.com](mailto:mtade@goodshepherdolympia.com).

## Our Congregations

*From newsletters across the synod, for keeping up*

**Sale a success:** More than \$1,400 earned from a late-August garage sale at **Celebration of Puyallup** was equally matched by a Thrivent donation, and proceeds will help property projects at the church.

**Habitat celebration:** Numerous volunteers from **Agnus Dei of Gig Harbor** celebrated completion of two Habitat for Humanity homes on the Key Peninsula on Aug. 23. Construction on both began in early May. The Agnus Dei work force partnered with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, the Thrivent Builds program and Habitat to get the job done.

**Turns 25:** The Lutheran Cup Charity Golf Tournament turned 25 this year. Held Sept. 19 at the Green Mountain Golf Course in Camas, it helped raise more than \$1,700 for local charities.

**Welcomes new intern:** Pastoral intern Doug Johnson has begun work at **Family of Christ of Vancouver**.

**Alpha again: Our Saviour's of Bremerton** again this year is offering the popular 12-week practical introduction to the Christian faith. It began in September.

**Ten shy of a century: Trinity of Parkland** marked its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sept. 20 with a single worship service followed by a special luncheon. The celebration also noted the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church's sanctuary and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its Schlicker organ.

**Walk-bouts reap big benefits:** Members of **Family of Grace of Auburn** conduct Saturday walkabouts this summer in the neighborhoods surrounding the church. They visited 128 families in the process. Members will continue this fall as long as weather permits.

**50 and counting: Christ of Lakewood** celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in part with a 1950s-themed sock hop Sept. 12 at the church. Also at Christ, Dorothy Leyden this month celebrates 20 years in music ministry at Christ.

**Record numbers:** Leaders of RockSolid Community Teen Center of **Bethel of Brush Prairie** expect as many as 50 young people to come to the center every day, a record. RockSolid leaders hosted a fundraiser spaghetti dinner Sept. 13 at the church. More about the nonprofit center that offers a safe place for youth in the Brush Prairie area is at [www.rocksolid-teen.com](http://www.rocksolid-teen.com).

**W.H.O. benefits:** The singing group Three Together performed a concert Sept. 27 at **St. Paul of Vancouver** to benefit the Winter Hospitality Overflow program. Made up of Doug Smith, Judy Koch Smith and Don Mitchell, the group helped to support the ministry that provides shelter to homeless families in the greater Vancouver area during the coldest winter months. Members of St. Andrew of Vancouver also take part.

**Emergency call system coming: Pilgrim of Puyallup** soon will activate its new emergency call system. With it, church members are assigned call lists of members. The phone tree goes into effect when there is a concern about a member, in weather emergencies or during traffic disruptions.

**Day of service:** Sept. 26 was a day of service for members of **St. Andrew of Vancouver**. Members of all ages worked on projects at the church and in the community.

## **People**

**China Service Ventures: The Rev. Steven Ray**, development director with China Service Ventures and longtime missionary to the Xingyang Province of China, announced that funding for his position has been cut. During his years with CSV, Ray accompanied many dozens of persons to rural China along traditional Lutheran missionary routes, and organized health checks and other service projects to benefit the people there.

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## **Calendar**

**Oct. 2 to 3:** Convention, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Messiah of Auburn, *see Page 4*

**Oct. 3 to 5:** Youth justice event, *see Page 5*

**Oct. 9 to 10:** Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Vancouver, *see Page 5*

**Oct. 24:** Lutheran Community Services Northwest Oregon/Southwestern Washington banquet, 5:30 p.m., downtown Portland Marriott, Kendall Meyer, (503) 731-9576

**Oct. 25:** Reformation Hymn Festival, Gloria Dei, Tacoma, *see Page 5*

**Oct. 30 to 31:** Synod Council retreat, Dumas Bay Center, Federal Way

**Nov. 6 to 8:** Lutheran Marriage *Encounter*, Tukwila, *see Page 5*

**Nov. 7:** PLU brunch, football, *see Page 5*

**Nov. 8:** Lutheran Community Services Northwest Kitsap/Olympic brunch, 1:30 p.m., Kitsap Conference Center, Bremerton, Lynn Naumann, (206) 816-3223

**Nov. 13 and 14:** ELCA Global Event, Good Shepherd of Olympia

**Nov. 14:** Youth event, Everett, *see Page 5*

**January 24 to 25, 2010:** Prayer Retreat, Seabeck Christian Conference Center

**January 26 to 27, 2010:** Bishop's Convocation, Seabeck Christian Conference Center

**March 13, 2010:** Olympic Cluster Spring Celebration, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization

**March 20, 2010:** South Sound Cluster Event, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Faith of Shelton

**March 27, 2010:** Narrows Cluster Event, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Peace of Tacoma

**April 23 to 25, 2010:** Spring Retreat, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Black Lake Bible Camp

**May 14 to 15:** Southwestern Washington Synod Assembly, Hilton Hotel, Vancouver, Wash.

**June 25 to 27, 2010:** Region 1 Gathering, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Kalispell, Mont.

**Aug. 21, 2010:** Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Bible Study Event, Silverdale

**Oct. 8 to 9, 2010:** Convention, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Trinity of Longview

**July 12 to 17, 2011:** Triennial Convention and Gathering, Women of the ELCA, Spokane

## ***Have a story?***

Submit information for Moments for Mission by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. Contact the synod office if you would like to receive this free newsletter.

*End of newsletter*

