

E-NEWS for Week of January 14, 2019



Southwestern Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Bishop's Convocation Registration for Rostered Ministers [Register here](#)

Synod Newsletter (January 2019)

New Congregation job openings

Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn:

- 1) Associate Director of Faith Formation & Partnerships
- 2) Minister of Caring and Adult Faith Formation

For more information on these positions and the application process, please follow: <http://mlcauburn.org/serve/employment-opportunities/>

Events and Trainings:

Troubled Waters or River of Life?

Christian worship and care for Earth's waters

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2019 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

at Christ Episcopal Church, 310 North K Street in Tacoma, (253) 383-1569

[Online registration www.plu.edu/water](http://www.plu.edu/water)

In this conference, we explore water - the one thing upon which all life depends - and Christian commitments to care for our local waters in western Washington: an ethic of care flowing from Christian worship. Join us as we consider the ways in which worship, learning and advocacy invite congregations to give thanks to God for this primal gift and promote environmental justice.

Cost: \$30 and includes morning refreshments, a vegetarian lunch and all conference materials.

Spiritual Direction Formation Preparation "Listening with the Spirit 2019-2010"

The Priory Spirituality Center in Lacey. [More info](#)

For more information, kindly call Sister Lucy Wynkoop at 360-438-2595 or email her at lucywynkoop@gmail.com

The Priory Spirituality Center in Lacey offers other programs, too. To register for a program or retreat, go to www.stplacid.org.

Lectio with Threads of Meaning

January 5

Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Sister Monika Ellis

Register by Prior Friday: \$55

More information and registration at www.stplacid.org

Holy Leisure

January 12

Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Postulant Camille Wooden

Register by Prior Friday: \$55

More information and registration at www.stplacid.org

The Hospitality of Adoption

January 19

Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Joann Terranova

Register by Prior Friday: \$55

More information and registration at www.stplacid.org

Dark Night of the Soul: A Contemplative Journey

January 26

Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm

Jodi Kilcup

Register by prior Friday: \$65

More information and registration at www.stplacid.org

ELCA Administration Matters:

Most (but not all) congregations can avoid new nonprofit employee parking tax

A little-noticed provision of the 2017 tax reform created potential tax liability for nonprofits - including churches - that provide certain transportation fringe benefits, including parking and paid public transportation. This article provides a summary of the changes and some suggestions for minimizing or eliminating the liability. >[More](#)

Legal Checklist for Congregations Webinar

Congregations can unwittingly create legal issues and liabilities through inattention to basic requirements and details related to corporate status, taxes, property, insurance and abuse prevention. Many of these issues can be prevented by using an ELCA-prepared checklist of key items for congregations to address. Join us for a free webinar where the ELCA legal staff will discuss the checklist and best legal practices for congregations. This webinar will be of particular interest to rostered ministers and lay congregational leaders and staff, including congregation council members and officers, and church administrators. Webinar date: Feb. 21 at noon CST. [Register here](#). Registration deadline is Feb. 15.

Tax reporting can be complicated

Portico offers the set of annually updated Richard R. Hammar tax guides at no cost to pastors and congregations participating in the ELCA benefit program. Federal Reporting Requirements for Churches helps congregations understand federal reporting requirements. The Clergy Tax Return Preparation Guide gives special attention to tax-related topics relevant to ministers. Updated versions coming soon. To access, log into your Portico [member](#) or [EmployerLink](#) account.

2019 IRS mileage allowance

The Internal Revenue Service issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business and charitable, medical or moving purposes. Beginning Jan. 1, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) is:

- * 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the 2018 rate.
- * 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2 cents from the 2018 rate.
- * 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate increased 3.5 cents for business travel driven and 2 cents for medical and certain moving expense from the 2018 rates. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged. For more information, visit the IRS website.

Low temperatures increase the risk of damage to frozen sprinkler systems and plumbing pipes. Contrary to what one might think, losses due to frozen pipes occur more frequently in climates that are not normally associated with cold weather, especially when unexpected cold fronts sweep through a region. >[More](#)

Slips and falls

Protect your congregation from the second-leading cause of preventable injuries by inspecting your facilities and identifying key areas that may contain trip, slip and fall hazards. Inclement or changing weather conditions can increase the chance of an accident. >[More](#)

2018 ELCA annual report cover

The ELCA covers for annual congregational reports in 2018 are now available to order. You can also download them for free. >[More](#)

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Southwestern Washington Synod

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A Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop