

E-NEWS for Week of March 11, 2019



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



Pastoral message from ELCA Conference of Bishops

3/6/2019 10:00:00 AM

Approved by the ELCA Church Council in 1990, Vision and Expectations has, through several revisions, outlined this church's standards for its rostered ministers since that time. As a Conference of Bishops, we recognize and acknowledge that its application has been uneven and inequitable. We express our profound grief and deep regret for the times when Vision and Expectations has been misused to single out, marginalize, and block people seeking to be leaders in this church when their peers were not always held to the same vision and expectations. This has caused considerable pain that has disproportionately been borne by those who have been historically marginalized or excluded from leadership in the church because of their gender, sexuality, race, or status. We apologize to those whose treatment under this document has made them feel targeted and less than the beloved children of God that they are.

The Conference of Bishops affirms the appropriateness of expectations and standards as means of protecting the people of God and providing accountability for the power that church leaders hold. Serving as a rostered minister in the ELCA is a privilege. Those aspiring to and serving in such a public office are expected to conform to the standards set by the church for such leaders.

We aspire and pledge in the future to apply the church's standards for ministry with equity and compassion, to listen and take seriously the concerns of all our leaders—particularly those who historically have been marginalized—and to treat with dignity all those seeking to lead in our church.

Clothes for those released from prison are needed

When incarcerated individuals leave prison, they have limited possessions. They leave with a box of their belongings.

A program at Washington Corrections Center (WCC) seeks to help these individuals entering the community - and it needs your help.

WCC has a Release Clothing Closet. Since 2013, the program has given sets of gently used clothing to people who have completed their prison sentences at WCC. The program is looking for community volunteers to help staff the closet on a daily basis.

According to Superintendent Dan White, WCC releases more incarcerated individuals per year than any other prison in the state. "The clothing closet provides a valuable resource for supporting successful reentry and transition of our incarcerated population back into the community," White said. "Appropriate clothing needed upon release affords these individuals the ability to walk out of prison with a higher level of dignity and self-respect that, in turn, leads to greater success."

The clothing is collected through donations by individual community members and organizations. Behavior Alert and Reentry Specialist Jeff Sanders currently oversees the program.

How You Can Help:

- Donate new or gently used men's clothing by dropping it in the facility's blue donation bin located at the entrance to the flag pole parking lot area. Clothing needing minor repairs is accepted and repaired. Also in need of new donated backpacks and duffle bags.
- Volunteer needed to assist with unloading the donation bin and organizing all donations.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the clothing closet or collecting/processing donations, please contact Jeff Sanders by email (email) or call (360) 426-4433 extension 5342.

Renewal of Ordination and Consecration Vows Service

The Renewal of Ordination and Consecration Vows service for our Synod and our Episcopalian friends in the Diocese of Olympia will be at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Longview on Tuesday, April 16 (Tuesday in Holy Week) at 3:30 pm. Bishop Greg Rickel will preside and Bishop Rick Jaech will preach.

Please RSVP to Allison at swwsynod@plu.edu if you will be attending the service.

Armed Intruder Preparedness Training

Church Mutual Insurance has a new online training for Armed Intruder Preparedness <https://bit.ly/2ITWSpe>

Synod Newsletter

Southwestern Washington Synod [Moments for Mission](#)- March 2019

Congregation Job Openings

<http://www.lutheranssw.org/congregations-2/job-opportunities>

Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma:

- [Church Office Administrator](#) (pdf)
- [Youth Leader](#) (pdf)

Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn:

- Associate Director of Faith Formation and Partnerships, Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn
- Minister of Caring and Adult Faith Formation, Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn

[Director of Youth Ministry](#), Vinland Lutheran Church, Poulsbo

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