

# 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.*

September 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).

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### Churchwide Assembly

## A Message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop

Aug. 22

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:*

*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.*

– *Colossians 3:14-15*

I write to you from the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Minneapolis with official information about the actions of this assembly related to human sexuality. I am grateful for the manner in which this church has engaged in this conversation. The way this assembly has discussed these questions is a continuation of the way this church has deliberated: with deep and heartfelt respect for each other, engaging with Scripture, listening to the faith stories and experiences of one another, and through worship and prayer seeking the discernment of the Spirit.

In my response to the voting members on Friday, Aug. 21, I made this request: we need one another. We need time. We need the voices of | those who lament and those who rejoice over these actions, for together we have been called to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ and engage in God's mission for the life of the world.

The assembly adopted 676-338 – precisely two-thirds of those voting – “Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust,” the ELCA’s 10th social statement, with minor editorial amendments. It also adopted a series of implementing resolutions with amendments. This theological and teaching document builds on the key Lutheran principles of justification by grace and Christian freedom to serve the neighbor. It emphasizes that central to our vocation, in relation to human sexuality, is the building and protection of trust in relationships.

More from  
the Assembly  
To learn about other  
actions taken by the  
ELCA churchwide  
assembly, visit  
[www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

*Continues*

**A Message from the Presiding Bishop: *Continued***

It therefore affirms that we are called to be trustworthy in our human sexuality and to build social institutions and practices where trust and trustworthy relationships can thrive. The social statement addresses marriage, same-gender relationships, families, protecting children, friendships, commitment, social responsibility and moral discernment. Regarding same-gender committed relationships, the social statement says that this church is not in agreement and recognizes the different perspectives that are present among us.

Our assembly also adopted resolutions proposed by the Church Council based on those contained in a "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies." The actions direct that changes be made to churchwide policy documents to make it possible for those in committed same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders in the ELCA. There were amendments to two of the proposals. The assembly adopted the resolutions in the following order, beginning with a strong statement about how we will live together in the face of our disagreements:

Resolution 3: "RESOLVED, that in the implementation of any resolutions on ministry policies, the ELCA commit itself to bear one another's burdens, love the neighbor, and respect the bound consciences of all." (Adopted 771-230 as amended)

Resolution 1: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships." (Adopted 619-402)

Resolution 2: "RESOLVED, that the ELCA commit itself to finding a way for people in such publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as rostered leaders of this church." (Adopted 559-451)

Resolution 4: This resolution called upon members to respect the bound consciences of those with whom they disagree; declared intent to allow structured flexibility in decision-making about candidacy and the call process; eliminated the prohibition of rostered service by members in publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous same-gender relationships; recognized and committed to respect the conviction of members who believe that the ELCA should not call or roster people in committed same-gender relationships; called for development of accountability guidelines; directed that amendments to ministry policy documents be drafted and approved; and stated that this church continue to trust congregations, bishops, synods and others responsible for determining who should be called into public ministry. (Adopted 667-307 as amended)

I invite you into important, thoughtful, prayerful conversation about what all of this means for our life in mission together. What is absolutely important for me is that we have this conversation together.

We meet one another finally – not in our agreements or our disagreements – but at the foot of the cross, where God is faithful, where Christ is present with us, and where, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

*In Christ,*

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson*

## Congregations in Transition

### Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
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
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

### Transitions

**The Rev. Joe Smith** will serve as interim pastor at First Community Lutheran church of Port Orchard starting Sept. 1.

**The Rev. Roger Kinkead**, who was retired, died Aug. 24 at home. His active ministry in this synod included service at Holy Trinity of Port Angeles, Prince of Peace of Forks, Peninsula of Gig Harbor, Mountain View of Edgewood, St John's of Lakewood, First of Longview, Dungeness Valley of Sequim and Pilgrim of Puyallup.

## Synod Report

### Treasurer Issues Encouraging Q2 Update

*By Andreas Udbye, udbye@wamail.net*

Dear Members,

Given the prevailing economy, the Southwestern Washington Synod's receipts have not been too bad halfway into the 2009 fiscal year.

Our benevolences, at \$570,000, are running 3 percent above what they were at the same time last year. The five other synods in Region 1 have all seen declines, so from a relative standpoint this synod has to be thankful.

We have been able to pass as much as 20 percent more on to our partnerships, agencies and social ministries than last year, and hopefully we can keep this up for the rest of the year.

It is also positive to note that our permanently restricted fund ("endowment fund") has restored some of what it lost last year. In the second quarter, it gained 15 percent, or \$67,000, and is now at \$510,000. This is still a far cry from the peak of more than \$700,000 a couple of years ago, but at least it is recovering some of its value in pace with the general stock market.

Lastly, I want to mention that the addition of the "deployed" staff member from ELCA is mostly a win-win situation for us financially. She is on ELCA's payroll. In addition, churchwide is paying us an annual "stipend" of \$15,000 for the additional office and travel costs.

As your treasurer, I would like to thank you again for your loyal and consistent support of our important work.

## **News**

### **Hushagen Assumes Chairmanship of Lutheran Summer Music**

TACOMA – James Hushagen, vice president of the Council of the Southwestern Washington Synod, has been elected chair of Lutheran Summer Music.

Since 2001, Hushagen has served on the board of the Minneapolis, Minn.-based group that provides university-level music training to high-schoolers in the Lutheran music tradition. His goal as chair is to strengthen its financial foundation.

“It’s in reasonably good shape, but it’s highly dependent, its development, on donations,” he said. “I want to make it a stand-alone enterprise.”

The Tacoma attorney wants that to happen while still keeping tuition for Lutheran Summer Music’s four-week summertime academy within reach.

“We intentionally keep it low to make it affordable for families,” he said.

Hushagen also would like to increase the number of academy participants to between 150 and 175 students. This summer, 133 students attended the academy, which is held on a campus of a Lutheran university.

“There’s a proud tradition of very good music within the Lutheran church,” he said. Lutheran Summer Music was started in 1981.

Hushagen is a member of Mountain View Lutheran Church of Edgewood. Another member, Amy Boers of Milton, also is on the Lutheran Summer Music board.

To learn more about Lutheran Summer Music, visit [www.lutheransummermusic.org](http://www.lutheransummermusic.org).

**Young Synod Musician Attend Lutheran Summer Music Academy:** Erika Tobin of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church of Olympia participated in the Lutheran Summer Music Academy, held in June and July at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. Tobin, who is a junior at Capital High School in Olympia, studied voice and harp, and plans to attend the academy next summer, as well.

### **Cudahy Looks to Future in Mission Work**

PORT ORCHARD – After 20 years as pastor of First Lutheran Community Church of Port Orchard, the Rev. Allen Cudahy is leaving.

Under his leadership, the congregation quadrupled in size to 1,200 members, making it one of the fastest growing congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod.

Cudahy, 52, said a slower pace of work now is in store for him, and he expects that to include activities in Costa Rica with missions and a retreat center.

Cudahy said the time was right to leave.

“I really feel I’m leaving the community at the top of my game,” he said.

The congregation’s associate pastor, the Rev. Orv Jacobson, credited much of the congregation’s growth to Cudahy’s “phenomenal” preaching style.

Cudahy was popular with the younger set, conducting children’s sermons with his entourage of puppets headed by “Theodore.”

“They’re just absolutely in awe,” Jacobson said of the children.

Cudahy also helped introduce contemporary music and other aspects to worship services.

He oversaw a complete remodel of the church, and the addition of a ministry center and more parking spaces. Also under Cudahy, planning for a future community center was accomplished.

## **News**

### **Key Peninsula Youth Adopt Park**

LAKEBAY – John Buckles, the youth director at Key Peninsula Lutheran Church, is working with local youth to reopen a public park that’s been closed since 1987.

Buckles has been connecting with other youth pastors on the Key Peninsula to draw teens into the project. In addition, young people who’ve encountered trouble with the law are directed to Buckles and the park project.

Buckles has more information, and he can be reached at [kpluthyouth@gmail.com](mailto:kpluthyouth@gmail.com).

### **Trinity Garden’s Bounty Helping Those Without**

PARKLAND – It’s a pristine Saturday summer morning in Parkland. While most everyone else is just waking up, Kurt Scarce already is pulling weeds and watering in Trinity Lutheran Church’s new garden.

Broccoli, kale, beans and peas glisten beneath the water droplets, as Scarce explains it’s really no work at all to take care of the big L-shaped garden, its proceeds helping Trinity’s food pantry and monthly community meal.

“It feels good to help out,” he said. The family of the art teacher at Mount Rainier Lutheran High School is understanding, as well. Even Scarce’s young children get dirty in the garden to help out dad.

“They’re pretty understanding,” he said.

Scarce also has gotten help from Trinity members like Wanda Wentworth and its Sunday-school students, who planted broccoli seeds in starter pots for the garden.

The garden is the result of the Trinity congregation’s long-held desire to expand its service to the greater Parkland community. Neighbors drop by the church’s food pantry regular for fresh food that now is part of their diet.

The garden’s bounty also is presented during Trinity’s popular one-monthly Friday Night Community Meals at the church, where Trinity members and neighborhood residents have a chance to meet and get to know each other.

Trinity’s outreach is supported by the hard work of members like Scarce, along with financial support from the Southwestern Washington Synod, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and others.

Trinity’s garden isn’t the only one in town. Just down 121<sup>st</sup> Street is Pacific Lutheran University’s community garden. Scarce said students who work there sometimes pitch in at the Trinity garden.

Scarce also oversees a similar community garden at his high school.

Trinity’s garden is among many others that are being planted at synod churches, as the effort toward locally grown produce while feeding nutritious, fresh produce gains momentum. For more information about Trinity’s garden, call the church at (253) 537-02021.

## **Posting**

**Director of Music Ministries: Mountain View Lutheran Church of Edgewood** seeks a full-time director of music ministries. For more information, visit [www.mtviewlutheran.org](http://www.mtviewlutheran.org).

**News****Diers' Bishop Son Returning to Parish Ministry**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND – Paul Stumme-Diers, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Greater Milwaukee Synod and son of the Rev. Herman and Dorothy Diers of Tacoma, has accepted a call to Bethany Lutheran Church of Bainbridge Island.

In a letter to his synod's pastors, Bishop Stumme-Diers wrote of his longing to return to parish ministry.

"Over the past seven years this attraction to congregational ministry has always been present for me, and recently has become strong enough for me to pursue a parish call."

His father, who is a retired Southwestern Washington Synod pastor, said his son always has had an interest in the Pacific Northwest, receiving his education at Pacific Lutheran University and completing an internship at Immanuel Lutheran Church of Seattle.

"Selfishly, we'll be glad to have Paul and his family living so much closer to us," Pastor Diers said.

Bethany is in the ELCA's Northwest Washington Synod. About 200 persons worship there weekly, and the church traditionally has been acted as a faith representative to the greater Bainbridge Island community.

Bishop Stumme-Diers was 41 when he was elected as bishop in 2002, making him the youngest bishop in the ELCA.

Stumme-Diers serves on numerous boards and ecumenical organizations including Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Carthage College, and Wartburg College. He has served as the chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops' Ministry Among People in Poverty Committee since 2003, according to the Greater Milwaukee Synod's Web site.

His resignation takes effect Sept. 30.

**'Salmon Nation' Resources Available**

A small group of clergy colleagues have formed a new project called "Practicing Our Faith in Salmon Nation" to help clergy and laity in ELCA Region 1 better practice ministry in the unique context of the Pacific Northwest.

The group's work is under the direction of Patricia O'Connell Killen, provost of Pacific Lutheran University, and already has developed tools to help.

Print-ready resources that include an adult education series are available at the group's new Web site, <http://salmon.luther-house.org/>.

Members also invite interested persons to contact them. This synod's participants include the Rev. Martha Maier of St. Andrew Lutheran Church of Vancouver at [maierm@comcast.net](mailto:maierm@comcast.net); and the Rev. John Rosenberg of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Olympia at [rosenbergjohn@comcast.net](mailto:rosenbergjohn@comcast.net).

**Upcoming Events****Grief Support Offered in Puyallup**

A six-week support group for persons struggling with the loss of loved ones will be offered Sept. 8 to Oct. 3 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Puyallup. The class is free and open to the public, according to Nancy Haughee, Pilgrim parish nurse. The church is at 10510 136<sup>th</sup> St. East. For more information or to register, call the church at (253) 848-3680.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **LENS Theological Symposium this Month**

Lutheran Educational Network and Support (LENS) holds its biennial Holden Theological Symposium on Sept. 21 to 24 at Holden Village. Titled "Turning the Church Inside Out," the symposium will feature the Revs. Frederick Niedner, Daniel Ruen and Ron Vignec, as well as Vicki Tobin. The \$210 cost includes meals and lodging; [www.holdenvillage.org/lens](http://www.holdenvillage.org/lens).

### **Training to Help Former Incarcerated Men in Vancouver**

The Rev. Eric Wagen-Hoch, who heads the Living Stones Prison Congregation at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton, has announced that the next Project Cope training will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Sept. 26 at Messiah Lutheran Church of Vancouver. The session is for persons with an interest in helping men make a positive adjustment from prison back into society. The church is at 905 NW 94<sup>th</sup> St. For more information, contact the synod office.

### **Women's Convention is October in Auburn**

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).

### **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.

The Rev. Dave Ellingson of Trinity Lutheran College also announced that a new Youth and Family Ministry certificate program will begin at Trinity in 2011; [www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter](http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter).

### **Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends Slated**

Lutheran Marriage Encounter has planned two autumn weekends for couples seeking 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

### **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.

## Our Congregations

*From newsletters throughout the synod, for keeping up*

### **McCracken Elected to ELCA's Youth Board**

Anna McCracken of Spanaway Lutheran Church has been elected as an at-large member of the ELCA's Lutheran Youth Organization board. She is one of nine young people named to the board, each from a different region of the ELCA. The selections were made at the LYO convention held in July in Hattiesburg, Miss. More information about the group is at [www.elca.org/lyo](http://www.elca.org/lyo).

**Intern arrives:** Doug Johnson has arrive at **Family of Christ of Vancouver**, where he will serve as intern. He hails from Southern California, has a bachelor's degree from California Lutheran University and attends Luther Seminary.

**Disc golf: First of Poulsbo** members have installed 17 baskets at its new disc golf course, meaning completion of the course is just around the bend. It is located on the congregation's property along Dogfish Creek.

**Banner bonanza: Bethany of Spanaway's** new Communion banner depicting the Last Supper was a joint venture between Melissa Anderson, who found the special fabric while attending college at the University of Tanzania, and Inez Hollmann, who constructed it.

**Lifted: Nasselle Lutheran Church** is saving up for an elevator, according to the Agapegram.

**Almost 50: Resurrection of Tacoma** has begun planning for celebrations next year, when it turns 50 years old.

**Tanzania connection:** Synod missionary Barbara Robertson shared what she is doing in Tanzania during an Aug. 23 visit to **Our Saviour's of Bremerton**.

## Calendar

**Sept. 7:** Grief support session starts, Puyallup, *see Page 6*

**Sept. 19:** Synod Council meeting, Good Shepherd of Olympia

**Sept. 21 to 24:** LENS symposium, Holden Village, *see Page 7*

**Sept. 26:** Project COPE training, Messiah of Vancouver, *see Page 7*

**Oct. 2 to 3:** Convention, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Messiah of Auburn, *see Page 7*

**Oct. 3 to 5:** Youth justice event, *see Page 6*

**Oct. 9 to 10:** Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Vancouver, *see Page 7*

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

**Nov. 6 to 8:** Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Tukwila, *see Page 7*

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

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

**Nov. 14:** Youth event, Everett, *see Page 7*

**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

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

**May 21 to 23, 2010:** Spring Retreat, Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization, Falls Creek, Raymond

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

**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

## **From Our Friends**

### **Lutheran Public Policy Office: New Intern On Board**

The Rev. Paul Benz, director of the Washington Lutheran Public Policy Office in Seattle, announces that Matt Keadle has arrived as the group's newest intern.

Keadle is earning a master's of divinity degree from Lutheran School of Theology. He has worked at a homeless shelter in Chicago and studied theology in Mexico City.

The office has scheduled several fall advocacy forums across the state for individuals and congregations wishing strengthen their public voices. Two of the free events will take place in the Southwestern Washington Synod.

The first will be Sept. 12 and 13 at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church of Vancouver. Another will take place Oct. 31 and Nov. 1 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Angeles.

For more information, contact Benz at (206) 464-4133 or [lppooffice@lcsnw.org](mailto:lppooffice@lcsnw.org).

### **China Service Ventures: Plan Now for 2010 Opportunities**

*By the Rev. Steven Ray, director, CSV relations, [steverayCSV@aol.com](mailto:steverayCSV@aol.com)*

It is never too early to begin planning how you might want to serve our Lord in 2010. China Service Ventures, a Lutheran nonprofit group working in China, offers great opportunities for adults and youth to serve.

Volunteer teachers are needed to train Chinese English teachers in a short-term, intensive course. The cost for this service opportunity is \$1,300 not including airfare and visa. The dates are July 4 to Aug. 2 with possible added trips to Xi'an and Tibet.

CSV also invites high school youth, either as a group or as individuals, to work with Chinese youth in serving those less fortunate in rural China. The cost for this service opportunity is \$1,010 not including airfare and visa. The dates are July 14 to 29.

For more information call (877) 408-7056 or e-mail [steverayCSV@aol.com](mailto:steverayCSV@aol.com).

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

Submissions for Moments for Mission, the free e-newsletter of the Southwestern Washington Synod, can be sent to the synod office or by e-mail to the newsletter's editor, Rachel Pritchett, at [rachelpritchett@msn.com](mailto:rachelpritchett@msn.com).

*End of newsletter*