



## Moments for Mission

Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
*Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.*  
 October 2021

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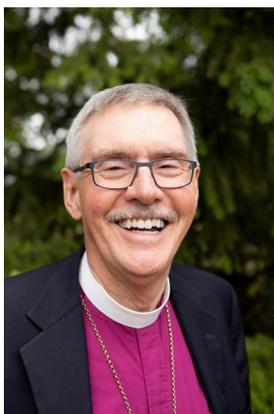
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By Bishop Richard E Jaech, Synod Bishop



### On the Sabbatical Road with the Bishop

Thank you so much for the opportunity to take a six-week Sabbatical from August 1 to September 14. I am very grateful that the Synod provides a Sabbatical to its program staff every five years. Sabbaticals are important opportunities for refreshment, learning and spiritual growth. For that reason, I recommend that every congregation invests in providing sabbaticals to their pastors and deacons.

A major focus of my Sabbatical was to visit three pastors who are members of our Southwestern Washington Synod roster and serve international, English-language ELCA congregations in Copenhagen, Berlin, and Geneva. I would like to tell you about the pastors that Satya and I visited and then share some of the key learnings that I gained from talking to them and hearing about their congregations.



Our first visit was to Pastor Tim Stewart, who serves The International Church of Copenhagen. Pastor Stewart, with his wife Mary Ann, has previously served

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international congregations in Norway and Puerto Rico, as well as serving as pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, right next door to the Synod office. In Copenhagen, Pastor Stewart and his congregation worship at St. Andreas Lutheran Church, a church provided to them by the Lutheran Church in Denmark.



At St. Andreas there is a beautiful tracker (mechanical action) pipe organ built in the northern European style. My wife, Satya, enjoyed seeing and sometimes playing these beautiful pipe organs throughout our trip.

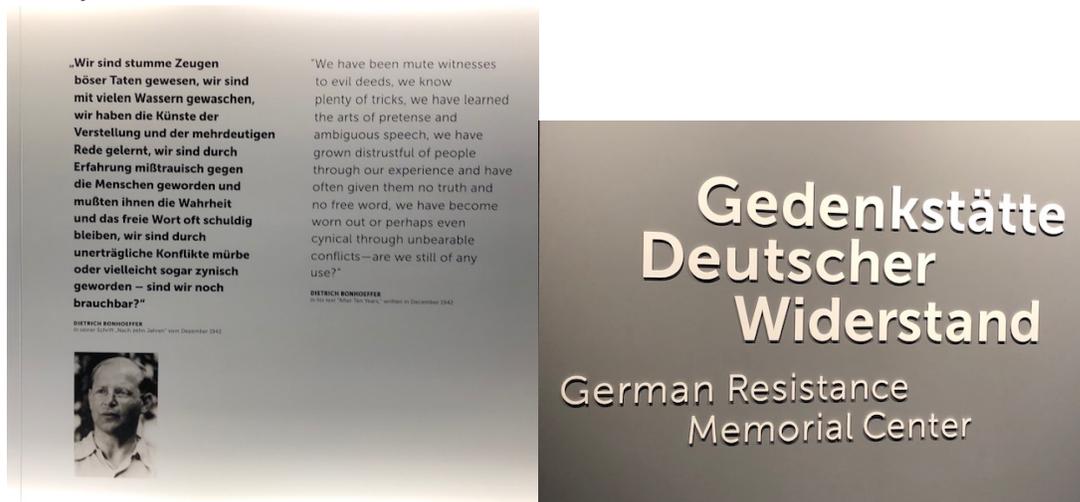


Our second visit was to the American Church in Berlin, where I met with their Church Council and congregation members to assist them during a time of transition as they prepare to call a new pastor. My assistance to the American Church in Berlin originated at the request of Pastor Rachel Eskesen, who is one of our Synod pastors and serves as the ELCA Area Desk Director for Europe. Pastor Eskesen's role is to provide support to all ELCA international congregations in Europe and the Middle East. Prior to this, she was director of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program in Central Europe. With her husband, Zach (also an ELCA pastor) and their one-year old child, Pastor Eskesen is based in Budapest, Hungary. Although our travel schedules did not permit us to meet in person in Berlin, I benefitted from Zoom conversations with Pastor Eskesen leading up to my in-person meeting with the Berlin congregation members.

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*Bishop's Sabbatical, continued from page 2*

Our family has direct ties to the American Church in Berlin and close friends in Berlin who we were able to visit. Satya attended the American Church in Berlin for a year when she received a Rotary International Fellowship to study organ at the Hochschule für Musik in Berlin. Our son, Nick, spent his senior year with the University of Washington as an international student at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Therefore, it was enjoyable to assist a congregation that has ministered to our own family.



During our stay in Berlin, we also visited the German Resistance Memorial Center, honoring German citizens who resisted the Nazi regime, often at the cost of their lives. The Lutheran pastor and seminary professor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was one of the religious leaders honored at the Center. Pastor Bonhoeffer resisted Hitler's regime and was murdered by the Nazis just days before the end of the war.



Our third visit to a Synod pastor was in Geneva, Switzerland, where we spent time with Pastor Andy Willis, formerly the pastor of St. Christopher Community Church, our Synod's Lutheran-Episcopal congregation just outside of Olympia. Pastor Willis is pastor at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva, founded 250 years ago by German immigrants to Geneva. Today, the church building is shared by a German-speaking congregation and the English-speaking congregation that Pastor Willis serves. Like the congregations in Copenhagen and Berlin, the members of his congregation come from all over the world. Pastor Willis, with his wife, Grete, and their two children have served the Geneva congregation for seven years.

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*Bishop's Sabbatical, continued from page 3*



While we were in Geneva, Pastor Willis took us on a tour of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), whose offices are in Geneva. The LWF coordinates joint ministry, service, and theological dialogue among the 148 Lutheran denominations representing 75 million Lutheran members in 99 countries that are members of the LWF. At the LWF, we were fortunate to have a long conversation with Rev. Martin Junge, the Director of the LWF for the past ten years, and *Dr. Dirk Lange*, Assistant General Secretary for Ecumenical

Relations, who also teaches on the faculty of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Approximately 25% of Pastor Willis' church members work at the LWF.

Visiting the congregations in Copenhagen, Berlin, and Geneva and talking with our Synod pastors who serve there was inspiring and educational for me. In all three locations, I was struck with this key realization: being a congregation made up of people from all over the world is both a wonderful gift and a healthy challenge. The gift of an international congregation is that you receive ideas, life-experiences, and resources from all over the world. The challenge is learning to work together when you come from various world views and life-experiences all over the world!

The church members in Copenhagen, Berlin, and Geneva are people from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas who choose to worship in English. Many come from a Lutheran background, but many other members are from other Christian denominations. Coming from different countries and different church backgrounds, their accustomed methods and ideas of what a 'normal' congregation is like and how it operates will vary according to each person. For example, church members from different countries will have different practices and customs about worship, evangelism, how congregational decisions are made, and what role the pastor plays. As they gather and work together in an international congregation, their variety of backgrounds and experiences are a real gift. Each member and family has ideas to offer and suggestions to make about how to do effective ministry, based on what they have done in their home congregations. At the same time, this variety of backgrounds can be a healthy challenge for them, as each person and family probably assume that their way of doing things is the 'normal and right' way to do it. When people discover that they have different ideas and approaches, it is natural that a variety of feelings can emerge: delight, surprise, confusion, and tension. The challenge becomes: how do we benefit from our different perspectives, rather than letting them splinter us apart.

In talking with the pastors, I learned that three basic practices are essential for being an international congregation:

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*Bishop's Sabbatical, continued from page 4*

1. God's love and grace is what brings us together and this will be the center of our worship and work together. We will be different in a variety of ways, but we are made one by the love of God and the presence of the Spirit of Christ in our midst.
2. Everyone's ideas and suggestions are welcomed. A healthy congregation invites brainstorming and the passionate sharing of ideas. Disagreements are explored rather than covered up, so that all can learn from each other.
3. As differences are explored, insults and blanket rejections of people are not permitted. People cannot say, "My way is the only Christian way to do this. Therefore, you and your way are un-Christian and not to be tolerated." Differences are managed and explored under the umbrella of God's deep love for us all.

The vision statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva expresses this very well:

*We are...*

*...a community on the move, discovering Christ together on the journey of faith.*

*...a parish of many cultures and traditions, with deep Lutheran roots and wide ecumenical branches.*

*...a home-away-from-home, with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.*

*...a church with open arms, where each person is welcome in God's all-inclusive love.*

*...a congregation where music, liturgy, and prayer reflect the richness of the global church.*

*...followers of Jesus, seeking God's justice, peace, and grace in personal and common witness.*

It struck me that the international Lutheran congregations of Copenhagen, Berlin, and Geneva can be our teachers. First of all, congregations that are made up of people of all colors, languages, and identities are a vision and model of what God wants for all of us. Second, the congregations also teach us how to handle our differences as both gifts and healthy challenges. All of us have various kinds of 'differences' in our congregations, which can often lead to tensions. These three international congregations model for us that our life and unity is a free gift from God, which then frees us to act with compassion, fairness, and mutual respect towards one another. As we deal with the differences in our own congregations, families and country, these faithful siblings in Christ teach us how to grow together, rather than splinter apart.

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*Bishop's Sabbatical, continued from page 5*



Our Sabbatical trip had many other highlights. I was able to visit for the first time the little village of Levenhagen, in northeast Germany, where my mother's family came from in the mid-1800's. Her family name is Levenhagen. My father's family came from the village of Alt Grabau, a little farther to the east in what is now Poland.



Another highlight of the trip is that our son, Nick, *shown left*, flew over from New York and joined us for the last seven days. We all enjoyed a lot of exploring, learning, and eating good food together!

I invite you to join with me in praying and giving thanks for Pastor Rachel Eskesen, Pastor Tim Stewart and Pastor Andy Willis, as they serve the American Church in Berlin, The International Church in Copenhagen and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Geneva. (Pray also for Pastor Christi Manisto, who serves St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cairo, Egypt. Pastor Manisto, who formerly served as pastor at Beautiful Savior, Vancouver, is the fourth pastor from our Synod serving an international congregation. However, Cairo was unfortunately too distant to visit on this trip.)

Thank you again for the gift of the Sabbatical. There are more stories to tell about the places we visited and the good books that I read along the way. I will share those with you as time goes on.

God bless you in your life and ministry!

Bishop Rick Jaech



And more from Bishop Jaech's travels...Prayer candles at the Marienkirche in Lübeck, Germany, upper left, and the top of a baptismal font at a small church in Luzern, Switzerland, upper right.

## **Congregations in Transition -October 2021**

*Lord, we pray for your wisdom, insight, and peace for these congregations the leaders in our synod who are working through a time of pastoral transition. We give you thanks for each and every one. Amen.*

<b>Congregations</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Pastoral Care</b>
Bethany, Longview	P	I	Pulpit Supply & Sr. Karen Norton
Calvary, Federal Way	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Christ, Federal Way	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Faith, Elma	P	NV	Rev. Dan Wilson
First, South Bend	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Gloria Dei, Kelso	P	TR	Pr. Elten Zerby
Gull Harbor, Olympia	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Messiah, Auburn	AP	TR	Pr. Chuck Harris
Mountain View, Edgewood	P	I	Pr. Kim Latterell and Pr. Briana Merkle
Prince of Peace, Forks	P	TR	Pr. Mike Hanson
Spirit of Life, Pt Orchard	P	NV	Marietta Nelson-Bittle, SAM
St. John's, Lakewood	P	TR	Pr. Paul Freese
Stella, Longview	P	NV	Pr. Lydia Brannon
Trinity, Parkland	P	NV	Pr. Jonette Blakney/Pr. Ron Kempe
Twin Harbors, Grayland	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Zion, Camas	P	TR	Assoc Pr. Susan Dollinger

*Mobility position key*  
P – Pastor  
AP – Associate Pastor  
D- Deacon

*Mobility status key:*  
NV – New Vacancy  
TR – Transition  
I – Interviewing  
C – Calling  
SAM- Synod Authorized Minister

Roster updates listed on next page

**Roster Updates:**

**Synod Calls:** Rev. Jeffery Gaustad, Chaplain (elision, Tacoma, effective 9/20/21)

**On Leave from Call (education):**

Rev. Leonard Duncan (Jubilee Collective/Messiah Lutheran, Vancouver, effective 7/31/21);

**On Leave from Call:**

Rev. Sarah Schier-Hanson (Assoc. Chaplain, elision, Tacoma, effective 8/25/21)

Rev. Becca Parkins (Interim Chaplain, elision, Tacoma, effective 8/10/21)

**Retirements:**

Rev. Amy Hessel retired effective 5/14/21 from the ELCA clergy roster after being on leave from call for 3 years

Rev. Albin Fogelquist retired 8/31/21 after being on leave from call for 3 years

Rev. Dan Wiktorek retires on 9/30/21 after serving Twin Harbors Lutheran in Grayland for 14 years

Rev. Suzanne Appelo retires on 10/10/21 after serving Gull Harbor Lutheran in Olympia for 16 years.

**We are the body of Christ**

*By ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton*



There was once a time when two distinct peoples were trying to comprehend how they could be one people. One was a millennia-old people who had persevered through enslavement, oppression and exile. And they still preserved their identity and trust in God. They believed that God had blessed them to be a blessing to all humanity even when the rest of humanity reacted violently against them. They believed that God had made an everlasting covenant with them and had given them a sign of that promise.

The other people were hostile, polytheistic, the majority and suspicious of the other. They rejected any claims by the other group that a life lived by covenant obligations could possibly be a good one. This wasn't just a lack of understanding, but antagonism and contempt.

Then, something happened. Through the cross these two peoples became one people. This is the story of the first-century church. "But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us" (Ephesians 2:13-14).

I think it's difficult for 21st-century Christians to comprehend the seismic shift that had occurred. The very first Christians were Jews. They didn't see themselves apart from the covenant God had made with God's people. The Torah wasn't an arbitrary collection of burdensome requirements. It was the living voice of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in their midst and throughout their

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*We are the Body of Christ continued from page 8*

lives. The circumcision of males was a sign of that covenant, a sign instituted by God and communicated to the people by Moses. Jesus was circumcised. Paul was circumcised. The male disciples were circumcised.

But what to do about the uncircumcised gentiles? How could they possibly be considered part of the covenant? They were “other,” literally beyond the pale. “So then, remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called ‘the uncircumcision’ by those who are called ‘the circumcision’ ... remember

that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world” (Ephesians 2:11-12).

This was a critical moment for the early church. Paul and others had witnessed the Spirit at work among the gentiles, who weren’t circumcised and, therefore, weren’t considered to be heirs of the covenant. The dispute between the two groups was heated. It went to the very core of what it meant to be part of the church. Peter and Paul weren’t of one mind. Could these competing understandings of God’s work in the community be reconciled?

This was brought to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. They took counsel from Scripture, tradition and the report of the outpouring of the Spirit. They then sent this decision to the gentiles: “For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to impose on you no further burden than these essentials: that you abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from fornication. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well” (Acts 15:28-29). They were “no longer strangers and aliens,” but “citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God” (Ephesians 2:19).

They were one body. We are one body. We are the body of Christ. We are members one of another and knit together by and in Christ. Yes, we have significant disagreement about very important issues, but our cultural and political differences cannot dissolve this bond.

We can take heart from the example of the early church. If, by the Spirit’s power, they could set aside their differences—which were far greater than any of ours—then we, too, by the power of the Spirit, can live into the unity that already exists in Christ.

*A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address is [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org). This column originally appeared in Living Lutheran’s September 2021 column. © ELCA. Reprinted with permission.*

## Synod Native American Work Team

By Pastor Linda Smith, Chair of Native American Work Team, Elder of the Tulalip Tribe



*The image on the right, "Upstream", was commissioned for our Synod Native American Work Team, and created by artist Toni Jo Govin, a Tulalip Tribal Member, for their use.*

Our synod is blessed to be situated with many Indian tribes as neighbors. Our Synod Native American Work Team aspires to: Curate Resources, Cultivate Sacred Curiosity and Encourage Mutual

Relationships between our congregations and their Native American neighbors.

With the change over to the new synod web site we are working on putting in links to many resources that would be helpful for you in planning your worship services and education programming. It is taking longer than expected, so please be

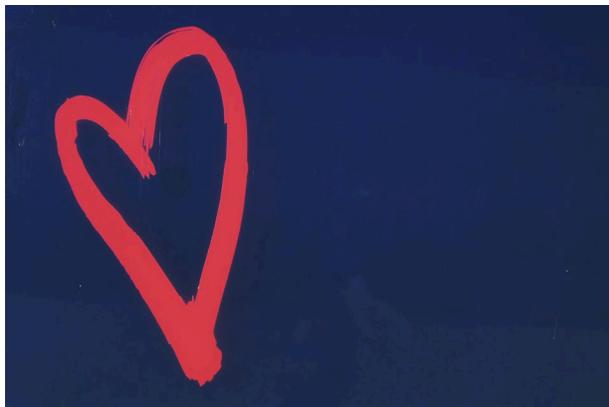
patient.

The American Indian/Alaskan Native Lutheran Association recently sent out a request for congregations to place an orange banner in your worship space in memory of the many children's graves that have been located at Indian Boarding Schools, in Canada and in our own country. There is an expectation that more graves will be found as an investigation into these schools goes forward. Yes, we did have an Indian Boarding School in Tacoma. The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition holds September 30 as a National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools.

I know that Orange is not a liturgical color, and you can't order one, however you can put your creative quilt makers to work and you can intentionally include survivors and families of this trauma in your Prayers of the People for a year. Let us know how you are lifting up God's people. You can find more information at the web site of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition [boardingschoolhealing.org](http://boardingschoolhealing.org) and <https://www.facebook.com/NNABSHC/>

Words are so important, once spoken they can't be taken back. Team members have put together core words for a Model Land Acknowledgement. It is not as easy as you might think, the land may have been used by one tribe or it may have been a gathering place for many tribes. It is our intent to be as inclusive as possible. It will be released soon. It will need you to do your own research on which tribes used the land before you to make it appropriate for your congregation.

Thank you to the congregations that continue to lift up our native neighbors by including a Native American Celebration Sunday in their church year calendar.



## Falling In Love with JESUS

Saturday, October 9, 2021

9am-12:30pm

Virtual Synod Women of the ELCA  
Conference and business meeting

Join the Women of the ELCA in the  
Southwestern Washington Synod  
for their annual conference and business  
meeting – **online** and **free!**

Register online by congregation at <https://conta.cc/3yWtPWl>

Cost: FREE this year.

Where: On Zoom. Zoom link will be sent to you after registration is received. continued next page

WELCA COne active female member from each congregation may register as a voting member for the business portion. For Bible study portion, all voting members and non-voting members may continued next page

participate in the keynote with Pastor Rebecca Shjerven, Synod Bishop's Associate on Falling in Love with Jesus, and the prayers, and meet Joy Michalick , National WELCA President, and watch the business meeting portion without voting. Full agenda will be emailed out prior to event.

Nominations for 3 open Board positions are available online at:

<https://forms.gle/qkX4ZRN1rYmJZs28>

Questions: 360-921-6771 or [khjsayler@gmail.com](mailto:khjsayler@gmail.com) or Allison at the Synod Office at 253-535-8300; [swwasynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwasynod@plu.edu).

## How to Practice Gratitude

September 9, 2021- *Tithe.ly* blog  
by Courtney Berk



*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV)*

### Gratitude in Scripture

In the gospel of Luke in chapter 17, Jesus encounters ten lepers, desperate for healing and change. Jesus sends them to the priests to complete the proper Jewish rituals for men who are *continued next page*

*Continued from page 11*

healed from leprosy. As the men make their way to the priests they are healed from their leprosy, a truly miraculous and life changing moment for them. This story illustrates two main points:

1. Ten men with leprosy were miraculously healed by Jesus.
2. Only one of the ten men thanked Jesus for being healed.

In what is perhaps the crux of the story, Luke tells us that only one of the ten men came back to thank Jesus. Jesus's response to this was "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?" (Luke 17:17, NIV)

What quality or characteristic did the one grateful man have that the other nine did not?

For most of us who live in a first world country, it is easy to take for granted some of the provisions God blesses us with in our lives. For many of us the aspects that make up our daily routine – having multiple meals a day, fresh water to drink, clean clothes to wear, a comfortable house to live in and a bed to sleep in – are not often considered as generous blessings from God. It can feel like a chore in and of itself to consistently take time to thank God for the abundant blessings in life.

As we see in the story of Jesus and the lepers, ingratitude is nothing new. Ingratitude is a part of the human condition. Even more so, our 21st century world does not create an environment that helps us to practice gratitude. We are constantly bombarded with ads that tell us we need more to be truly happy. Social media convinces us that we don't have enough to keep up with those around us. Our lives are so rushed and our minds so filled that it isn't natural to carve out time to pray and give thanks to God beyond the pre-meal blessing.

### **Practicals for Practicing Gratitude**

So, how do we change this?

Just like other **spiritual disciplines**, practicing gratitude requires being intentional. Being grateful in a society that preaches consumerism will require training and patience. Incorporating gratitude with spiritual disciplines like prayer and meditation is a helpful way to make sure it is a consistent practice in your life. Set aside prayer time to only thank God for everything in your life. Take time to meditate and journal solely about what you are thankful for. Here are three practical tips to guide you as you build the practice of giving thanks into your daily life.

### **3 Tips For Practicing Biblical Gratitude**

1. Create a gratitude list with a certain number of items. A powerful book about gratitude is "One Thousand Gifts" by Ann Voskamp. This book chronicles her life changing journey as she writes down one thousand unique gifts from God in her life. Consider creating a similar goal for yourself. Maybe it's not a list of one thousand things, but one hundred. Decide what number challenges you to become more grateful.
2. Set aside a segment of time each day to practice gratitude. Take time to pray and give thanks to God or to journal a list of what you are grateful for that day. Set aside time right when you wake up, before you go to bed, during your lunch break, or whatever works best for you. Do this every day for a set amount of days and at the end of your time frame, evaluate how practicing gratitude has influenced your daily life
3. Practice gratitude in the hard times. We have hard days mentally, emotionally, and

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*Continued from page 12*

physically. We have busy days. We have disappointing days. We have frustrating days. Push yourself to practice gratitude especially in these times. You will find that the renewed perspective gratitude gives you helps you get through these days and see God's goodness even amidst the hard times.

### **Taking Gratitude Deeper**

Reframing our thinking to be grateful for the things that may seem very small and ordinary will renew our perspective. Have you ever thought about how amazing it is that the human eye can see millions of different colors? Have you seen God's goodness in the beauty of the colors you see? Have you stopped to give thanks to God for something like the smell of apple pie or your favorite fresh flowers? Have you thanked God for the sweet sound of a baby's coos? Have you noticed how amazing it is to feel the sun warming your skin while you're touched by a gentle breeze?

Take a moment right now to stop and think about three blessings from God in your day today. Try to start by paying attention to what is right in front of you.

For me, I see vibrant red, orange, and yellow flowers. I hear the giggle of my baby nephew playing with his grandma. I feel warm in my cozy sweater in a cool house. All things that may seem small and ordinary, but are evidence of God's blessing and grace in my life. The details show how much he cares for us.

Though our world is broken, hurting, and full of darkness, when God created the world he saw that it was good. God is a masterful creator that designed so many beautiful things in this world for us to enjoy. As Psalm 33:5 says, "...The earth is full of the goodness of the Lord." (NIV). We just have to take time to acknowledge his goodness. God finds joy in what he has created in this world and the good things humans have created, and he is pleased when we take time to find this same joy.

### **Benefits of Practicing Gratitude**

**It strengthens our love for God and awareness of his goodness.**

"Every good and perfect gift is from above..." (James 1:17, NIV)

When we take time to thank God for the blessings in our life, whether big or small, we see how much God cares for us and how good he is. He is a good Father and he knows how to give us good gifts (Matthew 7:11). We feel loved by what a good Father he is to us and he feels loved by us taking time to express our praise and thanks for who he is and what he has done for us.

**It helps us to be content.**

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. (1 Timothy 6:6-7 NIV)

When we shift our focus on what we have instead of what we don't have, we become more of who Christ desires us to be. Focusing on the blessings of our life sets us apart from a world that wants us to constantly desire more from life and allows us to feel at peace. It allows our minds to be consumed with Christ instead of discontentment, selfishness, and greed.

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*Gratitude, continued from page 13*

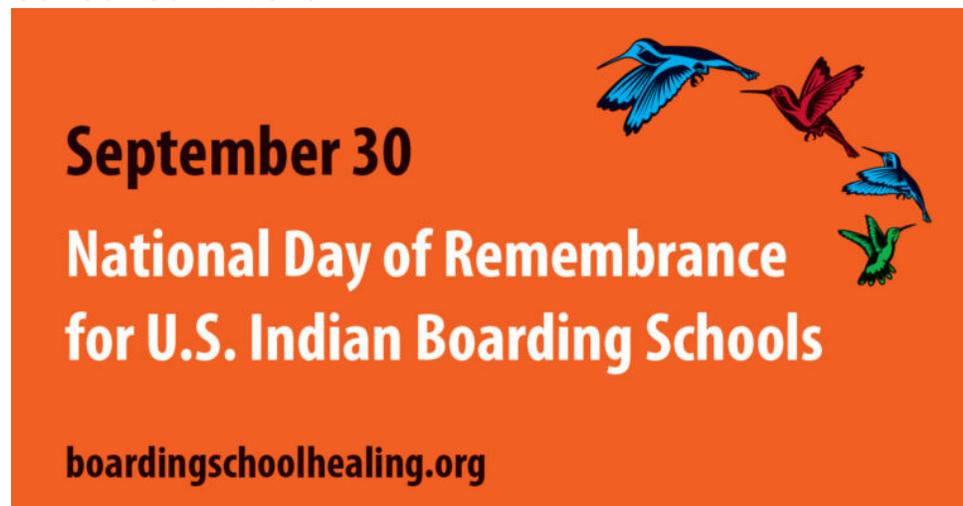
**It creates a path for generosity.**

One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. (Proverbs 11:24 ESV). Living in a place of gratitude allows us to be the cheerful givers God desires. By focusing on the blessings in our life, we become more and more convinced that God will take care of us no matter what. Gratitude gives us the confidence to let go of some of our material wealth, knowing that God's blessings are present no matter the conditions of our wealth. As we find God's goodness in our lives, the response is to share that goodness with others and not only keep it to ourselves.

**Gratitude Breeds Generosity**

A 2015 neurobiological **psychology study** showed that "generosity and gratitude are separate sides of the same coin. They are symbiotic." When it comes to church growth – for each unique person in the church and for the church as a whole – the act of giving back generously correlates to the level of gratitude the members feel first. **Simply put: a bunch of people who aren't grateful are less likely to give back to their community generously than a group of folks that intimately understand and recognize all they have in their lives to be grateful for.**

## Healing Informed Events to Honor Native American Boarding School Survivors



**September 30**  
**National Day of Remembrance**  
**for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools**

**boardingschoolhealing.org**

<https://boardingschoolhealing.org/tips-on-planning-a-healing-informed-event-to-honor-boarding-school-survivors/?fbclid=IwAR3gLDw3FcmMIhkiLckEyhc7Fv-8EhBZRPkKewzNRT6gi8btskalnCTJLn0>



## Upcoming Educational Opportunities

### PLU Fall Trainings Open to the Public

#### **Pursuing a Meaningful Life** with Dr. Samuel Torvend '73

*Thursday, September 30, 5:00-6:00pm*

As part of PLU's Homecoming celebrations, this virtual workshop invites you to explore PLU's distinctive understanding of vocation and how that view gives meaning and purpose to the lives of students and alumni. For more information and to register, visit [plu.edu/homecoming](https://plu.edu/homecoming).

#### **The 11th Annual Lutheran Studies Conference** featuring Dr. Deanna Thompson

"Living with Mortality: Illness, Trauma, Joy and Hope"

*Tuesday, October 5, including 12:00-3:00pm virtual sessions & 7:00pm Keynote Lecture*

This year's Lutheran Studies Conference will focus on finding hope and love in the wake of the pandemic and will address the various forms of trauma and loss we continue to face. We will look at how we carry both joy and brokenness as individuals and also what it means for our vocations of caregiving for one another and our community. For more information and to register, visit [plu.edu/lutheran-studies-conference](https://plu.edu/lutheran-studies-conference).

#### **2021 Powell-Heller Conference for Holocaust Education** featuring Dr. Yehuda Bauer and Dr. Christopher Browning

"Holocaust Denial And Distortion"

*Wednesday, October 27*

PLU's mission to support the education of our students and larger community on issues of diversity and justice are intimately connected to the study of the tragedy of the Holocaust. Students can see that marginalization of a minority group, such as the Jews of Nazi Germany, can lead to life-threatening situations culminating in one of the world's modern genocides. Issues of distortion and denial make the process of reconciliation and healing less likely and serve as an insult to the memory of all those whose lives were destroyed in the Holocaust. For more information and to register, visit [plu.edu/holocaustconference](https://plu.edu/holocaustconference).

#### **The 16th Annual David & Marilyn Knutson Lecture** featuring Rev. Dr. James Martin-Schramm '81

"Bonhoeffer, the Church, and the Climate Question"

*Tuesday, November 2, at 7:00pm via Zoom*

Where virulent anti-Semitism was the most important issue facing the church in Bonhoeffer's day, Martin-Schramm argues Bonhoeffer would have grave concerns about the impacts of climate change on present and future generations. The lecture explores tensions between patriotism and resistance and considers how God is at work in the world today among all who are striving for climate justice. For more information and to register, visit [plu.edu/religion/events/knutson-lecture](https://plu.edu/religion/events/knutson-lecture).

*More training opportunities next pages*

**Foundation Courses in Faith Community Nursing 2021-2022**The Faith Community Health Network and Linn-Benton Extended Learning Offering the Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course (formerly referred to as Parish Nursing) for nurses and a concurrent Foundations for Health Ministry course for Lay members of faith communities, via Zoom. Mondays and Tuesdays 8am-5pm, 11/15-16, 11/29-30 and 12/13-14 (12/14 final day ends at 2pm). Samaritan Health Services has provided financial assistance making the 6 day class cost \$299, which includes three textbooks and 38 Contact hours for continuing education. Contact Deb Fell-Carson, faithcommunityhealthnetwork@gmail.com

**Pacific Lutheran University and Congregational Health Ministries Program at CHI Franciscan in Tacoma WA.** They are offering the Foundations Course January-February 2022. Dates and cost will be published later this month. Please contact Sarah Lane at [director@healthministriesnetwork.net](mailto:director@healthministriesnetwork.net) to get connected!

**Health Ministries Network in Bellingham, WA.** They are offering Foundations courses for both Faith Community Nurses and Health Ministers through Western Washington Universities. It will be offered online over nine weeks, from 4/9/22-6/11/22. There will be live Zoom sessions on 4/9, 5/7, and 6/11. Each weeks material and assignments will be posted in WWU Canvas system.

They are providing 38 contact hours. Cost of the program is \$375. per person including materials and contact hours. Ask about group rates: Contact Carol Nicolay at csnicolay@gmail.com. Or (360) 510-9797.

## **Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association Courses**

### **Ministering to Those Who Live with Dementia and Those Who Love Them Through It**

Presented by the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association

Date: October 12, 2021

Time: 4-6pm PT

Location: Zoom (online)

Registration fee: \$20 for ELPNA members/\$30 for non-members

Registration is online: Please go to [www.ELPNA.org](http://www.ELPNA.org) to register.

Contact Region one ELPNA Director-Anita Huntley at [parishnurse@ctksnohomish.org](mailto:parishnurse@ctksnohomish.org) or (206) 931-7976 Voice or Text

Our speakers will be: **Marty Finley, M.Ed. and Masters in Gerontology**, Memory Care Navigator at Sun Health in Arizona;

**Carolyn Klaver, RN and former Lyngblomsten Parish Nurse.** Carolyn is now the Community Dementia Care Specialist at Lyngblomsten in St. Paul, MN.

2 contact hrs of continuing education have been applied for *Trainings continued next page*

*Parish Nursing courses continued from page 16*

All Faith Community Nurses/Parish Nurses are Invited to a Meet & Greet hosted by:

**WHO: All ELCA Region 1 & 2 Faith Community Nurses/Parish Nurses & all nurses involved in Health Ministry from all 11 Synods:** Alaska, Montana, Oregon, SW Washington, NW Washington, NW Intermountain, Sierra Pacific, Southwest California, Pacifica, Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Synods

**When:** Tuesday, October 5, 2021 Happy Hour time! 4:30 – 5:30 MT, 3:30 – 4:30 PT

**Where:** Zoom meeting in the comfort of your home or office

**How:** RSVP for an email Zoom link to [glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org](mailto:glusenkamp@augustanadenver.org)

Call in number will also be provided with zoom

**Why:** 1. Network with fellow FCNs/PNs in Regions 1&2 First time combining with Region 1, so meet and greet new faces!

2. Learn more about our NEW website <https://www.elpna.org/>

3. Be prepared to share one success story this year!

4. Receive updates from our National ELPNA Board members: Andy West, Deborah Frusciano and Sue Ann Glusenkamp

Contact Region 1 ELPNA Director-Anita Huntley at [parishnurse@ctksnohomish.org](mailto:parishnurse@ctksnohomish.org) or (206) 931-7976 Voice or Text

## Practical Resources for Churches October Free Webinars

All webinars are recorded. Click the title to register or read description.

### Small Churches, Big Impact

Tuesday, October 5

2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

**Leader: Blake Bradford**

Most congregations in the nation have a membership under 100, but most books and workshops are created by mega-churches. In this webinar, Dr. Blake Bradford shares how smaller congregations can use their unique giftedness to fulfill God's mission. He says smaller churches can enhance their vitality by clarifying their purpose, engaging their local community, leveraging small church relational intimacy to reach people and nurture disciples, rightsizing their leadership and governance structures to empower laity, and strategically utilizing pastoral leadership.

*Rev. Blake Bradford, D.Min., is a District*

*Superintendent in the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church and Dean of the Appointive Cabinet. A co-author of Mission Possible: A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness and IMPACT! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry, Blake has pastored churches of different sizes*  
Continuing next page



*Small Churches, continued from page 17*

*and contexts, including a solo pastorate in a small Arkansas church and serving as executive pastor of a 3500-member congregation in Little Rock. Before his appointment to the Cabinet, Blake served the Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality as a congregational coach, consultant, and conflict transformation mediator. A graduate of Hendrix College, he has masters degrees from Vanderbilt University and Iliff School of Theology, and holds a Doctor of Ministry from Perkins School of Theology at SMU. Learn more about Blake and download resources at [www.blakebradford.org](http://www.blakebradford.org).*

**Urban Village: An Upside Down Gospel for Living in the City**

**Tuesday, October 5**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM Eastern**

**Leaders: InnerCHANGE East Harlem**

InnerCHANGE East Harlem with ecumenical partners is launching an initiative for the Fall beginning with Urban Village: An Upside Down Gospel for Living in the City.

The stoop and the sidewalk helped people stay sane during the COVID-19 lockdown. As life resumes can we hold onto the vision of a "stronger together" village, especially in our densely populated city blocks? We invite Christians who are engaged in building back stronger (we might call it hyper-local) neighborhoods to share ideas and promote the best practice. Some call it the reinvigorated walkable parish. Join this movement to get Jesus' followers to turn, face and engage with their actual neighbors, block by block, street by street.

**Finding Intentional Community Online: The Story Of Queeranteen Camp (Youth Ministry)**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern**

**Leaders: Drew Stever, Hazel Salazar Davidson**

The internet has a lot to offer - both good and bad. In the last couple decades, many communities have had to negotiate how they incorporate and leave out technology from their spaces. How can it enhance the experience? How can it take away? What many faith communities have forgotten is that faith is bigger than a building, or specific location. It expands beyond our own borders and meets us where we are at - whether we are in our bedroom, living room, or garage office, on our screens, in our hands, on our desks.

***Rev. Drew Stever - they/he***

*Pastor Drew serves as Lead Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Hollywood, CA.*

***Rev. Hazel Salazar-Davidson - she/her/ella***

*Pastor Hazel serves as Assistant to the Bishop for Authentic Diversity, Inclusive Community and Service in the Sierra Pacific synod.*

*More classes page 19*

*PRC workshops continued from page 18*

**Getting and Keeping Talented, Engaged Volunteers**

**Tuesday October 19, 2021**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Leader - Judy Urban**

Learn about the challenges of getting volunteers to use their talents in your faith community and how you can create an effective system model. We'll cover ways to help people identify their gifts, *Continued next page*

collecting and using the data, and the importance of position descriptions for each ministry. Ms. Urban will outline an annual recruitment plan and suggest ways to involve the entire congregation in a celebration of ministries.

**Judy Urban** is an experienced practitioner in building systems that invite, support, train, and show appreciation to congregation members in using their talents and strengths in the volunteer ministries of the faith community. She created a system composed of over 2600 volunteer positions in a large suburban church in the Midwest. Judy has over 15 years working as an independent consultant to congregations across the United States in building personalized systems

of ministry support, utilizing best practices of volunteer management. She has mentored new directors of Shared Ministry. Judy has given workshops, seminars, and presentations to many synods and dioceses, as well as at the International Stewardship Conference, Minnesota Association of Volunteer Administrations conferences, and several regional Nurses Associations. Ms Urban has published a book entitled *New Life Through Shared Ministry, Moving from Volunteering to Mission*.

**Sustaining Faith Online**

**Thursday, October 28**

**2:00 - 3:00 PM**

**Leader - Natalie Perkins**

Join us for strategies to help you sustain a consistent and life-giving presence online. We'll look at ways to simplify and target your online content, but we'll also be considering how to integrate your online work into your life and that of your community of faith.

***Rev. Natalie Renee Perkins*** serves as *Digital Minister and Director of Digital Ministry at Middle Collegiate Church, helping to build and hold its online church and community. She received her Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in 2015 and was awarded the Karen Ziegler Feminist Preaching Prize. She became an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ denomination in 2020.*

*Natalie also serves as a chaplain/spiritual life advisor for NYU Global Spiritual Life and was recently awarded Chaplain of the Year. As a theologian, she is the co-founder of the Tanho Center where she lectures and works with extracanonical texts. She also works with the Westar Institute to bridge the gap between religious scholarship and the general public. Her album, Songs of Your Truth, is available on any major music streaming and/or purchasing platform.*

## **New Steven Ministries Training**

*Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry that now has a live, interactive online training experience called the Bridge Leader's Training Course (BLTC). This event fully trains Stephen Leaders—the pastors, church staff, and lay leaders who begin and lead Stephen Ministry in their congregation.*

*The Bridge Leader's Training Course is delivered via Zoom to cohorts of twenty people, led by two members of Stephen Ministries' teaching faculty. Each session uses a variety of teaching methods—presentation, small- and whole-group discussions, skill practice, video, and more. The course consists of ten sessions held twice weekly for five weeks or once weekly for ten weeks.*

*To learn more about Stephen Ministry, visit [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org) or call (314) 428-2600. Additional information about the Bridge Leader's Training Course is available at [www.stephenministries.org/bridge](http://www.stephenministries.org/bridge) //*