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Moments for Mission

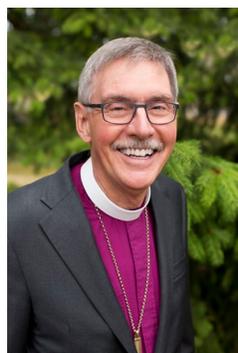
Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.

October 2022

Martin Luther's other 50th Anniversary

By Bishop Rick Jaech, Southwestern Washington Synod



Dear Friends in Christ.

This year we are celebrating another 500th anniversary in the history of the Lutheran church. Five years ago, on October 31, 2017, we celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It was on that date in 1517 that Luther posted his beliefs on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, and invited debate. This resulted in so much debate and outright conflict that the Roman Catholic church in western Europe was split into a variety of reform movements and denominations, including the Lutheran church.

This year, 2022, we celebrate a second 500th anniversary. In 1522, Martin Luther completed his translation of the New Testament from Greek and Latin into the everyday language of the German people. Luther went on to translate the whole of the Bible into German, with the first edition published in Wittenberg in 1534.



Luther did his translating work from May 1521 to March 1522, while he was staying in hiding at the Wartburg castle (pictured above). Luther had been taken to Wartburg for
Continued next page

Martin Luther, continued from page 1

his safety at the order of Frederick the Wise, the Elector of Saxony, following Luther's excommunication by Pope Leo X and his refusal to recant at the Diet of Worms.

Luther wanted everybody in the towns and cities of German to be able to read or at least hear the Bible in their own language. This flowed out of his new awareness of the radical love of God. With infinite grace, God loves everybody fully and equally, not just kings and popes. Therefore, Luther believed that everybody should be able to directly hear and read about God's love in their everyday language, not just the scholars and priests who read Latin. Inspired by Luther, William Tyndale, a scholar from Oxford, England, completed the first translation of the Bible into English three years later in 1525.

Of course, Luther also realized that the majority of Germans would not be able to actually read his newly translated Bible, since only the sons of the wealthiest class were educated and taught to read at private schools. Furthermore, he knew that it was essential for a healthy society and also a healthy church to have all children receive a good education.

Therefore, in 1524 he wrote a letter to the city councils of all the cities in the German states urging them to provide a publicly-funded, elementary education for both boys and girls. His strong advocacy gave birth to the first public school system in the world that was free and included all genders. This was a revolutionary moment. (It also means that in 2024 we can celebrate a third 500th anniversary aided by Luther: public education for all!)

I recommend to you a series of three books about the teachings of Martin Luther that explore how his re-discovery of God's grace not only brought good news to the inner, spiritual state of each individual, but how the same grace also brings healing and justice to the way we live together in society. The three books are:

[The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation](#) by Carter Lindberg and Paul A. Wee

[The Forgotten Luther II: Reclaiming the Church's Public Witness](#) by Ryan P Cumming

[The Forgotten Luther III: Reclaiming a Vision of Global Community](#) by Conrad A. Braaten and Ryan P. Cumming

The Reformation continues. God wants full life and shalom for us at every level of our lives: soul, relationships, society and creation. May the Holy Spirit help us to open ourselves to all of the stirrings of new life and transformation that God brings to us each day.

Bishop Rick Jaech



On the Road with the Bishop



Aug. 6 - 12 Attended the national ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, OH, with seven elected voting members from our Southwestern Washington Synod, shown above, *left to right*, Tom Hulst, Kathy Long, Rev. Horacio Castillo, Synod VP Darcy Huffman, Joe Fernandez, Emily Shane, and Rev. Annie Jones-Barnes.

Continued next page

On the Road, Continued from page 3



Aug. 21 Celebrated the Ordination of Pastor Jenny Kim, above center, at Light of Grace Lutheran in Federal Way. Pastor Kim is the first first-generation Korean woman to be ordained in the ELCA! She serves with her husband, Pastor Sang Soo Kim, *far left above*.

Sept. 4 Preached at Twin Harbors Lutheran Church in Grayland, *shown right*, and their partner congregation South Beach Presbyterian Church in Westport.



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On the Road, continued from page 4

Sept. 11 Installed Rev. Pamela Pond and Rev. Kim Latterell as Interim Pastors at Lutheran Church of Christ the King in Midland (Tacoma), shown left.

Sept. 18 Preached at Spirit of Life Lutheran in Port Orchard, where Pastor Marietta Nelson-Bittle serves, shown right.



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On the Road, continued from page 5



Sept. 24 Attending an appreciation event for the bishops, past and present, of our Southwestern Washington Synod. Above from right to left: Bishop Rick Jaech (2013 – current), Bishop Emeritus Rob Hofstad (2001-2013), Bishop Emeritus David Wold (1987-2001), Synod VP Darcy Huffman, Rev. Lyle Miller (retired bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod in CA), Rev. Bob Keller (retired bishop of the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod-now named the Northwest Intermountain Synod)

Congregations in Transition -October 2022

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

Congregations	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
Calvary, Federal Way	P	C	Pr. Alan Berg
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Pr. Mike Hanson
Gloria Dei, Olympia	P	TR	Pr. Dan Wilson; Deacon SAM Carla Spaccarotelli
Key Peninsula, Lakebay	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Living Stones Prison Congregation, WCC Shelton	P	NV	Pr. Eric Utto-Galarneau
Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma	P	TR	Pr. Pamela Griffith Pond and Pr. Kim Latterell
Messiah, Vancouver	P	NV	Pr. David Brauer-Rieke, Pr. Tom Tweed
Prince of Peace, Forks	P	TR	Don Corson, SAM
St Paul, Winlock	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Trinity, Parkland	P	TR	Pr. Jonette Blakney/Pr. Ron Kempe
Twin Harbors, Grayland	P	NV	Pulpit Supply

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

Synod Calls:

- **Rev. Christopher Ode** , Assistant Chaplain, eliseo, Tacoma, (effective September 1, 2022.)
- **Rev. Pamela Griffith Pond**, Interim Coach, Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma, (effective September 1, 2022)

On Leave from Call:

- Rev. Megan Filer from Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma (effective June 1, 2022)

Following the September 24th appreciation of our synod bishops, past and present, our two past bishops sent this thank you letter to members of this synod:



Dear members of the Southwestern Washington Synod,

We want to thank each of you, and particularly Bishop Rick Jaech, Darcy Huffman, Kathryn Nelson, and Allison Kies, for a heartwarming reception on September 24th. Those who were present represented colleagues, co-workers, and good friends. In addition, to be gifted with the official designation of Bishops Emeriti is both an honor and a privilege.

As each of us listened to the stories being told—stories from the very beginnings of the ELCA and the Southwestern Washington Synod—it brought back many memories of special events and important occasions at which one of us represented the Synod and our larger Church. It has indeed been an honor to have served under the title of “Bishop of the SWWA Synod.”

May God in Christ by the Holy Spirit continue to guard and guide both our Southwestern Washington Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Rich blessings to each of you.

In Christ,

Robert D. Hofstad & David C. Wold

5 things you need to know from the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

The denomination's first meeting since the pandemic saw the election of the first Asian American vice president, as well as support for the #Landback movement and a long-awaited apology.



By Emily McFarlan Miller

COLUMBUS, Ohio (RNS) — Watching backstage as more than 800 Lutherans sang hymns on the floor of the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton mused, “We haven’t been singing like this for a long time together. “It’s really powerful.”

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gathered August 8-12 in Columbus for its first Churchwide Assembly since COVID-19 upended churches across the country in 2020.

The triennial gathering brings together members from all corners of the ELCA to hold elections, make declarations and consider legislation guiding the country’s largest Lutheran denomination. Their work continued unabated in Eaton’s absence Friday (Aug. 12) after the presiding bishop tested positive for COVID despite masking and vaccine requirements.

Here are some of the actions the ELCA Churchwide Assembly took.

RELATED: [ELCA apologizes to Latino congregation whose pastor was removed on sacred day](#)

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Churchwide Assembly, continued from page 8

Apology to Santa María Peregrina

Four representatives from Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina in Stockton, California, traveled to Columbus to receive a public apology from Eaton during the Churchwide Assembly.

The former bishop of the Sierra Pacific Synod was forced to resign after their abrupt removal of the Latino congregation's pastor on the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe sparked outcry across the denomination. Eaton's response afterward — appointing a listening team months later, then failing to immediately act on their recommendations — also drew criticism.

Eaton said the congregation's response was "very gracious," even if it was hard to hear.

"I think it was a healthy thing to do, and I'm touched by the courage of those four to stand up in front of all these people and say, 'This is how this affected us,'" she said.

Eaton said she plans to visit Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina later this month and will work with the congregation, the synod and churchwide leadership to respond to requests the congregation has made.



Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, left, addresses representatives of Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio, Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022. RNS photo by Emily McFarlan Miller

First Asian American vice president elected

The ELCA elected Imran Siddiqui as vice president of the denomination, making him the first Asian American elected to the highest office a layperson can hold.

"This is surreal," Siddiqui said after the final tally was announced.

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Churchwide Assembly, continued from page

The incoming vice president is a senior investigator for the U.S. Department of Labor and current vice president of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA, which spans Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. He grew up Muslim and became Lutheran in 2011.

Siddiqui said it was “fantastic” that the top three candidates for vice president were all people of color. They included Roberto Lara Aranda, president of Asociación Luterana de Ministerios Latinos ELCA, and Tracey Beasley, a member of Reformation Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. (Travel guru Rick Steves, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lynnwood, Washington, also received one vote on an earlier ballot.)

But, Siddiqui said, “That doesn’t mean we have solved racism yet. We have a lot of work to do, church.”

Siddiqui will take office in November, [according to Living Lutheran Magazine](#). He follows Carlos Peña, who stepped into the role after the unexpected passing of Bill Horne in 2021.

Support for #Landback movement

Voting members considered a memorial urging support for the #Landback movement. In the end, they approved a memorial encouraging ELCA members and entities to support “creative programs of restorative justice in partnership with Indigenous peoples.” That can include returning land to the appropriate Native American nations when selling or transferring property.

The memorial also encourages ELCA members and entities to explore making [land acknowledgements](#) a part of their public gatherings, to educate themselves about the Indigenous peoples whose land they inhabit and to deepen relationships with Indigenous peoples and tribal nations.

The memorial comes as the denomination [announced](#) its Declaration of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People for the first time in person at the Churchwide Assembly. The assembly also hosted a worship service designed and led by Indigenous Lutherans and an address by National Congress of American



Indians President Fawn Sharp. *Indigenous Lutherans lead a worship service, shown above, during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Aug. 10, 2022, in Columbus, Ohio.*
RNS photo by Emily McFarlan Miller

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Churchwide Assembly continued from page 9

Revisions to Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust A lot has changed since 2009.

That's when the ELCA adopted its social statement "**Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust**," which allowed Lutherans to hold differing views about same-sex relationships and opened the door for LGBTQ clergy.

Social statements are the denomination's teaching and policy documents. A memorial authorized a narrow review of the social statement about sexuality to make sure its wording "reflects current church understanding, church policy, civil law, and public acceptance of same-gender and gender non-conforming couples."

A later motion asked that the denomination in particular consider the four positions of "bound conscience" expressed in the social statement. The statement allows that "on the basis of conscience-bound belief," Lutherans may have different views about sexuality and marriage, including the view that same-sex relationships are "sinful." Revisions could be considered as early as the 2025 Churchwide Assembly.

Restructure the governance of the ELCA

Is it time for another Reformation?

Eaton said she thought the idea was "brilliant" when she first heard of plans to consider restructuring the governance of the ELCA, which was **formed 35 years ago** by a merger of three Lutheran denominations.

"Things are very different from 1980s America," she said.

Voting members seemed to think so, too. They approved a memorial directing the ELCA Church Council to establish a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church to reconsider the principles of the denomination's organizational structure and the statements of purpose for its churches, synods and the churchwide organization. The memorial instructs the commission to be "particularly attentive to our shared commitment to dismantle racism."

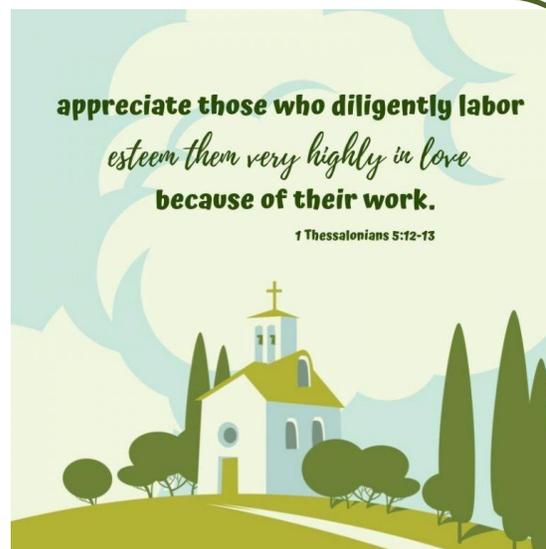
The commission will present its findings and recommendations to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a reconstituting convention.

Full 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions can be found on our website at https://swwasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Summary_of_2022_CWA_Actions.pdf

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton speaks during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio, Monday, Aug. 8, 2022. Photo by Janine Truppay, courtesy ELCA

October is National Clergy and Deacon Appreciation Month
Sunday, October 9th is Clergy and Deacon Appreciation Day (It's always the second Sunday)

How will YOU honor your pastor(s) and deacon(s)?



2023 Bishop's Convocation for rostered Clergy and Deacons
January 16-17, 2022

Byberg Preaching Workshop

January 23-25, 2023 in
 Seaside Oregon.

The 2023 main speaker is Rev. Traci Blackmon. Rev. Blackmon is the Associate General Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO.

Also! Br. Stefan Andre Waligur is onboard to be our Chaplain and Musician. Br. Stefan is a contemplative musician and composer. He has studied at the New England Conservatory, Eastern Theological Seminary, also in Ireland and Scotland.

REGISTRATION

The registration process begins by going to bybergpreachingworkshop.com. Registration deadline: December 15, 2022

SWWA 1st Third of Life Leaders Retreat

November 10-12 Copalis Beach WA.

In a post pandemic, ongoing pandemic world how do we continue to network, support and build relationships that are life giving, encouraging and lead us forward to continue to serve the church. Led by Bishops Associate Pr. Rebecca Shjerven and the synod's 1st Third of Life team For more information and to register go here: <https://forms.gle/bcBfPP5uyFuNN8E49> Space is limited to 12. Questions? contact Ingelaurie Lisher ingelaurie@smlutheran.org

Discernment

Draw on Wisdom and Openness

By Dr. Terri Martinson Elton, Luther Seminary

All decisions are not the same!

Everyday each of us make millions of decisions. Before we leave the house, we decide what to wear, what to have for breakfast, and what attitude to adopt as we start our day. Tons of our decisions have little or no significant consequence on our lives, but a few decisions, some big and some small, are game-changers with lasting impact.

Throughout my life, I've been a decision-maker. If I'm out to eat and no one is willing to make a decision on which bottle of wine to have, I'm happy to make a choice. Traveling in a new city with a group of people, I love taking people's ideas and forming them into an agenda. Making decisions around daily tasks and activities is not hard for me.

Yet some decisions, especially [decisions related to personal values](#) and how faith plays out in everyday life, are much harder to make. These decisions are complex, their consequences are greater consequences and they rarely have a "right" answer. The term many use for such decision-making is *discernment*.

Discernment is a process for making decisions that draws on wisdom and requires opening one's self to outside sources.

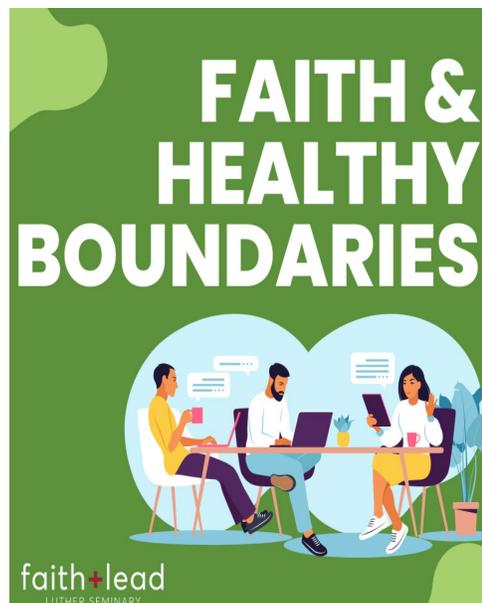
Outside sources can be friends, experts, a community, and/or literature. Christian discernment also includes spiritual practices, sacred texts, and God. The process of discerning requires us to slow down, reflect on our experience, and listen to external voices. It means setting aside our ideas, wants, and needs, even for a few minutes, so we can entertain new insights and see things from different perspectives. Discernment processes open us up and allow for the possibility of being changed, gaining a deeper understanding, and/or discovering different pathways for living.

There have been many moments in my life when I've needed to shift from my decision-making mode into a process of discernment. Let me share two examples along with the steps that were helpful for moving forward.

Further education

After sixteen years in one job, I sensed a nudge to go back to school. My children were in elementary school and my husband worked full-time. Practically, it did not seem like a good idea, but my gut pushed me to explore the possibility. For several months, I listened. I listened to people who loved me and knew my gifts and talents. I listened to hear the needs of my family and began to wonder about the impact such a decision had on my family and what options were present. I

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Discernment continued from page 15

invited several people to accompany me in the journey. Their main role was to *ask me hard questions and join me in praying for guidance*. I also did my research. I learned more about programs and what each required, so I had a realistic sense of what such a decision would require of me and my family.

Stepping into or out of volunteer leadership

Another example regarded a decision to step away from a voluntary leadership position with a nonprofit I was involved in. When I came into that position, it was very life-giving. I loved the people and the mission. I used gifts and capacities that were not being used in my job or at home. And I didn't mind the time commitment.

Yet after many years, I sensed it was time to reevaluate how I was using my time and if this was a commitment I should let go of. I started with sharing the idea with my husband. While he was not going to make the decision for me, he affirmed my wondering, so I entered into a process of discernment.

- I looked at how I was spending my time.
- I reflected on what might be ahead for me and asked God to help me imagine what was ahead for me.
- I prayed and read Scripture.
- And I spent time journaling once a week.
- I also set-up monthly conversations with a trusted friend to process what I was learning. It was much less expansive, but no less important.

The first discernment process I described in this blog post resulted in a big life change. I did go back to school and that decision changed all aspects of my life, and that of my family. The second discernment process did result in me stepping away from the position, yet there was no immediate change in my life. (And I don't even think my family noticed for many months.) The most immediate impact it had was to *create space*. Over time, that "newly found space" allowed me to be more available and present with family and friends in really meaningful ways.

Being a follower of Jesus does not always give us clarity on the decisions that we have to make in our lives. What it does do is give us [practices](#) to use in our discernment, people and communities to accompany us in the process, and the Holy Spirit to be with us.

Your Turn

Name a complex decision you have to make in your life.

Commit to engage in two or three practices per week, for four weeks.

- Pray regularly for guidance
- Journal weekly about your learning

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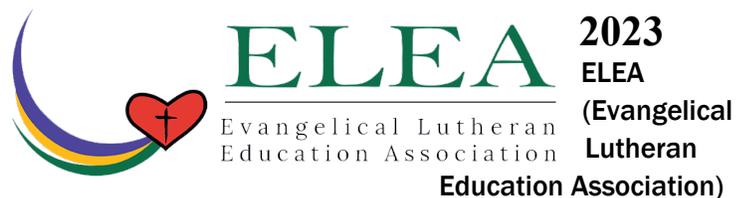
- Read the Bible
- Share your decision with a small group and have them offer their insights
- Share the decision with friends and/or family and have them ask you hard questions and pray for you
- Research
- Meet with a trusted friend once a week to check-in
- What other practice would you add to this list?

Then see what happens.

This article originally appeared on [The Faith+Leader](#).

*Dr. Terri Martinson Elton is Professor of Leadership at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. She is married with two adult children. To learn more about discovering how to live well in disruptive times, see her latest book *Journeying in the Wilderness: Forming Faith in the 21st Century* or visit her websites: terrielton.com and journeyinginthewilderness.org.*

ELEA National Conference in Seattle in



serves ELCA schools and learning centers by offering resources and services to support faith-based schools and centers. ELEA is holding their 2023 National Conference in collaboration with ELCA Region 1 at the Doubletree

Southcenter in Seattle March 8-10, 2023. The theme is “Make It Count”. <https://elcaschools.org/>



Us vs Us

Pastor Terry Kylo, Paths to Understanding



I was cutting some basil to go in an Italian noodle dish I like to make. Gluten free noodles, spicy sausage, and roasted peppers, onions, tomatoes, garlic, and a little cauliflower. Yummy! Sadly, I cut my finger and had to go to the emergency room. I'm fine now.

While in the emergency room I talked to quite a few folks. I spoke to a member of a local tribe. She and I had a nice conversation about a range of things. She had brought her daughter in to check on something. A few minutes into our conversation a man and his daughter walked in. Her arm was hurting. He was wearing a t-shirt with lots of gun symbols, "don't tread on me", and had tattoos with symbols of white nationalism. Was he aware that his clothes and tattoos must have felt threatening to others in the room? They felt threatening to me.

After they had been through triage, I approached them and asked, "If you don't mind me asking, what happened? It seems like you are hurting."

His face brightened up and he indicated that his daughter could answer. She had hurt her shoulder on a swing. We talked about it for a few minutes. She almost smiled and dad seemed relieved to know that other people cared.

"I am so sorry that happened," I said. The indigenous woman also chimed in with, "I am sorry, too. I hope you will be okay."

We were suddenly human beings to one another, at least for just a moment.

PTU (Paths to Understanding) is busy at work creating our Let's Go Together program. We have big plans, hopes, and dreams. But it is important in this moment to also attend to the small things, the little interactions, the small kindnesses, that can help open one another's hearts to the fact that we are in this together. In fact, this kind of interaction is what Let's Go Together is designed to create. Be on the watch for how you can show human kindness. Small is powerful. It can turn us from US versus US into the larger WE that we long for.

*Pastor Kylo is rostered in the Northwest Washington Synod, but his organization, Paths to Understanding partners with our synod, as well. Paths to Understanding's mission is: Bridging Bias and Building Unity Through Multi-faith Peacemaking. <https://pathstounderstanding.org>
Photo by [Toa Hefitaba](#) on [Unsplash](#)*

Can the IRS tax your church's coffeehouse?

Many churches operate coffeehouses, bookstores, and other small businesses that attract guests and serve the needs of members. While the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) generally doesn't tax church-related activities, not all ministry fundraising is exempt from IRS scrutiny.

Many churches don't realize that if the coffeehouse is not operated exclusively for the ministry's 501(c)(3) purposes, it is likely considered by the IRS to be a for-profit entity.

That's one of the main reasons legislators enacted the [Unrelated Business Income Tax](#) (UBIT). The tax addresses concerns that tax-exempt organizations have an unfair competitive advantage over commercial businesses. UBIT subjects churches to taxation on business activities not substantially related to their tax-exempt purpose.

There are three questions that determine whether UBIT applies to a ministry's income. If you can answer "yes" to all three questions, then you may owe unrelated business income tax.

1. Was the income derived from a trade or business?
2. Is the organization regularly engaged in the trade or business?
3. Is the activity unrelated to the organization's exempt purpose?

Learn more about potential exceptions and other recommendations in [this Brotherhood Mutual article](#).

RISE Lewis County RISE- a ministry started by St John's, Chehalis

RISE Lewis County was created to facilitate the use of government and non-government resources in the effort of assisting people out of poverty. They exist to build community, break through barriers and educate groups and individuals on a better understanding of our less fortunate neighbors. RISE Lewis County originally started as an outreach of St. John's Lutheran's Social Ministries Committee but is now a stand-alone, 501(c)3 non-profit.

In addition to providing mobile meals, they also work to help people move out of poverty. In 2020, RISE received a 3 yr. ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant of \$10,000/yr. The grant was for recruiting and training community members to be mentors, navigators and supporters to walk beside people/families who want to make the transition from low income government support to living wage jobs and self-sufficiency. With the challenges of COVID, RISE Lewis County is looking to expand this program in new ways. In 2021, they had several meetings with interested and concerned community members, city and county leaders and state legislators. In addition to the ELCA grant, RISE received over \$6,000 in additional donations to support this mission. Members of St John's Lutheran Church serve on the Board of RISE Lewis County. RISE is continuing to build their program and their volunteer base to support the changes needed in 2022 and beyond.

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If you want to support RISE Lewis County, or are interested in volunteering
<mailto:info@riselewiscounty.org>

The Synod Hunger Committee works to visit and evaluate all of the ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant applications received from this synod. If you have a passion for hunger education and ministry and would like to be involved at the synod level, please email Allison at the Synod Office at
<mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu>.

Congregation News

On the Sunday closest to St. Francis Day, this year Sunday, October 2, many churches hold Animal Blessings during worship. Please share your photos with the synod for publication in a future newsletter and on our social media. [Synod email swwsynod@plu.edu](mailto:swwsynod@plu.edu)

Grace Lutheran, Port Townsend is working with **Dungeness Valley Lutheran in Sequim** and **St Luke's Episcopal, also in Sequim**, to donate and pack cleaning and bathroom kits to help Ukrainian refugees in Tacoma get settle via Lutheran Community Services NW. They are serving as Church Together!

September 25th, **St John's Lutheran in Chehalis** celebrated their 125th anniversary with a special worship service that will include several of their former pastors, plus a meal and special memorabilia showed.

Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia has started a Triple F for all ages on Wednesday nights this fall. It stands for Food (dinner), Friendship (meet new people, and see old friends, too) and Faith (small group sessions). They even provide transportation for folks without such.

Christ Lutheran in Lakewood celebrated "Tailgate Sunday" on September 25th. People wore their favorite NFL gear and they followed worship with a tailgate party with a bbq and potluck, plus games for all ages.

Congregation Job Openings

See a list of job opportunities within our synod congregations on the synod's website at:
<https://swwasynod.org/congregational-resources/job-opportunities/>

Synod Calendar

Pastor and Deacon Appreciation Sunday- October 9, 2022

Pastor and Deacon Appreciation Month- October

First Call Theological Education Event- November 15-18

Under 45 Rostered Leaders Gathering, Jan 16-18, 2023

Bishop's Convocation for rostered ministers, Jan 18-19

ELEA National Conference, Doubletree Southcenter, Seattle – March 8-10

2023 Synod Assembly, Messiah Luth Ch, Auburn May 5-6 //