



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.
 February 2023

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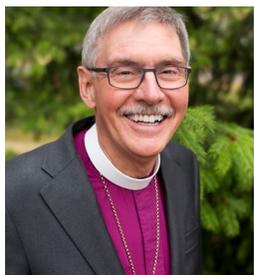
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Reflect and Return

By Bishop Rick Jaech, Southwestern Washington Synod



Dear Friends in Christ,

I enjoy investigating where words originate. As we begin journeying through the months of this new year, I am reminded that a lot of our calendar months are named after gods. January is named after Janus, the Roman god of gates and doorways, beginnings and endings. February is named after

Februus, an Etruscan god of purification. March is named after Mars, the Roman god of war. Other months are named after powerful rulers: July after Julius Caesar and August after Augustus Caesar. Of course, in Roman society, Julius and Augustus were also considered gods.

I imagine that the ancient calendar-makers pictured each month as being under the control and influence of specific divine powers. In order for a month to go well, you had to follow the influence of Janus in January, Februus in February, and Julius in July.

It makes me wonder about what gods or dominant powers rule our lives these days. Most of us don't operate with a collection of divine gods and goddesses, but there are other powers in our lives and they also can dominate us for a day, a month, or a lifetime.

There are the emotional powers of depression, resentment or fear. There are the workplace powers of deadlines, office politics or boredom. There are the addictive powers of drugs, alcohol, and food. When we look at our nation and the world, we see the powers of hatred, violence, and greed. They all have a way of capturing and controlling our days and lives.

This year in the month of February, we begin the season of Lent with Ash Wednesday on February 22. What power comes to capture and control us in this Lenten February? To ask it much more accurately, what power comes, not to capture, but to set us free from
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all other powers and fill us with life? Obviously, the One who comes to us is God, our Life-Giver, the One revealed in Jesus Christ.

Lent is the time to reflect and return. During Lent we reflect on our lives and look to see what powers control us? What are the needs and addictions that drive us? What are the fears, hatreds and dividing powers that dominate our nation and the world day after day? Why are our children murdered at school repeatedly? What moves us to insult, attack and push away those who seem different? Why are we a shattered people?

During Lent, with the help of the Holy Spirit, we confess, "We are drying up and dying under these other controlling powers. We will return to God. That is where our lives are fed and our communities are restored."

As we return to the power, grace, and trustworthiness of God, God raises us from death to life, from violence to healing, from war-makers to peace-makers, from competing enemies to the community of God's beloved.

Therefore, I pray you have a blessed February and a healing and life-changing Lent! ***"Return to God, with all your heart, the Source of grace and mercy! Come, seek the tender faithfulness of God."***

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Richard Jaech".

Bishop Rick Jaech



On the Road with the Bishop

January 7 Celebrated the Ordination of Pastor Bergen Eickhoff, shown above left of Bishop Jaech, at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Olympia, where they serve as Associate Pastor with Pastors Carol Tomer, Melissa Anderson Trust and Doug Knutson-Keller.



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January 15 Preached at First Lutheran Community Church in Port Orchard, served by Pastor Adrian Bonaro, shown right.



January 17-18 Host the annual Bishop's Convocation at Seabeck Conference Center. Dr. Suzanne Crawford O'Brien, professor of religion at Pacific Lutheran University *shown below left*, and Cynthia A. Savini, M.Ed. of the Makah, Jamestown S'Klallam and Quileute tribes, the Director of the Marion Forsman-Boushie Early Learning Center for the Suquamish Tribe, *shown below right*, presented on the topic of "Intersections Between Native American Religious Traditions Christian Traditions."



Crawford Obrien photo credit PLU; Savini photo credit self

January 22 Celebrating the Installation of Pastor Kyle Merkle at Calvary Lutheran, Federal Way.



Congregations in Transition – February 2023

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 the rostered leaders, congregations and congregation leaders. Amen.

Congregations	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
Celebration, Puyallup	P	NV	Rev. Chris Boerger
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Rev. Mike Hanson
Gloria Dei, Olympia	P	TR	Rev. Dan Wilson; Deacon SAM Carla Spaccarotelli
Gloria Dei, Tacoma	P	NV	Rev. John Clauson
Key Peninsula, Lakebay	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Living Stones Prison Congregation, WCC Shelton	P	TR	Rev. Eric Utto-Galarneau
Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma	P	TR	Rev. Pamela Griffith Pond and Rev. Kim Latterell
Messiah, Vancouver	P	TR	Rev. David Brauer-Rieke, Rev. Tom Tweed
Prince of Peace, Forks	P	TR	Don Corson, SAM
St Mark's by the Narrows, Tacoma	AP	NV	Rev. Jan Ruud and Rev. Mark Gravrock
St Paul, Winlock	P	NV	Rev. Paul Hermansen
Twin Harbors, Grayland	P	NV	Rev. Amanda Sullivan-Kersey

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

Ordination



Sister Charissa Carroll who has been called to Word and service ministry as Resource Navigator for **Peace Lutheran, Tacoma** has moved her ordination date to Saturday, April 22nd at 2pm at Peace, Tacoma. Rostered and lay persons are invited to attend. Rostered ministers are invited to vest in red and process.

Synod Call



Sister Ann Shultz was called by the Synod Council to serve as a Word and Service rostered minister as Director for Community Outreach for Community Care Connection, Tacoma. Community Care Connection is a social ministry that oversees food insecurity ministry, clothing, English as a Second Language, and immigrant support service ministries, serving our Latinx community.

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Congregation Calls



Linda Marousek was called to serve as Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA in January. Linda served as a Synod Authorized Minister at the congregation during her candidacy. Linda will be installed in the Spring as the congregation gathers to celebrate their 125th Anniversary.



Pastor Louise Buckles was called to serve as Pastor at Ocean Park Lutheran in Ocean Park, WA, continuing where her once term call left off.



Pastor Horacio Castillo was called as Associate Pastor at Creator Lutheran, Bonney Lake. He will serve alongside Pastor Amanda Olson de Castillo. Horacio will start his call on February 16th. Notice of his installation will be available soon.



**The theme of this year's one-day Synod Assembly is
"Seeking God's Shalom"**

What does Shalom mean?

The word "Shalom" is a Hebrew word that was spoken by God to the people of Israel while they were in exile in Babylon. It was a command for them to orient their lives toward seeking the peace of God wherever they were—even in exile. Why? Because, as Jesus would later articulate in the Sermon on the Mount, part of what it means to be children of God is to be engaged in the work of making peace in a hostile world.

The word *shalom*, which was used about 250 times in the Old Testament, is often translated as the
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word *peace, healing, mending relationships, hearts, or prosperity*. With our Western mindsets, we often think about peace as merely the absence of conflict, but *shalom* is much more than that. *Shalom* is about *wholeness*. It's an intensely relational word. It has to do with all parties in a given relationship being able to flourish and thrive.

The concept of *shalom* teaches us that we were made to flourish in our relationships with God, with one another, with our own selves, with the systems and structures that govern us, and with the whole of the created order.

The cross is what makes *shalom* possible, because it is through the death of Jesus that we are able to be reconciled to God, and it is by walking the way of the cross that we can be reconciled to one another. Resurrection is God's declaration that the project of *shalom*—of making all things new—is underway.

Because *shalom* was God's gift, it could not be taken away or disrupted by human uncertainty or chance. Your blessing is not dependent of things going well or any happenstance. Even in the midst of trial and suffering, *shalom* grounds you in a relationship with God.

We haven't been together in-person for our Synod Assembly since 2019 and we have really missed it!. This year's Synod Assembly will be one-day in-person event on **Saturday, May 6th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn**. Elected Voting Members may register for the Synod Assembly at: <https://cvent.me/g1nL5Z>. We will have a full day together, including wonderful worship, lunch and business matters such as elections for synod leadership positions starting in 2023 and also 2024, including Synod Council positions and Synod Vice President and 2025 Churchwide Assembly voting members, vote on a caring for creation resolution, vote on the synod budgets for FY24 & FY25, and hear from our ELCA representative Pastor Lisa Hefferan, ELCA Coordinator for Disability Ministries. We'll have lay and rostered voting members from each of our congregations and mission developments, so it will be a wonderful day together...finally!



Southwestern Washington Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop

2/06/2023

A message from the Synod Anti-racism Work Team and Bishop Rick Jaech

“Sense cannot be made of the murder of a young man at the hands of the five men whose vocation and calling are to protect and serve. This was senseless and evil.”

Bishop Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church

Our hearts ache with the murder of another innocent Black child of God, killed by Memphis officers while they were on duty and representing the public. We call on every person of faith to think deeply about how we might carry forward the biblical message that we are all created by God in God's own image.

Blackness is part of the image of God that was entrusted to Tyre Nichols, just as Tyre was entrusted to us. God mourns Tyre's suffering and that of his family and friends. We mourn with them.

As members of the ELCA, we must look honestly at ourselves, rather than just criticize the actions of others. We confess that racism is embedded in our own habitual actions, structures, and systems. As our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton said, “Dear church, now is the time to focus, listen, learn, counsel, advocate for just reforms, and lament a grief that seems relentless, that is awoken again with each act of tragedy and injustice across this nation.”

We pray that the Spirit of God will stir, heal, and renew us all in this painful time.

In Christ,

The Synod Anti-racism Work Team and Bishop Rick Jaech

Lutherans ordain first Palestinian woman pastor in Holy Land

A Lutheran church ceremony in Jerusalem has ordained what will be the first Palestinian female pastor in the Holy Land. Sally Azar will head the English-speaking congregation at the Old City of Jerusalem's Church of the Redeemer, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land said Sunday. Her ordination was held before a packed crowd inside the church. Pastor Azar is the first Palestinian and the first woman to be ordained and to serve as a pastor in the Holy Land.

The West Bank and Gaza Strip were home to around 47,000 Christians as of 2017, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. Most Palestinian Christians belong to denominations that do not allow female clergy. Azar will be one of five ordained women in the Middle East, joining one in Syria and three in Lebanon, according to the Middle East Council of Churches.

A very small minority belong to Protestant congregations that have women as ministers. The Evangelical Lutheran Church says it has around 3,000 adherents in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Jordan.



Sally Ibrahim Azar, center, a Palestinian Christian and Council member of the Lutheran World Federation is applauded by clergy after she was ordained as the first female pastor in the Holy Land, in the Old City of Jerusalem, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023. AP

Synod Native American Work Team has Orange Banner Kits for Congregations

Last summer, the news cycle focused for a moment on the devastating find of a mass grave filled with children's remains at the Kamloops Indian Boarding School in British Columbia. It was a sad reminder of the legacy of boarding schools in both Canada and the US.

In response to that find, the American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association asked Lutheran congregations across the ELCA and ELCIC to display orange banners in our worship spaces in recognition of the dead and the system that claimed their lives. The news cycle has moved on, but will we?

If you would like to display an orange banner, our synod's Native American Work Team would like to help you. Kits are available that contain a template for a design, iron-on transfers, sample bulletin and newsletter articles and an outline and materials for an adult forum. All you need to supply is the fabric.

Several kits have already been sent out to congregations in the Southwestern Washington Synod, including Shepherd of the Hills (Stevenson), Beautiful Savior (Vancouver), Amazing Grace (Aberdeen), Redeemer (Fircrest), and St. Mark's (Tacoma).

Don't see your congregation on the list? There are still plenty of kits available! Packets are available at the Synod Office swsynod@plu.edu

The Native American Work Team recommends:

"First Nations Version - An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament"

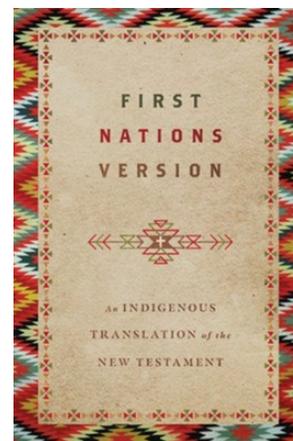
Downers Grove, Illinois: InterVarsity Press 2021

<https://www.ivpress.com/first-nations-version-paperback>

Every new bible translation brings new insights into Holy Scripture to us. The First Nations Version is especially dear to members of the NAWT. This translation of the New Testament was done under the leadership of a Native translation council with diverse and intergenerational members of tribes from geographical regions across Turtle Island (North America) and a variety of churches and denominations. And why is this Indigenous translation in English language? Because the Native

Translators desired to, as they write in the introduction, "provide an English Bible that connects, in a culturally relevant way, to the traditional heart languages of the over six million English-speaking First Nations people of North America." And they invite the entire "sacred family which is the body of the Chosen One" to make use of it as well. I invite you to explore this meaningful translation of our Holy Scriptures and see what new insights it brings to you!

-Rev. Kristin-Luana Baumann, Chair of the Native American Work Team.



ELCA Youth Ministry Network Hosts Youth Ministry “Extravaganza” in Anaheim

CHICAGO — The Extravaganza, an annual gathering of children, youth and family ministry leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, took place Feb. 3-6 in Anaheim, Calif. The event was hosted by the ELCA’s Youth Ministry Network.



Participants in Extravaganza 2023 gathered for one live experience in two expressions, on-site in Anaheim and online, under the theme “[Enough](#).”

The event included three pre-Extravaganza “Intensive Care Courses” that explored specific areas of interest, more than 30 workshops, more than 70 exhibitors, and four different learning tracks, each guided by a leader in its area of ministry and supplemented by workshop topics.

This year’s Extravaganza also included a major announcement regarding the ELCA Youth Gathering, to be held July 26-20, 2024, in New Orleans under the theme “Created to Be.” Two essential parts of this event’s ministry are its pre-events: the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (a faith formation and leadership development event for youth of color or whose primary language is not English, and the largest gathering of people of color in the ELCA) and the tAble (for youth living with a wide range of physical, cognitive and emotional disabilities, and for their caregivers).

This year, attendees of the Extravaganza learned, the Gathering will waive fees for the first 1,000 registrants who attend the MYLE and the first 200 registrants who attend the tAble.

“Because they’re such crucial parts of the ministry of the Gathering, we are thrilled to be able to support MYLE and the tAble in this way,” said Tammy Jones West, director of the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering and an ELCA deacon. “Our hope is that more young people will get to experience these important ministries, which we know create a lifelong impact. We’re thankful to a generous donor that makes this opportunity possible for the young people of this church.”

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the ELCA meet at the Gathering for a week of faith formation and fellowship. Through speakers, discussions, Bible study and immersion in the host city, attendees are inspired, challenged, given opportunities to explore their vocation, and called to live out their faith in their daily lives.

[Registration](#) for the Gathering opens Sept. 15, 2023. Participants in the pre-events must attend the Gathering as well. The registration fee covers on-site food, housing and programming for the pre-events. Transportation to New Orleans and registration for the ELCA Youth Gathering is not covered.

Financial assistance is available for youth attending the Gathering. Applications for this assistance open Sept. 15 and close on Oct. 15. More information is forthcoming.

Earthquake Response

Monday morning we woke to the news that two powerful earthquakes had hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 2,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates the response efforts.

[Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.](#)

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees and internally displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. The epicenter of one earthquake lies near Turkish provinces that host hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, which will only exacerbate the refugee crisis in the region.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Even as the sun was rising on the first earthquake, ACT Alliance member organizations began distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items. A comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

Congregation News

“Understanding Your Grief: In-Person Adult Grief Support Group”, March 2023 at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Olympia

The Grief Team has rescheduled the no cost 10-week in-person grief support group on Tuesday afternoons, from January to March. The series will start on March 7. A virtual evening group will also be offered.

The group will read the book *Understanding Your Grief*, complete a journal and discuss the reading together. Grief is like a journey through the wilderness—a vast, inhospitable forest. Finding your way out requires learning to follow the sometimes hard-to-find trail that leads to healing. There are ten touchstones, trail markers that are the signs to let you know you are on a helpful path. As we study these together, you will learn to identify and rely on the touchstones so that you can find your way to hope and healing.

Support Group Leader Karen Barale is no stranger to grief. Her husband died following a head-on collision while they were vacationing in New Zealand. Karen, a retired Washington State University professor, received a Certificate in Death and Grief Studies from the Center Loss and Life Transition in Ft Collins, Colorado. She now leads the Grief Team at Gloria Dei.

Congregation news continued next page

For more information or to register, please contact Karen Barale: grieffteam@gloriadeiolympia.org or call the church office at 360-357-3386. There is no charge for the support group or materials.

In-Person at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:00 PM for 10 weeks

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, (2 week break), 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23

Virtual via Zoom

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM for 10 weeks

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, (2 week break), 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23

“White Christian Nationalism: Why it is a danger to democracy and our Christian witness.”



A seminar by **Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse**, author of “the world is about to turn: mending a nations broken faith”. Find out why this is a heretical movement that is distorting America’s history and endangering our future as a nation of religious freedom. Hosted by Resurrection Lutheran Church in Browns Point (Tacoma) for anyone in the SWWA Synod.

Sunday, March 26th 2-5pm.

\$25 fee includes dinner.

Register by March 10th using the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racism-in-america-and-white-christian-nationalism-tickets-512040435727>

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/>

Updated 01/27/2023

Administrative/Communications/IT

[Administrative Assistant](#), Immanuel Lutheran Church, Vancouver WA

[Administrative Assistant](#) St Luke Lutheran, Portland, OR

[Virtual Worship Producer+Web Coordinator](#), St Luke Lutheran, Portland, OR

Education/Child Care/Preschool

[Nursery Attendant \(revised\)](#), The Lutheran Church of The Good Shephard, Olympia

Job openings continued next page

Job openings continued

Finance/Bookkeeper/Treasurer

Treasurer (part-time), Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Bremerton

Treasurer(PT), Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Tacoma

Music/Musicians

Worship Pianist and Choir Director, Bethel Brush Prairie

Church Accompanist, Bethlehem, Tacoma, part-time

Church Musician, Elim Lutheran Church, Port Orchard

Accompanist, Galilean Lutheran Church, Ocean Shores

Synod Calendar

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

Spring Retreat for Women of the ELCA is April 28 - 30 at Black Diamond

Synod Workshops Friday, May 5th at Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn. (Free for Synod Assembly voting members; nominal fee for other synod congregation members)

2023 Synod Assembly, Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn May 6. Voting Members register at

<https://cvent.me/g1nL5Z>.

Synod Women's Organization/WELCA Bible Study- Saturday, October 14, 2023 //