



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.

March 2024

Staff

Bishop Richard E. Jaech

Rev. Rebecca Shjerven

Bishop's Associate

Joey Ager

Bishop's Associate

Director for Evangelical Mission

Stefanie DeZarn

Synod Administrator

Office Hours

Tue – Fri
9 am – 4 pm

Contact Info

Office Phone

(253) 535-8300

Mailing Address

420 121st St. S
Tacoma, WA 98444

E-mail

swwasynod@plu.edu

Synod Website

www.swwasynod.org

ELCA Website

www.elca.org

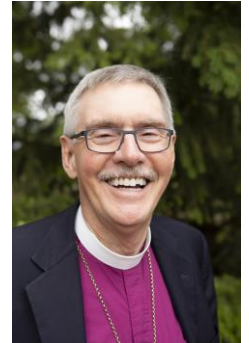
Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SWWASynod>

From the Bishop

*Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.*

--Marty Haugen



Dear Friends in Christ,

Eighty-two years ago, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 that authorized moving 110,000 Japanese Americans with full US citizenship and legal Japanese immigrants from their homes and placing them in remote internment camps. This action took place three months after the Japanese Imperial government bombed Pearl Harbor, which led to all Japanese Americans being looked at with suspicion and classified as 'enemy aliens'.



The first 300 Japanese Americans in the country to be moved were residents of Bainbridge Island, among them Mrs. Shigeho Kitamoto and her four children (pictured in photo), who had all been born in the United States. Each person could take only one small suitcase. They were transported by military guard first to the Washington State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, where they lived for a time in barracks and horse stalls.

...continued next page

Then they were moved to the Minidoka War Relocation Center near Twin Falls, Idaho, where over the coming months, 13,000 Japanese American residents of Washington State would join them, including the entire membership of the Seattle Japanese Methodist Episcopal Church. Three years later they were released, only to discover that most of their homes, businesses and farms had been permanently taken over by others.

During this same time period in the early 1940's, the United States denied entrance visas to Jewish refugee families who were fleeing the Holocaust in Europe. Among those denied visas were Anne Frank and her family in Amsterdam. In the pre-war years, a number of Jewish Europeans were involved in the labor movement and also in the resistance movement to the Nazi takeover. Consequently, prominent political leaders in the US labeled Jewish people as being "prone to violence" and "potential terrorists". This was part of the wider anti-Semitism that existed throughout America.

It was also in this time period that African Americans were excluded from an event of honor in American society. Following the Berlin Olympic games in 1936, President Roosevelt invited to the White House for congratulations all the US Olympic medal winners. However, the twelve black US Olympic medal winners were not invited to the White House, including Jesse Owens, who won a record-breaking four gold medals. President Roosevelt failed even to send a congratulatory letter to Mr. Owens, because, as his aides said, "he was just too busy."

Past events open our eyes to present realities. In our fear and suspicion, we regularly see and label entire groups of people as dangerous enemies. Walking down the street, we see a person of another color or culture walking towards us and we begin to anxiously imagine what they might do to us. We "pre-judge" them before we even know who they are, which is what "prejudice" is. What we feel individually gets fed and intensified by the comments and media swirling around us. Every day we read in the paper about a mosque or synagogue being defaced and a person of color being insulted, attacked or shot. Yet, the attackers will cite the danger and threat of the ones they attacked.

In our Christian faith tradition, we set aside the forty days of Lent as a time of reflection and repentance. To repent means to turn back to God and to follow the Way of Christ. I believe that in the season of Lent we are now in, it is important for us not only to reflect on our own personal spiritual path, but also to examine how our whole society is caught in patterns of fear, judgment and violence towards others. Once again, entire ethnic communities are labeled dangerous enemies. Once again, refugees fleeing persecution and death are denied entrance. Once again, people of color are being excluded and un-recognized for their gifts.

This time of slander, attack and separation must end. A new time of honesty and reconciliation must begin. As St. Paul said to Ephesians, "Let us speak the truth to our neighbor, for we are members of one another." Ephesians 4:24

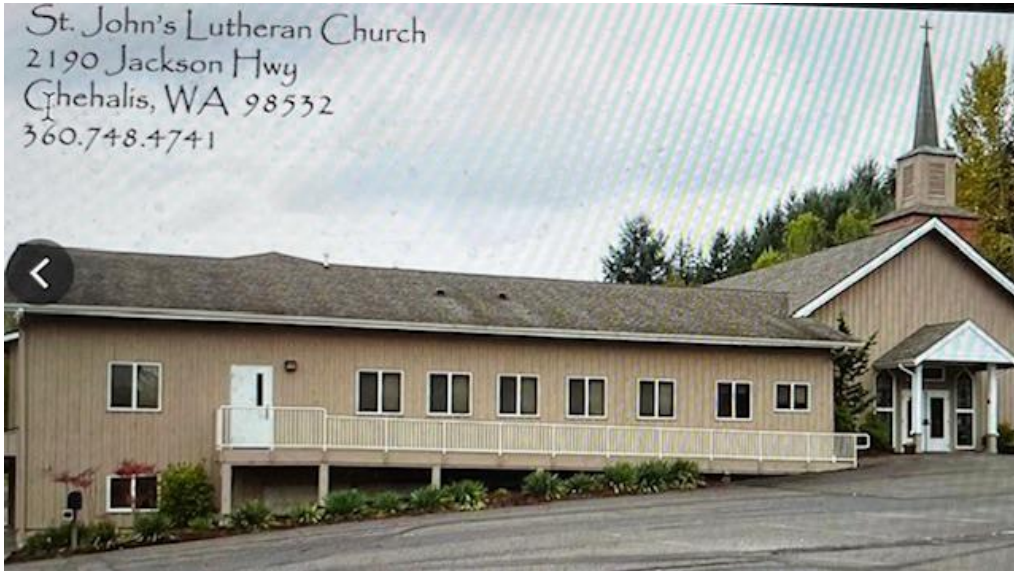
It is by grace – God's free gift of life and love – that we are united with God. It is by that same grace that we are united with one another more deeply than we know. I pray that Lent will be a time of healing for our torn hearts and reconciliation in our shattered communities.

*Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.*

In Christ,
Bishop Rick Jaech



On the Road with the Bishop



February 4

Preaching at St. John Lutheran Church, Seattle

February 23 - 24
Attending a meeting of the California Lutheran University Board of Regents.



...continued next page



February 26 – March 1

Attending the Spring meeting of the ELCA Conference of Bishops at the Eaglewood Conference Center just outside of Chicago.

Synod Calendar

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| March 24 – 31 | Holy Week @ Holden Village |
| April 6 | Synod Hunger Education - ZOOM |
| April 20 | Regional Ed Gathering @ Mountain View, Edgewood |
| April 27 | Regional Ed Gathering @ First Lutheran, Poulsbo |
| May 4 | Regional Ed Gathering @ Zion, Camas |
| May 17 – 19 | Holden Village May Youth Weekend |

Congregations in Transition – March 2024

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.

Messiah Lutheran, Vancouver

- Interviewing; Dave Brauer-Rieke and Tom Tweed, Interims

Mount Cross, University Place

- Interviewing; Jeff Gaustad, Interim

St Mark's by The Narrows, Tacoma

- Interviewing; Audrey Lukasak and Mark Gravrock, Interims

Spanaway Lutheran, Spanaway

- Call Committee election; Ron Kempe and Traci Vatne, Interims

Agnus Dei, Gig Harbor

- Interviewing; Kim Latterell and Tom Aitken, Interim Team

Dungeness Valley, Sequim

- Transition Team active; Pamela Griffith-Pond, Interim

Amazing Grace, Aberdeen

- Transition Team active; Doug Knutson-Keller, Interim

St. John's, Chehalis

- New Vacancy; Pulpit Supply

Holy Trinity, Port Angeles

- New Vacancy; Pulpit Supply

St Paul, Castle Rock

- New Vacancy; Pulpit Supply Matt March

Pastor Norm Arnold will complete his service at St. Paul, Castle Rock on March 6th. He will be On Leave from Call.

Congregation Job Openings

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

Faith+ Ministry and Outreach Coordinator – Faith Lutheran Church, Shelton

Administrator – Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Olympia

If you have a job opportunity and would like us to post it within our publicity channels, please email a job description to swwsynod@plu.edu. Your posts will remain active for three weeks, unless otherwise agreed upon.

Annual Reports

Congregations

Annual Congregational Report

The Annual Congregational Report Online Filing deadline has been extended to end of March!

If you haven't filed your congregational report yet, please do so! The deadline has arrived and there is only a temporary extension. There is still time to fulfill your constitutional right and obligation to share your data with the Southwestern Washington Synod and Churchwide.

You can access it at elca.org/congregationsreport. Your admin office should have received LookUp ID and Passcode. If you still need your passcode to log on or have any questions, please call the Synod Office at 253-535-8300 and we will assist you.

Annual Mission Support Intent Form

Deadline is March 31st, 2024!!

We are still accepting your congregation's Mission Support Intent Form for 2024. You can access the form [HERE](#). Please email completed forms to swwsynod@plu.edu. Thank you.

Rostered Leaders

Annual Minister Report

We are still accepting your reports! These reports help Bishop and Synod Staff to have your current information on file, as well as allowing a better opportunity to support you. If you haven't filed your report yet, we encourage you to do so.

Use the links below to select the form that pertains to you. Please email completed reports to swwsynod@plu.edu. Thank you.

[Minister of Word and Sacrament – under call from synod](#)

[Minister of Word and Sacrament – under call from congregation](#)

[Minister of Word and Sacrament – not under call](#)

[Minister of Word and Sacrament – retired](#)

[Minister of Word and Service – under call from synod](#)

[Minister of Word and Service – under call from congregation](#)

[Minister of Word and Service – not under call](#)

[Minister of Word and Service – retired](#)

Pulpit Supply List

If you would like to be on our Pulpit Supply List for the Synod, please email the Synod Office at swwsynod@plu.edu. Make sure you let us know what your travel restrictions/radius are. Thank you.

Upcoming Events



**ENVISIONING OUR
SYNOD PATH -
WALKING AND
WORKING TOGETHER**

2024 SYNOD EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS

APRIL 20
MOUNTAIN VIEW, EDGEWOOD

APRIL 27
FIRST, POULSBO

MAY 4
ZION, CAMAS

We are in the planning phase of this year's Synod Educational Gatherings and we will share more information as soon as possible. **Stay tuned!**



**MAKING THE
PIECES FIT:
PARTNERING AND
FUNDING YOUR
HUNGER MINISTRY
TO CREATE
LASTING CHANGE**

**SATURDAY, APRIL
6TH
9am -11am
on ZOOM- Free!**

Learn who your ministry program partners can be to help grow a comprehensive hunger program in your community. Learn the difference between a feeding program and a food hub. We'll review successful ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants and hear about the 2024 grants process from a certified grant writer.

Brought to you by the SWWA Synod Hunger Committee
Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83254729234?pwd=YjArNGV1MzdTM250cFpzbDZWc1c5UT09>