

**OREGON SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA  
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# Update

February 2007 *Oregon Synod*

## Garden Design Sunset Cluster Highlight

S ometime this coming summer, take a trip to the Calvary Lutheran Church Community Garden in Hillsboro. There you will see a diverse group of people of all ages tending oversized plots brimming with vegetables, flowers and varieties of herbs. The garden has 32 garden spaces. Eight of these spaces are reserved for low income families. The Oregon Synod



Endowment Committee's Creative Ministry Grant provided \$1000 of the 'seed' money for this project (pun intended).

Linn Pedersen, a member of All Saints Episcopal Church in Hillsboro grows produce for the food pantry at her

church. Several members of All Saints tend to the garden site growing tomatoes, artichokes, squash, sunflowers, marigolds and zinnias. She said, "It is a joy to come and work here and to see everything growing. Gardening brings the community together. I have made real friends in the garden and I hope the friendship continues."

Mary Ordal, of the Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department is a member of Calvary. She was instrumental in implementing the garden project. "There are so many interesting facets to this garden above and beyond the production of flowers and veggies," said Mary. "The sense of community, of sharing, of witnessing the bounty of the garden - well, you get the idea."

Some gardeners have made their plots family projects, with children learning planting and tending skills from their parents. Others, brought together by common health issues, share plots. Some grow produce which they  
*continued on page two*

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## Christ is Present in Many Places and in All People



Patsy Chinn, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Albany Oregon pictured with a quilt from the Good Shepherd Lutheran youth group purchased as a holiday gift for The Children's Farm Home, A Trillium Family Services organization.

Good Shepherd Lutheran of Albany was a \$1000 Oregon Synod Creative Ministry Grant recipient for 2006. This ministry grant has allowed the youth group of Good Shepherd to meet with residents every three months to provide an outreach ministry.

They do this through song, word, prayer and providing a hands-on project. Patsy Chinn, Good Shepherd's Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator, states, "Our realization through this outreach has been that Christ is present in many places and in all people. Because of this grant we have not only provided a ministry, but also holiday gifts."

The Children's Farm Home is a Trillium Family Services organization. It partners with families and the community to help children heal and to teach children and families to manage their ongoing mental health care needs so children lead lives that fulfill their potential.

## Garden Design

*continued from page one*

donate to food banks. Others like the camaraderie while some enjoy the garden for just its beauty. One person said, "I am a Christian and I am a gardener. I don't have a garden spot here, but this is a wonderful setting to sit amid this growing garden, to eat my lunch and to read my Bible."

"This upcoming season will be a fun season," Ordal said. "We're going from nothing - an old lawn - to tilled plots."

"Community gardens have been on the community wish list for many years, and even more so as Hillsboro has grown at urban densities with correspondingly smaller private yards," Ordal added. "We were delighted when Calvary approached us with a partnership proposal for community gardens."

"Although this is a small site, it's a first step in community gardens," said Ordal. "Calvary and city representatives are hopeful that the garden will be a successful model that could be replicated at other future sites in the community."

Information taken from the August 25, 2006 issue of the *Hillsboro Argus*; article By JoAnn Boatwright, and Calvary's newsletter, *Crossway*.

**Because of YOU ... congregations are reaching out in their own communities creating a welcoming presence to the churched and unchurched.**

## Region 1 Resource

To reserve videos, call the Region 1 Resource Center at 1-800-755-5831 or 206-624-0093. Resource Center hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

### Living Fully, Dying Well: A Study for Small Groups (D-63)

Our best decisions about life's most important events are seldom made in a time of crisis. "Living Fully, Dying Well" is designed to assist us in making careful, wise and prayerful preparation for meeting life's most important moments.

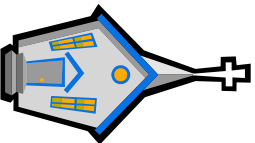
In this program, participants will learn how to face openly and unafraid the benefits and limitations of aging and end-of-life decisions. There are eight sessions that can be studied in a weekly sequence or as stand-alone sessions. Running time for each session is approximately 10 minutes.

Produced by Abingdon Press, this adult resource is suggested for small groups, adult Sunday school, evening programming and retreats. The format is DVD. Ask for D-63 when you call.

## ELCA Resources

### Making Christ Known 2007 Available On Line

Making Christ Known 2007 will be available in late January. Included in this edition, you will find "Where Your Offering Goes" and "We Bring Our Offering." Over the past few weeks, many congregations have inquired about how to obtain a one page sheet to use at their annual meetings. As a result, the PDF's are now on line. It is available in black/ white and color for easy printing. There are also many sizes to choose from. Visit [www.elca.org/stewardship/](http://www.elca.org/stewardship/) for more information.



## Congregations In Call Process/ Pastoral Vacancies

Congregation	Status	Pastoral Care
LP Beaverton, Shepherd of the Valley	NV	Don Parsons (Pulpit Supply)
LP Gresham, Trinity	C	
P Medford, Zion	P	Brenda Brown (INT)
P Portland, Getsemane	P	Dennis Martala (INT)
AP Portland, Resurrection	P	Al Jensen (LP)
P Prineville, Our Savior	P	Stan Hoobing (INT)
P Roseburg, Faith	P	Wally Gustav (INT)
P Silverton, Immanuel	P	Tom Hiller (INT)
P The Dalles, Zion	P	John Finstuen (INT)

### KEY:

- P=Pastor
- AP=Associate Pastor
- LP=Lead Pastor
- PT=Part Time
- P=Process
- I=Interviewing
- C=Calling
- NV=New Vacancy
- INT=Interim Pastor
- CH=Chaplain

# February Oregon Synod Calendar

Every Tues.	10:00 AM	Take Ten at Ten on Tuesday Prayers and Staff Meeting Oregon Synod Office
Feb. 3		Outreach Oregon Synod Office
Feb. 5	8:30 AM-8:30 PM	Interfaith Advocacy Day <i>see page four for information</i>
Feb. 5-7		Winter Theological Symposium <i>see page 7 for site locations</i>
Feb. 5-6	8:30 AM	Pre-Retirement Seminar Emanuel Hospital Lorenzen 1700
Feb. 6-8	1:00 PM start	First Call Theological Education Camp Berachah, Auburn, WA
Feb. 8	10:00 AM	Interims Emanuel Hospital Lorenzen 1077
Feb. 9-10		Regional Youth Council Canby Grove, Canby
Feb. 13	9:00 AM-3:00 PM	Boundary Workshop Resurrection Lutheran Church
Feb. 22	11:30 AM-1:30 PM	Stewardship Oregon Synod Office
Feb. 23-24		Oregon Synod Council Note Location: St. Luke, Portland

## INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS (dates and times are found online at [www.oregon-synod.org](http://www.oregon-synod.org))

- Ted Hammond**- January 28-Installation at Klamath, Klamath Falls.
- Rob Wentzier**- February 4- Ordination at Redemer, Portland ; Installation at Shishmaref, AL.
- Chuck Hunt**- February 11-Ordination and Installation at St. Timothy, Portland.
- Ann Schlossmagle**- TBA-Installation at Valby, Ione.
- John Strassman**- February 18-Installation at Gloria Dei, Coos Bay.

## PRAYERS

Pastor Rick Jaech, Pastor Del Anderson, Janet Dunfee, spouse of Pastor Scott Dunfee, retired  
Pastor Arne Knudsen, Pastor Doug Adams, Pastor Don Voeks, Pastor Gary Simpson,

## IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Pastor Kurt Rizer, Pastor Romano Soto Rank, and Pastor Roland Hilding Swanson

## IRA's An Expensive Inheritance

by Patricia Larsen, Oregon Synod Director of Planned Giving

Individual retirement accounts (IRAs) have become a preferred way to build up retirement assets for most of us. Most IRAs have had significant appreciation over the years. For many the IRA matches or exceeds their home real estate value.

**Ironically, the IRA is the last of your assets that you want to leave to your family.** WHY? IRAs are more heavily taxed than many other assets you could leave to your heirs. Regular IRAs were not taxed and have grown tax free. The IRS collects the taxes on IRAs as they are distributed. In other words, as you take them out in retirement or when your children pay on what has been left to them.

**An illustration**  
You leave \$500,000 in an IRA to your child who is in a 28% tax bracket. They pay \$140,000 in taxes and their inheritance is worth \$360,000.

When you are planning your estate you should consider leaving other assets to

your children. Your gifts to ministry should first come out of your IRAs as they pay no taxes and thus receive the full value of your gift.

### Ministry From Your IRA

If you desire to give to ministry from your IRAs in your lifetime you have a unique opportunity this year. Under the Pension Protection Act of 2006 you may use your IRA to make gifts during your lifetime without undesirable tax consequences. If you are 70 ½ or older you may transfer up to \$100,000 directly to charity from your IRA.

You must **complete** the transfer prior to December 31, 2007. You will not include the amount transferred in your taxable income but will be able to count it for purposes of your minimum withdrawal. Should you wish to discuss this option or would like the necessary forms please contact our synod's director of planned giving, Tricia Larsen. She is available at 503-244-4102 or [Blessed2Give@cs.com](mailto:Blessed2Give@cs.com).

## ELCA Youth Worker Extravaganza

February 1-5, 2007  
Tampa, Florida

Youth workers of the ELCA, committed to strengthening the Christian faith lives of young people and their families will soon gather at the Hyatt Hotel in Tampa, Florida.

The extravaganza is an annual training event sponsored by the ELCA Youth Ministry Network — an organization of 1,500 youth ministry professionals from ELCA congregations and other expres-

sions of the church that provide leadership in youth ministry. The training helps participants increase their capacity for effective leadership in youth ministries.

This year four Oregon Synod members are attending: Lois Brown, Emmaus, Eugene; Lisa Grey, Zoar, Canby; Kim Wienkoff, Bethel, Portland; and Brian Brown, Milwaukie, Milwaukie. Learn about this event is at [www.elcaymnet.org](http://www.elcaymnet.org).



**Because of YOU...** youth workers are strengthening the Christian faith lives of young people and their families in their own communities.

# AROUND THE SYNOD...

## Winter Theological Symposium

*Reconciliation: The Calling, Task, and Challenge in the Church and in the World*



**February 5, 6, and 7, 2007**  
Pacific Lutheran University  
5:30 pm - 9:30 pm

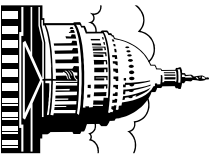
This symposium offers tools that can open up conversation and growth on this timely theme among congregations and groups within congregations across the Pacific Northwest and beyond. The Featured Speakers are: **Ted Kober**, Conflict Resources Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and **Charles Amjad-Ali**, Martin Luther King Professor for Christian Mission and Social Justice, Luther Seminary.

### Both speakers will be at three sites:

**Portland Area**  
February 5, 2007 at 5:30pm-9:30 pm  
Concordia University, Portland, OR  
Norm Metzler, Registrar 503-288-9371

**Seattle Area**  
February 6, 2007 at 5:30pm-9:30pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church, WA  
Hosted by Trinity Lutheran College  
Lowell Stime, Registrar 425-392-0400

**Tacoma Area**  
February 7, 2007 at 5:30pm-9:30pm  
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA  
Julie Josund, Registrar 253-535-7423



## Interfaith Advocacy Day

**February 5, 2007**  
First Congregational Church  
700 Marion St. NE and Capitol Bldg.  
Salem, OR  
8:30 am - 4:30 pm

When the Oregon Legislative Assembly convenes this year, will the 2006 election translate into lawmakers supporting economic fairness and stability? Find out at

the 2007 Interfaith Advocacy Day. The event will include worship, advocacy training, keynote addresses from community and political leaders, meetings with lawmakers, and prayer and reflection. After lunch, participants will march to the Capitol where they will be greeted by Democrat and Republican representatives. Following this reception in the Capitol Galleria, participants will then make visits to lawmakers.

### Confirmed Speakers

Michael Anderson, The Housing Alliance; Rabbi Michael Cahana, Congregation Beth Israel; Lisa Wenzlick, St. Luke Lutheran Church; and Patti Whitney Wise, Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force. Other invited speakers include Bruce Goldberg, MD, Oregon Department of Human Services; and Barbara Roberts, former Oregon governor.

### YOU

Groups from congregations and community organizations are encouraged to participate.

### Registration

The registration fee is \$15 and includes lunch and materials. Look for more information and download a registration form at [www.emoregon.org](http://www.emoregon.org) or call 503-221-1054.

## Together in Prayer

**W**e encourage you to include the congregations listed in your own personal prayers and the prayers of the Church.

We ask you to pray for the people of these congregations and their perspective ministries. Thank you for being our prayer partners!

## Pray for the Sunset Cluster

Light of Life, Aloha  
Mission of Atonement, Beaverton  
St. Andrew, Beaverton  
St. Matthew, Beaverton  
Shepherd of the Valley, Beaverton  
Taiwan Lutheran, Beaverton  
Emanuel, Cornelius  
Calvary, Hillsboro  
Community of ChristChurch, Hillsboro  
Trinity, McMinnville  
Joyful Servant, Newberg  
Christ the King, Tigard

## In Loving Memory of Pastor Roland Hilding Swanson

**R**etired Pastor Roland Swanson died Monday, January 8th, at the age of 91. He was the son of a Lutheran Pastor, Dr. Carl Rubert and Malinda Swanson. He was raised in Seattle, a graduate of Broadway High School, Pacific Lutheran College, and the University of Washington. He attended law school for one year at the UW and graduated from

Augustana Theological Seminary in 1942. He was ordained by the Augustana Synod serving Messiah, Bakersfield, CA; Central, Yakima, WA; Salem, Mount Vernon, WA, and Augustana, Portland, OR. He retired in 1980.

He was active in church and community affairs in the places in which he served. Pastor Swanson served as the Secretary of the Pacific Northwest Synod of the Lutheran Church in America from 1962 through the 1970's.

Pastor Swanson was preceded in death by his wife, Isabelle, in November of 2005 and by his parents and three brothers. He is survived by his four sons; Paul, Mark, Peter and Thomas and their spouses, sixteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, a brother and sister-in-law, four nieces and a nephew.

Memorial gifts may be given to Gethsemane Lutheran Church, the church in which Pastor was baptized, confirmed, married, and a member in his latter years. Also gifts may be given to the Columbia Lutheran Home, Seattle which was established by Gethsemane under the leadership of Roland's father, and to other ministries of the Church or charity of your choice.

Peace be to his memory! We celebrate the promises of the faith and the life and witness of Roland Hilding Swanson.

## In Loving Memory of Pastor Ramona Soto Rank

**P**astor Ramona Soto-Rank died Friday, January 12, 2007. She was born to Florida Lynch Davis Soto and Joe Soto on February 6, 1944. As an enrolled member of the Klamath Tribes of Oregon, Ramona's role in the Native American community originated in SE Oregon. In 1962 she was crowned the 9<sup>th</sup> Miss Indian America. In this role she was able to meet with people such as Jackie Kennedy, Bobby Kennedy, and then Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield discussing native issues. Ramona began college at University of Wyoming, Laramie, and continued her education at Colorado Women's College in Denver.



She was appointed by the Governor to the Oregon state comprehensive employment and training board and served as the Inter Lutheran Coordinator for Native American Concerns in Oregon and a representative to the National Indian Lutheran Board from 1972 to 1987.

In addition to her husband Larry, Ramona survived by her two sons (Larry Jr. and Todd), two daughters (Renée and Rebecca), daughter-in-laws Cecily and Jennifer, grandsons Jasper and Ethan, and her third grandson expected to arrive in April. Her mother, father and brothers preceded her in death.

Your prayers are deeply felt and greatly treasured. Condolences may be sent to the family at 13007 Fremont Street, Portland.



Cultural Ministries. Ramona was President of the Native American/Alaska Native Association. In 2000 Romona was ordained. She was one of only three Native American women ordained in the ELCA. Her congregational ministry began at Augustana Lutheran Church, Portland, as an Associate Minister. She continued to serve there until she retired last November.

Her ministry work expanded to a global scale. She was credentialed by the Lutheran World Federation to be on the United Nations working group on the Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People. She went to Geneva, Switzerland to work out of the office of the U. N. High Commissioner of Human Rights. She also continued to serve on the Board of Directors of H.O.N.O.R. She served on the multicultural board of visitors for Oregon State University and on the committee for developing and opening the Longhouse at Portland State University.

A member of the Klamath Tribal Council, Ramona worked to get the Klamath Tribes restored and recognized in 1986. During this time she was the Executive Director for the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, an organization representing 49 federally recognized tribes in Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington.

## First Call Theological Education Program

**February 6-8, 2007**

Camp Berachah near Auburn, WA  
1:00 pm - starting the 6th  
noon -ending the 8th

This program is designed for pastors and AIMS who are in their first three years of rostered ministry. The ELCA requires participation in this program. Cost for the event is \$200 which includes room (double occupancy), meals, snacks, program, and the resource book.

This year's theme is leadership in the congregation. One of the presenters is Sharon Daloz Parks, Director of Leadership for the New Common, an initiative of the Whidbey Institute in Clinton, WA. Resource text is her book, Leadership Can Be Taught (Harvard Business School Press, 2005). Other presenters include the five Bishops of Region 1 and eight other staff (experienced rostered persons from the Region's synods).

To register or for more information, contact the LENS director, John Rosenberg at [rosenbergjohn@comcast.net](mailto:rosenbergjohn@comcast.net) or 360-606-9114.

## The Global Mission

**Event Will Have A Plethora of Workshops:**

(a full list of workshops and more information is available at

[www.oregonsynod.org/about/globalmission.php](http://www.oregonsynod.org/about/globalmission.php).)

1. Companion Synod Workshops:
2. China Service Ventures
3. Ethiopia - "Wekane Yesus Church - Brothers and Sisters in Christ"
4. ELCA World Hunger information and stories
5. What happens when you return home?
6. Global Advocates - Women of the ELCA - 7. "A look at Islam" and "Women in Middle Eastern Culture"
8. Mission trips to Mexico
9. Bread for the World

## Other Opportunities

**"Fill the Barnyard"** - Oregon Synod congregations are asked to collect monies for an animal of their choice- pig, goat, chicken, rabbit, or cow. There is a barnyard to fill!

A special offering will be taken for the Oregon Synod scholarship fund for "Young Adults participating in the ELCA Youth Volunteer program and for the SW WA scholarships fund for Namibian students.

## Global Mission Event

**March 10, 2007**

*Sponsored by Oregon and SW Washington Synods*  
Trinity Lutheran, 309 W 39th St. Vancouver, WA  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm



The Global Mission Event is open to women and men of all ages. A special children's program for ages 5-12 runs alongside the adult program. "Global Kids" will be led by Lisa Gray, Youth Director at Zoar Lutheran, Canby, and the five teen recipients of scholarships to Poland in the summer of 2006.

Sunitha Mortha, Associate Director for Global Events and Mission Interpreter will be the presenter. Workshops will introduce you to ways you can incorporate global programs in your own congregation and programs in countries around the world-China, Africa, Mid-East. Lunch is free and the event is free!

## It's all about Ministry and Mission!

by *Margie P. Fiedler, MIF Area Representative*

"When we buy property, we are always asking, how does this expand our mission? We look at this house purchase and say, how can this help us minister to the community? Buying this property opens up new possibilities for us." Pastor Mark Brocker, St. Andrew Lutheran, Beaverton.

"When St. Andrew made the decision in 2001, NOT to leave our present location, we went to work to plan and prepare for the future. When we originally purchased our land back in 1987, it was not designated as wet lands. Now that 6 of our 9 1/2 acres are wet lands, we knew when property around us came up for sale, we would need to act quickly," said Bob Cornie, St. Andrews member. "Thanks to the Mission Investment Fund we were able to get a loan to purchase the house that is on the property we need; MIF has been a God Send for us."

St. Andrews council president, Chris, agreed, "And just think the interest we pay for our loan, goes to support other congregations and ministries" St Andrew hopes to be able to pay off their loan early. With no pre-payment penalty for early pay off, the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA is the perfect place to borrow from, when you need money for capital projects.

THANKS to all of the individuals, the 48 congregations, the synod, Lutheran Campus Ministry of Corvallis, and the Portland Education Foundation, of the Oregon synod who invest money with the Mission Investment Fund, which allows the fund to lend money.

**For MIF loans and investments information:** Margie Fiedler at 208/664-7973 margie.fiedler@elca.org

**Church Building Consultant:** Phil Roe at 615/649-0454, ext. 225 philip.roe@elca.org

## Oregon Synod Council Training Program

### Program Objectives

The Oregon Synod provides council training to help church council members and congregation leaders understand their role and responsibilities in the context of their faith in Jesus Christ and in relationship to the church. Leadership skills, valuable resources and what works in other congregations are shared.

### Program Format

- 4-6 hour workshop
- scheduled cluster or individual congregation
- designed for church council members, pastors, and congregation leaders

### Content

Congregation planners and synod workshop leaders will select topics to be covered depending on the congregation's need and situation.

### Some Options:

- priority setting/planning
- organizing
- fiduciary responsibilities
- leadership skills building
- conflict management
- team building
- next step opportunities
- ethics
- other requested topics

To schedule a workshop or for more information contact Bonny Groshong at 503-226-3659 or bonnygroshong@yahoo.com or Deb Mantey, at 503-413-4191 or dmanthey@qwest.net.

## In Loving Memory of Pastor Kurt Rizer

Pastor Kurt Rizer, 51, died January 3, 2007

from complications of a brain aneurysm. Pastor Rizer was serving as the Pastor of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Beaverton, Oregon.



Pastor Rizer was a loving husband to his beloved wife of 25 years, Gale, and devoted father to his adored daughters, Megan and Kelsey Rizer.

Rizer received his Bachelor's Degree from Pacific Lutheran University (1979) and a Master's of Divinity from Yale University (1982). Over the past 23 years, he and his family served parishes in Bellingham and Spokane before coming to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA, where he ministered from 1986 to 1998. From 1998 to the present, Kurt was Pastor to the community of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Beaverton, OR.

Pastor Rizer was an active participant and leader in many church and community activities, committees, and boards. He was passionate in his faith and love of parish ministry and constant in the engagement of the life of faith and the church with its interface with the culture.

In addition to his wife and daughters, Kurt is survived by his parents, Jean Rizer of Seattle, WA and William Rizer of Bradenton, FL; sisters, Beth McDonnell and Gwen Mallory of Seattle; brother, Eric Rizer of Seattle, as well as extended family.

Memorial gifts may be given to the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran

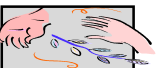
Church Building Fund.

Gifts may be sent to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 17625 NW Cornell Road, Beaverton, Oregon 97006. Condolences may be sent to the Rizer family at 3801 SE 182nd Court, Vancouver, Washington 98683.

## Thank You From the Rizer Family

On behalf of myself, and our daughters, Megan and Kelsey, our sincere thanks for all the love and prayers which so blessed Kurt and our family during his recent health challenges. This same love has been extended to us during these past weeks as we have struggled to find our way without husband and father. There have been so many gifts of cards, remembrances, and flowers during this time of loss. In the midst of our sorrow, the relationships that Kurt so faithfully nurtured, have reached out to comfort us. We thank you for your kindness and for celebrating his life in a most powerful witness to God's love and promise during his Memorial service on January 10, 2007. We were in awe when we saw all that came to be at our side and now so clearly understand Kurt's love of you as colleagues in ministry. Kurt's love of the Church as the vehicle for bringing others to faith was forever on his mind and heart. He had a passion for creating community and conversation. We thank you for being a part of Kurt's life and we hold dear all who gather in His name to carry on the work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings,  
Gale Rizer; gale.rizer@gmail.com



**Because of YOU...** congregations of the Oregon Synod are able to expand and provide new opportunities to minister to the community.