

**OREGON SYNOD**  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH IN AMERICA  
2800 N Vancouver Ave. Ste. 101  
Portland, OR 97227-1643

Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
PAID  
Portland, OR  
PERMIT NO. 2123

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIALS  
DO NOT DELAY

**Update** is published monthly by the Oregon Synod-  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Bishop:** Rev. Paul R. Swanson  
oregonsynod@qwest.net

**Assistant to the Bishop:**

Rev. Zane O. Wilson

**Congregational Resource Coordinator:**

Deaconess Deb Mantey

**Administrative Coordinator:**

Kathy Shutt

**Office Assistant:**

Beverly Taylor

**Communication Coordinator:**

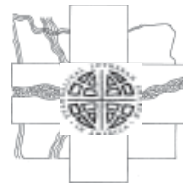
Julie Mankin

**Reproduction Policy:**

Please feel free to duplicate this newsletter  
for use in your congregation.

**Address Update Policy:**

If your name or address or email changes  
please notify the synod immediately.



# Update

March 2007 *Oregon Synod*

## Escape From Stuff-Rose Cluster Highlight

by Todd Matthias, First Immanuel, NW Portland

In the spirit of stewardship, members of First Immanuel Lutheran have been gathering to examine their lives in order to live more simply and to reduce 'stuff.' For a discussion starting point two PBS-produced programs, *Affluenza* and *Escape from Affluenza*, have been used. These programs talk about the typical life-style of today's capitalistic society, which emphasizes the accumulation of wealth and goods. We are inundated with pleas to "buy now," "avoid delay" and hurry for the "limited time offer." How do we escape the mind set that we should have all the latest and greatest "stuff?"



Participants have agreed to make an effort to live more simply by not buying into the tenet of consumerism that "more is better." The familiar processes of "reduce, reuse and recycle" are employed, with particular attention to reduction. By using less of what we consume every day (energy, water, food, paper, etc.), participants hope to reduce their impact on natural resources and by doing so, become better stewards of the earth.

*continued on page seventeen*

*Bishop Paul R.  
Swanson*

2800 N. Vancouver  
Suite 101  
Portland, Oregon  
97227-1643  
503-413-4191  
www.oregonsynod.org  
oregonsynod@qwest.net

### In this Issue

|                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Bishop's message             | page 2  |
| Specialized Ministry         | page 5  |
| Bishop's Election Task Force | page 10 |
| Calendar                     | page 18 |

## Message from Bishop Paul R. Swanson

### Dear Partners in Ministry,

On May 18-20, 2007, the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Oregon Synod Assembly will be meeting at the Hilton Hotel in Eugene, Oregon. We will gather around the theme, "On the Road Together in Christ!"

It is an important assembly as our 116 congregations care for the business of our life together. Accounts of our shared ministry and reports of our work done in agencies and institutions of our Church will be shared. It will be a celebrative time of worship, reflection, prayer and community.

The central activity will be the election of a new bishop for the Oregon Synod. As I have announced, I will retire at the end of my term which is July 31<sup>st</sup>. The new Oregon Synod Bishop will assume office on August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Saturday, September 22, 2007 will be the formal installation of our new bishop (location to be determined). We are blessed to have the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Mark Hanson at our synod assembly this year. He will also be returning in September to install our bishop.

As we move through this Lenten and Easter season, I encourage your earnest and prayerful reflection for God's presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit as we get ready to elect our future leader. The Bishop's Election Task Force has been working hard assisting us in our reflection and discernment.

As we seek the one whom we will entrust with the "oversight" of the Church's life in this part of the ELCA and move through this discernment process, we will be considering our synod's future. Without a doubt we have opinions of our Church's needs as well as viewpoints on the gifts and attributes we desire in a bishop. I certainly have my personal opinions and thoughts. There is no uncertainty in my mind that all

of the above is important. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit we will collectively "call" the leader for this time.

My thoughts these days are around the need for all the persons of the Oregon Synod to be in PRAYER for assisting us individually and corporately to discern God's direction for our future. **From this point forward the most important activity we can be about is PRAYER!**

I urge you to be earnest in prayer for our Church, our synod, your congregation, and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we move towards the election of our bishop. I recall a former bishop sharing with me that if a calling entity of the Church was not adamant and disciplined in prayer in the calling of a leader, "they deserved what they get." Although the advice seems rather strident and harsh, it was his firm belief that without prayer, the process was usually without substance and depth and was political machinations at best.

*continued on page nineteen*

## 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.

**New Beginnings: The Gifts of Aging (D-75)** shows creative ministries involving older adults. Mission opportunities, teaching and service abound in the stories told on film. It takes a positive look at aging in our society and provides a glimpse of the variety of church ministries being enjoyed by older adults. A free study guide is available by clicking the Study Guides link on the EcuFilm home page at [www.ecufilm.org](http://www.ecufilm.org).

This production received a Crystal Award for Excellence in the religious/inspirational category from the Communicator Awards 2005 Video Competition.

Suggested settings are small groups, evening programs, adult Sunday school. The running time is approximately twenty minutes. Ask for D-75 when you call.

## Bishop Swanson's Message

*continued from page nineteen*

As we continue the journey of the Oregon Synod, let us be fervent in our prayers and requests for God's presence and guidance in our holy task of being the Church. We live in the promise of God's abiding presence with whatever task we undertake. May we through our prayers...individually and as the body of Christ...give foundation and support to the election process of our synod and to the person we will entrust as a steward of our life together in Christ!

I eagerly look forward to the Assembly when we will experience God's presence and activity through our prayers and actions! We truly "live in God's amazing grace!"

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Paul

## Together in Prayer

### PRAYERS

Samantha, granddaughter of Pastor David Larsen and Patricia Larsen, Director of Planned Giving for the Oregon Synod, Kim Mruk, daughter of Pastor Rodney and Linda Mruk, Pastor Gary Simpson, 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

Emil Rogge, father of Pastor Barry Rogge.

### ROSE CLUSTER

First Immanuel, Portland  
Messiah, Portland  
Mt. Carmel, Portland  
St. James, Portland  
St. Luke, Portland  
First, St. Helens  
Bethany, Warren

## March Oregon Synod Calendar

|                     |                   |   |
|---------------------|-------------------|---|
| <b>Every Tues.</b>  | 10:00 AM          | <b>Take Ten at Ten on Tuesday Prayers and Staff Meeting</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>     |
| <b>Mar. 8</b>       | 10:00 AM-3:00 PM  | <b>Deans Meeting</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>  |
| <b>Mar. 8</b>       | 3:30 PM           | <b>Endowment</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>  |
| <b>Mar. 9,10,11</b> |                   | <b>Coram Deo Series</b><br><i>Central, Portland</i><br><i>see page _ for more information</i> |
| <b>Mar. 10</b>      | 10:00 AM-12:00 PM | <b>Leadership Support</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>                                       |
| <b>Mar. 10</b>      | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM   | <b>SW WA Synod and Oregon Synod Global Mission Event</b><br><i>Trinity, Vancouver, WA</i>     |
| <b>Mar. 15</b>      | 9:00 AM-3:00 PM   | <b>Candidacy</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>  |
| <b>Mar. 24</b>      |                   | <b>Lutheran Men in Mission Mini-Gathering</b><br><i>Marysville, WA</i>                        |
| <b>Mar. 29</b>      | 11:30 AM-1:30 PM  | <b>Stewardship</b><br><i>Oregon Synod Office</i>  |



### Congregations In Call Process/ Pastoral Vacancies

| Congregation                        | Status | Pastoral Care               |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| P Beaverton, Shepherd of the Valley | NV     | Don Parsons (pulpit supply) |
| P Medford, Zion                     | P      |                             |
| P Portland, Gethsemane              | P      | Dennis Martala (INT)        |
| AP Portland, Resurrection           | P      | Al Jensen (LP)              |
| P Prineville, Our Savior            | P      | Stan Hoobing                |
| P Roseburg Faith                    | P      | Wally Gustav (INT)          |
| P Silverton, Immanuel               | P      | Tom Hiller (INT)            |
| P The Dalles, Zion                  | P      | John Firstuen (INT)         |
| P Warren, Bethany                   | NV     |                             |

**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

### God's Unfolding Ministry

by Julie Mankin, information taken from St. Timothy's newsletter

Timelessness is a natural perspective.

Children often have no feeling of time passing. We learn the habit of experiencing time a certain way, depending on the culture in which we are raised. Most of us in the West are so addicted to linear time that we don't even realize it. Some Western cultures, however—

for example, some Native Americans—don't learn to experience time the same way as the rest of us.



For over two years Chuck Hunt was available and waiting for call. Perhaps for the Native American people that Hunt ministers to, his ordination came quickly. For the rest of us it has been a long wait. On February 11, 2007, Chuck Hunt was ordained at St.

Timothy, Portland. Pastor Hunt was called by St. Timothy to share pastoral responsibilities as time allows. Pastor Hunt's primary role however will be in developing the ministry he has initiated with Native American people in the Portland metro area. This new mission congregation, Good Spirit, may change as it grows but some of the elements thus far include:

*continued on page thirteen*

### Sharing Faith With Others-Cluster Highlight

by Pastor Melinda Wagner, First Immanuel, Portland

"When I tell people I go to church, they're shocked. It's like church is just outside their regular realm, and they wonder why a normal person like me would be there." This young person voices a fact of life in our secular culture. Many friends and acquaintances don't understand our faith commitments, or they may have negative stereotypes that make them suspicious or even hostile. A natural response is simply to keep quiet about this important part of our life.

These challenges led First Immanuel's Outreach Committee to ask how we can better support our members in expressing their faith in everyday situations, both

through words and actions. We decided to invite Pastor Dan Erlander to tackle this theme, and we have planned a gathering where members are specifically encouraged to invite friends. The result is a special event March 3 & 4. We hope you'll join us.

**On March 3, from 8:30am to noon,** Pastor Erlander will speak on "A Surprising God; A Surprising People," exploring how we express our faith through a lifestyle reflecting Christ's counter-cultural way.

**On March 4, 9:30-10:45 am,** Erlander will address the simple topic of God's love. Worship follows at 11 am.

Thanks to a memorial in the name of Rev. Walter F. Wolbrecht, **all events are free.** Childcare is provided. Please call ahead 503-226-3659 to let us know your are coming and bring a friend!

## All are Welcome in this Place

Information from Vicky Charlston, Communications Coordinator,  
Portland Metro Chapter (PMC)-Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA)

**A**ll are welcome in this place, rang about triumphantly at Portland's second annual Reconciling in Christ (RIC) service held at Central Lutheran Church, Portland on January 28. A newly created banner, a rainbow heart, proclaimed the same message. Worshippers gathered once again to hear the message of God's love for all.

Jeannine, Co-director of Lutherans Concerned/North America (LC/NA), reminisced that she had been in Portland near the beginning of Central Lutheran's journey which has culminated in this celebration with all the RIC churches in the metropolitan area. She and her partner, Mari, attend some early adult education classes at Central and spoke movingly of their individual journeys. Mari was confirmed at Central, so her story was especially meaningful, and it was Jeannine who presented the RIC certificate to the congregation in 2003.

The sermon, preached by Pastor Katherine Hellier, issued a challenge to the straight supporters of RIC goals: "I have come to believe that silence in the face of injustice can kill our souls. We are people of faith, people who have God's sufficient and overflowing grace, infusing us with the power to speak, to act, to set captives free. So we have to speak, we have to act, or we die inside.

I have power, and so do you. I have the power and promise of my baptism, the power and promise of the resurrection; I have Holy Spirit power. And I have power because I am straight, and as a straight ally, I really am a part of the establishment. So if I am afraid to speak out, who will? If I do not speak my heart, speak what God is compelling me to say, I wound myself as well as those who cannot speak for themselves."

She ended with, "None of us can fully live in the light, as long as there are those forced to live in a closet,"

and then she quoted Malcolm Muggeridge: "...Let love be dangerous."

Vicky Charlston, Communication Coordinator, PMC-LC/NA commented, "With this challenge ringing in our ears, we partook of the Lord's supper with gratitude and praise and continued to stations for anointing and blessing while singing One Bread, One Body, One Lord of All.






Refreshed and renewed, we left the sanctuary for fellowship hosted by the Portland Metro Chapter. It was such a blessing to be a part of this 2007 RIC service."

In 1984 Lutherans Concerned / North America started the Reconciling in Christ ("RIC") Program to recognize Lutheran congregations that welcome lesbian and gay believers. At the 2005 Oregon Synod Assembly, Resolution #8 entitled, "Designating the Oregon Synod as 'Reconciling in Christ' was adopted."

## What would I do with a Mission Plus Account?



An ELCA Mission Plus account is a great vehicle to save money, that has many advantages, ie:

-  there is no stated maturity, and the money is accessible at any time
-  it only takes \$100 to open an account, and additions of any amount can be made at any time
-  through your Mission Plus account, if you choose you can pay your bills on line, at no charge
-  if you chose, you are provided with a debit card, in order to make purchases using your Mission Plus account
-  there is no fee for checks and checks may be written in any amount

**AND** the best part of having a Mission Plus account, is knowing that your investment has a purpose! YOU help congregations, camps, and other ministries to grow through your great stewardship on investing with mission in mind! Yes, ministries may borrow money for capitol improvements through MIF. This is only possible because individuals, congregations, and others invest with the Mission Investment Fund! Thank you!!

For MIF loans and investments information contact:  
Margie Fiedler at 208/664-7973  
margiefiedler@elca.org

## Escape from Stuff

*continued from page one*

Additionally, members are seeking ways to simplify their own lives, to reduce stress, to spend more time with loved ones and to find creative and meaningful purpose to life. In some cases this means working less, or working a different job and making less money in exchange for more free time. The "addiction" to money is broken by reducing how, and on what, funds are spent. In exchange, people reduce the physical and mental impacts of a societal drive to earn more money and so become better stewards of their own selves.

Two meetings have taken place so far. Participants will gather in the future to share their own experiences and discuss ways they have found to reduce consumption and simplify their lives. A direct result of the discussions at First Immanuel has been the formation of a "free-cycling" bulletin board in the church newsletter where members who have unneeded items can offer those things free to others.

## “Mustard Seed Project” receives Grant of \$15,000

by Pastor Ron Nitz, Mt. Carmel, Portland



**M**t. Carmel, in SW Portland, was intrigued with the potential of the Thrivent Charitable Gifting Initiative. Working with one of its members, Courtney Hermann, an instructor at the Art Museum of Portland, the members of Mt. Carmel decided it would be helpful to have a brief DVD presentation on charitable gifting, related directly to small congregations, as well as a brochure to promote its endowment fund. As envisioned, this DVD would make use of brief interviews with members of smaller congregations who have chosen to leave a legacy to various ministries, and interviews with recipient ministries on what this kind of gifting has enabled them to do.

The Oregon Synod Director of Planned Giving, Dr. Patricia Larsen, worked with the planning group on the grant application, and will be helping to identify people to be interviewed. Grieg Anderson, Oregon Synod Treasurer, prepared the application and serves as the congregational coordinator for this project.

Nicknamed “The Mustard Seed Project”, the grant request for \$15,000 was approved in December, and the check was presented to the congregation in early January.

The plan for this project is that the DVD will be ready for presentation to the Oregon Synod Assembly in May, and the grant funds will allow Mt. Carmel to make enough copies of the DVD to send three copies of it to every “small” congregation in the Oregon Synod, as well as a model “Mission Endowment Fund” brochure that could easily be used by any congregation to encourage such gifts to their local endowment fund.

There will also be a sufficient amount of DVDs for Dr. Larsen to use in her visits to congregations in the months and years to come. Mt. Carmel hopes that this will not only encourage gifting to its own Endowment Fund, but to endowment funds in many other congregations as well.

For more information contact Dr. Larsen (Tricia) by calling 503-244-4102 or email her directly at [Blessed2Give@cs.com](mailto:Blessed2Give@cs.com).

## Managing Spiritual Care

**O**ne of our newest Oregon Synod clergy who is in a specialized ministry is Pastor Kent Schauffelberger. He is the Manager of Spiritual Care and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Supervisor at St. Charles in Bend, OR. Kent comes to St. Charles from a 20 year career at St. Luke’s Regional Medical Center in Boise, ID where he served originally as a hospice chaplain at Mountain States Tumor Institute, then as Manager of Spiritual Care Services. He was certified as a CPE Supervisor in 1996.

Before his ministry in Boise, he served with the Tri-Cities Chaplaincy in Kennewick and was a parish pastor in Edmond, OK. He is a graduate of Christ Seminary-Seminex and was raised in the Missouri Synod congregations in southern Idaho.

*In an attempt to let you know more about the variety of ministries within our synod, this is the first of a series of articles highlighting those who are in extra-parish or specialized ministries.*

Kent’s current focus of ministry is establishing the newest CPE Center in Oregon and the Northwest. St. Charles’ CPE Center will be the only one east of the Cascades (the closest being Eugene and Salem to the west and Tri Cities and Boise to the east). St. Charles is a small 330 bed system of two medical centers in Bend and Redmond serving the 350 square miles of Central Oregon. It is a Level II Trauma Center and has specializations in *Cardiac, Cancer, Medical, Surgical, Neurological, Orthopedic, Material/Child and Behavioral Health*. St. Charles is one of a few private, not-for-profit medical centers that is operated as a Roman Catholic hospital “under the recognition of the Bishop of the Diocese of Baker” however it is no longer owned or managed by a Catholic order or organization.

For those who might be wondering what “CPE” is, it is “interfaith professional education for ministry. It brings theological students, ministers and qualified lay persons of all faiths into supervised encounter with persons in crisis. Out of an intense involvement with persons in need, and from the feedback from peers and teachers, students develop new awareness of themselves as persons and of the needs of those to whom they minister. From theological reflection on specific human situations, they gain a new understanding of ministry. Within the interdisciplinary team process of helping persons, they develop skills in interpersonal and inter-professional relationships. (taken from the web site of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, [www.acpe.edu](http://www.acpe.edu)).

Kent is married to JoAnn who is still living in Meridian, while they wait for their first grandchild to be born in mid-March. They have two adult daughters, Amy of Missoula MT, and Jenelle (mother-to-be) of Meridian, ID. Welcome Kent and JoAnn to the Oregon Synod!



## Picking Up the Pieces

by Patricia Larsen, Oregon Synod Director of Planned Giving

After the funeral, the two surviving children went to work sorting through the papers of their deceased father, trying to get a handle on his financial situation. It took a great deal of time to sort through and find everything. Then they had trouble finding his life insurance company.

They discovered three things:

1. Their dad, a retired human services manager, had accumulated a fair amount of wealth due mainly to conservative investments and frugal living.
2. Their dad had been generously supporting several charities as well as his congregation.
3. Their dad had left behind no will or other instructions to guide them in the distribution of his estate.

### Here to Help You

**Having an up to date and valid will is one of the greatest gifts any father or mother can give family members.**

To help you will this process our Director of Planned Giving, Tricia Larsen, has several booklets that will help you. The first is a Wills and Trust Workbook to guide you in putting together the information your attorney will need. The second is a Notes to Family and Friends Workbook that will give your family all the information their need all in one convenient location.

You can request the booklets from Dr. Larsen (Tricia) by calling 503-244-4102, emailing [Blessed2Give@cs.com](mailto:Blessed2Give@cs.com) or writing to: 6835 SW 46<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Portland, OR 97219.

Faced with this situation, the children decided to give a portion of his estate, a final tithe, to the organizations their father had supported in his lifetime. They had to make assumptions about which organizations to help, how much he would have wanted to give, and in what proportions.

### **Not knowing his wishes made a tough time tougher.**

This is just one of the thorny issues the surviving family faces when a loved one dies without a will. In the midst of sorrow and time pressures, difficult decisions must be made. How much better it would have been had the father taken the time to create a will.



“Youth held a service blitz on February 3rd and collected nonperishable food items door to door in the community with six youth and two adults participating. We made it a contest with the group collecting the least amount of food in the allotted time having to serve ice cream cones first to the ones that collected the most. The twist was (Surprise! The tables were turned) the ones making the cones could make them up any way they wanted to for the winners. There were some amazing combinations with 3 kinds of ice cream and half a dozen different kinds of candy sprinkles!

Some of the contributions were brought forward in a wheelbarrow and the money was brought up in a soup pot by youth during the offering. The Souper Bowl was included in the children’s message, done with puppet skit.

In all, \$322 and 251 nonperishable food items were collected. All is being donated to Food Share here in Newport.” — Atonement Lutheran Church, Newport

“Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church Youth (TELC Youth) – collected money in soup pots before, during, and after worship (and during coffee fellowship time) on Sunday, Jan 28 and Sunday, Feb 4. The total collected was \$196.00 and went to the Agape House, a local food bank.

“We got on board late in the game, but plan to make this a bigger event next year and incorporate the service event and collection of canned foods.”— Barbara Place, Church Office Coordinator, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hermiston



Youth from Good Shepherd and St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Madras, OR.

## Souper Bowl Quilt Nets \$570 for World Hunger

by Jeanette Stonebraker, Faith Lutheran Church, North Bend

A quilt made for Souper Bowl Sunday netted \$570 for World Hunger. In early 2006 Mary Shultz, a member of Faith Lutheran Church in North Bend, decided to make a quilt to raise money for World Hunger. She gave patterns of a soup bowl and spoon to women of the church. They selected the fabric and each made a square which was put into the quilt. Mary used the soup bowl squares made of many different fabric prints and made them into a beautiful quilt. A month before February 4, Souper Bowl Sunday, tickets were sold for ownership of the quilt. A total of \$570 was received for tickets.

The congregation also had a bowl for offerings. A total of \$600 was raised for World Hunger and \$45 for the local Food cupboard.



**F**ifteen congregations of the Oregon Synod participated in the The Souper Bowl of Caring program. This program is a youth-led, grassroots movement of caring, the result of thousands of young people joining together to fight hunger and poverty in their communities.

*As of February 14, 2007*

**The Overall Total Raised \$3,950,101 \*\***

**ELCA Lutherans \$434,582\*\***

**Oregon Synod (broken into categories)**

Money Raised: \$4568 \*\*

Food Items Collected: 723 pounds of food  
922 non-perishable items

\*\*Check [www.souperbowl.org](http://www.souperbowl.org) for an up-to-the-minute donations total. This number will change frequently.

The Oregon Synod congregations involved:

Zoar Lutheran Church, Canby; Zion, Dalles; St. Matthew Lutheran Mission, Central Point; Trinity, Hermiston; St. Paul, Ontario; Peace, Pendleton; Portsmouth, Portland; Our Savior's, Prineville; Miwaukie, Milwaukie; Mt. Carmel, Portland; Good Shepherd, Albany; Faith, North Bend; Emanuel, Cornelius; Emmaus, Eugene; Creator, Clackamas and Atonement, Newport.

"We are a small congregation (less than 50 regular attendees), so this was a big effort for our group" — Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Madras, OR.

"Neither church has a youth group, to speak of; we just do this 'just because'...."— Pr. Ron Nitz, Mt. Carmel Lutheran, Portland, OR, & Holy Trinity Lutheran, Portland, OR

"Our confirmation class (3 students) collected a total of 80 items of food & \$30.00 on Souper Bowl Sunday. They even wore borrowed football uniforms from our local middle school! It was a big hit."— Christ the King Lutheran Church in Milton-Freewater

"Our youth set a goal this year to collect \$350 and 100 cans of food. I'm excited to report that they collected \$411 and 150 cans of food! It was a completely youth led-effort. I was at the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza and left one of my High School Juniors in charge, and she did an AWESOME job leading!"— Lisa Gray, Director of Youth Ministries for Zoar Lutheran Church in Canby, Oregon.

"Grocery sacks were given out to members the first Sunday in January with a list of needed items for Our Savior's Lutheran Church's Food Pantry and attached was an ELCA World Hunger Appeal envelope. Members and friends were instructed to bring the sacks back on February 4 and place them around the altar. Thrivent will match our appeal money, one dollar for every two. More money and items are still coming. This was I believe the first time this congregation has participated in this event."— Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Prineville, Pastor Stan Hoobing

## Around the Synod...

### 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!

#### 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 Nambian students.

#### July 17-August 3

##### Global Mission Companion Synod Poland Trip

Our Companion Synod Program links the Oregon Synod with the Evangelical-Augsburg Church in Poland. This relationship began in September 1995. Since then different groups from the Oregon Synod have traveled to Poland as volunteers in a camp experience that has affected the lives of numerous Polish children. This year the tour cost per person for this trip is \$2190 (Airport/Foreign Departure From Portland) The trip is limited to 15 participants.

To learn more visit: [www.oregonsynod.org/about/globalmissionpoland.php](http://www.oregonsynod.org/about/globalmissionpoland.php). The brochure is available for download at this site.

### 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 - "Mekane 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

## Coram Deo Lecture Series

March 9, 10, and 11, 2007

Central Lutheran Church presents the series in partnership with the Oregon Synod ELCA. Central Lutheran Church, Portland

### Dr. Marcus Borg: Noted Author, Lecturer, Scholar

Dr. Borg has emerged as a spokesperson for a renewal of radical discipleship, appearing on NBC's Today Show and Dateline, PBS's Newshour, ABC's Evening News and Prime Time, NPR's Fresh Air, and National Geographic specials. An internationally recognized "Jesus scholar," Dr. Borg has spent much of his life studying and writing about what Jesus would do were He among us. The title of one of Borg's internationally acclaimed books, Jesus: The Life, Teachings and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary, hints at his understanding of Jesus and authentic Christianity.

| March 9  | March 10  | March 11   |
|--|---|--|
| Competing Christianities<br>7:30-9 pm<br>(\$10 for Friday) | Rereading Jesus: Conventional Christianity vs Radical Discipleship<br>9-10:30 am<br><br>Jesus vs Empire<br>11am-12:30 pm<br>(\$20 for Saturday) | Jesus: Executed for Justice and Peace<br>Adult Spiritual<br><br>Formation Hour<br>9-10 am<br>Worship<br>10:15 am |

**March 24, 2007**  
**Lutheran Men in Mission Mini-Gathering**  
*Event for all men in Region 1, which includes Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Alaska.*

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
7215 51st Ave. NE  
Marysville, WA

### Building for the Future.

*This event will begin at 9 a.m. (check-in and coffee from 8-9 a.m.) and concludes at 5 p.m.*

### Speakers:

- **Rollie Martinson**, professor of Children, Youth and Family at Luther Seminary.
- **Peter Mayer**, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffett. He is a committed Christian musician and strong supporter of LMM.
- **Bishop Chris Boerger**, of the NW Synod, will be our Bible Study presenter.
- **Doug Haugen**, Director of the Lutheran Men in Mission, will bring us greetings and provide resources for the establishment of men's ministries in your congregation.



Registration information can be found at [www.elca.org/lmm/gatherings.html](http://www.elca.org/lmm/gatherings.html). Registration is \$30 for a single registration. Two or more men \$25 each (any number).

April 21 -22

**OLYO Middle School Rally**  
St. Mark Lutheran, Salem

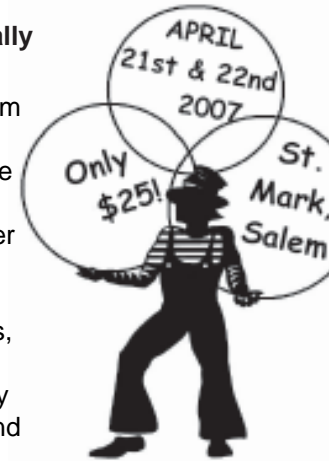
**Middle School Youth** from around the Oregon Synod are invited to learn how the Trinity is at work in our daily lives with our speaker **Katya Ouchakof**.

Come play thrilling games, become involved in the surrounding community by doing a service project, and meet new people!

**The cost is only \$25 - SO BRING FRIENDS!**  
**Registration forms must be received by April 10, 2007** and can be found online at [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org).

### For more information contact:

- OLYO President, Amie McDermott at 503-318-7964 -or-
- Event Registrar, Lisa Gray at 503-266-4061



## God's Unfolding Ministry

*continued from page three*

- **small group ministry in homes**-fellowship, study scripture, groups will grow and divide (currently there are two evening groups with a third already emerging)
- **larger gatherings with a religious focus**-support and fellowship (often involving meals).
- **a play group**-teaching parenting skills to young Native American parents (group meets weekly at the Native American Center at Portland State University)

• **religious focused gatherings** with -services which include Native American traditions, scripture, Holy Communion, prayer (often held at St. Timothy's during Christmas and Easter)

Pastor Hunt is an Elder in the Native American community. He preaches in a number of congregations around Oregon and when he is invited he tells the story of the ministry that is under development.

**April 22, 2007**  
**Children's Advocacy Day**  
Pioneer Court House Square  
2:00 pm -4:00 pm

"For Every Child A Better World" is the theme of an exciting event to be held in Pioneer Court-house Square in downtown Portland. In partnership with our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Diocese of Oregon, we will make a public witness in the public square that we believe the health and well being of all children should be a priority in our congregations, our communities, our state, our nation and throughout the world.

Children's Advocacy Day at Pioneer Square is an opportunity to stand in solidarity with people of faith and partners in our community who care about children.

**Come to the Party!**  
**Celebrate Oregon Synod Campus Ministry Sunday**  
**April 29th, 2007**



**B**y Oregon Synod resolution, April 29, 2007 celebrates the 100th anniversary of nationwide Lutheran Campus Ministry. Friends all around the synod are encouraged to include a celebration of campus ministry in their worship services on the 29th and to come to Corvallis for the festive Centennial Celebration beginning at 1:30 pm in the CH2M Hill Alumni Center on the Oregon State University Campus. Special guests for the festivities include Bishop Paul Swanson, storyteller Pr. Dan Erlander, the musical group Jubilee and campus ministry friends and alums from the Oregon Synod and beyond. Everyone is invited. Please help us spread the word!

**Start Now**

Invite everyone to Come to the Party! Copy the **Campus Ministry Sunday flyer/poster** found online at [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org). Use it in your newsletter. Post a copy on your bulletin board. Hand a copy to anyone who cares about students or was once one. Mention it in your announcements.

**Pray for Lutheran Campus Ministry**

On Sunday, the 29th, pray Lutheran Campus Ministry as a Means of Grace as a litany of thanksgiving for the many known and unknown gifts of 100 years of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Use the litany found online at: or **use the litany and the flyer together** as a bulletin insert. Then come to the party!

**Visit the 'Celebrate Lutheran Campus Ministry' website**

Whenever you would like, visit the Celebrate Lutheran Campus Ministry website at <http://www.elca.org/campusministry/celebrate100/>. There you'll find a wide variety of centennial resources, including Bible studies, memorabilia, an electronic book of essays, a hymn commissioned for the celebration, and much more. Enjoy. Thank you for your partnership in making campus ministry real and giving it a strong future!

Congregations are encouraged to reproduce and print this bulletin insert in their newsletters and bulletins to suit their needs.

Please pull out this publication and copy and distribute as desired.

## The Oregon Synod is... *the Oregon Synod*

March 2007

### Preparing for the Oregon Synod Assembly On the Road Together in Christ

The Oregon Synod Council created the Bishop's Election Task Force (BETF) to support us in this work. With Council approval, the Task Force has structured a public process to help us prepare for electing a new bishop.

In January and February 2007, congregations and individuals were asked to submit names of pastors whom they believe might have the gifts and inclination to serve as bishop. The period for submitting possible pastor names for Synod Bishop closed Wednesday, February 28.

Packets have been mailed to synod congregations, rostered persons and congregational leaders, as well as being available on the synod's web site.

#### **Possible Candidate Names are Not Nominations**

Please also note that these possible candidate names are not nominations. Nominations are to be made from the floor of the synod assembly.

The synod elects a bishop every six years during a synod assembly. The 2007 election is scheduled for May 18-20 at the Hilton in Eugene.

**In early April 2007 and May 2007**, the Bishop's Election Task Force will publish a resource providing pertinent information on all pastors who were named and who consented to be considered.

**In late April and early May 2007**, congregations will be asked to consider the information in this resource provided by BETF in light of the conversations at the Fall 2006 cluster events. To "consider" might include analysis, conversation, prayer, and worship. That is, congregations will be asked to enter into spiritual discernment about the Oregon Synod's mission and how the gifts God has given various pastors might best serve the synod's mission.

Two forums will be held in May to introduce candidates to the synod, with an additional time for the candidates speeches held during the Synod Assembly when the number of nominees has reached seven or fewer.

Complete information on the nomination and election process is posted on the synod web site at [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org). Questions can be directed to Ron Pittman, Oregon Synod Vice President, at [pittman@onlinemac.com](mailto:pittman@onlinemac.com).

#### The Oregon Synod is...

- **1 of 65 synods** in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).
- **116 congregations** within the states of Oregon and one congregation in California.
- **3 developing ministries**
- **45,599 baptized members**
- **15,696 individuals who attend worship weekly.**
- **13 clusters** (the names and locations of our congregations are available at [www.oregonsynod.org](http://www.oregonsynod.org) as well as information about the synod's rostered leaders).
- **112 ordained pastors** under call to parishes
- **32 ordained pastors in specialized ministries**
- **100 retired pastors**
- **4 associates in ministry**
- **1 diaconal minister**

We encourage you to include this prayer during worship or in your own personal prayers during the month of March as we prepare for the Synod Assembly and the election of a new bishop. *(taken from [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org))*

O God, it is your desire for the whole world to live in peace, health, and wholeness. Be with the Oregon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and all who prepare to gather in assembly. Bless their worship, open their minds, guide their deliberations, and enrich their fellowship. Bring healing to this world: restore unity to your church, bring peace among nations, mend broken relationships, provide care for your creation, and wholeness for mind, body, and spirit. Amen.

**2007 Oregon Synod Assembly**  
*On the Road Together in Christ*  
**May 18-20, 2007**  
Hilton, Eugene

Information about the 2007 Oregon Synod Assembly can be found online at: <http://oregonsynod.org/assembly/>.

#### Plans for the 2007 assembly

- Presiding Bishop Mark Hansen
- Synod elections and business
- Displays from ministries of the synod
- Silent Auction of quilts -benefitting the ELCA World Hunger Appeal
- Prayer Chapel
- Worship
- Milemarkers in Ministry
- Bethel Players
- Augsburg Fortress Bookstore
- Opportunity for fellowship

#### Assembly Dates to Remember:

March 16...Resolution Deadline  
April 25...Early Registration Closes  
April 27...Nomination Deadline  
May 18-20...Synod Assembly

#### Nominations

Nomination forms are found on-line at <http://oregonsynod.org/assembly/nominations.htm>. **The election needs for 2007 are the following** positions: Vice-president (Lay), Secretary (Lay or Clergy), Synod Council (seven position openings), Synod Committees: Consultation Committee, Discipline Committee and the Endowment Fund.

#### Youth Convo

An event of the Oregon Lutheran Youth Organization runs concurrently with the Assembly. Congregations are encouraged to send one or two youth from their congregations.