

**OREGON SYNOD**  
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CHURCH IN AMERICA  
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Portland, OR 97227-1643

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

**Bishop:** Rev. Dave Brauer-Rieke  
bishop@oregonsynod.org

**Assistant to the Bishop:**

Rev. Zane O. Wilson

**Congregational Resource Coordinator:**

Deaconess Deb Mantey

**Administrative Coordinator:**

Kathy Shurt

**Office Assistant:**

Mindy Holland

**Communication Coordinator:**

Julie Mankin

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The 1st  
of every month.

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# Update

October 2007

Oregon Synod

## In this Issue

Bishop's Message	2
Synod Remodel	3
Poland Trip	4
Guyana ELCA Missionary	9
Calendar	13

## New Office Assistant, Mindy Holland

**M**indy Holland was born and raised in Seattle and is a graduate of Willamette University and the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. She is a Diaconal Minister of the ELCA, with specializations in campus ministry, spiritual direction, and spiritual formation. In her first call she served as the Lutheran/Episcopal Campus Minister at the University of Wisconsin—Whitewater (2001-2004). For the past three years, she served on the national Leadership Team of the Diaconal Ministry Community, with particular responsibilities in support of candidates in formation.



Mindy Holland

Mindy and her husband, Stuart, were married in August of 2004 and spent their first year of marriage in South Carolina, where Stuart completed his final year of seminary. Stuart now serves as pastor of Light of Life Lutheran Church in Aloha. Before coming to this position, Mindy served as the Office Assistant at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton and provided clerical support for the Bishop's Election Task Force this past spring. She serves on both the Leadership Support and Candidacy Committees for the synod. She is also pursuing additional studies part-time at George Fox Evangelical Seminary. Mindy loves reading, writing letters, speaking French, singing, and ballroom dancing.

Mindy is grateful for the opportunity to serve in the synod office and excited to support Bishop Dave in this time of transition and new beginnings. Warm thanks to all who have welcomed her and offered good wishes during her first weeks in the office!

**Bishop Dave  
Brauer-Rieke**

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



## Message from Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It's amazing how many people have asked about my commute time since last month's *Update*. I'm glad you all read the newsletter. This month I've been biking to work

some, at least on those days I don't expect to leave the office.

The long, looping, Springwater Corridor bike path is about a mile north of our house. On good days I'll get on it about 7:00 a.m. and head west. If you know 99E you may remember a bridge with a large red arch just south of Sellwood. That's the bike path. When I bike over 99E and see traffic backed up I smile and feel smug. Of course, I don't feel that way on the days I drive.

At about 17th Avenue the path ends. There are several blocks of residential district before I can get on the bikeway heading north which winds its way along the Willamette river. I generally see people sleeping along the path in the morning - a reminder of the fragile lives of the homeless. Just under the Ross Island Bridge somebody has laid out plastic bowls with water and cat food along the train tracks. It seems to get refilled every week or so. There are some tabby cats which apparently make their home there - maybe because they get fed.

Two thirds of the way between my house and work the bike path gives way to city streets. I pass warehouses, a concrete plant and some factories. Just south of OMSI the path picks up once again. By this time people the age I think I am often pass me frequently. (Those of you in your 50s will

understand what I mean.) In hot weather younger men ride without shirts. That's my goal. Maybe by Spring I can get rid of that gut which reaches down for the top bar of bicycle. Next summer I could work on my tan. I'm not sure how to encourage that seemingly prerequisite growth of thick, dark chest hair though.

I write about small things even while I know many of you long for big picture answers or directions. The small things are important, though. I was shown a holographic plate once, essentially a "negative" for a free floating, three dimensional image. If you cut or break a regular negative into pieces you lose parts of the photo. However I am told that every piece of a broken holographic plate will still reproduce the original image. I think life is like that. The cats by the train tracks,

## ELCA Resources

### Updating the Constitution of Your Congregation

2007 Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations as approved by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the ELCA on August 6-11 are available for download at: [www.oregonsynod.org/resources/synoddocs.php](http://www.oregonsynod.org/resources/synoddocs.php).

It is a good time for congregational leadership to begin the process of updating constitutions, so that these changes can be approved at your 2007 and 2008 annual meetings. It is helpful to have about 10 months of lead time in this matter: three to four months for congregational review, three to four months for synodical review, one month for additional congregational review, and then one month for advance notice to the congregation.

### Print Resource for Senior High Youth from the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality

"Free in Christ to Care for the Neighbor: Lutheran Youth Talk about Human Sexuality" is available for download at [www.elca.org/faithfuljourney](http://www.elca.org/faithfuljourney). The deadline for youth response forms is December 15, 2007.

This adaptation of the December 2006 study "Free in Christ to Serve the Neighbor" will engage senior high youth through music, movie clips, stories from young people, and activities. Bible study, prayer, and ELCA social teachings provide a foundation for youth as they reflect on topics such as:

"When is sex OK?"

"How do creation and sin impact my view of sex?"

"How do I respond to the way sexuality is depicted in popular culture?"

### STAND UP and SPEAK OUT

On October 17, the ELCA will join the Millennium Campaign to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against global poverty. More than 23 million people in 87 countries, including 9,000 Lutherans in the U.S., took part in a similar action last year, earning a spot in the Guinness Book of World Records for the largest single coordinated mobilization in history. Organize your congregation and community to join millions around the world to STAND UP and SPEAK OUT against global poverty by advocating for meaningful reform of the U.S. Farm Bill. Visit [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy) for more information.

### Women of the ELCA 7th Triennial Gathering

Women of the ELCA has opened registration for the 7th Triennial Gathering, "Come to the Waters," to be held July 10-13, 2008, in Salt Lake City. Featured speaker is Sister Joan Chittister. The Rev. Karen Bockelman will be leading Bible study. You may download a registration brochure from [www.womenoftheelca.org/tg08/](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/tg08/) or request one by e-mail: [tg08@elca.org](mailto:tg08@elca.org).

## Congregations In Call Process/ Pastoral Vacancies

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

Congregation	Status	Pastoral Care
P Beaverton, Shepherd of the Valley	P	Michelle Manicke (INT)
P Clatskanie, Faith	NV	Katherine Hellier (INT)
P Damascus, St. Paul of Damascus	NV	Wally Gustav (INT)
P Grants Pass, Calvary	P	Janelle-Aldrich-Dale (INT)
P Ione, Valby	NV	
P Klamath Falls, Klamath	NV	
P Lebanon, Our Savior's	P	Joel Schmitz (INT)
P Medford, Zion	C	Brenda Brown (INT)
P Newport, Atonement	P	
P Portland, Gethsemane	C	Dennis Marttala (INT)
P Portland, Peace	NV	
AP Portland, Resurrection	C	Al Jensen (LP)
P Portland, St. Mark	P	Jim Flachsbart (INT)
P Prineville, Our Savior	P	Stan Hoobing (INT)
AP Salem, Christ the Good Shepherd	P	John Maas (LP)
LP Silverton, Immanuel	I	Tom Hiller (INT)
P The Dalles, Zion	C	John Finstuen (INT)
P Warren, Bethany	C	

**Ordination:** Leah Stolte-Doerfler, Christ the Good Shepherd, Salem

**Calls Accepted:** Leah Stolte-Doerfler as Associate Pastor, Immanuel, Silverton

## Together in Prayer

### PRAYERS FOR

Kathy Shutt, Administrative Coordinator  
Pastor Joe Strandjord,  
Bethany, Bigfork, Montana;  
former pastor of Faith, Clatskanie,  
Betty Getzendanner, spouse of  
retired Pastor David Getzendanner,  
Mary Jean, spouse of  
retired Pastor DeWayne Bey  
Retired Pastor John Baglien  
Pastor Jon Strasman,  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Coos Bay

### IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Retired Pastor Theodore (Ted) Okland  
Randall Swenson, son of Retired Pastor Keith and Georgene Swenson

### Crater Lake Cluster

Good Shepherd, Cave Junction  
St. Mathew Lutheran Mission, Central Point  
Calvary, Grants Pass  
Klamath, Klamath Falls  
Ascension, Medford  
Zion, Medford  
Trinity, Tulelake  
Zion, Redmond  
Shepherd of the Hills, Sisters  
Shepherd of the Mountains, Sunriver

### Ascension, Medford -

Celebrating 50 years of ministry

## What Else is New?

Painting walls, adding new carpets, and linoleum were just a few of the items on the synod's office remodeling project list. It was time to make necessary repairs and to add functionality to the synod's office space. The office hadn't been painted in years, the carpet and linoleum were worn out, and we have had plumbing problems and a leaky roof. You may



remember the major stain on the carpet outside the conference room.

With the start of our new bishop's term it

was an opportune time to request the updates from Legacy Emanuel. Legacy has provided the synod with free office space for the last 20 years. We have been blessed by this generous gift. Kathy Shutt, along with the rest of the office staff, was able to choose new carpet, paint, baseboards, and linoleum.

With excitement we swapped out old desks and moved file cabinets to better positions within the office. Bishop Dave is making his new space into his own by rearranging his desk and other office furniture to better suit his needs. The rest of the staff has followed suit.

This whole process of packing and then unpacking took over a week. It has been a chance to sort files and to rediscover 'lost' items. We are still sorting and plugging back in. Please feel free to visit and see our new look.

the truck drivers at the concrete plant, the shopping cart homes of people along the way - I learn from them the same thing I do from you. Being the Church is tentative.

Congregational life is oh-so-different church to church. We who are God's children rejoice, hurt, sit by the river and ride down the road. Every person I see and each place I encounter somehow carries the whole heart of God.

When I drive I see similar things, but it's not the same. I don't know if it's the lack of wind in my face, exhaust fumes, or the frustrations of traffic, but when I drive my world is two dimensional. I lose vital pieces of the picture. Slow down with me. Walk, bike, pray, look for the big picture answers in the small things. That's what I'm doing these days.

*Bishop Dave*

# Bishop's Convocation 2008

January 2-4  
Best Western  
Ocean View Resort  
Seaside, Oregon

Keynote Speaker  
**Diana Butler Bass**  
Author of  
*Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church Is Transforming the Faith*  
(speaking on the 3rd and 4th)

Diana Butler Bass is an expert in American religion who works as an author, speaker, and independent scholar. She holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Duke University and is the author of six books on American religious practice, including *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

Call the synod office at 503-413-4191 for more information.

## Annual Oregon Synod Trip to Poland

by Dolores Vilstrup, Chair of the Global Mission Committee

Dzienzielow, a small mountain village in southern Poland, was the destination for eight Oregon Synod trip participants in July of 2007. As brother and sisters in Christ, we were warmly welcomed, shared in all Rainbow Harvest camp activities, and visited in the homes of congregational members during the week.

Sixty Rainbow Harvest campers raised their voices in English and Jewish songs each morning as we began the day. "Biblical Festivals as a Foreshadow of the Messiah" was the week's theme. A Jewish festival was celebrated each day and tied into the Biblical story. We each had a group of eight children for whom we were responsible. Songs and Biblical stories were told in English, but translated into Polish.

Each day we rejoiced in seeing the ripe wheat fields and loaded apple and plum trees as we walked to the church. We celebrated harvest time as the wheat was cut before we left. We met the Sisters (Deaconesses) that ran Eben-nezer, a home for the elderly. Lunch was served to the campers at Eben-nezer each day, so we experienced Polish food with the children. Afternoons was a walk to the parsonage yard for games and Jewish dances, and back to church for crafts. During the week we became good friends with our campers, interpreters and congregational members.

It did not take long to discover that communication was not a big problem. Each one of us had our own interpreter, who stayed with us during the entire week. Everyone shared, the Bible is the same for all. Our two trip teenagers felt that the experience of working and meeting with others who live differently, speak another language, but share their lives with us, gives us a glimpse into peace between nations as a possibility.

*continued  
on page 11*

## Oregon Synod Calendar

Every Tues. 10:00 AM

September 29-October 25

October 5-7

October 11 3:30 PM

October 12-13

October 25 10:00 AM -3:00 PM

October 25 11:30 AM -1:30 PM

October 26-27

November 3 TBA

**Take Ten at Ten on Tuesday Prayers and Staff Meeting**

Oregon Synod Office

**Stewardship Fall Cluster Events**

see page 12 for details

**Women of the ELCA-Oregon Synod 8th Biennial Convention**

Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Portland

**Endowment Meeting**

Oregon Synod Office

**Encouraging One Another for Living Faithfully**

1700 NE 132nd Avenue, Resurrection, Portland

Keynotes: 7:00 PM Friday

**Deans' Meeting**

Oregon Synod Office

**Stewardship Meeting**

Emanuel Hospital, Room TBA

**Oregon Synod Fall Council Meeting**

544 NE 2nd St., Trinity, McMinnville

**Commission for Congregational**

**Ministries and Outreach Committee**

190 SW Third Avenue, Zoar, Canby

### Contacting the Bishop

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 4:00 pm (Tuesday- Thursday)

Bishop's e-mail: [bishop@oregonsynod.org](mailto:bishop@oregonsynod.org)



### In Memory of Theodore (Ted) Okland



Theodore (Ted) Sylvan Okland was born on April 3, 1939 and raised in Cameroun, Africa. He attended Waldorf Junior College (1957-1959) and St. Olaf College (1959-1961). Rev. Okland continued his schooling at Luther Seminary (1961-1965) and was ordained in August of 1966. Later he earned a D. Min. from Andover Newton Theological Seminary in May of 1974. He served as parish pastor or interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran (Madison, Wisconsin), Christ Lutheran (Lignite, North Dakota), Community of Christ (BillERICA, Massachusetts), Zion Lutheran (Minot, North Dakota), Farland, Garden, and Banks Lutheran Churches (Watford City, North Dakota), Our Savior Lutheran (Max, North Dakota), Trinity Lutheran (Douglas, North Dakota), Spring Lake Lutheran (Douglas, North Dakota), First Lutheran (Baker City, Oregon), Zion Lutheran (Redmond, Oregon), Our Savior's Lutheran (Broken Bow, Nebraska), and Our Savior's Lutheran (McCook, Nebraska). Rev. Okland retired in May of 2001.

Rev. Okland is survived by his sister, Corinne Madsen, three nephews, and two nieces. Condolences may be sent to his sister at the following address: 10413 "E" Street, Island City, OR 97850.

## Around the Oregon Synod

October 5-7

Women of the ELCA

Oregon Synodical Women of Oregon (SWO)  
8th Biennial Convention

Red Lion Hotel, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR

The theme this year is "Walk Boldly with God" with Isaiah 2:5 (Let us walk in the light of God) as the selected Bible verse. **Charlene Spillman** is the guest speaker and serves on the ELCA churchwide board. **Sonja Hinderly** will present sessions dealing with 'busyness' and 'balance.' Contact: President Linda Bradshaw at [g-lbradshaw@bendcable.com](mailto:g-lbradshaw@bendcable.com).

October 12-13, 2007

Encouraging One Another for Living Faithfully

1700 NE 132nd Avenue, Resurrection, Portland  
Activities are available for all ages.

Although, our presenters, **Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl**, are known for their work with the "Renewing Worship" project, this year's theme is really about how we build up each other in the Body of Christ. We gather to strengthen, encourage, and equip one another for our various ministries in daily life and in our community of faith. With Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl, you can count on amazing worship...but come ready to share what it means to be one in Christ and be present with our speakers to resource and sustain one another..."so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith." Romans 1:12

Cost is only \$45, which includes programs and meals. Only \$20 per youth or child.

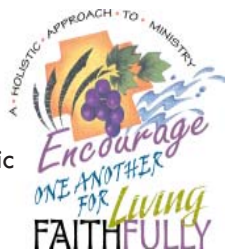
To register, e-mail

[linde.eidenberg@verizon.net](mailto:linde.eidenberg@verizon.net) or

call 503-633-4147. The

program starts on Friday at


1:00 pm and is open to the public with hospitality and the keynote speakers at 7:00 pm.



## Stewardship

### Fall Cluster Events

Do you want to spend an evening or an afternoon with sparkling, dynamic people including our new bishop? We have the event for you! The synod stewardship committee is sponsoring the fall cluster gatherings this year at seven locations around the state. Please look at the schedule below to determine which meeting will best meet your schedule.

Put this date on your calendar today. 

**September 29** –

Zion, La Grande;  
12:30-2:30 pm

**September 30** – 

Zion, Redmond;  
1:00-3:00 pm

**October 16** –

Calvary, Grants Pass;  
7:00-9:00 pm


**October 17** –

Gloria Dei, Coos Bay;  
6:30-8:30 pm

**October 23** –

St Andrew, Beaverton;  
7:00-9:00 pm

**October 24** –

Our Savior's, Salem;  
7:00-9:00 pm 

**October 25** –

Creator, Clackamas;  
7:00-9:00 pm

## ELCA Assembly Elects

David Swartling

Secretary of the ELCA

07-CWA-041-CA-CHICAGO (ELCA) -

David D. Swartling, a trial lawyer from Seattle, was elected Aug. 11 to a six-year term as secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at the church body's 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago.

Swartling has served as a parliamentarian for the Oregon Synod.

Swartling, 60, was elected to the position after a series of five ballots. On the final ballot, he received 611 votes, with the Rev. Paul A. Schreck, currently an assistant to the ELCA secretary, receiving 366 votes.

The secretary is responsible for ELCA rosters, interpretation of governing documents such as the church's constitution, and the ELCA archives, and he handles other concerns for the 4.8 million-member church body. The post is a staff position at the ELCA churchwide office.

Swartling, the first lay person to hold the post of ELCA secretary, said his goal would be to "assist and facilitate mission and ministry in this wonderful church." As caretaker and interpreter of the governing documents of the church, the newly elected secretary said he would "have the ear of the Presiding Bishop (Mark) Hanson, to offer the wisdom of a lay person and help keep the machinery well-oiled so that the bishop can focus on his ministry."

In speeches to the assembly prior to his election, Swartling spoke of his own prayer and spiritual life and his love for the church. "I understand and



David Swartling on left

appreciate in my brain and my heart," he said "the polity of the ELCA, the elegant concept of interdependence" of the various parts of the church.

As a lawyer, Swartling said he has long had a "passion for the process by which justice is played out" and has been involved in justice-related issues in the legal profession. Speaking to reporters after his election, Swartling asked for members of the ELCA to pray for him as his new work begins. "Maybe you would find it hard to pray for a lawyer," he quipped, "but I hope you can pray for a secretary."

## Decisions Made at Churwide Assembly

by Jim Morrell, 2007 Oregon Synod Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, St. James

First, let me say what an honor it was to serve the Oregon Synod along with the other nine voting members from Oregon at the 2007 Churchwide Assembly in Chicago. If ever there is a pondering about what we as a synod or individual congregations are doing, whether or how it is related to the wider church, and how the Holy Spirit fits into the whole plan, you need to attend the Churchwide Assembly (CWA)!

Keeping in line with the past four months, I have attempted to summarize the six day assembly in one page. Obviously this amount of space cannot do justice to the wealth of information or guidance provided by the 2007 CWA. More information can be found at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

by Jim Morrell, 2007 Oregon Synod Churchwide Assembly

The tenth biennial ELCA Churchwide Assembly meeting took place at Navy Pier in downtown Chicago, August 6-11, 2007. Two ELCA officers were elected to six-year terms: David Swartling as ELCA Secretary and the Rev. Mark S. Hanson to a second term as ELCA presiding bishop. Swartling, a trial lawyer from Seattle, is the first lay person to hold this office. He succeeds the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, who has held the post of secretary since the ELCA was formed in 1987. Hanson was elected to his second term as presiding bishop.

The assembly adopted a social statement on education, addressing issues of children's faith formation, quality of U.S. public schools, and support for Lutheran schools and campus ministry. There were numerous memorials and resolutions passed on topics such as expressions of concern regarding genocide in Darfur, opposition to the Iraq War, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, mission funding, and world hunger. An HIV and AIDS strategy development was authorized, and we approved the pursuit of an effort called "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible," as well as over 100 other memorials and recommendations.

Memorials related to human sexuality received considerable discussion and resulted in various

I (and perhaps others of the Oregon Synod delegation) would be willing to share our experiences personally during an education hour or other event at your congregation.

Please feel free to utilize this article in any way you see beneficial with any modifications, embellishments, or other changes that would benefit your congregation.

## An Apple a Day and Planned Giving

by the Oregon Synod Director of Planned Giving, Patricia Larsen

When I think of planned giving, Johnny-Appleseed almost never comes to mind – until recently. You probably know the story. John Chapman of Massachusetts traveled throughout Ohio, Illinois and Indiana planting apple seeds and saplings. The legend of Johnny Appleseed was based on his life and work—probably a story that became larger than life.

Okay, so you are thinking—how is this planned giving? Johnny Appleseed was investing time, energy, and resources in the present for the benefit of future generations—people who he would never meet. It was a carefully planned and designed gift for the future.

Perhaps the Johnny Appleseed story is a bit of a stretch, but the principle is the same and could be valid depending on your circumstances. If you will pardon another "Appleseed-ism", it is possible to give away the tree while still enjoying the apples!

Consider the charitable gift annuity: a carefully planned and designed gift—funded with cash or securities—that could benefit the donor by providing an additional income stream. When the charitable gift annuity is established significant tax savings could be realized. In addition, the gift annuity could provide an important gift to God's work through your congregation—and/or any ministry that you love. The gift annuity would be like giving away the tree but enjoying the fruit.

For more information, please call the Oregon Synod Director of Planned Giving, Patricia Larsen, at 503-244-4102 or via email at [Blessed2Give@cs.com](mailto:Blessed2Give@cs.com).

## Polish Trip

continued from page 4

In addition to camp activities, we toured Auschwitz one evening, a sobering experience. Those who took a trip down into the salt mines saw the religious figures that miners years ago had carved into the salt walls. After seeing the secret church in the forest used during the counter reformation, we all realized that down through history the Polish people never had an easy time worshipping God. For those of us who had been helpers before, it was a time to renew friendships, meet new people, and worship with friends on the other side of the world.

### Lutheran Center Dedication Service

September 22, 2007

Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland.

The Lutheran Center serves as the headquarters for the church in Poland and as a seminary.

## The Cross — Instrument of Violence and a Symbol of Grace

by Pastor Scott Dunfee, St. Stephen, Gladstone, Dean of the Oregon Trail Cluster

This summer, the Lutheran churches in our Oregon Trail Cluster took action to make a public witness regarding a local violent incident. On May 24, a mob attacked and beat two Latino men in Wagon Wheel Park in Mulino. The mob picked up stones from the river bed to hit the men and damage their car, while shouting, “Go back to Mexico!” The two men, Edwin Gonzales and Alex Guzman, are here legally and work in a local mill. The current debate on immigration raises many important and complex questions, but much of the rhetoric is fast becoming racist and inciting violence. As an immigrant church, Lutherans could do much to raise the level of debate to include the Biblical concepts of hospitality and compassion, family unity, and our common humanity. We know the pressures in the lives of immigrants – or have we forgotten? Congregations might also be part of “The New Sanctuary Movement” – a national interfaith coalition of congregations responding to the suffering of immigrants, and working for immigration reform.

On June 12<sup>th</sup>, members of 12 of the congregations in our Cluster went to Wagon Wheel Park to pray for healing, justice, and peace. We sang some songs, read scripture in Spanish and English, and after the service we picked up trash in the park. Included in the group gathered were several children from our churches. As I walked back to the parking lot, I passed a small “monument” that the children had designed and built. They had taken some of the river rocks — perhaps some of the same rocks used to attack Edwin and Alex, — and arranged them on the ground in the shape of a cross. Did they have any idea how powerful a statement, what a witness, they were making?!

The cross is both an instrument of violence and a symbol of God’s response to violence. In daily acts of violence against human beings and all creation,

Christ is crucified anew. But Christ rises again, and raises us up to new life daily. I recently returned from El Salvador, and am reminded of the words of Archbishop Oscar Romero, who was martyred during the Salvadorian civil war: “The Church is calling people to sanity, to understanding, to love. It does not believe in violent solutions. The Christian believes in only one violence, that of Christ, who was nailed to the cross. Christ took upon himself all the violence of hatred and misunderstanding, so that we humans might forgive one another, love one another, feel ourselves brothers and sisters” (in a sermon November 20, 1977).

The Apostle Paul said it this way: “For the message about the cross is foolishness to many who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Corinthians 1:18).

actions. A memorial to change policies relating to clergy in same-gender relationships was referred to the current study on human sexuality; a second memorial passed that encourages restraint in discipline for those same individuals.

There was also a keynote address by Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, general secretary of the World Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA), who encouraged us all “To be joyful in spite of and despite everything around us is a sign of acknowledging the grace of God that is present with us all of the time.” Comments were also shared by Rev. Munib Younan, the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, with an explanation that the road to peace in the Middle East is not through Baghdad but through Jerusalem. Numerous greetings were made to the assembly by Lutheran Men in Mission, Women of the ELCA, the president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the Lutheran Youth Organization, and Lutheran Refugee and Immigration Service, to name just a few. Three ecumenical leaders shared comments including Dr. Ismael Noko, general secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; the Rev. Deborah DeWinter on behalf of the World Council of Churches, and Clare Chapmann on behalf of the Churches of Christ U.S.A.

If you would like more detailed information about any of the above topics, feel free to visit the ELCA website ([www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)) and click on the link for the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The next biennial Churchwide Assembly is scheduled for Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 17-23, 2009.

Peace, Jim Morrell – [jimmorrell@comcast.net](mailto:jimmorrell@comcast.net), 2007 Churchwide Assembly Voting Member, Oregon Synod - St. James Lutheran Church



### The Brief Summary of Actions from the 2007 Churchwide Assembly

is available on line at <http://www.elca.org/assembly/summary>. The summary is available as a PDF in both brochure and bulletin.

## Hitting Higher Altitudes

This summer Camp Lutherwood had over 400 kids at camp and more than 800 attendants at their day camps. They will soon be breaking ground for their new pool this fall. The dorm cabins have been remodeled and a climbing tower has been installed.

This is all thrilling news, but the excitement is in their leadership training camp provided to high school students, called "Altitude." Altitude puts a youth's faith into action. Campers spend three weeks exploring servant leadership in the Bible and in our world through Bible studies, worship, service, and fun. They get a behind-the-scenes look at life on staff, culminating in a week of shadowing a counselor. Altitude is for our future leaders who are interested in learning and exploring how to be a faithful leader in their world.

Bjørn Peterson, Executive Director of Camp Lutherwood, said, "We know these youth come to Altitude for many different reasons: community service hours, a desire to spend three weeks at camp, and sometimes because their parents want them to. In the end the kids leave with a totally different reason for being here. The kids leave with a growing urge to serve in the Church and wanting to connect back to their congregations."



**"Save the Date"**

**November 10-12  
OLYO High School  
Youth Gathering**

Ebb Tide Hotel, Seaside

The theme is

*Weathering the Storm.*

Please join us, as high school students from around Oregon come together for fun and fellowship on the beautiful Oregon Coast. During our weekend we will explore together the ways in which we are empowered by God to "Weather the Storms" in our lives. We will also be participating in a service project with the Red Cross, serving those to whom "Weathering the Storm" is a literal and physical challenge.

Please contact Lisa Gray at [zoaryouth@canby.com](mailto:zoaryouth@canby.com) for more information.

## Why Do We Have Cluster Liasons Anyway?

The role of the cluster liaison is to serve as a two-way communicator in the geographic area of a cluster. Two to three times a year, the Commission for Congregational Ministries (CCM) will provide a tool for the liaison to use in the gathering of information. Hal Dick, chair of the CCM, said, "The primary reason we use the liasons is that it reduces the amount of surveys that the synod committees send out. It also provides uniformity in asking and receiving the information."

The liaison's primary responsibilities are:

- Make contact with a representative within each congregation of the cluster,
- Record information, and
- Relay it back to his/her contact on the Commission or synod staff.

It is important that the liaison be an impartial recipient of the information, and in no way try to influence the data received. The primary goals of this gathering of information are to: find ways in which the Commission can assist clusters in programmatic ministry, to discover effective programs already in existence, and to promote communication around the synod. Have you considered becoming a cluster liason? Please contact Hal Dick at [hal@comcoa.com](mailto:hal@comcoa.com) for more information.

## Rev. Dr. Richard Young

The Oregon Synod has been blessed to have Rev. Dr. Richard Young back in the synod this fall. An ELCA missionary to Guyana, Dick is on "home assignment" for two months. During these months, he is traveling to supporting congregations (here and in other parts of the US) to share stories of his call, parish and life in Guyana.

Rev. Dr. Richard Young shares with the Oregon Trail cluster his challenges as he



serves the church of the second poorest country (after Haiti).

Having trained and served as a medical doctor for 25 years, Dick brings many gifts to the four congregations he serves. When asked if he uses his medical training, he shared how he spends Mondays making visits to those who were too ill to attend worship the day before, bringing his bag and his Bible. "People tend to be more interested in our sharing from the Bible than in their physical health; they are used to being ill."

Pastor Young will be returning to his ministry in Guyana on October 19th. If you would like to hear more about his ministry, receive his email newsletters, or support the work of Global Mission, contact him at: [revdocguy@usa.net](mailto:revdocguy@usa.net).