



Dear voting members, observers and visitors of the 2005 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly:

Welcome to Everett On Sunday, November 5, 1915, a Seattle Ferry named *Verona* steamed to the dock in Everett carrying 250 members of the Industrial Workers of the World. About 200 Everett citizen deputies, under the direction of the sheriff, awaited their arrival. Before Bloody Sunday was finished seven people were dead and another 50 were wounded. We expect no massacre in Everett this weekend. Indeed the planners and staff of this assembly will do their best to right the past and show true hospitality while you are here.

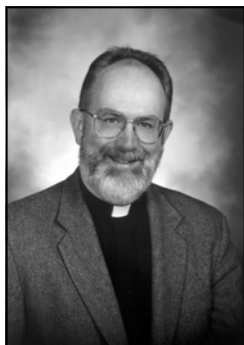
Welcome to the Everett Events Center. The assembly's theme is: *Marked with the Cross of Christ Forever*. While it is expected that there will be much discussion about the proposed ELCA statements regarding the blessing of same sex unions and ordaining of gay and lesbian persons in committed relationships, the focus of this assembly will be the uniqueness of the church's mission in the Pacific Northwest. This afternoon you will hear the keynote speaker Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen who is Professor of American Religious History and Chair of the Department of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University.

This evening, at 7 p.m., everyone is invited to a *Sacred Songfest* at Central Lutheran, located just four blocks from the Events Center, at 2702 Rockefeller. Come and sing with Marita Herivel-Ericksen; Family and Friends; Joyful Noise; Randy Bruce on the piano and Jim Rice on the organ.

The main advantage of meeting in a convention center is more space; more space to be seated comfortably at round tables and grouped together in clusters, more space for displays and informal conversation outside of the plenary sessions. More space to do what is important for Christ's church to do: come together, worship, learn, deliberate, decide and leave for witness and service, marked with the Cross of Christ Forever. May our time in this space be blessed by the crucified and risen Christ.

Rev. Jeffery R. Russell, Assembly Chair, Central Lutheran Church, Everett

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Marked With The Cross Forever

By Bishop Wm Chris Boerger

Marked with the cross of Christ forever, this phrase from the service of Baptism serves as the focus of our 18th Synod Assembly. In the next two days we will live together, pray together, debate together and serve together as the baptized children of God. We are the church as we come from our home congregations. You have the rare opportunity to see and hear how the church is working beyond the boundaries of your congregation.

It is the work of the Holy Spirit that the over 50,000 individuals that are members of our congregations are also united in worship and service as the church in our communities in Northwest Washington. In this age of individual meaning and truth, we still profess that God is binding us together into a community of faith and service. As Lutheran Christians we define the church as the assembly around the word and sacraments.

We will also discuss and decide on a number of resolutions that will affect our lives together and would speak to the larger church. This is how we place our concerns on the ELCA Churchwide Assembly's agenda. Welcome to Everett and to the work God has given us to do. We pray the Holy Spirit's guidance and inspiration for the work ahead.

Dr. Patricia Killen



Dr. Patricia O'Connell Killen is Professor of American Religious History and Chair of the Department of Religion at Pacific Lutheran University (PLU), where she also directs PLU's recently established Center for Religion, Cultures, and Society in the Western United States.

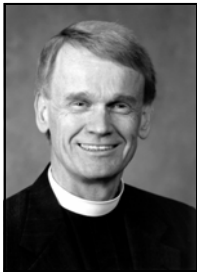
Throughout her career, Killen has pursued an abiding interest in the intersection of social context, community, and spirituality, especially how, in differing social contexts, communities "think" (or don't think) with the wisdom of their religious heritage to address the challenges and novel circumstances of their time. For the past fifteen years she has been researching religion in the Pacific Northwest, working to understand how people of faith are influenced by the natural and social-cultural dynamics of this region.

Killen is the primary editor of *Religion and Public Life in the Pacific Northwest: The None Zone* (Alta Mira Press, 2004), the first of a nine-volume series that explores the religious configuration and public presence of religion in different regions of the United States.

An active member of the PLU faculty, Killen co-authored and co-directs PLU's *Wild Hope* Project, under the Lilly Endowment's initiative for theological exploration of vocation. Killen works regularly with clergy, congregations, and community organizations on understanding the religious ecology of the Northwest and how it shapes both individual and institutional religious sensibilities and possibilities. As well, she gives workshops on theological reflection to religious educators and religious communities around the United States.

Patricia lives with her husband, David, in Parkland, Washington. When not teaching, writing, or lecturing, Patricia likes to garden, quilt, read mystery novels, and sail with her husband on Puget Sound.

Bringing News About Our Church, Rev. Stan Olson



Pastor Stanley N. Olson has served since November 2002 as Executive Director for the Division for Ministry of the ELCA. Olson and the other division staff work to encourage and support all members of the ELCA as they live out their Christian faith through the callings of their daily lives. The division has oversight responsibility for the theological education programs of the ELCA. The staff facilitates programs to prepare and support people who serve as pastors, deaconesses, diaconal ministers and associates in ministry in the ELCA. With the Division for Church in Society, the Division for Ministry oversees the ELCA Studies on Sexuality.

From 1994 to 2002 Olson served as the bishop of the ELCA's Southwestern Minnesota Synod. He resigned that office to accept the call to the Division for Ministry. Earlier Olson has been pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in New Ulm, Minn., and at First Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minn. In the years between those two calls, he taught New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.

Olson is a graduate of Waldorf and St. Olaf Colleges, and of Luther Seminary. He holds a doctorate from Yale University. He is the author of many articles and Christian education resources for children and adults. Olson and his wife Nancy are parents of two grown daughters. Nancy is an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA and serves as Member Care Coordinator for St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, IL.

In his free time, Olson enjoys gardening, reading, walking with Nancy and water-color painting.

News and Notes

- **Seating Arrangements**—The round tables in the room are reserved for voting members only. At this year's assembly we ask that voting members please seat yourselves according to your cluster. If you are an observer or visitor, we ask that you take a seat that is not at a table.
- **Nominations from the Floor**—If the Standing Rules are adopted by the 2005 Assembly, nominations from the floor will be accepted in writing at the table in front of the Synod Secretary during the first Plenary Session until noon on Friday, May 20, 2005. These nominations require a completed form including agreement from the nominee to serve if elected and certification of congregation membership.
- **Resolutions**—If the Standing Rules are adopted by the 2005 Assembly, all resolutions to be considered by the Reference and Counsel Committee must be received no later than noon on Friday, May 20, 2005.
- **Real-time Captioning**—Once again the assembly is providing real-time captioning for your convenience on the smaller of the three screens on the Assembly floor. Seating for real-time captioning may be reserved directly in front of the screen. The Assembly Planning Committee thanks Else Meek for her expertise in getting our spoken words up on the screen.
- **Parking**—For those of you who parked in the county garage: on Friday and Saturday the county garage will remain open until 10 p.m. Cost is only \$5.
- **Lunch**—Lunch on both Friday and Saturday is from noon to 1:30 p.m. You are on-your-own. Maps have been made available of restaurants close to the Everett Events Center.
- **Extended Ministries**—Be sure to visit the Synod's extended ministries in the display area (Ballroom 3). In that room you will find Augsburg Fortress, as well the Rev. Lowell Knutson, ELCA Board of Pensions local representative. Rev. Knutson is available for pension estimates and any other questions relative to health care.
- **Sacred Songfest**—This evening, at 7 p.m., everyone is invited to a *Sacred Songfest* at Central Lutheran, located just four blocks from the Events Center, at 2702 Rockefeller. Come and sing with Marita Herivel-Ericksen; Family and Friends; Joyful Noise; Randy Bruce on the piano and Jim Rice on the organ.
- **Worship**—As we come together around the word and sacraments, let us give thanks to those that have worked hard to give us this opportunity: Rev. Jeff Gaustad, Christ the King Lutheran Church, Snohomish; Gary Hatle, Trinity Lutheran Church, Everett; Marita Herivel-Ericksen, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Everett; Rev. Susan Kirlin-Hackett, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Everett; and Lee Matthews, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Everett.

Helping Others In Need

This year's Synod Assembly offering will be taken at Saturday's Eucharist Service. The offering will be equally divided between our Synod's Maritime Ministry and the Haik Orphanage in Ethiopia.

Our Maritime Ministry chaplains visit with seafarers (mariners) from all over the world. They go on board the ships providing the men and women with basic necessities (many times the seafarers are not allowed off the ships), conversation, advocacy, Bible study and interpretation. In December, the Social Ministry Committee of Anacortes Lutheran Church in Anacortes, prepared 25 ditty bags as Christmas gifts for seafarers. (Ditty bags are small bags with a drawstring filled with items such as toiletries, work gloves, CDs, Bibles, address books, phone cards and games such as dominos and cards.) These gifts are simple, but very much appreciated.

The Haik Orphanage is located in Ethiopia and was originally built by the Finnish Church in the 1980s. They quit financing the orphanage in 2003 and that is when Michelle Brekkus and Brenda Mendez, members of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Stanwood, brought this to the attention of the Synod. The orphanage currently serves 55 children. The orphanage staff gives these children a safe place to live, nurturing and loving them. They also provide medical care and opportunities for worship and Bible study.

Our gifts at this year's Assembly will give us the opportunity to help others beyond the boundaries of our own congregation. Our gifts will help us leave our time together *Marked with the cross of Christ forever.*

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The Northwest Washington Synod of Region 1 of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) consists of 110 congregations serving more than 50,000 Lutherans from the Canadian Border to Des Moines, from Puget Sound to the Cascades.

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Resolutions and Amendments Score Card

	Description	Pass	Fail	Other
SA.2005.__	Reception of Grace Chinese Lutheran Church			
SA.2005.__	Reception of Edmonds Lutheran Church			
SA.2005.__	Transfer of Hope Lutheran Church Property			
SA.2005.__	Encourage Tithing of Benevolence to the Northwest Washington Synod			
SA.2005.__	Resolution Calling for Support and Monitoring of ELCA Anti-Racism Work			
SA.2005.__	Affirming Marriage			
SA 2005.__	Uphold Current "Vision and Expectations" policy of the ELCA			
SA2005.__	Sexuality Study Memorial Return Without Assembly Action			
SA 2005.__	Resolution Citations			
SA 2005.__	Concerning Youth as Additional Voting Members at Synod Assembly			
SA 2005.__	Ordination of Clergy in Covenanted Same-Gender Relationships			
SA.2005.__	Blessing of Covenanted Same-Gender Relationships			
SA.2005.__	Copyright Adherence			
Amendment 44 (first reading)	To bring the Synod Constitution into Conformance with the Model Constitution of the Synods.			
Amendment 45 (one reading)	To bring the Synod Constitution into Conformance with the Model Constitution of the Synods.			
Amendment 46 (one reading)	Empowers the Synod Council to establish organization units			
Amendment 47 (one reading)	Bylaw change.			
Amendment 48	S9.03: first reading Rest of Amendment involves bylaw change; one reading			
Amendment 49 (one reading)	To bring the Synod Constitution into Conformance with the Model Constitution of the Synods.			