



The Spirit

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News for the congregations of the Northwest Washington Synod of the
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Thank You

by The Rev. Wm Chris Boerger, Bishop



Thank you. I do not say that often enough in this epistle.

Thank you for the discipleship that is being lived out daily in the places where you live, work and play. Thank you for hearing the call of the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus in lives of service and

compassion. Thank you for sharing your faith in word and in action. Thank you for living out the various vocations that you have in family, work and relationships.

We are recognizing again that our life in Christ is not just about “going to church”. It never was, but our over simplified culture has a times tried to limit our understanding of “living in the faith” as about being members of an institution called church. We know from Luther’s Small Catechism that our life in Christ is about our whole life.

Stewardship is about my whole life. It is about what I do and what I do not do. It is about how we live. It is about how I share my financial blessings. We tend to want to move to time and

talents and to let treasure be at the bottom of our emphasis. But it is right to correct me when I overemphasize our financial stewardship with the reminder that what I do and how I live is also part of my stewardship.

As I go around the Synod I am continually impressed with the many a various ways that our members and congregations are in ministry to the neighbor. The schools and preschools of our synod are affecting young lives in important ways. The youth activities are building the leaders for the church today. The senior groups, with creative names, are providing unique and exciting ministry with and by the older members of our congregations.

All this is to say that God is at work through the discipleship of our members in the Northwest Washington Synod. For that I give thanks to God and to all of you. I will continue to say that we live in the mission field. That field is frankly growing to include the rest of this country but we are in leading edge of that field. The many and various ways in which you are responding to that reality is exciting and a source of hope in our world.

Thanks be to God and thank you.

2012 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly

The 2012 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly will take place on Friday, May 18, and Saturday, May 19, at the Comcast Events Arena in Everett. Our keynote speaker is Mark Allan Powell, Professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Ohio. The theme for this year’s assembly is *The Word of God Is Source and Seed*. Deadlines for nominations and resolutions is Thursday, March 1. As information becomes available information will be added to the assembly page on the website at www.lutheransnw.org/assembly/2012.

Here 'n There

- **Where did Quilts and Kits to Lutheran World Relief go in 2011?** To 26 countries around the world. Thanks to the compassion and generosity of members we were able to send: 355,786 quilts; 166,427 school kits; 311,763 personal care kits; 72610 baby care kits; and 21,234 fabric kits.
- In 2011 many **Everett congregations** supported the Trinity Aid Bank: Trinity, Central, Trinity Episcopal, First Covenant and Trinity Lutheran College. Members at Central in Everett also raised more than \$9,413 for their food basket mission.
- In 2011 members at **Bethany in Seattle** donated 650 lbs of food and household items for the University Food Bank.
- In December members at **Our Savior's in Everett** donated enough food to fill more than 100 baskets and they wrapped almost 400 presents for those in need in their community.
- In Kirkland, members at **Holy Spirit** packed 62 baskets of food for their Thanksgiving Food Baskets for Kirkland Interfaith Transitions in Housing. Members were not done. They also collected \$2812 which allowed additional purchases to be made for the food baskets. And, Thrivent matched their efforts with \$800.
- The Annual Trinity Lutheran Bazaar at **Trinity in Freeland** raised more than \$12,000 for local charities.
- Members at **First in Mount Vernon** donated more than 1,300 lbs for the charity Neighbors in Need.
- **January Cold Weather Shelters:** Trinity in Lynnwood hosted 155 people over six nights; Kent Lutheran in Kent hosted 130 people (including Pastor Jane Prestbye) over seven nights, Faith in Bellingham hosted 70 people over three nights, and Our Saviour's in Arlington hosted six people over two nights. Because of the cold, University in Seattle let the women who use the shelter during to also stay the night on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.
- **The Rev. Ronald F. Marshall**, Pastor of First of West Seattle, has published his sermon, "Welcome St. Stephen at Christmas," online at Logia (Blogia), posted December 20, 2011. This is his seventh published sermon.

Interfaith Advocacy Day 2012 Uniting Hearts and Minds: Raising Revenue for the Common Good

It's time again to register for the annual Interfaith Advocacy Day (IFAD).

IFAD brings together social justice advocates from faith communities and nonprofits across the state of Washington. The day's activities include workshops on issues and advocacy (topics will include the state budget, environment, disability services and housing/homelessness), legislative briefings, visits with your state legislators and an interfaith worship.

Advocacy Day will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at United Churches of Olympia, 110 11th Ave SE, Olympia. Cost: \$20 if you register by 5 p.m. on Jan. 31, and \$25 if you register after Jan. 31. Registration fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, materials and the event. Register at www.fan.org.

Editor's Note: University Lutheran, along with the University District Ecumenical Parish, is hosting a workshop beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, in order to "Get a Jump on Interfaith Advocacy Day". University Lutheran is located at 1604 NE 50th Street, Seattle 98105; 206-525-7074; www.ulcseattle.org.

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