



Moments for Mission

Southwestern Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.
July 2020

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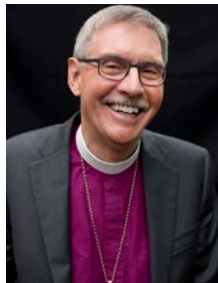
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A Passage Towards Something New

by Bishop Richard Jaech, Synod Bishop



Dear Friends in Christ,

As I look ahead to the 4th of July, I find myself thinking again about the American revolution and the historical account of what happened to the 56 people who signed the Declaration of Independence.

Of the 56 signers, five were captured by the British as traitors and executed. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Nine of the 56 fought in the war and died from wounds or hardships. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, another had two sons captured.

They could have stayed out of the strife and lived safe and comfortable lives, but they didn't.

- Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and maritime trader, saw his company's ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts and died in poverty.
- At the battle of Yorktown, one of the American signers, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwall had taken over his home as the British headquarters. Nelson quietly urged General George Washington to open fire on his house. The home was destroyed and Nelson died bankrupt.
- John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished. A few weeks later he died from exhaustion and a broken heart. Two other signers, Norris and Livingston, suffered similar fates.

Before the Revolution, all 56 had security and ease, but they dreamed of something more. They were on a journey; a passage towards something new. The passage, however, was full of costs, crises, and sacrifices along the way. Yet, it was the dream that pulled them along and gave them courage to continue the way.

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As we move through the Gospel of Matthew during this Pentecost season, we also see Jesus and the disciples on a passage, a journey. There are crises and costs on their journey, too. Yet it is God's dream that guides them and gives them faith.

God has a dream for us. God has a dream that we will have peace in our souls and unity in our relationships. God has a vision for us that we will have joy, purpose, and a just world where people are adequately fed, housed, and employed.

In the first nine chapters of Matthew, Jesus is actively at work making that dream become a reality by teaching, healing, and feeding people. Then, in chapter 10, Jesus sends his disciples out to do the same things he has been doing. He engages the whole community in creating God's dream in their midst. What's important to notice is that, when Jesus sends out the disciples, he gives them three gifts for the journey.

First, he gives them authority. "He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, giving them authority to cure every disease and cast out unclean spirits."

Second, he does not send them out alone, but gives each one a companion for the journey. Someone once said that a difficult and challenging road is always easier to walk when we have a companion with whom to walk it.

Third, he gave them purpose and a clear vision for what they would be doing. "Go out and help people find a whole new direction for their lives. Help them move towards real life. Cast out demons; set people free from the powers that ruin and diminish their lives. Heal them from whatever ails them."

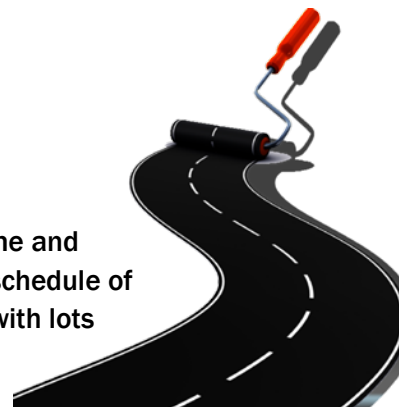
Today we walk through a time of uncertainty, danger, and upheaval. At times, it feels like everything we counted on is being turned upside down. Yet, once again, Christ awakens in us the vision that God has for us. Once again, Christ gives us authority, companions, and purpose to strengthen us on the Way. As a Synod, as a "people walking the road together", may God bless us in the ministry we do and the lives we live each day. In this way, God's joy, love, and justice will stir and erupt among us.

In Christ,

Bishop Rick Jaech

On the Cyberspace Road with the Bishop

With the rest of the Synod Staff, I am working out of my home and limiting my road trips. However, my work schedule and the schedule of all the Synod Staff members has been very full each week, with lots of Zoom visits and meetings. Here is a sampling of my activities around the Synod in June:



- June 3 Co-host the Synod Social Media Workshop
- June 7 Preach (electronically) at Mt. View Lutheran, Edgewood
- June 10 Host the Synod “Stewardship in Uncertain Times” workshop
- June 11 Attend PLU Governance Committee meeting
- June 13 Attend Synod Council meeting
- June 17 Co-lead the Emanuel Nine Commemoration Service
- June 18 Co-host a workshop of ELCA bishops
- June 18 Host a Grief/Loss workshop for pastors and deacons taught by Satya Jeach
- June 23 Host Synod support meeting for church musicians

Congregations in Transition - July 2020

Lord, we pray for your wisdom, insight and peace for these congregations the the leaders in our synod who are working through a time of pastoral transition. We give you thanks for each and every one. Amen.

| Congregations | Position | Status | Pastoral Care |
|--|----------|--------|-------------------------------------|
| Bethel, Brush Prairie | P | TR | Vera McEwan |
| Christ, Federal Way | P | TR | Pr. Mark Peterson |
| Grace, Port Townsend | P | TR | Pr. Alan Berg |
| Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma | P | TR | Pr. Linda Milks |
| Mountain View, Edgewood | P | TR | Pr Mike Greenwalt, Pr Kim Latterell |
| Vinland, Poulsbo | P | I | Pr. Mike Hanson |
| Zion, Camas | P | TR | Assoc Pr. Susan Dollinger |

Mobility position key
 P – Pastor
 AP – Associate Pastor
 D- Deacon

Mobility status key:
 NV – New Vacancy
 TR – Transition
 I – Interviewing
 C – Calling

Synod Calls

The Synod Council called **Pastor Rebecca Parkins** as Religious Coordinator in the Behavioral Health Administration at the Special Commitment Center on McNeil Island with DSHS. Becca comes back to us from the Northwest Washington Synod. She began this position in April.

Transitions continued next page

Transitions, Continued

Synodically Authorized Ministers

Vicar Vera McEwan was appointed as SAM to serve as Interim Minister at Bethel Lutheran, Brush Prairie. She began her appointment in May.

Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community

The Synod Council has approved of “**Jubilee Collective**” as a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community served by Pastor Lenny Duncan called by Messiah Lutheran, Vancouver..

Inslee Provides Updated Guidance for Churches

Gov. Jay Inslee announced [updated health guidance](#) for religious and faith-based services today as more counties move forward under Washington’s **Safe Start** recovery plan.

https://www.governor.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Phase%201-3%20-%20Religious%20and%20faith-based%20orgs%20FINAL_6%2018%202020.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Phase 3 would permit indoor capacity of 50% or 400 people, whichever is less. Health requirements for social distancing and facial coverings will remain the same as the guidance for previous phases.

For services taking place in modified Phase 1 and Phase 2 counties, indoor services at 25% capacity or 200 people, whichever is less. In health guidance for services taking place in Phase 1 counties, only outdoor services are permitted, with no more than 100 attendees.

Find the full guidance document [here](#).

Updated COVID-19 resources can be found on our synod website at <https://lutheranssw.org/covid-19-related-resources>

Synod Technology Grants Coming Soon

The Southwestern Washington Synod has received a COVID-19 grant from the ELCA and will match that grant in order to provide grants for congregations to upgrade their technology for online worship and/or receive technology coaching services. Keep your eyes peeled for the application. Applications will be sent to all congregations and active rostered leaders. A committee has been formed to evaluate applications submitted.

4th of July Prayer for Blessing

L: On this day of fireworks and celebration, O Lord,

C: Ignite us with the fire of your Spirit!

L: Spark us with your power and grace;

C: Toss us into the world, bursting with goodness and joy.

L: Help us leave behind the dry shells and dull casings that imprison us.

C: Turn our lives into a shower of light and gifts.

L: Where there is only smoke, let there be fire;

C: Where there is emptiness, cause us to spin and dance in your praise.

L: Where there is pain, help us to sparkle and burn in your service

C: May the whole world thunder, O God, with the mighty sounds of your life, filling our world and our hearts. Amen.

Service Resources for Hope and Remembrance this All Saints Day

Our Synod Hunger Committee is taking the lead on creating resources for a Hope and Remembrance Service this All Saints Day or the Sunday after (November 1 or 8, 2020) for our congregations. We will be joining 6 other synods in the ELCA (and hopefully many more) to collectively grieve and reflect. This All Saints Day we will remember all those that died this year, including the stresses, hunger, lost jobs and businesses, the racial disparities, lost normalcy and all of the lives lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic and all of us having gone through this together. We will hope for renewal and to better treatment for everyone. We will also ask for a special offering for ELCA World Hunger on these days. Final resources will be sent to congregations and active rostered leaders in early September.

Witnesses to the Transcendent

By ELCA Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton



An amazing thing happened in March. Churches were closed but more people came to church. Millions of us were complying with shelter-in-place and physical distancing recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and state and local officials to stop the spread of the coronavirus. In a matter of days our lives were completely disrupted. The places where we sheltered became our offices, classrooms, day care centers and recreational facilities. Traffic dissipated—I was tempted to leave my house and drive unimpeded up
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and down the Kennedy Expressway just because it was possible.

Measures to slow the spread of the disease work against in-person gatherings. Coming together for worship wasn't possible. Maintaining 6 feet of distance between people, refraining from touching and wearing face masks aren't conducive to corporate worship. I was in a CDC briefing that pointed out that singing was right up there with sneezing and coughing in spreading the virus. Conventional all-together-in-the-building church was out. So, what did we do? We found new ways of receiving the word and singing praise to God. All across this church, pastors and deacons, musicians and lay leaders created imaginative and fresh ways to worship. Virtual church, recorded church, livestreamed church happened everywhere. In parts of the country without sufficient Wi-Fi, congregations phoned each other, some on landlines. Pastors and deacons kept in contact with the people, and parishioners called each other. Worship resources to be used at home were shared. We might have been physically distanced, but we were not spiritually or socially isolated.

Many congregations and worship sites reported that online attendance was up and, in some cases, exceeded average Sunday in-person participation. People "attended" several services in a day. And we know that many attending online would never walk into one of our churches.

Now, before we get too excited about this new evangelism tool, we need to consider factors that may have contributed to increased attendance—no sports, no Starbucks, limited travel, convenience. This won't last forever. But the restrictions imposed by the pandemic have made it clear that people are searching for hope and meaning and love. The gospel, the good news, the reality of God's unconditional love "poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5:5), is the message that people long to hear. It is life for the dying, water for the parched, food for the starving, liberty for the oppressed. God has entrusted this word, this evangelical word, to the church and has commissioned us to tell it.

People wonder what the post-COVID world and the post-COVID church will look like. No one, except God, knows for certain. Our experience with worshipping remotely has taught us at least two things: the word of God expressed in worship, lament and praise is not irrelevant. And people who find our congregations—the building and people—intimidating or off-putting also long to be part of a community that witnesses to the life we have in Jesus.

I am praying for the day when we gather again. I miss going to church. Church, including the buildings, are sacred spaces. Human beings are drawn to places where they have experienced the holy. Congregations—buildings and people—are witnesses to the transcendent.

The problem comes when people confuse the sacred space with the Sacred. We must take
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care that our congregations don't become idols. Since we have concrete evidence that people who long to hear about the life, hope and grace that comes to the world through Jesus won't come into our churches, we need to go to them. We have done this in creative ways and through online worship during the pandemic. Don't stop. When we are able to return to our sacred spaces, let's make an honest assessment of the ways that our congregations are witnesses to the transcendent, places where we are nourished for the journey and then sent out to serve. Or have they become barriers to those seeking the love and freedom God has given to all people in Christ?

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org. This column originally appeared in the June/July issue of Living Lutheran. Reprinted with permission.

ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).

In 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members [adopted a resolution](#) designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

As church we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to one or more of the actions below:

- 1. Sign the pledge below, "I commit to study, prayer and action to become an anti-racist individual in an anti-racist church," and share your participation on social media using #ELCA4Justice.**
- 2. Work to dismantle racial injustice by [listening](#) to voices, experiences and the expertise of people of color. Learn about the [ELCA ethnic-specific associations](#) and their [strategies](#).**
- 3. Learn the history of systemic racism in this country and the ways racism and white supremacy impact every aspect of our life together.**

4. *Join, support or attend your synod's anti-racism team or work with your synod leadership to start one in your congregation. Study the ELCA social statement "[Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture](#)" and the "[Explanation of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)."*
5. *Explore and use on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday the forthcoming ELCA Advocacy resources on a "[Just Society Supporting the Health of All](#)," which are focused on advancing racially equitable public policies, and by engaging in [ELCAvotes](#) to encourage and ensure voting rights for all.*
6. *Start where you are by joining community organizations working for racial justice.*
7. *Reach out to build or [deepen relationships](#) with Historic Black Churches. Consider using the congregational resource "[Understanding One Another](#)," co-authored by the ELCA and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, or our [Joint Statement of Mission](#) with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church as a way to get started.*
8. *Explore and use the [anti-racism resources](#) of our ecumenical partners through the [A.C.T. Now to End Racism](#) initiative of the National Council of Churches.*

Let our prayers of lament be turned into ongoing actions for racial justice.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop

Mr. William B. Horne II
Vice President

The Rev. Tracie L. Bartholomew
Chair, Conference of Bishops

Sign onto the pledge at <https://elca.org/racialjusticepledge>

The Southwestern Washington Synod's Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine, June 17, 2020.

View the recorded service here <https://vimeo.com/433175142>. If you or your congregation would like written copies of the Litany of Remembrance for the Emanuel Nine, Confessing Racism: A lament for the Church, or The Doors of the Church Are Still Open: A Litany in memory of the Emanuel Nine, written by Bishop Adam J. Richardson, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, please email the Synod Office at swwsynod@plu.edu to make your request.

Greetings from our ELCA Missionaries in Cairo

Pastor Christie Manisto is on our Synod's clergy roster, and along with her husband, Steve Saari, serve a congregation in Cairo, Egypt, though right now they are serving their mission congregation from Minnesota. Here's their latest newsletter and the ways that you can support their ministry . <https://mailchi.mp/fcce352ff7bf/passages-newsletter>

PSALM (Program for Active Lay Ministry) Registration Open

The Southwestern Washington Synod seeks to form and support trustworthy, inclusive lay leaders who are grounded in Christian faith and in a Lutheran expression of faith. The Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry (PSALM) is designed for congregation members who have discerned a call to more intentional and public lay leadership in their congregation and community.

PSALM is a two-year program that takes place over four terms. Each term is approximately 6 months long and begins with an overnight retreat. The coursework for the term is introduced at the retreat by a variety of presenters who bring expertise to the topics. In addition to course assignments each term, students will work on practical ministry projects in their congregation or ministry setting. They will have an opportunity to share these projects with each other as part of the retreats.

Questions? Contact us at psalm@plu.edu

PSALM application materials can be found on the Synod website at

<https://lutheranssw.org/leader-resources/psalm>



"The Church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage, and keep on rising from the dead"
(Fred Pratt Green, 1969).

Dear church,

Words matter. Words matter in our Scripture, in our hymns, in our governing documents, and

beyond. Fifty years ago, on June 29, 1970, the Lutheran Church in America voted to change the word “man” to “person” in its bylaws and opened the door for the ordination of women. The American Lutheran Church achieved the same thing by resolution a few months later. The church was led by the Spirit to change. At the time it was scary for some. Fifty years later, it is now part of our heritage.



[Watch celebration at Churchwide Assembly 2019](#)

Fifty years later we celebrate the anniversary as a whole church. The influence of those decisions 50 years ago is not merely the impact on women. This is a celebration for the whole church, because the whole church has been strengthened by the gifts of ordained women in its leadership. We celebrate how these pastors have shared the Word, including with words of compassion, conviction, and curiosity. We also give thanks for the moments

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when there are no words, but they have offered their presence.

We also know that women who are pastors have struggled in ways men who are pastors have not. They deal with sexual harassment, disrespect, and often lower pay due to gender-based discrimination. The first women of color in our predecessor bodies weren't ordained until 1979. And it wasn't until 2009 that barriers to ordination were removed for LGBTQIA+ individuals in committed relationships. We know that racism and heterosexism complexify and intensify these problems. This discrimination is also part of our heritage, and something that we need to continue to work to eliminate.

In recognition of this 50th anniversary on June 29th, I invite you to express gratitude to a pastor who is a woman for how she has influenced your life. It could be by letter or email, or by other means. If you post on social media, please use the hashtag **#thankyopastor**. If you would like more resources for celebrating this year, go to elca.org/50yearsofordainedwomen, which has an adult forum, Bible Study, video, and worship materials.



Fifty years after 1970, we also live in a world beset by change. I am grateful for the Spirit who continues to lead us and for the women God has called to minister to us.

I thank God for all of you who minister so faithfully.

In Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus"
Galatians 3:28.

Making Sense of Music Licensing and Copyrights- Our Synod's Conference Deans has requested us to compile information to help you make sense of music licensing and copyrights. The paper can be found online at <https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.44/vzp.864.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/worship-licenses-6-26-20.pdf>

Facebook Groups for Marketing and Communications for your Congregation or Ministry

A Facebook Group is the most active part of Facebook now. This is a time to invite people into your ministry. Facebook Groups are usually administered by the church's Facebook page administrator. An administrator can have up to 200 groups.

Your Facebook PAGE serves as the official, centralized voice of your congregations. Think of it as "External Marketing"

Facebook GROUP is a great way to facilitate conversation and engagement among your members. Think of Groups as "Internal Marketing"

See the full article on how a Facebook Group works and how to set one up for your congregation on the Synod website at

<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.44/vzp.864.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/Facebook-Group-Marketing-for-your-Congregation-1.pdf>

Do I Need an Estate Plan?

From the ELCA Foundation

Thinking about estate plans can be scary and overwhelming, but it doesn't need to be. As people of the resurrection, we know that death is not our final defeat and instead our ultimate victory is in Christ. We don't need to avoid planning out of fear or complexity.

If you have any assets, you have an estate. And if you pass away without an estate plan in place, your state government will decide what to do with your assets. We want to help you be confident in the estate plan being your plan. For the last 30-plus years the ELCA Foundation has offered free estate-planning services that allow you to leave a legacy of generosity to your family and favorite ministries and charities.

Where Do I Start?

- Our digital resources and nationwide network of regional gift planners are available, free of charge and with no obligation, for virtual meetings and phone calls to help you get started.
- ["My Will and Trust Workbook"](#): will help you inventory your assets and think about what decisions you need to make.
- ["Important Notes About My Estate"](#): will show you how to document your estate plan and leave important notes for your loved ones.
- [An estate gift or donor-directed distribution agreement](#) will enable you to support the ministries and causes you love.

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Estate Plan, continued

If you're not sure where to start or just want some simple details on finalizing a gift plan, the ELCA Foundation is here to help. Contact our ELCA Foundation Regional Gift Planner, Beth Adams, to discuss your next steps at beth.adams@elca.org or 360-953-4401

Portico's June update

This short [video greeting](#) (the one they'd planned to share this spring) underscores the importance of strengthening yourself for service.

Our [2019 annual report](#) shows that Portico's solid performance and stewardship in 2019 positioned us well for 2020.

The [ELCA is recommending two health benefit options for 2021](#), and suggests taking a fresh look at these options during fall Annual Enrollment.

Follow Portico on [Facebook](#) so you can join our latest wellness activity. Created in collaboration with Deacon Tammy Devine, it offers a daily prayerful respite for the entire month of July.

Don't forget to check their [COVID-19 Resource Center](#); it's regularly updated with relevant information and resources.

Lutheran Summer Camps Suspending 2020 Summer Programs

Lutherwood in Bellingham and Camp Lutherwood in Oregon have both made the tough decision to suspend their summer camps this year. They are offering alternative ways you can spend time in the outdoors at camp this summer. Congregations are invited to have their own outdoor morning or evening worship. Camps are also available for family group rentals. Visit their websites for more information www.camplutherwood.org, <http://www.lutherwoodoregon.org/> //