



## 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.*  
**June 2020**

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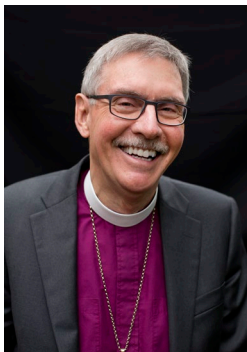
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## We Lutherans Need a Real Pentecost!

by Bishop Richard Jaech, Synod Bishop



Dear Friends,

Exhaustion and facing the unknown. As I talk to people around the Synod, those are the struggles that I hear many of us experiencing as we continue our marathon run through the COVID 19 pandemic and economic upheaval.

Perhaps Pentecost is coming to us at exactly the right time.

When Jesus left his disciples and ascended into heaven, many of them feared that they had lost the sustaining strength and direction that Jesus had provided them. Their old lives had ended and they didn't know what would happen next.

Then the Holy Spirit descended upon them with fire, wisdom, and strength, and they found themselves being called and pushed into a whole new life.

As we experience exhaustion and face the unknown, I am confident that the Holy Spirit comes to fill us again with the strength and direction we need. The Day of Pentecost invites us to open ourselves to the Spirit's power. The Season of Pentecost, stretching out from May 31 to November 28, gives us opportunity to follow the Spirit and put our life-giving gifts into practice.

This will be a very pivotal Season of Pentecost for the Church and for the whole world. During the next six months, we are likely to walk through many difficulties, challenges, and sufferings. Yet, the Spirit of Life is with us and God promises to breathe new life through us into the world. We Lutherans need a real Pentecost! It's time to learn from our Pentecostal siblings and call upon the Spirit to enter us with power and vision each day!

I close with this poem by Laura Kelly Fanucci, who is the director of the Communities of Calling Initiative, housed at the Collegeville Institute of Saint John's University, Minnesota. She is also a columnist for Catholic News Service. Pastor Dan Wiktorek at Twin Harbors Lutheran discovered this poem and sent it to me:

*Continued next page*

*Real Pentecost, continued from page 1*

### **When This is Over**

When this is over,  
may we never again  
take for granted  
A handshake with a stranger  
Full shelves at the store  
Conversations with neighbors  
A crowded theater  
Friday night out  
The taste of communion  
A routine checkup  
The school rush each morning  
Coffee with a friend  
The stadium roaring  
Each deep breath  
A boring Tuesday  
Life itself.

When this ends  
may we find  
that we have become  
more like the people  
we wanted to be  
we were called to be  
we hoped to be  
and may we stay  
that way — better  
for each other  
because of the worst.

*Poem used with permission of author*

In Christ,

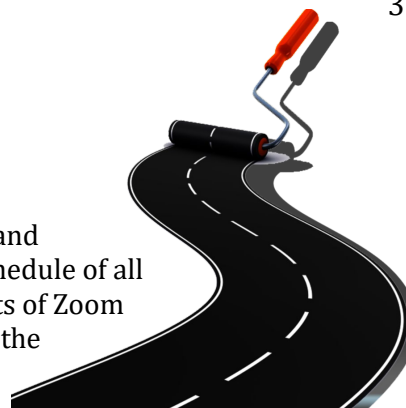
Bishop Rick Jaech

## **Governor Inslee's May 27<sup>th</sup> Phase 1 and 2 Religious and Faith-based Organization COVID-19 Requirements**

<https://secureservercdn.net/198.71.233.44/vzp.864.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/Phase-I-and-2-Religious-and-Faith-based-Organizations-Memo-5-27-20.pdf>

## 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 May.



- May 4 Pacific Lutheran University Governing Committee
- May 5 Synod Affordable Housing Committee
- May 6 Recording Sunday sermon at Mt. View Lutheran, Edgewood
- May 7 Conference Deans meeting  
Olympia area pastors meeting
- May 9 Synod Executive Committee
- May 13 Region I Bishops  
South Sound and Coastal pastors and deacons
- May 14 All ELCA Bishops  
Consultation to Clergy Board
- May 16 PLU Board of Regents  
Synod Workshop on LGBTQIA Beautiful Plus
- May 19 Synod Workshop on “Building Community Partnerships”
- May 20 South Sound and Coastal pastors and deacons
- May 21 All ELCA Bishops  
Southeastern Synod (Atlanta, GA) Workshop against White Supremacy
- May 30 Synod Workshop on “Growing Young”

**The Synod website has updated resources for congregations and rostered leaders during COVID-19** <https://lutheranssw.org/covid-19-related-resources>

## Congregations in Transition - June 2020

*Lord, we pray for your wisdom, insight and peace for the congregations and 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	P	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
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 Free Online Educational Workshops

Since we had to cancel our in-person Synod Educational Gatherings, we will now offer five of the workshops online. Each will have a presentation, time for Q & A during the event, and a follow-up session at a later date, if class desires.



After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar or meeting.

You may register for as many of these free online workshops as you would like- just click on the link at the bottom of each workshop description for a simple registration form:

### Growing Young: 6 Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church

**Saturday, May 30th at 10-11:30am**



Churches are both shrinking and aging as more young people disengage. Based on groundbreaking research with over 250 of the nation's leading congregations, Growing Young provides a strategy any church can use to involve and retain young people. It profiles innovative churches engaging 15-to-29 year olds that are growing- spiritually, emotionally, missionally, and numerically. Packed with ideas, Growing Young shows ministry leaders how to position their churches to reach younger generations in a way that breathes life into the whole church. This workshop will explore the Six Essential Strategies and talk about how your congregation can use these as part of your ministry. **Time for online Q & A. Follow-up will be a Growing Young Book Group to continue this work, if desired.**

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*Growing Young workshop, continued from page 4*

**Presenters:** Deacon Ingelaurie Lisher, Synod Youth Committee Chair, serving at St Mark's Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma and Terri Hekroth, Director of Youth Ministries at Creator Lutheran, Bonney Lake.

**\*\*Register in advance for Growing Young Workshop [HERE](#)**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_LKYyefSEQmSyfqwMvDHX9A](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_LKYyefSEQmSyfqwMvDHX9A)

### **Top 3 Things You Can Do on Social Media to Build Community -**

**Wednesday, June 3rd at 6-7:30pm**



Learn about three things that you can easily do in your congregation using social media to grow community.

**Presenter:** Cort Okfen, webmaster for St Marks Lutheran Church by the Narrows, Tacoma, owner of most followed twitter handle in S. Tacoma, and owner of Okfen & Associates, an internet marketing company.

**\*\*Register for Social Media Workshop [HERE](#)**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_3k-dNwiJSxecEv5iArieoA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_3k-dNwiJSxecEv5iArieoA)

### **Compassionate Integrity**

**Saturday, June 6th 10-11:30am**



Have you ever wondered how you could cultivate the compassion called for in the Charter or help others cultivate that compassion? compassionate Integrity Training (CIT) is a great place to start!

Through this interactive workshop meeting, you'll learn about how this program, which Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Port Angeles, has implemented, is a resiliency-informed program that cultivates human values as skills, so we can thrive as individuals, and a society within a healthy environment. By learning skills to calm our bodies and mind, becoming more emotionally aware, learning to practice compassion for ourselves and others, as well as engaging with compassion in complex systems, we can build towards compassionate integrity: the ability to live one's life in accordance with one's values with a recognition of common humanity, our basic orientation to kindness and reciprocity.

**Presenter:** Pastor Kristin-Luana Baumann, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Port Angeles, Compassionate Integrity Training Facilitator.

**\*\*Register for Compassionate Integrity Workshop [Here](#)**

<http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=magpslfab&oeidk=a07eh237y5s871bcee0>

Workshops continued next page

*Synod free online workshops continued*

### **Stewardship in Uncertain Times**

**Watch Video Anytime** <https://youtu.be/jdLFX47eBnA> *Follow-up discussions with Rev. Mike Ward and Paul Marsh will be available **June 10th at 10am and 6:30pm for live Zoom conversation** (links below)*



Life has changed dramatically in the last few weeks and that change is still unfolding. In the midst of this change, people are needing the peace and comfort provided by faith in God. At the same time, as our normal patterns are upended and the nation is struggling economically, we worry about financial resources for our ministries. It is critically important now that we focus on how we tell our story of impact, how we invite people to generosity, how we envision a future where our congregations are more important and vital than ever.

In the video you will learn tangible ideas for responding during this crisis and how to put in place the infrastructure to keep generosity flowing to your congregations. Presenters will also point out messaging that you should avoid during this time. Additionally they are sharing resources about responding to this crisis that can be found

at <https://gsbfundraising.com/category/news/> *This session is suggested for pastors, stewardship leaders, finance committee members, council members and others engaged in congregational leadership.*

**Presenters:** GSB Partner, Rev. Mike Ward, CFRE, author of *Abundance: Creating Cultures of Generosity*, and his colleague, Paul Marsh, CFRE

**Registration:** No need to register to watch video. Then, you may register for a Zoom discussion with Pastor Ward on either June 10th, if desired.

**Please join Pastor Ward for Follow Up Conversations about his video, "Stewardship in Uncertain Times" via Zoom:**

- **Wednesday, June 10th at 10am** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84223633105>
- **Wednesday, June 10th at 6:30pm** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84324986426>

*The purple mosaic cross used in the image above was created by the Mosaic Ministry Group at Stella Lutheran Chapel in Longview, WA with Pastor Jill Ross.*

## **WELCA Convention Postponed**

With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA's Executive Board voted to postpone the organization's convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25. "We are postponing not canceling," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. The Eleventh Triennial Convention scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is being rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021. And the 2020 "Just Love" Gathering, scheduled for July 16-19, 2020, is being rescheduled for August 5-8, 2021. "We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year," Bushkofsky said. "And if they aren't able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else."

Staff will be working out final arrangements with the Phoenix businesses and communicating directly with all who are voting members-elect for the convention and who have registered for the gathering. Postponing the convention means that the current executive board will serve another year until "replacements are elected and installed," Bushkofsky said. Then, the board elected in 2021 will serve a two-year term. For the 2023 convention, "we would be back to our three-year cycle. That works best with the churchwide assembly, the youth gathering, and the rostered leaders' event."

## **Greetings from Pastor Christie Manisto and Steven Saari, ELCA missionaries serving in Cairo, Egypt**

*Pastor Christie is a missionary, rostered in the Southwestern Washington Synod*

Our church in Egypt, St. Andrews United Church of Cairo, is currently not meeting for worship like many congregations in the world. At this time, we find ourselves living with family in Minneapolis, Minnesota after being evacuated from Egypt in mid-March. This quarantine and socially-distancing time has been filled with many emotions that most everyone is probably feeling.

We have been reflecting on our ministry work, doing online worship services, and teaching/trainings, as well as trying to stay connected with our colleagues and friends as we anxiously await our return to Egypt. This has also been a challenging time that has taught us great patience and a new-found flexibility that we didn't know was within our reach.

What lifts our spirits is the compassion shared with us (and with so many others) by those people in Egypt and the USA who are working tirelessly on the front lines of hope. The current situation which refugees face in Egypt due to COVID 19 is one that continues to become more dire by the day. Yet, God's love and promise shines through so many every day and inspires us still. The work of St. Andrews Refugee Service continues on with minimal staff, tirelessly working to meet the growing emergency needs of individuals who have been forcibly displaced and are now sheltering in Cairo.

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*Missionary Greeting, continued from page 7*

We are not sure at this time when we will return to Egypt, but we would love to be in touch with you. Our most recent newsletter can be found online [here](#). You can also contact us via email at [christie.manisto@elca.org](mailto:christie.manisto@elca.org) and [steven.saari@elca.org](mailto:steven.saari@elca.org). We would be happy to participate in an online worship service through preaching, scripture reading, or even guitar/music. We would love to join an online bible study or get together with your congregation to share about the important work being done in Egypt. Please reach out to us - we are here for you and would love to meet up! They have written an article on the next page.

## Intersections of the sacred in Cairo Egypt

*By ELCA Missionaries Pastor Christie Manisto and Steve Saari in Cairo*



*Hello all!*

*These are new and interesting times to be engaged in ministry. We are so grateful for the ways we have been connected to so many of you in the past! We would love to be connected in new ways. Help us understand in these days the best way to be in touch with your community.*

### ***What Works Best for You?***

- *Would you like a video piece from us to drop into online worship or on your website?*
- *Would you like to be alerted to sermons that are available online for worship use?*
- *Can we write something for your newsletter?*
- *Can Steve share a song in your worship service or devotional time?*
- *Can we lead a study session on Zoom, conference call, or “get to know one another” session?*
- *Can Pastor Christie and Steve join a young adult, confirmation, or Sunday school class to speak about the work with refugees in Egypt?*



- Can we facilitate individuals in the congregation in Egypt to share a message with your congregation?
- How can we pray for you?
- What other ideas do you have?

Other *Great ways to connect with us include:*

- Send us an email: [Christie.manisto@elca.org](mailto:Christie.manisto@elca.org) and [steven.saari@elca.org](mailto:steven.saari@elca.org)
- Pray for us as an individual or with your worship community
- Read and Share our Newsletters
- Click [here](#) for creative ways to share about our ministry with your faith community!

Thank you so much! We look forward to this continued partnership  
Your friends in Christ, Pastor Christie and Steve

## Food Waste



Natural Resource Defense Council

We've heard truly tragic stories about farmers forced to dump perfectly good food because of the economic disruptions caused by COVID-19. The Washington State Potato Commission donated one million pounds of potatoes to people around the state before they were forced to throw away food they could no longer store since restaurants are not selling as much food right now.

We need to understand more about our food supply chain before we can make a difference. Here are the top documentaries to watch on our food supply system:

### **Just Eat It: a Food Waste Story**

**Why watch it:** This intimate portrait of a husband and wife's attempt to live off of food that would have been thrown out is equal parts gripping reality television, funny social commentary, and thought-provoking environmental journalism. What starts off as a quirky experiment quickly becomes an insightful deep dive into waste in America that everyone can relate to and learn from.

**Where to watch:** Free on YouTube

### **Wasted! The Story of Food Waste**

**Why watch it:** This movie breaks down the overwhelming and depressing topic of waste into digestible parts and leaves you with inspiring ideas for how to make a difference in your kitchen and at the grocery store.

**Where to watch:** Available to rent on most streaming services

### **Food, Inc**

**Why watch it:** Simply put, it's one of the best primers on the state of the American food system out there. Whether you're concerned about the rise of the obesity epidemic, baffled why healthy food is so expensive, or frustrated with how meat is produced, this film has something for you. If you enjoyed "*The Omnivore's Dilemma*," or have been meaning to read it, *Food, Inc.* is for you!

**Where to watch:** Available to rent on Vudu, Hulu and Amazon Prime video

### **A Place at the Table**

**Why watch it:** This documentary is a much watch for anyone looking to understand hunger in America. From the same folks behind "*Food, Inc.*" comes a similarly well-researched deep dive into the large, overlooked, and vexingly hard-to solve social issue that is 21st century hunger.

**Where to watch:** Available to rent on most streaming services

### **Fed Up**

**Why watch it:** *Fed Up* brings to light the extremely negative impact the processed food and sugar industries have had on our nation's health. If you like dietary hot takes and hate processed food, this documentary will be music to your ears. You'll likely emerge from viewing it feeling fired up to rethink the foods you eat and companies that you support.

**Where to watch:** Free on Vudu and available to rent on most streaming services

### **A Prayer for a time of conflict, crisis, disaster**

*Time of conflict, crisis, disaster O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted, grant courage and hope. Where anxiety is infectious and widening, grant peace and reassurance. Where impossibilities close every door and window, grant imagination and resistance. Where distrust twists our thinking, grant healing and illumination. Where spirits are daunted and weakened, grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 76) //*

