



# Southwestern Washington Synod

## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop

June 12, 2019

Dear Leaders and Members of the Southwestern Washington Synod,

I am pleased to announce that The Rev. Rebecca Shjerven will serve as the new Bishop's Associate of the Southwestern Washington Synod. In the ELCA, the Bishop's Associate is appointed by the Bishop. Pastor Shjerven will begin her ministry on September 1, 2019, following the retirement of our current Bishop's Associate, Pastor Kim Latterell.

As Bishop's Associate, Pastor Shjerven will provide leadership in four key areas: (1) Shepherding congregations in transition, most often supporting them in a call process for a new leader; (2) Working with the Synod's Candidacy process for people who desire to serve the church as a pastor or deacon; (3) Placing and supporting seminary interns in our Synod; and (4) Providing leadership for our Synod's new Program for Strengthening Active Lay Ministry (PSALM).

Pastor Shjerven received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Deaf Education from Augustana College and taught at the Northwest School for Hearing-Impaired Children in Seattle, 1984-1988. She then entered Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN, and received her Master of Divinity Degree in 1992. Pastor Shjerven has served calls at Peninsula Lutheran, Gig Harbor (1992-96), Zion Lutheran, Kent (1996-2001), Bethlehem Lutheran, Tacoma (2001-2008) and St. Mark's by The Narrows, Tacoma (2008-present). With her experience in both education and pastoral ministry, Pastor Shjerven brings many excellent gifts to her new call as Bishop's Associate.

As we greet Pastor Shjerven, we also give our deepest thanks to Pastor Kim Latterell, who has given such excellent service to the Synod for the last six years. Pastor Latterell has helped 47 of our 88 congregations move through a call process during this time. Working with the Candidacy Committee, he has assisted over 30 members of our Synod to become pastors and deacons, including placing many interns in congregations. Pastoral Latterell has been the chief architect and engineer of our new PSALM program.

I invite you to attend a Retirement Party for Pastor Latterell on Tuesday, July 30, from 6:30pm - 8:00PM at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, 12115 Park Ave. S., Tacoma, 98444. Dessert will be served and you will have a chance to personally thank Pastor Latterell for his fine ministry.

Peace and blessings to you!

Bishop Rick Jaech

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*The mission of the Southwestern Washington Synod is to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ by empowering congregations and Church leaders to grow in worship, education, outreach, stewardship and other ministries.*