



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.
 March 2023

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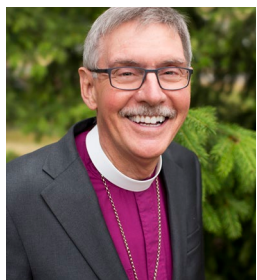
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Lent Offers Us Healing Time

By Bishop Rick Jaech, Southwestern Washington Synod



Dear Friends in Christ,

“In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”

Beginning in the earliest centuries after Christ, small numbers of Christians adopted the custom of going out into the desert to live for prolonged periods of time, in order to better follow the

Way of Christ. Known as the Desert Fathers and Mothers, these Christians believed that the arid wastelands of the desert helped their faith journey in the following ways:

- The emptiness of the desert forced them to let go of the daily comforts and routines of life that often distracted them from God.
- The dangers of the desert (wild beasts, scorching heat) helped them to turn to God for their entire survival and well-being.
- The clear air of the desert prompted them to look clearly and honestly at their own lives, including their wounds and struggles.
- The sense of God’s presence and protection in the desert stirred them to re-commit themselves to faithfully follow the Way of Christ.

“In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”

The season of Lent offers to us a healing time in the desert. Remembering the Israelites who spent 40 years in the desert wilderness, Lent gives us 40 days in which our own faith and trust in God might be healed and restored. With Jesus and his disciples, we are invited to follow the Desert Way of being purified, examined, healed and strengthened by the Holy Spirit.

Throughout these 40 days of Lent, I encourage you to let the Spirit ask you these desert questions:

- What old ways, old patterns or old fears have become burdensome to you and need to be left behind?
- What are the struggles and pains in your life that are urging you to turn to God for help and support?

Continued next page

Healing Time, continued from page 1

- What in your life do you need to look at clearly and honestly?
- How is the Spirit stirring you to entrust yourself to God and to follow Christ?

Lent is the time when God wants to cleanse, heal and change us. By risking everything and going into the desert, God raises us to new life.

“In the desert of the heart, there let the healing fountain start.”

Yours in Christ,



Bishop Rick Jaech

Supporting Tribal Languages

Pastor Kristin-Luana Baumann, chair of Native American Work Team

ʔiʔánəŋəct cñ ti nəsnəx^wsłayəmúcn. (I am learning the Klallam language.)

Did you know that our church committed to *supporting Tribal nations in their work to preserve their languages* in the [Declaration](#) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to American Indian and Alaska Native People?

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Declaration_to_American_Indian_Alaska_Native.pdf

How can we as individuals and church communities do so? The first step is to find out if the tribal nation/s in your area have language programs and what they look like. Most tribes have webpages where this information can readily be found! Some language classes are open to the general public. I am learning the Klallam Language at Peninsula College, which also offers classes in Quileute and Makah. But some tribal nations focus their limited resources on teaching the tribal members. They might have language webpages and YouTube videos, where you can gain some basic knowledge by yourself. It is good to be able to even just greet your tribal neighbor in their language! Some School Districts offer Native Language Classes. If your school district does not do so yet, maybe the tribe is working on getting that established, and you can support that effort. You might be able to donate money or time to Native Language Programs. The important thing is to start with doing your own research, and to follow the lead of your local tribal nation/s in the effort of language revitalization.

yəhúmect cx^w hay! (Take care of yourselves!)



On the Road with the Bishop

January 29 Preached at Spanaway Lutheran Church, where Pastor John Schier-Hanson serves. Their sanctuary is shown right.



February 9 Participated in the Faith Action Network Advocacy Day in Olympia. Members from a number of our Synod congregations were present to talk to their legislators about important issues that will be voted on. Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee of the Northwest Washington Synod and I spoke at the beginning of the event, shown below left. See next page



On the road, continued from page 3



Congregation members from the Southwestern Washington Synod and the Northwest Washington Synod are shown in the large group photo above left. Photo right above, we talked with friends of ours from the Washington Islamic community who were also at the FAN event.



February 19 Preached at St. Mark's by the Narrows Lutheran in Tacoma, shown left, where Pastor Jan Ruud serves.

February 23-25 Attended a Board of Regents meeting at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA.



Congregations in Transition – March 2023

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

Congregations	Position	Status	Pastoral Care
Celebration, Puyallup	P	NV	Rev. Chris Boerger
Elim, Port Orchard	P	TR	Rev. Mike Hanson
Gloria Dei, Olympia	P	TR	Rev. Dan Wilson; Deacon SAM Carla Spaccarotelli
Gloria Dei, Tacoma	P	NV	Rev. John Clauson
Key Peninsula, Lakebay	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Living Stones Prison Congregation, WCC Shelton	P	TR	Rev. Eric Utto-Galarneau
Lutheran Church of Christ the King, Tacoma	P	TR	Rev. Pamela Griffith Pond, Rev. Kim Latterell
Messiah, Vancouver	P	TR	Rev. David Brauer-Rieke, Rev. Tom Tweed
Mt Cross, Univ Place	P	NV	Pulpit Supply
Prince of Peace, Forks	P	TR	Don Corson, SAM
St Paul, Winlock	P	NV	Rev. Paul Hermansen
Twin Harbors, Grayland	P	NV	Rev. Amanda Sullivan-Kersey

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

Mobility status key:
NV – New Vacancy
TR – Transition
I – Interviewing
C – Calling
SAM- Synod
Authorized Minister

Synod Transfer-

Pastor JT Burk, of Mount Cross, Univ Place has accepted a new call in the NWWA Synod.



**The theme of this year's one-day Synod Assembly is
"Seeking God's Shalom"**

We haven't been together in-person for our Synod Assembly since 2019 and we have really missed it! This year's Synod Assembly will be one-day in-person event on **Saturday, May 6th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn. Doors open at 8am, assembly is 9am-5:30pm.** Elected Voting Members may register for the Synod Assembly at: <https://cvent.me/g1nL5Z>. We will have a full day together, including wonderful worship, lunch and business matters such as elections, votes on the synod budgets for FY24 & FY25, and to hear about the ELCA from our Churchwide representative Pastor Lisa Heffernan, ELCA Coordinator for Disability Ministries. We'll have lay and rostered voting members from each of our congregations and mission developments, so it will be a wonderful day together...finally!

It's not all business, as our lunch at Synod Assembly will be catered by Chef Shawn Tibbits of the nationally award winning restaurant, Tibbits @ Fern Hill in Tacoma. We are in for a real treat. The Youth at Messiah Lutheran will open their fundraising coffee bar for our voting members and guests to use. I hear the coffee drinks are good. Support them instead of an outside business, if you desire.

On Friday evening, we'll have some **Synod Workshops** open to voting members, and other congregation rostered and lay members in our synod. More Information and online registration for the workshops will be out in March. The two sessions of workshops will include topics from One to One Interviews for Community Engagement, to National Day of Remembrance for Murdered and Missing Indigenous People.

[How many voting members does my congregation get?](#) (Click for full document)

It's based on your baptized members from your 2022 ("parochial") Report A & B:

- Up to 500 baptized members: 2 lay voting members (2 different genders)
- 501-700: 3 lay voting members (2 different genders)
- 751-1000 baptized members 4 lay voting members

Assembly Voting Member info on next page

Agenda:

Basic [Agenda](#)

Resolution:

[Covenant for Care for Creation](#)

Synod Constitution Amendments:

[Synod Constitution Amendments](#) from 2022 Churchwide Assembly.

Elections:

[Positions Open for Nomination](#) (updated 3-10-23) -Elected positions start in either June 2023 or June 2024. Positions include: Synod Council, Discipline Committee, Consultation Committee and 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Voting Member.

[Nomination Form](#) Fill this form out on your computer, save it and attach to email to submit to synod swwsynod@plu.edu.

[Position Job Descriptions](#) (3-10-23)

Greetings from our Missionaries in Europe

Pastor Rachel Eskesen, rostered in our synod, and her husband Pastor Zachary Courter, are the ELCA Desk Directors for Europe. If you've read this newsletter in the past year, you have probably seen information on Pastor Rachel's work to support people in Ukraine, Hungary and others during the war. They say that Ash Wednesday reminds them of our mortal reality, and encourages us all to take stock of our behaviors and beliefs to make sure they are in-line with God's teachings of justice and love. As missionaries, they are reminded that none of what they do is possible without the care and support from all of you. They continue to be grateful for your prayers, support and financial contributions. To give to support Pastors Eskesen and Courter, or other ELCA missionaries around the world, see https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Global-Service/Support-Missionaries?_ga=2.35336676.411743856.1678121950-1870145156.1654022968

Please take some time to read and share their missionary update with your family and faith community. [A link to it is here.](#) You'll find family photos, photos of their missionary work, and a way to give to support their ministry in Europe.

Also, you can check out a daily blog called '[Fastenzeit2023](#).' Pr. Zach will be writing this simple blog in German each day during Lent, for his Lenten discipline of German language learning. The blog is written first in German, and then translated to English.

A Pastoral Message in Support of our Jewish Neighbors from our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Dear church,

For many months we have seen an alarming spike in anti-Jewish, anti-Muslim and white supremacist hate. It has been reported that extremist groups are planning "Days of Hate", targeting Jews.

As Christians, we are called to love our neighbors and to be peacemakers. We stand firm in our commitment to love and respect our Jewish neighbors in our local communities and across the nation and globe. We reject as sin and as an affront to the gospel all calls for hatred of the Jewish people and all forms of white supremacy. We are ready to protect and defend Jews, people of other faiths and people of color.

I invite you to consider tonight how you can live out our common calling and commitments. Here are some suggestions:

- Speak out against "Days of Hate" as evil and counter to the love and peace we are called to embody.
- Reach out to your local rabbi or synagogue, as well as your Jewish friends, colleagues and family and offer your support in whatever way they might most appreciate.
- Post signs in the windows of your home expressing support for the Jewish people.
- Pray for all people, including those who proclaim hate, that God's love will prevail.

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In the face of hate, help us to accompany one another in love. In this time of danger, be to our Jewish neighbors a guardian and rock of defense. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Resource documents: "A Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community" (adopted 1994, revised 2021) ELCA social policy resolution "Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric" (2019)

Pacific Northwest Bold Gathering for Men

May 20, 2023 11:00-2:00 Pacific

Trinity Lutheran Church – Parkland, WA



A Bold Gathering is a day for men to come together to learn, network and be equipped to boldly live out their faith as bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.

Six guest speakers will be sharing their “Bold Stories from the Heart”. Watch for speakers, topics, and registration updates at boldgathering.com. Registration will be free but appreciated to help with planning. Lunch will be served with a Free Will offering.

For those in other parts of the country, speaker presentation recordings will debut nationally in the weeks following via Lutheran Men in Mission communications and boldgathering.com

Thank you to Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, WA for partnering with Lutheran Men in Mission. For more about Lutheran Men in Mission resources and events, go to www.lutheranmeninmission.org



Lenten Prayer Message from Lutheran Men in Mission

Dcn. Kristin Lewis, Valparaiso University

“That neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39



Lenten Prayer image above: (photo - church in Ulysses, Kansas 1935) Continued next page

"We spend so much of our lives fighting the **dust**. The **dust** on our faces, the **dust** in our stories, the **dust** on our feet, and the final **dust** of our mortality.

Continued next page

LMM Lenten Message, continued from page 10

We don't want anyone to see that, in fact, we are mortal. We are human. We reach for the make-up, anti-aging cream, fad diet, anything that will help us "age well." We strive to look young, flawless, and in control. We hide our blemishes. I didn't screw up — they did. We blame. We point fingers. We find excuses. We cover it up. Nope, not me. I didn't do it. Nobody saw me do it. You can't prove anything.

On Ash Wednesday we are called to look in the mirror. To see our full human self. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust. On Ash Wednesday we confess in public, no hiding, that we are sinners in need of a savior. On Ash Wednesday we face the reality that we don't have it all together.

We see the dust on our face, in our stories, in our lives. We give up the facade. Ash Wednesday allows us to drop the mask and let out the breath that we have been holding as we try to keep it all together. Ash Wednesday is a space where we admit our struggles, our grief, our lament, our sinfulness, our brokenness, and our mortality. We give up the lie that we can control life, or the lie that we can control death if we just eat right, exercise more, or do this or do that...

Lent invites us to look in the mirror at our mortality and our humanity. Yes, we might look in the mirror and see some things we want to change. But it's more about looking in the mirror and seeing what we can't change. What we can't control. It is giving ourselves over into our full humanity to admit that we need God. It is seeing in the reflection whose we are as a child of God. You see, God looked at that ash, that dust, and breathed into it life. God continues to look into the dust and ash-filled places of our life and be a God of redemption. God meets us in our ashy-dusty places of our lives filled with shame, grief, and brokenness and breathes into it grace, forgiveness, and love. On Ash Wednesday the dusty cross on our brow reminds us

During Lent people may choose something to "fast" from, a.k.a., "give up." What might it look like if we fast from needing to have it all together ... Let go of the need to control ... Take off the mask of perfection ... Give up seeking trying to earn God's love or our worth through proving how we are a good Christian.

On Ash Wednesday we receive the sign of the cross on our brow smudged in dust — not so we can go out and show the world what a great Christian we are. We receive the smudge so we might be reminded that we do not need to hide in our shame. We receive the ashes and we are reminded that no matter what we achieve we are still mortal. We receive the smudge in the shape of the redeeming cross, knowing that God breathed life into dust once, and in our human, broken, mortality God promises to meet us in that dust once again."

Lutheran Men in Mission will be sharing a weekly Lenten message on their Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/LutheranMen/>

Whole Being Well Being: Connecting Mind and Body

Saturdays starting April 15 from 9:00 - 10:15 am PT
(April 15, 22, 29, May 6, 13, 20)

Please join Pastor Molly Knutson-Keller (Life Coach, Spiritual Director, Enneagram Teacher) and Robin Davidson, (Physical Therapist, Yoga Therapist) for a six week virtual class blending the science of the body and psychology of the mind for health and joy.

Whole Being Well Being weaves together three models including the Three Centers of Intelligence (head, heart gut) with the Star Model, a framework for understanding emotions and sensations, and the Poly Vagal Theory. Participants learn which center of intelligence they use most often, and then how to access all three centers for greater alignment. Also woven into the teaching is an in depth exploration of the autonomic nervous system and the vagus nerve using the Poly Vagal theory as a model for understanding. The Star Model helps us practice and explore as the class unfolds.

Each week includes teaching time, interactive discussion, experiential practice time, meditation moment, breathing techniques and homework/integration suggestions (aka home-play). And we'll have fun, too!

**To Register click here: <https://form.jotform.com/223188428256058>

Cost \$225. Each session is live and recorded for later viewing

For questions, please contact Pastor Molly at 360-339-3665 or mmolly@walktalkcoach.co

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*"Robin and Molly are amazing instructors! Their class was informative and helpful and weaves the body/mind connection together beautifully. It was interactive and we shared tips and ideas on how to care for your vagus nerve as well as breathing techniques. I recommend this class." Kate, RN*

*"I would highly recommend this course to newcomers and old timers, like myself, who needed a refresher to a happier more successful lifestyle."*

*With gratitude, Christine ♥*

*"Whole Being Well Being has given me practical tools that are having a profound effect on my wellbeing. This class is helping me navigate through difficult situations in a new way with a new perspective." Tanya, social worker*

[www.walktalkcoach.co](http://www.walktalkcoach.co) 360-339-3665

## **It Felt like Discrimination, so I Started a Conversation**

Feb 22, 2023

Ana, *Paths to Understanding*, Administrative Assistant



My family loves visiting the Marina in our town in south King County, WA. We live a mile away from the closest marina and go probably every other day just to get fresh air, connect with wildlife, and sip tea or coffee from one of the shore-side cafes.

Last month, we went by the Marina to enjoy another clear day. We noticed a goose on our walking path had separated from its pack and was standing near the railing adjacent to the shore. My husband and I parked our baby's stroller a good distance from it, about 10 feet. "Look at the birdie," we said to her while pointing to the 'loose goose'. Our one-year-old is just starting to learn the words for animals and appreciate nature as much as we do, so we thought we'd give her a chance to see a goose up close, since they often fly away when she tries to interact with them. As we stood near the railing and tried to enjoy our day, we heard an angry voice yell at us from afar. "Hey, get away from that goose!" We turned our necks to notice a flustered face seemingly furious with us for what he thought may have been animal harassment. "Sir, this is the closest we've gotten and we weren't going to get any closer. Have a good day.", I said. The man retorted, "The goose is obviously in distress, leave it alone!" "Thank you, Sir, have a nice day," I replied as the man muttered something under his breath and walked past us with his leashed dog in tow.

English is my husband's second language, so he hadn't fully understood my exchange with the man and asked me to clarify. I said, "Nothing, he's just being a jerk. He thinks we're bothering the goose or something." But the incident didn't sit right with me. I knew very well how to recognize an animal in distress and never felt that goose was distraught.

I didn't like how the man had yelled at us. It felt even worse because it had happened in front of our daughter.

I told my husband I was going to talk to the man that had just communicated to us very rudely. My  
*Continued next page*

*It Felt Like Discrimination, continued from page 13*

husband could see I was upset by the encounter and didn't fully understand why. As an immigrant, he doesn't always get social contexts. And he could never understand my experiences growing up as a black person in America, facing so many prejudices, racism, and similar incidents of people yelling at me for no appropriate reason.

In that moment, I thought of my job with PTU, an organization that encourages conversations between people from different backgrounds and those we may not agree with. I felt compelled to take action instead of just letting the incident blow away with the wind. So, I approached the man who had yelled at us a moment earlier. He was walking back in our direction after walking his dog down the pier and seemed surprised that I was approaching him.

"Hi, my name is Ana," I started, "and I didn't like the way you talked to my family just a moment ago".

I was astonished and relieved to see the man soften immediately. I told him how his communication and tone came off as aggressive. He listened to me intently and did not interrupt. "You know, I started to think about that as I walked away," he said. "I shouldn't have talked to you all like that, and I was questioning myself whether or not I would have communicated in the same way if you were two white people". He thought for a moment. "I probably would have, I just care about the birds and just don't want to see them harmed." I told him that I understood his perspective, and also let him know that there were people much closer to the goose than us that he never approached. As two brown people in America, aggressive tones never sit well with us, especially when we know we're not trying to cause any trouble.

I pointed to the area where we had seen the goose, and to prove my point, a lady was standing within a foot's distance of it taking a selfie. "I hope you can understand that we are not the only ones who went near the goose and we never intended to go closer. There were people before us and after us approaching the goose much closer than we ever intended to be. Our experience in this country has not been very favorable so I just want you to understand that it didn't feel good to be spoken to that way", I concluded. The man introduced himself and we shook hands. "I get that, and I respect that. I'm a liberal, actually. Thank you for coming up to me."

We briefly connected on our appreciation for nature and parted ways with a better understanding of each other, and for me personally, less resentment. Instead of leaving the scene bitter and upset, we cleared the air and met each other on a similar level. I was glad to remind myself of my work and why I believe in PTU's mission – meeting people on common ground and trying to understand different perspectives. I am thankful that by being involved with PTU, I am able to remind myself of how important it is to connect with people who are different from me more often.

*"The least judgmental people in society are those who can profoundly disagree with the morals and actions of others, and yet love and respect them all the same."* -John Paul Dickson

*Pathways to Understanding out of Lynnwood WA is a partner ministry bridging bias and building unity through multi-faith peacemaking. Their Executive Director is ELCA Pastor Terry Kylo.*

## Earthquake Response

Monday morning we woke to the news that two powerful earthquakes had hit Turkey and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Turkey, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Turkey and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 2,000 people have been killed and thousands more have been injured, yet search-and-rescue efforts are only in the early stages. A cold and snowy weather system now moving through the region complicates the response efforts.

[Lutheran Disaster Response and its partners are prepared to accompany our neighbors impacted by these earthquakes. One hundred percent of your gifts to "Middle East Crisis" go to supporting earthquake survivors and other people affected by disasters in the region.](#)

Lutheran Disaster Response has been active in this region for several years, partnering with ACT Alliance, the Lutheran World Federation and the Middle East Council of Churches to accompany Syrian refugees and internally displaced people with food, water, shelter, health services and sanitation support. The epicenter of one earthquake lies near Turkish provinces that host hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, which will only exacerbate the refugee crisis in the region.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Even as the sun was rising on the first earthquake, ACT Alliance member organizations began distributing emergency supplies, including medicines, bedding and other relief items. A comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

## Eastern Europe One Year Later

A year ago on February 24<sup>th</sup>, we watched in horror as Russia invaded Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians fled their homes to find safety in neighboring countries — and many were welcomed by our partners in the region. **Your extraordinary generosity enabled Lutheran Disaster Response to accompany our neighbors in Eastern Europe immediately.**

In "[War in Ukraine: Eastern Europe One Year Later](#)," you'll read about people who directly benefited from your gifts. Their resilience, coupled with your support, is a testament to God's abiding presence, even in extraordinary circumstances.

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ukraine\\_1\\_Year\\_Anniversary\\_Report.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Ukraine_1_Year_Anniversary_Report.pdf)

## Faith Action Network Update

Good news about bills that passed out of their fiscal committees this past week. These bills will be heard on the floor of the House in the next 12 days:

- **HB 1477 Working Families Tax Credit Administrative Fixes**, which would extend eligibility to help survivors of domestic violence, increase the time limit to file claims.
- **HB 1447 Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) Improvements**, which would strengthen the ability of TANF to meet foundational needs of children and families.
- **HB 1260 Aged, Blind, & Disabled (ABD) Fix**, which would end the requirement that extremely low-income disabled people pay back ABD cash assistance when they qualify for federal assistance (SSI).
- **HB 1025 Access to Fairness Act**, which would authorize victims of police misconduct and their families to sue for violations of state laws, bypassing the federal shield of qualified immunity.
- **HB 1513 Traffic Safety for All**, which would end stops for non-moving violations.
- **HB 1131 Washington Recycling and Packaging (WRAP) Act**, which would create graduated fees for packaging manufacturers.
- **HB 1143 Firearm Requirements**, which would require a comprehensive background check, safety training, and a waiting period to purchase a firearm.

**Bills not moving forward this session:**

- **SB 5241 Biased Incident Hotline**, which would have established a reporting hotline, tracked hate crimes and bias incidents, and created an assistance fund, was pulled from executive session due to concerns about a budget shortfall.
- **HB 1075 Working Families Tax Credit (WFTC) Age Eligibility Expansion**, which would have increased the age range of eligibility to everyone 18 years and over, did not get a hearing.
- **HB 1045 Statewide Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI)**, which would have established a pilot program to put cash in the pockets of people in communities experiencing economic insecurity, did not get a hearing.
- **HB 1094/SB 5125 Washington Future Fund "Baby Bonds,"** which would have created funds that every child born under Medicaid could use as an adult for home ownership, education, or entrepreneurship, did not get a hearing.

## Time for a Battery Check and Turn Clocks Forward

Before the lights go out, make sure your ministry is prepared for your people to make a safe exit from the building. Start by giving extra attention to the following safety issues: 1) check the batteries in exit signs, emergency lights, and smoke detectors; and 2) clear a path at least 3 feet around electrical panels and heating equipment. Need more tips to feel empowered? It's time to shine a light on power outages. Full article from Brotherhood Mutual here. **Don't Forget to turn your clocks forward this weekend, too!**

## Congregation News

### **“Understanding Your Grief: In-Person Adult Grief Support Group”, March 2023 at Gloria Dei Lutheran, Olympia**

The Grief Team has rescheduled the no cost 10-week in-person grief support group on Tuesday afternoons, from January to March. The series will start on March 7. A virtual evening group will also be offered.

The group will read the book *Understanding Your Grief*, complete a journal and discuss the reading together. Grief is like a journey through the wilderness—a vast, inhospitable forest. Finding your way out requires learning to follow the sometimes hard-to-find trail that leads to healing. There are ten touchstones, trail markers that are the signs to let you know you are on a helpful path. As we study these together, you will learn to identify and rely on the touchstones so that you can find your way to hope and healing.

Support Group Leader Karen Barale is no stranger to grief. Her husband died following a head-on collision while they were vacationing in New Zealand. Karen, a retired Washington State University professor, received a Certificate in Death and Grief Studies from the Center Loss and Life Transition in Ft Collins, Colorado. She now leads the Grief Team at Gloria Dei.

For more information or to register, please contact Karen Barale: [griefteam@gloriadeiolympia.org](mailto:griefteam@gloriadeiolympia.org) or call the church office at 360-357-3386. There is no charge for the support group or materials.

#### **In-Person at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Olympia**

Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:00 PM for 10 weeks

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, (2 week break), 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23

#### **Virtual via Zoom**

Tuesdays, 7-8:30 PM for 10 weeks

March 7, 14, 21, 28

April 4, (2 week break), 25

May 2, 9, 16, 23



### **“White Christian Nationalism: Why it is a danger to democracy and our Christian witness.”**

A seminar by **Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse**, author of “the world is about to turn: mending a nations broken faith”. Find out why this is a heretical movement that is distorting America’s history and endangering our future as a nation of religious freedom. Hosted by Resurrection Lutheran Church in Browns Point (Tacoma) for anyone in the SWWA Synod.

**Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 2-5pm.**

**\$25 fee includes dinner.**

**Register by March 10<sup>th</sup> using the following link:**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racism-in-america-and-white-christian-nationalism-tickets-512040435727>**

## Congregation Job Openings

See a list of job opportunities within our synod congregations on the synod's website at:

<https://swwasynod.org/congregational-resources/job-opportunities/>

Updated 01/27/2023

### Administrative/Communications/IT

[Administrative Assistant](#), Immanuel Lutheran Church, Vancouver WA

[Administrative Assistant](#), St Luke Lutheran, Portland, OR

### Education/Child Care/Preschool

[Nursery Attendant \(revised\)](#), The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, Olympia

### Finance/Bookkeeper/Treasurer

[Financial Services Administrative Assistant](#), Agnus Dei Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor

[Treasurer \(part-time\)](#), Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Bremerton

[Treasurer](#)(PT), Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Tacoma

### Music/Musicians

[Worship Pianist and Choir Director](#), Bethel Brush Prairie

[Church Musician](#), Elim Lutheran Church, Port Orchard

[Accompanist](#), Galilean Lutheran Church, Ocean Shores

## Synod Calendar

**Spring Retreat for Women of the ELCA** is April 28 - 30 at Black Diamond

**Synod Workshops** Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn. (Free for Synod Assembly voting members; nominal fee for other synod congregation members. Registration out next week.

**2023 Synod Assembly**, Messiah Lutheran Church, Auburn May 6. Voting Members register at

<https://cvent.me/g1nL5Z>.

**Synod Women's Organization/WELCA Bible Study**- Saturday, October 14, 2023 //