

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Bill Erickson	5/1	Michael Warbois	5/16
Angela Desmond	5/7	Lou Youngs	5/17
Evelyn Beers	5/8	Jan Saenz	5/19
Doug Barnhart	5/9	Cash Branes	5/19
Jan Janzen	5/10	Frank Schmid	5/20
Dan Carlson	5/10	Kendall Becker	5/21
Ethan Gillespie	5/11	Jim Berentson	5/24
Carlos Gutierrez	5/12	Denise Deitch	5/27
Chuck DeBroeck	5/12	<i>Happy Anniversary</i>	
Clay Branes	5/13		
Amelia Carlson	5/13	Glenn and Beachie Settle	5/3
Devin Horn	5/14	Matt and Kris Clucas	5/9
Martin Prehm	5/14	Rand and Carol Hein	5/19
Floyd Oster	5/15	Dave and Tina Bigelow	5/23
Bonnie Debar	5/16	Tom and Billie Jo Settle	5/30



The Music of the Heart

In every human heart there is always a special song. A melody that touches the soul, a melody that can do no wrong. Sometimes we hear a sad song when good friends part, Or simply for a broken tired heart. Sometimes we hear a happy song when a new baby is born. Or simply it is just for a beautiful morn. With any song there are many movements, But that divine melody never ever relents. One movement will be sad; the next movement will make us feel glad. Life is made up of many songs. Each song is special. Each song belongs. Each day is orchestrated to perfection by the divine. But there will always be one song that is uniquely mine. The music of the heart accompanies us throughout life. In happiness and in strife. But it will always be there to bring comfort and peace. With this melody comes the greatest release. Embrace that special song in your heart. That divine melody and you will never ever part. It will always be there when you need to hear it. Be still, be at peace and listen to it. Always give thanks for that special song from above. Listen to the music of the heart and fill the world with love.

© Andrew Pell

MAY 2017

VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH est.1904
 PO Box 2134
 2750 NW Finn Hill Road
 Poulsbo WA 98370

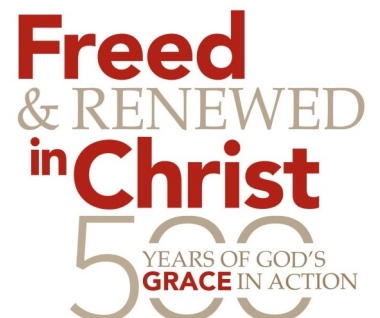
Office: 360.779.3428
 E-Mail: vinland@vinlandlc.org
 Web: vinlandlc.org

Interim Pastors: Sigi Helgesen & Marty Dasler
 Lay Associate: Marsha Wright
 Youth: Karyn Crawford
 Secretary: Megan Adrig

Preschool Director: Janean Moriarty
 Preschool: 360.865.0510
 E-Mail: preschool@vinlandlc.org



SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS MAY 7
SINGLE 9:30 SERVICE





Vinland Lutheran Church
VINYARD

The Easter story ends with Mary Magdalene going to tell the disciples “I have seen the Lord!” It is her testimony that made the disciples wonder if Jesus was alive; could it be true? Then they also saw the Risen Christ for themselves and believed. How have you experienced the Risen Christ in your life? Where have you seen the Lord? I have seen the Lord here at Vinland. As I have read your faith stories and shared in the devotional during Lent, you bear witness to the Risen Christ living and active in your lives. As I have had the privilege to sit with folks in the hospital before they go to meet the risen Christ, I have seen the Lord!” in their faith and their families’ faith and hope in the resurrection.

It is precisely during these times when we feel the sting of death, when we are on our way to the tomb and our hopes and dreams have died. It is there, in the graveyard that we experience resurrection. Hearing God speak to us through the scripture, through a devotional, through a song, through the community of faithful surrounding us and lifting us up in prayer; through them we hear Jesus call us by name, and our eyes are opened, “**It is the Lord**”. He is with us. Even in the valley of the shadow of death.

Don’t we need to experience that today? Resurrection hope! Doesn’t our world need a witness that death does not have the last word, that hate and war are not the answer, that in the end it is love that wins the day and what seems most powerful really has no power over us. When we are claimed and named by the good shepherd, he leads us even through the valley of the shadow of death. He has gone before us and prepares a place for us.

Jesus tells Mary- “**Do not cling to me but go and tell your brothers.** “ It is hard not to cling to the reality we know and are comfortable with. Sometimes we are tempted to cling to the familiar, to the tradition, to our comfort zones, but this is resurrection we are talking about and it may mean letting go of that which we cling to and moving out of our comfort zones to go and tell others! Like Mary who went to tell the disciples, “**I have seen the Lord!**”

The moment we experience the Risen Christ, hear his voice and see him with eyes of faith everything changes! May it be so with you!

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

-Pastor Sigi

*Thank you to all who contributed to the Lenten devotional
and to Sharon and Sherry for putting it together!*

WHAT'S HAPPENING.

Our lives are enriched both by those who leave this earthly home and those who enter.

Lou Puzon passed away on April 15. A service will be held at Vinland on Friday, April 28 at 1pm.

welcome
little one

Matt, Michelle and Violet Holman welcomed Aurelia Rose into their family on Easter Sunday! She is a beautiful addition to the Holman family and we all look forward to meeting her.

Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: *a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage.*

-Saint Francis of Assisi-



VINLAND will be in the Viking Fest Parade celebrating 500 years of Reformation and 480 years of Norwegian Lutherans!



Seated in the flatbed of Rand Hein's vintage truck will be the historic meeting of Martin Luther and King Christian III with wives Katie and Dorothea. Norway and Denmark became Lutheran in 1537 when Christian III proclaimed this to be the state faith. Christian III was an early follower of Luther and was present at the Diet of Worms when Luther was declared a heretic and excommunicated.

Walking alongside will be Vinland folks carrying signs representing the many groups we have at Vinland. **Sound like fun? Join in!!**



ALL MEN are invited to a great breakfast on May 6 at 8am at church. Hearty Food and Healthy Conversation! Bring a friend along.



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH
Lively seniors will be traveling to McCormick Woods on Monday, May 1 at 11:30. Please sign up on the bulletin board in Grace Hall .



DIALOGUE ON DRAFT
MON, May 22
@5:30, ELMERS IN POULSBO

KIDS on the MOVE

mixing faith and fun



JUNE 26-29

Ages:

Ent. K — high school

Volunteers can bring their younger children. We will provide care for them.

We'll have a picnic/party on Friday, the 30th for all

This day camp is an outreach into the community. Vinland is blessed with beautiful and usable outdoor space and we believe it is part of our mission to share that with the community. It takes many volunteers to make a great week of faith and fun.

We will need donations of food and adult volunteers to partner with our teen helpers. We will also need childcare providers for a few young ones.

Karyn Crawford has awesome afternoon activities for our middle and high school kids.

We will once again have a run/walk on Thursday. Our servant focus this year is donating to the Safi School Project in Tanzania. Jen Nelson's parents were instrumental in the founding of this organization.

**Ever hear of
"Where's Waldo?"**

**Well, we'll have our own camp version:
"Where's Jesus?"**

Four action/adventure stories from Jesus' ministry will keep us moving all week!

You'll be surprised at all the places where Jesus turns up!



"The most positive effect we can have on the world is to give the gift of education."

Safi School Project is a non-profit organization based in Lacey, WA with the mission of empowering and improving the lives of young people in Tanzania through education. Safi is in its tenth year working with students in Arusha, Tanzania, East Africa. The goal of the Safi School Project is to make a measurable difference in the education of children in Tanzania. We do this by donor support. With donor help Safi can create model schools that consider the needs of the whole school, its students, its teachers, its volunteers and its infrastructure.

WOMEN'S

groups

Women ^{of the} ELCA 



Vinland Women will host their annual luncheon for the mobile residents and helping staff of Martha and Mary on May 17 in Grace Hall. Watch for details. They will need salads, main dishes and desserts and folks to be hostesses at tables.

*please
join us*

All women are invited to the June meeting on Wed, June 21 at 10am. Special guest speaker, Tarra Simmons, will tell her story **"A Story of Redemption" How God's Grace Turned a Prisoner into a Lawyer.** Women from Bethany and First will be our guests.

A salad luncheon will be provided. Sign-up sheet will be posted on June 1. Mark your calendar now!!

HELP ME TODAY TO
season
MY
words
WITH
GRACE

odb.org

Women of Grace

We will meet on May 1 and 15 at 6:30.

We are a group of mixed-age women who love to laugh, discuss new ideas, share stories and enjoy a cup of tea. We begin with prayer and end with a benediction. Talk to Marsha Wright at 621-6983 if you have any questions. Friends always welcome!

Quilters meet EVERY Tuesday from 9-noon. Snacks & Coffee!
They always helping hands as they put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Women's Breakfast

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 8:30 at Envy's

at the Poulsbo Junction



what's HAPPENING

MAY Wednesdays in the Loft

May 3 Potluck and Q&A with Pastor Marty

May 10, 17, 24—Watch for Details!

May 31 Annual “Messy & Yummy” Night

MESSY AND
Yummy



Viking Fest Booth: May 19, 20, 21

We will be selling ice cream floats. Funds will go towards next year's ELCA Youth Gathering, but will require help and support from the congregation in addition to youth families. We are also looking for a Thrivent Member to sponsor us as an Action Team.

We will also hand out information about the church and preschool at the booth, so it is evangelism as much as fundraising.

Thank You!

GIVING TREE Thank you to all who donated. We made \$580, plus a \$100 donation from the Women of Vinland, out of our \$1000 fundraising goal for Holden Village. The rest will be covered by Parents Night Out and our Earth Day clean-up fundraiser. Six high school students and Karyn will attend the Memorial Day retreat at Holden.

EASTER BREAKFAST Thank you to everyone who brought food and donated – we made \$380 and the youth ran the kitchen like pros. The funds will be used to pay for our summer activities, including Wednesdays at Lutherhaven.

SUMMER WEDNESDAYS AT LUTHERHAVEN Vinland will be continue to share the responsibilities for Summer Nights at Lutherhaven. The Lutherhaven board has voted to pay for the lifeguard for Wednesday nights. We still pay for each person attending and help with the food and entertainment. Watch for details.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS MUST be delivered to church by MAY 7.

lutheran news

Reform Ride For Refugees Saturday, August 19

The first annual *Reform: Ride for Refugees* will take place on Saturday, August 19, 2017 beginning and ending at Silverdale Lutheran Church. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 that will be used to support both Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center (KIAC) and Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) Immigration and Refugee Resettlement program, and to have some fun riding our bikes doing it.

Representatives from five area churches: Silverdale Lutheran, Poulsbo First Lutheran, Vinland Lutheran in Poulsbo, Bethany Lutheran on Bainbridge Island, and Our Savior's Lutheran in Bremerton, and KIAC and LCSNW have banded together in this 500th anniversary year of the Protestant Reformation to partner with businesses, organizations, and individuals to hold a bike ride to raise awareness and funds for immigrant and refugee resettlement.



Registration
www.Signmeup.com
Search
"Reform: Ride for Refugees"

Find us on Facebook
or
reformride500@gmail.com

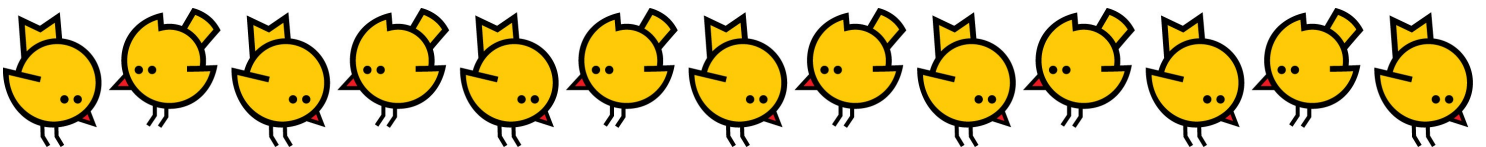
Rides of 50 mi or 50km
around Kitsap County.
Get Involved!

LUTERHAVEN YOUTH BIBLE CAMP



August 5-10 (Saturday-Thursday)
For ALL youth who have completed grades 3-8
Cost is \$160 per camper; see link for details.

<http://olympiclutherhaven.org/youthbiblecamp.html>



THANK YOU for donating to the "Buck A Chick" ELCA World Hunger Campaign. \$250 will be sent off to purchase chicks that will mature into egg-laying, meat producing chickens!

Barb's Backyard by Barbara Erickson



“Mayday” exclamation: an international radio distress signal used by ships and aircraft.

Origin: 1920s - representing a pronunciation of French *m'aider*, ‘help me.’

We returned from a recent week away to an empty bird feeder on the ground. We immediately suspected a bear, as one wanders through from time to time and destroys any feeder it can reach. We were sure that the 800-pound test strength cord holding the feeder could only have been severed by a bear.

After years of seeking a way to rig a feeder beyond the reach of squirrels and this occasional bear, Bill came up with what appeared to be a fool-proof plan: said cord threaded through 2 pulleys on a narrow branch 8 feet out from the trunk of the tree and 15 feet off the ground. It was too far up for the bear to reach and the branch would not hold his weight. The squirrels often tried, but it hung too far down from the branch for them to reach - or so we thought. Examining the cord, we noticed a series of frayed areas all along it. Darned squirrels were just too determined to admit defeat! We have noticed a pair of gray squirrels hanging around lately; they could not figure out how to get to the feeder, but together they figured out how to get the feeder to come to them...

Every family seems to have some behavioral traits in common, as well as the more-obvious physical traits that we all know of. Unlike eye color, freckles, or smiles, family behaviors do not always stand out. Strong determination and stubbornness are characteristics many of my family members share. These are not the *push-you-out-of-my-way* or *my-way-or-else* bents, but rather the quiet *I-can-do-it-myself* and unspoken *I-WILL-do-this* kind of drive. While many times these are positive traits and much can be accomplished when in one of these modes, there are times when they're detrimental. Asking for help can be difficult.

There was a time in my life that stands out for me - a time when I was driven to my knees and had to admit defeat in a big way. I'd lost both my parents within the past year and a half; our son, and only child, was beyond our control and had become a chronic runaway; our marriage was on rocky ground. Acutely feeling that I was losing everything in life that was dear to me, I sobbed like a child and cried out to God - “*I give up! I can't DO this! It's all yours, God, just help me get through it!*”

I did get through it, although not all went as I might have wished. Since those times, I've learned a thing or two along this journey called “life.” I pray often and under many different circumstances, but I never ask God for specific things. Of course, I share what my wishes and desires are and I vent loudly my complaints and frustrations. But the God whose wisdom, modes, and methods surpass all understanding, knows far better than I do. I willingly share my concerns, then lay them at His feet and ask only for Him to guide and direct me through it all.

When we, ourselves, cannot find the answers, maybe we need to find a way for the answers to come to us. It's an old cliché, but there are times when we truly do need to ***Let go and let God...***

***Help me, LORD my God; save me according to your unfailing love.
Psalm 109:26***

HELLO MAY

this Summer @
CHURCH

MAY 7: Single 9:30 Worship Services Begin



Sunday, May 7

Confirmation

During the worship service we will confirm 10 young people. Many have been baptized at Vinland, so we have had the privilege to watch their personalities develop and their faith mature. At their baptisms, we promised to support them and now we are given the opportunity to promise again to follow them on this next step in their faith journey.

We will host a reception following the service and a basket for cards will be available. Take time to congratulate each one of them and welcome them as voting members of Vinland.

Reese McAllister Adrig

Grady Allen Becker

Lydia Grace Becker

Christopher L. Clucas

Kristen Ann Crawford

Alexis Taylor Nichole Duncan

Ryan Michael Allen Duncan

Jaimie Elizabeth Florent

Dylan Roark Fields Moriarty

Talisan Nicholas Paul Shelton



It seems like we just said HELLO, and now we have to say THANK YOU and GOODBYE to Pastor Marty. May 28 will be his last Sunday as one of our Interim Pastors. Pastor Sigi will stay with us until we install a newly-called pastor.

What a gift both Pastors Sigi and Marty have been to Vinland.



Silent Honor's Ceremony in the graveyard on May 28 after worship.

THIS AND THAT

GUEST COLUMN

-Bob Reister

Living in Jesus' Name*

"Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus."

in the Bible, names often reflect a person's character. So to do something in Jesus' name means - to do it in a way consistent with his character - to do it the way Jesus himself would. Every moment is an opportunity to live in Jesus' name. All the everyday stuff of life can be filled with his presence - if you are.

Start by thinking about what it would mean to do each of these activities in Jesus' name: Waking up, greeting those you see first thing in the morning, eating, driving, working outside the home, or caring for children, shopping, watching television, doing household tasks, reading, going to sleep.

Keep it simple. Focus on Jesus' presence with you as you go through these seemingly inconsequential moments of the day. Keep directing your thoughts back to him. Ask for his help or his guidance or simply share your heart with him.

Memorize Colossians 3:17 as a way of helping you do this exercise. Ask God to bring these words back to your mind continually.

Keep track of how this experiment goes. Talk about it with a spiritual mentor or friend.

*Taken from "The Life you've Always Wanted" by John Ortberg

Suggested reading: Colossians Chapter 3.

Prayer: God, Thank you for giving us your Holy Word to explore and to use the Gifts you have given us. In Jesus Name!!



The call committee has now received a total of 7 pastor candidate names from the Synod. We have begun the process of interviewing the candidates. The process may take a few weeks to complete the first round of interviews. We ask for your prayers and patience.

TWO Requests from Ernie McCluskey for Martha & Mary



YOU Can Make a Difference!

We are looking for a volunteer who can hand sew and repair clothing of our residents. Anyone interested should contact Tracie Walthall, Director of Resident Life Services, [\(360\) 394- 4019](tel:3603944019).

I am also looking for two volunteers to work together one day and week, a few hours in the morning or afternoon with our Art and You Program in establishing a weaving activity for a few residents. This would be a brand new activity. We have a small collection on hand looms and plenty of donated yarn.

Anyone interested should contact me, office phone, 394-4020, or my cell, 850-3305.



Honoring God by nurturing children's relationships.

Our preschool year is coming to an end. I want to thank the congregations for its continued support of the preschool ministry. I see this support in the 34 Prayer Partners volunteers, the generous giving at the Italian Dinner, the donations of money, toys and school supplies, the welcoming of our preschool families, and the loving kindness towards our staff.

I thank Lori Van Vlerah and Lynn Florent for always offering up their best selves to our students. They teach with professionalism and love. I offer thanks to our Preschool Board members for keeping the preschool focused on our mission and financially solvent. This year's board includes, Callie Gillespie, Shauna Becker, Mary Lou Reister, Beckie Hansen, Nichole Olson, Millissa Riffle and Pastor Marty.



The Kitsap Great Give is almost here! You can pre-schedule your donation online now to be processed on May 2nd. It's easy!

Go to www.kitsapgreatgive.org to schedule your payment or set a reminder for yourself for May 2nd. You can give to us and over 100 other non-profits in Kitsap County in a single day of making a BIG difference in our community.

Prayer Partner Luncheon May 18th 11:45 a.m.

We invite our prayer partners to a luncheon with the preschool families in Grace Hall on Thursday, May 18th at 11:45-1:00. We will have a short program and opportunity to visit with your preschooler. Please submit \$25 to cover gift books and lunch.

Preschool Sunday May 21st 9:30 a.m. service

Welcome our families to worship,
Then visit our Open House.

Important Dates:

Sunday, May 7—VLP Day at the Tacoma Rainiers, gates open at noon, game at 1:35pm

Thursday, May 25—Bike Rally

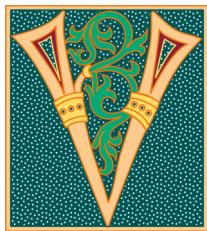
Thursday, June 1—Last Day for DF & HB at Olympic Lutherhaven

Friday, June 2—Last Day for GH

Openings for 2017-18

I'm happy to report that our Dragonfly and Grasshopper classes are full for fall. We are taking students on the waiting list. The Honeybee 4-day afternoon class for 3-5 year olds has 4 openings.





inland Family Camp 2017

July 21st to July 27th

Come back to Medieval Times for the dawn of the Renaissance and the **500th anniversary of the Reformation!!**

Please return to church by **July 9th** to help us with purchasing supplies for camp.

Adults:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Children:

Name: _____ Age: _____

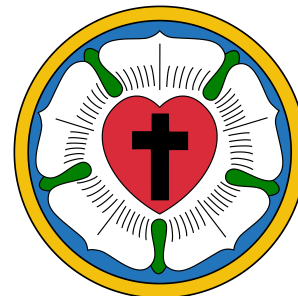
Name: _____ Age: _____

Email Address : _____

OVERNIGHT CAMPERS:

___ RV Site (RV type/length) ___ Lodge Room ___ Tent Site ___ Cabin ___

CHECK IN DATE: _____ CHECK OUT DATE: _____



DAYCAMPERS:

DATES YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: _____

ALL CAMPERS:

Camp Meals – please circle each meal your family will be attending **Food Allergies:** _____

Saturday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Sunday	Breakfast	Potluck	Dinner
Monday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Tuesday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Wednesday	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Thursday	Breakfast	Lunch	

Questions -please email Kristine Clucas at kristineclucas@yahoo.com , Kelle Horn at kellehorn@gmail.com, or Karyn Crawford at karyncrawford73@gmail.com. Join our Facebook group Vinland Family Camp or find more information on the bulletin board in Grace Hall.



(office use) CHILD'S NAME _____

LAST

FIRST

REGISTRATION FORM AGES Ent. Kindergarten – Ent. FIFTH GRADE

VINLAND LUTHERAN CHURCH DAY CAMP

Monday, June 26 – Thursday, June 29 9am-noon

Church Contacts: 360-779-3428

vinland@vinlandlc.org

PO Box 2134 Poulsbo, WA 98370



Child's Name

Child's nickname, if any

Parent/Guardian

Contact Address

E-Mail

Phones: Home

Cell

Work

Child's Date of Birth

Age

Grade Completed

Home Church, if any



Southwestern Washington Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Rev. Richard E. Jaech, Bishop

April 19, 2017

A Special Letter regarding Care for Refugees and Immigrants

– from Bishop Rick Jaech

How should we respond to the refugees and immigrants already among us, as well as those seeking to enter the United States? That issue is being debated in courthouses, in state and federal halls of congress, and in every media outlet. It is also being discussed in many churches. During the past months, a number of our Synod congregations have contacted the Synod Office asking for advice or background information that will help them discuss and discern their role with refugees and immigrants. I would like to offer a few of my thoughts on this matter, together with some links to more detailed resources and information.

I want to start by acknowledging that within our Synod and among our church members there are many different opinions about the issue of refugees and immigrants. In other words, we do not all agree about this matter. There are multiple, complex factors that we wrestle with, such as national safety, international suffering, effective policy and Christian compassion. Within our Synod and our nation, we will need to engage in continuing dialogue and respectful debate in order to fully address this question. Therefore, I do not claim to speak for everyone and, in fact, would like to hear your thoughts on this matter and learn from you. In this letter, I would like to offer my views, which also represent recent statements by our church body, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). (See the ELCA Social Message on Immigration at <http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration>)

Jesus said to them, "... I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." Matthew 25:35

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)

There are 21 million people in the world today that have fled from their homes because of warfare, violence or persecution. Over half of these refugees are children under the age of 18. Ever since World War II, when 1 in 6 Lutherans in the world were themselves homeless refugees, our Lutheran congregations in the United States have actively welcomed and cared for refugees from around the world. Through the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS), we US Lutherans have welcomed over 500,000 refugees into our communities. During this last year, 2016, we sponsored and welcomed close to 29,000 refugees fleeing violence in Africa, the Middle East and Central America. I believe that care for refugees and

immigrants is an important ministry that we should continue. This includes special care for those who are being attacked for their religious faith, such as Muslim, Sikh and Jewish people who live in our communities. Even as we want Christian minority groups to be protected and kept safe around the world, we should protect and keep safe people of all faiths in our country.

In our national conversation, the concern is often raised that letting in refugees will expose us to terrorists wanting to do violence in our country. I fully support maintaining safeguards and adequate precautions that keep dangerous people out. It is important to know, however, that refugees brought to the US by Lutheran Immigration and other immigration service agencies have spent 18-24 months in monitored refugee camps, where they are interviewed and vetted. Before receiving a visa to enter, each refugee must be interviewed, researched and approved by seven federal US agencies, including the Department of Defense and Homeland Security.

For a closer look at the ministry of LIRS and how to be involved, I recommend that you go to their website at <http://www.lirs.org>

AMMPARO

A more specific refugee question is how to respond to the children and families from Central America who are seeking refuge in the United States after traveling up through Mexico. Daily, life-threatening violence takes place in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras due to drug gangs and corrupt officials in every neighborhood and city. Young boys and girls are especially vulnerable. Their lives are daily in danger, which compels parents to seek a safe place for them to live, often with relatives in the United States.

The ELCA has established a ministry called AMMPARO that helps these families and children. AMMPARO stands for Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. In Spanish, the word *amparo* means “help” or “rescue”. ELCA members and congregations who wish to work with AMMPARO can choose to do ministry in any of these three ways:

Accompaniment: providing aid to refugees when they arrive in the United States in the form of legal assistance, education, orientation to a new culture, and resources as they move through a legal process as refugees. An example of this within our Synod is AID Northwest, an ecumenical ministry located at the Immigration Detention Center in the Port of Tacoma. AID NW ministers to refugees and immigrants being released from detention and the families of those still detained.

Awareness-building: learning and sharing information about why refugees risk leaving their homes to travel to another country. What is going on in their country that is forcing them out?

Advocacy: addressing the root causes of refugee migration, including changes in US foreign policy and international aid.

For more information about AMMPARO, see <http://www.elca.org>, then click on Resources and then click the box that says AMMPARO.

Sanctuary

A number of Synod congregations have contacted the Synod office asking for information about being a Sanctuary congregation. The word “sanctuary” first brings to mind a church giving shelter within their place of worship to a person sought by legal authorities. Throughout the middle ages, Christian churches that had a red-painted door were known to be places of sanctuary. However, no country today, including the United States, provides legal permission for a church to deny entrance to a legal authority looking for someone who is suspected of having committed an illegal act. Therefore, a congregation that is considering whether to give shelter to a person who is at risk of deportation should first consult with an attorney to research all of the specific legal considerations.

Currently, many congregations in the United States are considering what it means to be a sanctuary congregation in a broader sense. This may include:

Making a public statement that all are welcome at your place of worship, regardless of immigration status, and that your congregation will lend assistance to all those in need.

Speaking out in behalf of immigrants’ rights; expressing support for keeping families together; and working to reform immigration laws that help undocumented immigrants more readily acquire a lawful status.

Referring undocumented immigrants (or all persons your congregation is serving) to legal assistance resources, including pro bono immigration legal help; holding legal information sessions; hosting legal clinics; and making referrals for social services.

There are a variety of ways in which you might serve the refugee and immigrant community, if you feel called by God to do this ministry. We welcome you to contact the Synod Office for more detailed resources regarding the sanctuary ministry. We also believe that this is a ministry that a number of our Synod congregations could do more effectively together, in partnership with other ecumenical and inter-religious congregations as well. If you would like to be part of a team that further develops these ministry possibilities, please let us know.

We now celebrate Christ’s Easter victory over death and all the forces that hold us captive and half-alive. I pray that Christ will work to enliven our faith, our hope, and the ministry we do each day, including our care for the most vulnerable among us.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard E. Jaech". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bishop Rick Jaech