



# Pacific Northwest **DISTRICT**

Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

## **District President's Report to the 50<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**

of the **Pacific Northwest District** of the **WELS**

*at Evergreen Lutheran High School in Tacoma, WA*

*June 14, 2016*

Dear PNW WELS Pastors, Teachers, Staff Ministers and Lay Delegates,

About a decade ago, comedian Emo Philips first told about a conversation he had with a man he met.

“Are you Protestant or Catholic?” Emo asked.

“Protestant!” replied the man.

“Me too! What denomination?”

The man answered, “Baptist.”

Emo’s interest grew. “Me too... Northern or Southern?!”

“Northern Baptist,” he replied.

“Me too!” Emo shouted.

After going back and forth about “conservative or liberal sect” and “Great Lakes or Easter region” – Emo was shocked the man shared his beliefs. He finally asked the man, “Northern, Conservative Baptist, Great Lakes Region, Council of 1879 or Council of 1912!?!”

The man replied, “Northern, Conservative Baptist, Great Lakes Region, Council of 1912!”

Emo sneered, “You heretic!”

The authenticity of the comedian’s story isn’t as important as a point it makes. In our world today, true confessional unity of faith is very difficult to come by. And I will take it one step further. True confessional unity of faith is an incredible blessing that we can easily take for granted. This was brought home to me again last week.

A handful of times over the past month, a young couple had visited our church for worship. I would normally use the word “unfortunately” – but it turns out “fortunately” – they chose to sit through two Voters’ Meetings between our services that replaced our regular Bible study hour. The first was a Call Meeting. The second, a couple weeks later, a meeting to pass our annual budget. Normally, I’d say, “not ideal.” Fortunately, God’s hand was behind it and he would show this couple something they needed to experience and learn... and a blessing we, in turn, dare *never* take for granted.

So, in last week’s “what would it take to join your church” meeting with the couple, after I apologized that they had to sit through two Voters’ Meetings, they said, “Please, don’t apologize, we saw God’s hand in it!”

Then silence. Her lip quivered first. Chain reaction. A tear rolled down his cheek too. Once composed, he said, “The reason we’ve been searching for a new church home is because we belonged to a church where there was so much division. At every congregational meeting someone would literally storm out of the meeting because they disagreed with how the money was spent. More recently, there was a big rift over the preschool teacher’s beliefs. In dealing with that it became clear there was doctrinal differences among the members. When the pastor took a stand, the church voted to drop his salary to \$250/month. That was their cowardly way of forcing him to resign. And our church body’s leadership wouldn’t help us with any of this. So, we just had to leave. We searched websites... and we found your Synod’s. And the next week we came here and much to our surprise you had your congregational Call meeting. We never experienced that type of respect for a Pastor’s Call or that type of trust in the Holy Spirit to guide it all. All your members were united over the process. Then last Sunday another meeting. We were shocked to see such genuine concern for members who were removed... and the church was united behind it. It was biblical and loving. And such God-fearing focus and discussion and unity over the budget!” Then they asked a key question: “Are all of the churches in your Synod like this!” “Yes!” I said, “we’re all like this – because we are all united in our doctrine!” He replied, “That is absolutely amazing!”

When I saw how moved this couple was and how truly unique our Synod’s fellowship is – it reminded me – this answer should never be quick or cold or cavalier. To truly be “One in Christ” and have what we have, Brothers, is a special blessing, uncommon among Christian church bodies today. That we can attend each other’s churches and hear the same message, communion together and express the oneness God intended at his Supper, and meet at this convention with Called workers and lay leaders in the largest geographical district in our Synod, coming together from three different time zones. That we can have Synod leaders and college professors join us; that we can have support ministries address us; that we can discuss the work of our Synod – and we’re all “One in Christ!” What a blessing! True confessional unity of faith is very difficult to come by in our world today. And bears repeating, true confessional unity of faith is an incredible blessing that we, in our Synod, need to cherish and never take for granted.

Paul was inspired to wrap up the Book of Romans and touch on this important point. ***“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God” (15:5-7).***

We are “One in Christ” because Christ in his undeserved love *accepted us*. It’s a free gift to us. But it wasn’t cheap. Jesus did this by paying our sin-debt in full on Calvary’s cruel cross. His Spirit covered us in Christ’s own righteousness at our Baptisms. And all of this in order to bring praise to the Father. This is why we thankfully and lovingly accept one another. This is the attitude Paul prays that we constantly have toward others in our fellowship so that with one mind and voice we glorify God. How can we keep this gift of unity? How can we cherish it and avoid taking it for granted?

Well, we:

- ✠ honor and study God’s Word as “our great heritage” and;
- ✠ “spread its light from age to age as our chief endeavor” and;
- ✠ pray that God give us strength to “keep its teachings pure” even in these cold, end times when the world rages against sound doctrine and God-pleasing morality; then
- ✠ God’s Word will “guide our way through life” and;
- ✠ “in death it will be our stay.”

There is a clear correlation between our Synod's most recent themes. Keeping "God's Word as our Great Heritage" allows us to enjoy his distinct blessings of being "One in Christ." Brothers, over the next day and a half, let's praise our gracious God for the gifts of his Word and his Oneness in Christ. May we cherish them always!

### **PNW District News**

A quick **pastor run-down** since last summer's delegate conference... currently in the PNW, we are close to full strength as nearly every pastor Call has been filled. We have only two pastor vacancies. Beautiful Savior in Corvallis, OR has been vacant since January. They will be Calling again soon as Mr. Ib Meyer (CRM) just returned their Call. Cross of Christ in Boise, ID has the opportunity to begin a multi-site mission in Meridian, ID. Pastor Joel Russow is holding a Call to be a part of Cross of Christ's ministry team. Holy Trinity in Des Moines, WA has never replaced Pastor Mark Schewe after he left in January to serve in Clovis, CA. Retired Pastor Ted Lambert will be helping out HT this summer and there are plans to have another retired pastor assist them this fall, Lord willing. Pastor Duane Vanselow retired from Beautiful Savior in Corvallis, OR this past January and Pastor Jim Oldfield at Faith in Anchorage, AK will be officially retiring at the end of this month. Faith's evaluations are ongoing with regard to their pastoral staff. Currently, Chris Ewings is covering both the Hispanic and English ministries there. Pastor Jay Blum retired last summer from Trinity in Eugene, OR and we welcomed Pastor Ben Zuberbier (2015) who was assigned from our Seminary to replace him. This May (2016), pastor candidate Isaac Cherney was assigned to serve at Redeemer in Yakima, WA. He replaces Pastor Tim Schwartz who accepted an associate pastor Call to Zion in Columbus, WI. We thank the Lord for all those pastors who serve and have served in our District; and we ask God's blessings on those who have now moved on to retirement or to serve elsewhere. We also thank God for his gracious provision of pastors to our District – especially given the current climate of vacancies in our Synod!

Over the course of the past year, we have been blessed with **our teachers** as well. Working from north to south... last year, Melissa Mittelstadt was assigned from MLC to be the Early Childhood Director/Teacher at Faith in Anchorage. She replaced Rachel Wendland who accepted a Call to Mt. Olive in Delano, MN. This past year, the husband-wife team of Bryan and Deanna Schneck (Faith in Anchorage) left the great northwest to serve our Lord in Michigan (Zion in Monroe). The faculty at Faith is temporarily re-organizing for next year. This would include moving Tom Zarnsdorf back to Principal-Upper Gr. for the next school year (2016-17) and having Cindy Z. cover lower grades. The Kindergarten position was filled on this past May's Assignment Day by MLC grad Leah Snyder. Staff Minister Ashley Mozak resigned from Saviour of the Nations in Vancouver, B.C. They have re-organized to cover ministries there for now. Aimee Heimbigner resigned from Living Hope's Preschool (Redmond, WA) effective this June. Carol Cole's retirement from Holy Trinity in Des Moines, WA this past month caused them to reshuffle their lower grades. Megan Ungemach was assigned from MLC this May to be their EC Director/Teacher for the coming school year. Chris Poetter has resigned from Holy Trinity in Des Moines, WA at the end of this year to go to WI and take care of personal matters. Geron Brown accepted the Call to replace Chris in the upper grades. Last summer Stan Cole retired from many faithful years of service at Evergreen. We were then blessed to welcome Principal Ted Klug and Campus Pastor Jim Getka to Evergreen Lutheran High School later last summer. In the fall, Tony Natalie resigned from Evergreen and Naomi Getka and Julie Lund stepped in to assist in the classroom to close this year. We thank Pastor Jim Humann and Beth Ide for their past teaching service and are thankful both will be helping Evergreen next year as well. At Faith in Tacoma, WA, the husband-wife team of Brian (middle grades) and Amanda (EC) Humann were new there this past year. Naomi Getka has since accepted a 1yr. Call to teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Faith for next school year. A little farther east, after filling in to finish the 2014-2015 school year, Marilee Nolte began a 1 yr. Call last summer to teach the lower grades at Grace in Yakima, WA. This past spring, that Call was made permanent. Her teaching partner, Rebecca Hussman was assigned last summer to teach upper grades at Grace in Yakima, WA. This past

May, her Call was also made permanent. Across town, Nicole Schwartz followed her husband to WI, leaving Redeemer's little preschool without a teacher. Taking you back to the west, Chris Hintz took over as Principal at Christ the King in Bremerton, WA (summer 2015). Erica Hoffman accepted a ¾ - time Call to teach lower grades there this coming fall. That brings us to the only two teacher vacancies in the PNW District: Living Hope's (Redmond, WA) Preschool and Redeemer's (Yakima, WA) Preschool. Currently, Lydia Kuznicki holds the EC Dir./Teacher Call to Living Hope and Andrea Cherney holds the half-time Call to be Preschool Teacher at Redeemer. If those two women accept, all the teacher Calls in the PNW will be filled for the upcoming school year. We thank God for his gracious provision of teachers serving our District's schools. And in our quick run-down of names, like with the pastors, we thank the Lord and all our teachers who now serve and have served in our District; and for those now moving on to retirement or other vocations!

This past April, our **Synod's Board for Home Missions** granted funding for new mission starts and several enhancements. We are thankful that two of those grants came to the PNW... St. Matthew in Spokane received funding to allow Pastor Kevin Schultz to continue his mission work across the state line in Coeur d'Alene, ID. Cross of Christ in Boise, ID also received funding for manpower to begin a multi-site mission effort in Meridian, ID and surrounding fields to their west. We thank the Lord for all our Called workers, their gospel work and the additional mission funding to spread the gospel in new areas.

**Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO)** remain the foundational source of financial support for WELS mission and ministry. We thank you, the congregations and individuals of the Pacific Northwest District for the financial support you have provided over the past biennium for the ministry we carry on together as members of the WELS – all for the glory of God and for the salvation of souls.

**Satellite Summer Quarter** is planned for this July 2016 on Congregational Leadership / Planning and to be led by Professor Allen Sorum of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Pastor Daniel Lange will be able to give us an update on the latest details at Convention...

### **Synod News & Notes for our Convention**

There are several items to note as we gather as delegates for this District Convention. The Conference of Presidents is requesting each district to offer its response and reaction to a handful of specific issues. Given our comfortable size, we plan to offer our collective input in plenary session:

- **Doctrinal discussions** between the CLC, ELS, WELS have resulted in a revision of the "Joint Statement Regarding the Termination of Fellowship" that was drafted in 1990. The twelve districts are asked to review the statement and react to whether it is scripturally sound in the specific area of fellowship addressed. The Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) meet in convention this summer; WELS meets in convention in 2017.
- **Compensation Review Committee**, a standing committee of the Synodical Council, is presenting a report of its progress after considerable time has been spent in review of the synod's compensation guidelines. The ideas presented in its report are not firm recommendations or proposals. Rather, the report presents the committee's ideas for consideration, and the committee is seeking reaction and input from the districts. Based upon input, the committee will make adjustments and present a final report to the Synodical Council, which will forward a recommendation to the 2017 WELS Convention.
- **"Our Great Heritage" – WELS Long Range Plan 2018-2025** – "In Christ Alone," our WELS Long Range Plan adopted in 2007 was a ten-year plan. To continue the process of planning and using a Long Range Plan as a guide for adopting ministry goals and objectives, a draft plan is being presented for 2018-2025. The twelve districts are asked to react to the plan and offer any recommendations.

- **WELS Mission & Ministry Sunday** – A memorial is being presented to encourage congregations to consider an annual WELS Mission & Ministry Sunday to encourage support for mission work around the globe.
- **Report to the Twelve Districts (RTTD)** – A change in the way the RTTD was distributed this year: a digital copy of the RTTD was available in early May, while printed copies are available at the District Convention. Was this helpful? Your comments are welcome.

Other items to note:

- 1) **“One in Christ” Debt Elimination Offering** – Launched last year, the goal is to eliminate ~\$4.2M of borrowed money from the Synod’s ministry plan, freeing up those offerings for ongoing gospel ministry. As of yesterday, offerings of ~\$2.176M have been received from individuals and over 450 of our WELS congregations. Combining these offerings with the \$1.6M allotment from this fiscal year’s budget, we are within ~\$.5M of the goal. We are aware that “debt retirement” does not typically generate the same type of enthusiasm that other offerings present. Yet we can all relate to the sound reasoning behind this appeal. We all need to remember too, that it’s not the size of the gift. Every offering glorifies our Savior and many small gifts add up in the end. If you have not taken the opportunity yet, I urge you and your congregation to still participate in the offering this month. There still is time. (Materials can be quickly mailed from CMM; or just earmark a check and send to Synod)
- 2) **WELS Convention** will be held at Luther Preparatory School, July 31 – August 3, 2017. The deadline for submitting memorials to be printed in the Book of Reports and Memorials (BORAM) to the Synod Convention is January 15, 2017. Memorials submitted after January 15, 2017 and before June 15, 2017 will not be printed but will be posted at the discretion of the WELS Praesidium on the convention website. All memorials should be sent to the President’s Office, N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Drive, Waukesha, WI 53188 or by email to [carla.martin@wels.net](mailto:carla.martin@wels.net) June 15, 2017 is the final deadline for delegates to register. Cost is \$250 per delegate, same as 2015.
- 3) **Safeguarding Religious Freedom** – In a changing moral climate, God’s people continue to make a profound impact as faithful witnesses of His truth and love. It is clear, however, that WELS congregations, schools, and organizations will be faced with challenges as they strive to carry out their mission of holding faithfully to the teachings of God’s Word and proclaiming God’s truth to their members, to their communities, and to the world. Sample policies and procedures have been developed that may benefit our congregations as they prepare to face potential legal challenges. Sample policies and procedures are available in three areas: 1) facilities use; 2) employment; 3) school enrollment and discipline. They are available for your review.
- 4) **Future assigned workers** – 69 Teacher candidates were assigned from Martin Luther College in May into WELS congregations (28 unfilled requests; 57 teacher vacancies reported); 26 Vicars and 35 Pastoral candidates were assigned from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary into congregations for service in Gospel ministry (24 unfilled pastor requests; currently 70+ vacant parishes). We thank the Lord of the Church for these gifts to His Church! We thank the parents, the teachers, the students...

**Non-District Special Guests** – Our Convention Theme is: “One In Christ Who Pours Out His Spirit On Us.” For our refreshment in the Word of God, MLC Professor Tom Nass will present to us a study on the book of Joel. He intends to share four life-changing messages from God in the Book of Joel, messages that are practical for all of us as New Testament Christians. We thank him for being our preacher and our presenter and our Ministerial Education School Reporter. Rev. Jim Huebner, WELS 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, will offer a brief report from our Synod’s leadership. A World Missions Report will be shared with us by Mr. Sean Young. Mr. Eric Krueger, the NPH VP of Finance will give us a look at our Publishing House and perhaps some updates for Reformation 500 in 2017. Dr. Dan Johnson, President of Wisconsin Lutheran College, will be

sharing a greeting with us as well. Thanks to God for these men and for making the trip west, for the work they do for our larger church and for being “One in Christ” with us.

Finally, on behalf of our PNW District, thanks to all the delegates and presenters – for your service to our Savior and your partnership in the gospel, it’s a blessing to be “One in Christ” with you all. It has been a privilege to serve together with you in the role to which you have Called me. The Lord is good! There are, as you know in any ministry, burdens and blessings. Both serve to remind us of God’s goodness and grace. “*My grace is sufficient for you*” he reminds us, when we feel unworthy and overwhelmed. “*Yet not I, but the grace of God,*” we are reminded, when blessings and successes come our way. May our Savior-God use us all to continually promote and proclaim his gospel. To Him Be the Glory!

*Pastor John W. Steinbrenner,  
PNW District President*

## **PNW District Official Acts**

**2014-2016**

For accurate record keeping, below is listed the activity of this past biennium. I ask that you look through the lists and note any omissions, corrections, additions, deletions. Please share any changes *by writing them on a piece of paper and giving them to our 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Pastor Jeremy Schulz*. He will then turn those corrections in to me. I will report those potential changes to you before the end of conference. Thank You!

### **Pastors INTO the PNW**

*(those assigned and ordained at their installations are in italics)*

Edward Frey to Messiah, Nampa, ID as Associate Pastor (June 29, 2014)

Kevin Schultz to St. Matthew, Spokane, WA as Associate Pastor (June 29, 2014)

Noah Herrmann assigned (May 2012) to Calvary, Bellevue, WA (August 3, 2014)

*Ben Workentine assigned (May 2014) to Cross of Christ, Boise, ID, Grad. Associate Pastor (August 24, 2014)*

Geoff Cortright to Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, BC (September 14, 2014)

Timothy Wilkens to King of Kings, Kennewick, WA (March 8, 2015)

David Salinas to Grace, Yakima, WA, Call made permanent (April 2015)

*Ben Zuberbier assigned (May 2015) to Trinity, Eugene, OR (August 2, 2015)*

James Getka to Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA – Campus Pastor / Spanish Teacher (August 30, 2015)

*Candidate Isaac Cherney assigned (May 2016) to Redeemer, Yakima, WA (Ord./Inst. planned: July 10, 2016)*

### **Pastors OUT of the PNW**

Korey VanKampen to Mt. Calvary, Flagstaff, AZ (September 2014)

James Turriff to Gloria Dei, Memphis, TN (March 2015)

Nathan Seiltz to CMM, BWM, WELS, Multi-Lang. Public. (June 2015)

Mark Schewe to St. Peter, Clovis, CA (January 2016)

Tim Schwartz to Zion, Columbus, WI (June 2016)

### **PNW Pastors Retired**

Doug Weiser from Calvary, Bellevue, WA (June 2014)

Ted Lambert from Christ the King, Bremerton, WA and DP (July 2014)

Jay Blum from Trinity, Eugene, OR (July 2015)

Duane Vanselow from Beautiful Savior, Corvallis, OR (January 2016)

James Oldfield from Faith, Anchorage, AK (June 2016)

## **Vicars in the PNW**

Summer 2014 Vicar John Paustian at Peace, Eagle River, AK  
2014-2015 Vicar Justin Pomije at Immanuel, Salem, OR  
2015-2016 Vicar Philip Janisch at Immanuel, Salem, OR  
Summer 2015 Vicar Craig Birsching at St. Paul's, Tacoma, WA  
Summer 2015 Vicar Erik Janke at Peace, Eagle River, AK  
Summer 2016 Vicar Andrew Ewings at Peace, Eagle River, AK

## **Teachers and Staff Ministers INTO the PNW** *(those assigned are in italics)*

Paul Leifer to Faith, Tacoma, WA – Principal-Teacher (July 6, 2014)  
*Jennifer Keller (MLC 2013) assigned to Peace, Eagle River, AK – Preschool (July 13, 2014)*  
Jason Kelley to Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA – Principal-Teacher (August 17, 2014)  
Alyssa Kelley to Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA – Lower Grades (August 17, 2014)  
*Jason Schleef (MLC 2013) assigned to Immanuel, Salem, OR – Teacher (August 17, 2014)*  
*Laura Schleef (MLC 2013) assigned to Immanuel, Salem, OR – Teacher (August 17, 2014)*  
*Anna Flunker (MLC 2009) to Immanuel, Salem, OR – Preschool (August 17, 2014)*  
*Ryan Schmeling (MLC 2014) assigned to Grace, Portland, OR – Principal Apprentice-Teacher (Sept. 7, 2014)*  
*Ashley Mozak (MLC 2010) assigned to Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, BC – Staff. Min. (Sept. 14, 2014)*  
Brian Humann to Faith, Tacoma, WA – Middle Grades (July 12, 2015)  
Amanda Humann to Faith, Tacoma, WA – Preschool (July 12, 2015)  
Chris Hintz to Christ the King, Bremerton, WA – Principal-Teacher (July 26, 2015)  
Marilee Nolte to Grace, Yakima, WA – Lower Grades (limited duration Call to finish 2015 yr.; March 2015)  
(1 yr. Call for 2015-2016, August 23, 2015; permanent Call extended/accepted 1-10-16/4-14-16)  
*Rebecca Hussman (MLC 2014) to Grace, Yakima, WA – Upper Grades (1 yr. Call 2015-2016, Aug. 23, 2015)*  
*(Call made permanent MLC Assignment Day 2016)*  
*Melissa Mittlestadt (MLC 2015) to Faith, Anchorage, AK – Preschool (August 9, 2015)*  
Ted Klug to Evergreen LHS, Tacoma, WA – Principal-Teacher (August 30, 2015)  
Erica Hoffman to Christ the King, Bremerton, WA – Part-time Lower, w/Upper duties (accepted: Mar. 2016)  
Becky Guenther to Grace, Kenai, AK – 1 yr. Call to K (accepted: March 2016)  
Geron Brown to Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA – Upper Gr./AD (accepted: April 2016)  
Naomi Getka to Faith, Tacoma, WA – 1 yr. Call to Upper Gr. (accepted: April 2016)  
  
*Candidate Leah Snyder assigned (May 2016) to Faith, Anchorage, AK – Kindg. (Installation: Aug. 7, 2016)*  
*Candidate Megan Ungemach (May 2016) to Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA – Pres. Dir./Teacher (Inst. TBD)*

## **Teachers and Staff Ministers OUT of the PNW**

Philip Kurbis to Divine Savior Lutheran Academy in Doral, FL (February 2015)  
Shanna Kurbis to Divine Savior Lutheran Academy in Doral, FL (February 2015)  
Shu-Ting Lai to Bethany, Port Orchard, WA (ELS) (February 2015)  
Rachel Wendland to Mt. Olive, Delano, MN (March 2015)  
Jeff Dolan to Manitowoc LHS (May 2015)  
Bruce Babler to Friedens, Kenosha, WI (June 2015)  
Bryan Schneck to Zion, Monroe, MI (January 2016)

Janine Turriff (resignation from Grace, Yakima, WA, March 2015)  
Anthony Natalie, Jr. (resignation from Evergreen LHS, October 2015)

Duane Smalley, Staff Min. (resignation from Divine Peace, Renton, WA, Fall 2015)  
Dave Malnes, Staff Min. (resignation from Truth in Love Ministries, Nampa, ID, December 2015)  
Ashley Mozak (resignation from Saviour of the Nations, Vancouver, B.C., January 2016)  
Deanna Schneck (resignation from Faith, Anchorage, AK, January 2016)  
Aimee Heimbigner (resignation from Living Hope, Redmond, WA, March 2016)  
Chris Poetter (resignation from Holy Trinity, Des Moines, WA, March 2016)  
Sara Hondel (resignation from Grace, Kenai, AK, May 2016)  
Nicole Schwartz (resignation from Redeemer, Yakima, WA, June 2016)  
Anna Flunker (resignation from Immanuel, Salem, OR, June 2016)

#### **PNW Teachers / Staff Ministers Retired**

Stephen and Jane Rodmyre from Holy Trinity LES (Summer 2014)  
Stan Cole from Evergreen LHS (Summer 2015)  
Carol Cole from Holy Trinity LES (Summer 2016)  
Stan Bauer from Evergreen LHS (Summer 2016)

#### **PNW current vacancies... (4)**

For pastor-trained – 2 (Corvallis, OR; Boise, ID)  
For teacher-trained – 2 (Redmond, WA; Yakima, WA)

**Church Closure:** Divine Savior in Pullman, WA – December 28, 2014

**Church Merger:** Christ in Juneau, AK and Grace in Sitka, AK to a dual parish – July 2014

**Pastor Anniversaries:** David Birsching – 25 years in ministry (Summer 2015)  
Bryan Schwartz – 25 years in ministry (Summer 2016)  
Fred Schleg – 25 years in ministry (Summer 2016)  
John Steinbrenner – 25 years in ministry (Summer 2016)  
Jim Humann – 50 years in the ministry (Summer 2015)

**Teacher Anniversaries:** Chris Poetter – 25 years in ministry (Summer 2015)  
Marilyn Baer – 40 years in ministry (Summer 2016)

**Church / School Anniversaries:** Holy Trinity Luth. *Church*, Des Moines, WA – 50 years (Fall 2014)  
Holy Trinity Luth. *School*, Des Moines, WA – 35 years (Fall 2014)  
Faith Luth. *School*, Anchorage, AK – 40 years (Summer 2015)  
Grace Luth. *School*, Portland, OR – 40 years (Spring 2016)

**Home to Heaven:** Retired Pastor Harold Hagedorn, April 17, 2015 (funeral - Peace in Jesus, Boise, ID)  
Former Teacher Lisa Rittierodt (nee Vogel), July 6, 2015 (funeral - Holy Trinity, DM, WA)  
Retired Pastor Darryl Bruemmer, October 8, 2015 (funeral - Gethsemane, Tigard, OR)



**DP Appointments:**

Mr. Keith Kriewall (Holy Trinity) Lay Rep on Michigan Luth. Seminary's Gov. Bd. (present until 2020)

Pastor Robb Robbert (King of Kings, Wasilla, AK) PNW WELS Historical Institute Rep.

Pastor Rob Guenther (Grace, Kenai, AK) Alaska Circuit Pastor to relief Pastor Jim Oldfield

Pastor Kevin Schultz (St. Matthew, Spokane, WA) Distr. Miss. Bd. to fill Pastor Jim Turriff's spot

*District Web:* [welspnw.weebly.com](http://welspnw.weebly.com) *District Contact Emails:* Deb Arstein [deb.arstein@cochoise.org](mailto:deb.arstein@cochoise.org)