

CROSS

Connection



The *Cross Connection* is a monthly publication of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod published for its clergy, associated in ministry, lay leadership and ecumenical partners.

From the Bishop

July 2013

God's beloved People,

Blessings to you in these rich and warm days of summer! I hope that you have adequate and restful Sabbath time to enjoy as vacation this summer. God's creation waits for your enjoyment!

Like most pastors I think a great deal about preaching; preparation for preaching; the purpose of preaching; how I might become a more faithful and winsome preacher. One of my favorite books on the preaching task has come to mind again as I read a more recent book by the same author, Richard Lischer. Lischer is a Lutheran pastor who teaches at Duke University. His book, "The End of Words: The Language of Reconciliation in a Culture of Violence" (2005), is one of the most important books I've read and I commend it to all who care about the preaching task.

I'm thinking of that book again (and planning to re-read it) because a new resource is available, this time not so much for preachers but for those who listen to preaching. The new website, www.withearstohear.org, has been developed by a Wartburg Seminary teacher, Samuel Giere, and I commend it to you. Here's what Dr. Giere says about his purpose: "In our North American context where the winds of American "pop Christianity" blow swiftly at times and where the style of a preacher's delivery is often more valued than the content of the message, I hope that this modest resource will help to orient the ears of our listeners toward preaching that is both centered on Christ crucified and formed and informed by Scripture."

This seems like a wonderful resource both on the task and theology of preaching and as an accompaniment to reflecting on the weeks' sermon. It includes resources for call committees those who teach confirmation, and internship committees.

I hope use of this resource might improve both our speaking and our listening in the act of preaching, including "preparation" for listening to the texts and then the sermon itself. I don't think it's too much to say that if we tended the sermon, in preparation and listening, we would both preach better sermons and we'd hear better sermons!

Blessed summer!

Bishop Martin Wells



WHY GO TO CHURCH IN THE SUMMER?

The landscape in our synod is stunningly gorgeous. I have been the envy of several Directors for Evangelical Mission on account of the diversity I encounter in my travels. I can't blame people for spending time in the great outdoors on Sunday mornings at this time of year. The greater question is, on what grounds do we ask people to leave the beauty of the earth to come to church?

There are people who tend the earth, are good stewards of God's creation and are kind to other people, but do not go to church. Some would claim to believe in God or say that they engage a higher power. When they see God's awesome works of art they may praise God; even have a relationship with God the Creator of all that exists.

All over the planet there are people who do not know Jesus and all of them are loved by God. There are also those who have heard of Jesus but do not have a connection to him or a relationship with him.

Jesus came to show us and tell us that God is personal ; God cares about every person. God loves us, forgives us and can change lives. Jesus came to tell us that God the Creator of the mountains and the fields, the sagebrush and rivers, wants and welcomes a relationship with each one of us, and will respond to us.

If we have a relationship with Jesus we can be open to God's power to also love and forgive and transform relationships and change lives. We can be agents of God's transformation in parts of the world and in our homes.

So why go to church? If we don't, we only know God through our own experiences and our own thoughts about God. Who we believe God to be, may be an extension of ourselves. When we listen to others, we expand our understanding and experience of God. When we hear the Word of God together we come to know God as revealed to us and are challenged to be more like Jesus. I think we are meant to follow Jesus' "way", not just admire Jesus at a distance. Each of us learns how to live out our Christian faith in various contexts. No Pastor can do it on our behalf on a Sunday or daily in the community.

So as for going to church in the summer, there are at least three reasons.

- Firstly to worship God; praise, thank, sing to the Lord, confess, be forgiven, and receive God into our lives. We embody our love and respect for God when we worship.
- The second is to live in community, connect with others who are also on their faith journey, be in relationship and learn from each other. The church is the tangible way we experience God.
- Then thirdly we are empowered to live out our faith for the sake of the world. We are to live generous lives and look out for those in need; whether it be a need for food, a caring conversation, or advocating on someone's behalf. Sometimes we can do more for the world together as a church or as many churches, than alone.

It is easy to love creation and forget about the Creator. When I can't go to church, our family holds "house church". We read scripture together, reflect on God's word, and pray. It is a form of intimacy that is always meaningful. You don't need to be ordained to do this when camping.

Call Process Status

A	Process beginning/congregational study	I	Interim	AP	Associate/Assistant Pastor
B	Names received or on-site visits in process	P	Pastor	VP	Visitation Pastor
C	Call in process/issued	CP	Co-Pastor	AIM	Associate in Ministry
NV	New Vacancy	LP	Lead Pastor	L	Lay Position
TC	Term call	SP	Supply Pastor	TM	Transition Minister (available for the open-ended call)

POS	LOCATION/CONGREGATION	STATUS	PASTORAL CARE
p	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul	NV	Betty Krafft SP
p	Ephrata and Quincy, WA – Holy Trinity/ St. Paul	B	Phylis Stromme & Bill Voris I
p	Gifford, ID – Good Hope	A	Valerie Beesley TEEM
p	Kamiah, ID -- Faith Lutheran	A	Art Finney I
p	Kendrick, ID—Cameron Emanuel	B	Doug Nemitz I
p	Moses Lake, WA – Immanuel Lutheran	NV	Todd & Tyger Penson I
p	Pocatello, ID – Church of the Good Shepherd	NV	Barbara Harrison-Condon I
P	Sandpoint, ID – First Lutheran	NV	
p	Spokane, WA—Bethlehem Lutheran	NV	Steve Wee SP
p	Twin Falls, ID—Our Savior Lutheran	B	Dick Sansgaard
p	Wenatchee, WA—Grace Lutheran	B	Bob Chenault I

Roster Changes

Pastor Mike Grabenstein, Executive Director of Coeur d' Alene Homes, Douer d' Alene, ID will retire June 30, 2013.

Reverend Roger Hudson, UMC has accepted the call to Wilbur Lutheran Church and Community Presbyterian Church in Wilbur, WA. He will be installed on July 14, 2013.

Anniversaries of Ordination

Please join us in congratulating and celebrating the anniversaries of the following pastors

7/9/1963	Roger Pettenger	Pullman, WA	50 years
7/12/1998	Steve Pannkuk	Spokane, WA	15 years
7/22/1973	James Grunow	Boise, ID	40 years
7/31/1983	Ole Gunderson	Clarkston, WA	30 years
7/31/1978	Robert Kenyon	Ritzville, WA	35 years

Synod Mission Support Update Fiscal Year ~ February 1, 2013 - January 31, 2014

2012	May	\$59,704	Year to Date	\$232,162
2013	May	\$69,962	Year to Date	\$249,877

Information for Congregational Leaders

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians
2013 Biennial Conference

"God is Here: Worship in a Wireless World"

June 30 - July 3, 2013, Valparaiso, IN

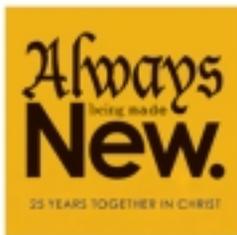
What is the future of worship when increasing numbers struggle with organized religion, seek individual spiritual practices apart from community, and spend hours in front of screens? Recent studies show that more and more people identify as "none" when asked to name their religious affiliation. Yet we who gather in worship each Sunday proclaim that God is present in word, water, bread, wine, and most particularly, in the gathered community. How will our worshipping assemblies be renewed and revitalized in an age of change and doubt? What are some of the challenges and opportunities before us in light of graying congregations, and young adults finding community and identity through Facebook, Twitter, and countless online sites? In considering these questions, and sharing in open and honest conversation, we hope this conference will deepen commitment to the future of worship in real time and sacred space.

Events and Sessions:

- Plenary sessions with speakers: Elizabeth Drescher, Craig Mueller and Benjamin Stewart
- Hymn festival, with commentary by Susan Chervien and choral leadership by David Chervien & the National Lutheran Choir, featuring young musicians from the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival
- Evening Prayer with the Valparaiso University Bach Choir
- Organ recital presented by Martin Jean
- A great variety of workshops

Have News To Share?

Let us help you share the good news!



For those of you that are familiar with our synod assemblies, we want to publish "The Synod Shorts" on a monthly basis. Share your good news with us and the rest of our synod members. Share your stories of faith in action. Pat a back for a job well done. Tell our brothers and sisters what you're doing in the world. As with other article submissions, the deadline to submit for the Synod Shorts is the 5th of each month. We look forward to hearing from you!

Mine Remediation Changes Life at Holden Village

The serenity of Holden Village, the spiritual retreat center in the remote Northern Cascade Mountains and Okanogan National Forest, is being interrupted by rumbles and scraping of heavy equipment reshaping mine tailings and diverting runoff to clean up environmental contamination in this former mining town.

To read the rest of this *Fig Tree* article by Mary Stamp, visit: <http://www.thefigtree.org/june13/060113holdenvillage.html>

Our Church in Action

*We ask that you keep the ministry of our synod,
as well as those listed below in your prayers*

Please remember in prayer . . .



Bishop Jessica Crist , from the Montana Synod, for continuing God's work after being re-elected
 Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke , from the Oregon Synod, for continuing God's work after being re-elected
 Bishop Elect Kirby Unti, from the Northwest Washington Synod, upon his recent election to Bishop
 Bishop Elect Richard Jaech, from the Southwest Washington Synod, upon his recent election to Bishop
 Pastor Bob Stone (Caldwell, ID) as he continues treatment for cancer
 Katy Starenko, wife of Pastor Ron Starenko (Retired-Boise, ID) as she continues treatment for multiple myeloma.
 Congregations and rostered leaders in call process
 Northwest Washington Synod, Southwestern Washington Synod, Oregon Synod and Montana Synod as they
 transition with new Bishops and staff
 Our elected leaders in city, county, state and federal offices, that they lead by example in doing good works for all
 people.

Prayer Requests . . . to be included or removed from the Synod Prayer Request list,
 please send your request to the synod office@ewaidsynod.org, or call 509-838-9871.

What's the difference...

- . . . between doing your share, and doing all you can?*
- . . . between being a Christian, and being Christ like?*
- . . . between being childlike and being childish?*
- . . . between being unselfish and being selfless?*
- . . . between good enough, and really good?*
- . . . between doing good and being good?*



Where in the synod is that?

Answer in next month's newsletter.

Send us your photos for use in an upcoming newsletter



QUESTIONS? Call Joanne 509-704-1150

RELEASE POST UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1, 2013



YOU'RE INVITED!
2ND ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
JUNE 10, 2013
beginning 5 pm

FEED MEDICAL LAKE

St. John's Lutheran Church
 223 S. Hallett St.
 Medical Lake

AWARDS CEREMONY
FOOD - GAMES - PRIZES!!
ALL FREE!!



FEED MEDICAL LAKE
will provide
FREE "PICNIC" SUPPER

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST
 on the **4th Monday** from 5 - 6 pm at

St. John's Lutheran Church
 223 S. Hallett St.
 Medical Lake, WA 99022

Sign in, pick up one serving for each member of your family, take it home or picnic at a local park

We're sorry but door prizes and games will not be available during this second meal of the month. The regular meal with door prizes and games will continue to be served on the 2nd Monday of each month as before. This is an additional meal during the summer.



Bits & Pieces

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Women's Organization
 Women of the ELCA

You can see Bits & Pieces, the newsletter of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synodical Women's Organization on our website at http://www.ewidsynod.org/images/June_2013_EWISO_newsletter_2_.pdf

See what's happening at
Luther Heights Bible Camp

<http://www.lutherheights.org/>



How New Are You?



Join along with 4 million Lutherans as we celebrate the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the ELCA on September 8th.
 "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday



FREE

to Good Home



The Synod Office has a used NEC Electra Elite Phone System and five desktop extension phones. If your 501 (c)3 could benefit from this type of system, please contact us.

Email office@ewidsynod.org or call (509) 838-9871

PLU Annual Meeting of the Corporation Members

Attention all Member Representatives to the Pacific Lutheran University Corporation. Please mark your calendars for Monday, September 9, 2013 for the Annual Meeting of the Representatives of the Members of the Corporation. Watch your mailbox for more information.



Mindful Impressions

July 9-11, 2013

Drawing upon images from spiritual reflection and observation of nature, retreatants will explore the process of printmaking using the vehicle of the press, color, water and paper to create monotype prints. Both fearful and veteran will come away with framable pictures using this unique non-toxic technique.

"Mindful Impressions" begins Tuesday, July 9 at 7:30 pm and ends Thursday, July 11 at 1:30 .
Facilitators are Wil Smiley and Karla Neumann Smiley.

Suggested donation: \$175 single / \$125 each shared.

For more information about St. Gertrude's, and Wil and Karla teaching there this Summer, please visit: <https://www.spirit-center.org/SpiritualityArts.html>

Please come, if you are able.
Blessings,
Wil & Karla

Mark Your Calendar!

The date for the 2013 Bishop's Convocation has changed.

October 28-30 in Richland, Washington

**This Year's Topic - Family Systems Theory
with Guest Speaker Emlyn Ott**

<http://www.healthycongregations.com/a-message-from-the-executive-director>

“Practice Discipleship” Webinars coming soon!



PRACTICE DISCIPLESHIP

This is a new age, where we in the church are no longer the majority of the culture. This brings challenges but also new opportunities. The *Practice Discipleship*

webinars can help those who work in the church (as paid staff or as volunteers) learn how to navigate these new ways. We can be together in community to support one another in our practice of faith formation.

Heidi Cryer is our synod's *Practice Discipleship* coach. She will show two of the webinars in each session and then offer discussion and further insight into the issues they address.

September 7 10 am to 2 pm

Walking Together in Solidarity: A Theology of Accompaniment
and
In*cultur*ating the gospel

November 9 10 am to 2 pm

Theories of Culture: A New Agenda for Theology, Ministry, and Faith Formation
and
Going Public

The sessions will take place at **Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Kennewick**. Lunch will be provided. They are open to everyone but will especially benefit Youth Workers, Sunday School teachers, and anyone interested in learning more about faith formation.

If you have a group of people meeting in your church to view the webinars and would like a facilitator present, please call Heidi, who is happy to arrange a date.

Blessings on your ministry!

Heidi Cryer
Associate in Ministry
Practice Discipleship Coach
Eastern Washington Idaho Synod
509-539-0449

St. Luke Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA

Worship Coordinator

St. Luke Lutheran Church (ELCA), a medium to large growing congregation located in north Spokane, Washington is seeking a Worship Coordinator to plan, organize and coordinate inspired and creative worship experiences for both traditional and modern worship services. Additionally, vocal and/or instrumental leadership in worship is helpful for the modern worship service (but not the traditional).

This position could be either one full-time position with benefits or two half-time positions: one for traditional worship planning and one for planning and leading the modern worship. Choir directing is also available for an additional stipend to the traditional worship coordinator position. Salary DOE. View the detailed job description at <http://www.sllcspokane.org/>

Position(s) will be filled by September 1, 2013.

Send the following information to

St. Luke Lutheran Church,
ATTN: Admin., P. O. Box 28948
Spokane, WA 99228-8948
or to sllcworship2013@gmail.com:

Letter of Interest, Resume (include
3 references),
Faith Statement & one Letter of
Recommendation.

Shane Claiborne Discusses, Disappoints, and Dares

Guests who attended the recent workshop and keynote address given by Christian activist, author and speaker Shane Claiborne left with mixed emotions. Some folks were energized, some were challenged, and others left wondering why he didn't offer any practical, concrete ideas for our churches. Whatever the response, it was impossible to leave unaffected.

Shane was clearly passionate about how the gospel message prods, compels, and demands Christians to connect the words of scripture and our liturgy to our daily lives and our relationships with people of our communities. Claiborne gave examples and descriptions of some projects he has been involved in around the world and in his neighborhood in Philadelphia. Over 120 community members from Seattle, Holden Village, the Yakima Valley, and Ellensburg attended the workshop and heard stories of weapons turned into garden implements, civil disobedience that prioritizes feeding human beings over unjust laws, and gardening projects that bring nutritious, affordable foods to the deserts of our inner cities. Shane spoke to over 400 members at his keynote address and again shared stories of radical grace offered towards undocumented immigrants in need, and about life saving encounters with Iraqis during the war between America and Iraq.

What will his visit "do" for those who heard him speak, preach, and teach? This is a great question! He didn't offer us concrete solutions to the racism, gang violence, and poverty that wrack our neighborhoods. And yet, maybe he gave us a greater gift. Shane Claiborne spent a summer serving in India with Mother Teresa, and passed along her injunction, "Find your Calcutta." Shane can't tell us what to "do" because he doesn't live in the Tri-Cities, Seattle, Ellensburg, Wenatchee, Spokane, or the Yakima Valley. His message is to look around us with new eyes, with gospel lenses, to see the hurt, pain, and suffering that is around us in our own communities. What if the better question is what is God calling the church to do, what examples in Jesus' ministry help us to decide what to do, and what is the Holy Spirit empowering each of us through our baptisms to do in our communities? Maybe we can participate in a backpack food program for a local elementary. Perhaps you are called to help lead worship in a senior center where residents have few guests and ways to get to a church community. What if you organized prayer vigils around sites of violence in your community?

Shane offered each of us the opportunity to reflect and ask, "What if Jesus really meant all that stuff he said about loving our neighbor, our enemy, and serving the poor?" And for that, we are grateful.

Pastor Jim Engel

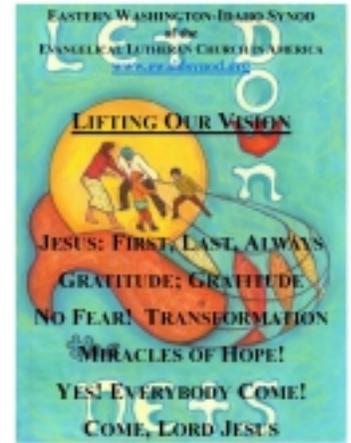
**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**



of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

314 S. Spruce St., Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201-5823

July 2013 Newsletter



Please reproduce any and all articles for publication in congregational newsletters or bulletins.

The **Cross Connection** is also available on the synod website at www.ewaidnsynod.org.

Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.

God's Work. Our Hands.

Synod Calendar

June

21-22 Synod Candidacy meeting

28-29 The Way Forward meeting

July

4-5 Synod Office closed

18 EWU Lutheran Campus Ministry Golf Tournament

26 Companion Synod visit

August

11-16 Camp Lutherwood in Cheshire, OR

12-17 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

September

6-7 Synod Council meeting



**Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our Hands

Staff

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Director for Evangelical Missions The Rev. Helga Jansons

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