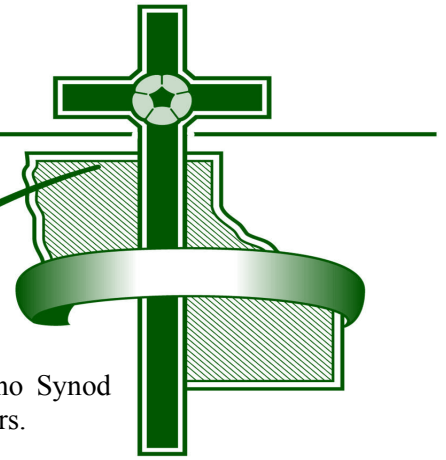


CROSS Connection



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

FROM THE BISHOP

FEBRUARY 2013

God's Beloved People,

Those of you who get THE LUTHERAN magazine recently saw a wonderful article about Holden Village, a ministry affiliated with the ELCA and a retreat center housing one of our synod congregations, Fullness of God Lutheran Church. This is the 50th anniversary of the Village and THE LUTHERAN story told about key developments in addressing mine damage from the 1940's and 50's. The dream of mine remediation is coming true!

Susan and I had the occasion to visit Holden in early January and discovered a winter community of faithfulness and grace. Pastor Scott Kershner is the Village Pastor and leads the community in daily worship and the Sunday celebration. The participation of children was especially notable in this unique community that has been particularly good at welcoming disaffected young searchers back to the faith. Holden is open the next two summers for anyone interested in pitching in and becoming part of a second Forerunners group, echoing the work done in the early 1960's to open Holden as a ministry. I give thanks to God for the gift of Holden, her pastor Scott, her directors Chuck and Stephanie Carpenter, and her volunteers! Happy Birthday Holden! Here's to another 50 years!

The Synod Council will meet in late January to receive reports, assess the fiscal year (ending January 31, 2013—THERE'S STILL TIME TO MAKE YOUR 2012 MISSION SUPPORT GOAL!!)—and hear the report of the first two meetings of THE WAY FORWARD, a special working group convened to give the Council advise on the future of the Synod ministry. Two more meetings of THE WAY FORWARD will be held before the Synod Assembly and a complete report will be made to those of you who will be voting members of the Assembly. I think THE WAY FORWARD is proving to be an excellent vehicle for the deep reflection and goal setting we need to do as a synod. If you'd like to know more about this conversation, please go to the Synod website—www.ewaidsynod.org—and open the tab THE WAY FORWARD.

Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday, February 13th. I encourage you to set this season apart and use it as preparation for the events of our Holy Week. Here we are in the heart of our proclamation, God with us, God revealed, God the servant of Life. Even as we welcome the rebirth of life during early spring, we look forward to the resurrection of Life itself in Jesus Christ. To all the bad news in life God's Good News in life is the Way of Jesus. We witness and participate in this Way during the season of Lent. I pray that this is a deeply rich time for you.

God's richest blessings,
Pr. Martin Wells, Bishop



Jesus, First, Last, Always
God's Grace, Our Gratitude
The Spirit Powers Us
No Fear! Transformation
Connections Multiply Miracles
Go, Tell & Serve

Director of Evangelical Mission

FOR LENT

by Pastor Helga Jansons (Director for Evangelical Mission)

The Church exists for the unchurched. We are blessed to be a blessing. However there is a time when we need to focus on ourselves in order to be of value to others. Lent is the perfect time. It is a time for deepening our relationship with Christ and for reflection upon our faith and life. Just as we put the oxygen mask on ourselves first so we can help others in the airplane, we need the breath of the Holy Spirit to dwell within us so that we have something to offer to those who cannot breathe easy. Lent is the time when we are able to make more of a commitment; we are not busy preparing for Christmas or spending our time outside as we do in summer. So why not go deep inside, and find out what God is up to in our lives? And further, learn what God is doing in the lives of others in our faith community or family.

Recently, I was in Australia: Christmas with my family for the first time in 23 years. Yes it was a gorgeous summer day. No shrimp on the Barbeque – I was told they only eat big prawns not shrimpy shrimp! On Sunday 23rd my parents were not up for going to church, so I suggested we do what I do when I am “churched out” on a Sunday; we do “house church”. I explained that we could share a favorite scripture passage and why it means so much to us, read some scripture, and think about who needs our prayers and pray with thanksgiving. This was a pretty radical idea for my parents. Claiming they didn’t have much choice they agreed. We had a fabulous conversation, and it continued on a few days later, when my father shared some of his most precious experiences of grace.

Could it be that simple? What if during lent we just committed to three things:

Being more attentive to what God is up to in our lives, and being more open with others about our lives and faith. It might mean being more vulnerable and courageous than we are comfortable. Lately I find that I do not need to work so hard at reaching out to God, instead I can listen to what God is already doing within me. (It is a bit like Mission Developer Kimmy Meinecke in West Richland who is on the lookout for what God is already doing among the people even though they may not think of themselves as religious.) *What I’m trying to do here is to get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God’s giving...Steep yourselves in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. (The Message Luke 12:29-30)*

Know your favorite bible verses, stories or themes and know why they mean so much to you. Then you might be able to tell someone else when they need to hear a word of consolation or encouragement. It might lead to a conversation later on.

Know what you believe and be able to share it. Think about your own Christian identity. What does it mean for you to be a Christian? Imagine explaining it to someone who does not believe.

My friend Jane’s son was in a freak accident in Adelaide, Australia and she says she has lost all faith; there is no way God exists. I knew I was likely the only one who would dare bring God into the conversation with her. I prayed hard. Her son who has regained his speech likes to make up rap songs and one was about the accident. One line struck me: *I danced with the devil for a year, but it is because of the prayers that I am here...* This is what he believes and shares when he goes with his mom to schools to speak out against drugs and drinking.

Even in the midst of the plans your congregation may already have for Lent, there is always room to talk about what God is up to in our lives, how a bible passage speaks to us, and what we believe about who God is and what God does though Jesus Christ.

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	Blackfoot & Firth ID - Emanuel & Bethel	A.....	Stan Hoobing I
P	Chewelah, WA - St. Paul Lutheran	NV.....	Betty Krafft SP
P	Ephrata & Quincy, WA - Holy Trinity/St. Paul	A.....	Phylis Stromme & Bill Voris I
P	Gifford, ID - Good Hope Lutheran	A.....	Valerie Beesley TEEM
P	Kamiah, ID - Faith	A.....	Art Finney I
P	Kendrick, ID - Cameron Emanuel	NV.....	Doug Nemitz I
P	Moses Lake, WA— Immanuel	NV.....	Todd & Tyger Penson I
P	Spokane, WA - Bethlehem	NV.....	Steve Wee I
P	Twin Falls, ID - Our Savior Lutheran	NV.....	Dick Sansgaard I
P	Wenatchee, WA - Grace Lutheran	NV.....	Bob Chenault I
P	Wilbur, WA - Wilbur	A.....	Tom Inch I



2013: Time to Pick Up the Pace

Annual Invitation

Go! 2013

GO! invites you to take stock of your gifts and improve your well-being - so you're better equipped to carry out God's work.

This year, Portico's GO! invitation is designed to help ELCA-Primary health plan members reap the value of exercise. Statistics show our community's health is not as good as it could be. Regular doses of physical activity can mitigate the effects of chronic illness, prevent disease, reduce stress and simply make us feel better.

Earn Your Wellness Dollars — Portico's Suggested Strategy

In 2013, ELCA-Primary plan members and eligible spouses can each earn \$500 in personal wellness account credits to pay for eligible out-of-pocket medical expenses.

Log on to take the health assessment: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org>

PORTICO

Benefit Services

A separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA

INFORMATION FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

2013 Mission Support

For your consideration:

- How does your congregation share a living daring confidence in God's grace?
- How does your congregation express gratitude for God's grace?
- How does your congregation practice generosity?
- How does your congregation teach members about proportionate giving as a grateful and generous response to God's blessings

Mission Support is the portion of offerings that your congregation shares with synodical and churchwide ministries for God's mission beyond the local congregation.

The 2013 Mission Support form has been mailed to your congregation. Please return it to the Synod Office, 314 S Spruce, Suite A, Spokane, WA 99201 or you may download and email the form to office@ewaldsynod.org. It is under the Resource tab on the synod website: www.ewaldsynod.org

God's Grace, Our Gratitude

Annual Rostered Leader's Report to the Bishop

Be certain that the latest version of Formatta Filler is installed on your computer. If you don't have Formatta Filler, download the latest version. The form is available under Office of the Secretary or you can access it on the synod website: www.ewaldsynod.org under the resources tab.

Click on the appropriate form link, matching your roster category (lay or clergy) and your roster status (active under call from a congregation; active under call from the Synod Council or the Church Council; not currently under call (on leave, retired, or on continuing disability).)

Fill in the information requested.

There are two options for returning the form to your bishop.

- Send it to your synod office as an e-mail attachment.
- Print a copy and mail it (United States Postal Service)

Report of Congregational Statistics

(aka Parochial Report)

Forms were mailed from the churchwide office late in December 2012.

A parochial report is your congregation's annual communication with our ELCA and your Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod. Through this simple report that you can complete manually or online through www.elca.org you offer a snapshot of your congregation on such important topics as membership, average attendance, finances, programs, outreach, and plans for the future. The report helps you as a leader to tell your congregation's story to your members. The report also helps our Synod and ELCA tailor services to fit your needs and to be responsive to the challenges you see for your congregation's mission.

If you need any help at all in completing your parochial report or need your password for electronic filing, please contact the Synod office, office@ewaldsynod.org, 509-838-9871. Reports should be completed by February 15, 2013.

Please note the 2013 mileage rate has changed:

The standard mileage rate for transportation or travel expenses is 56.5 cents per mile for all miles of business use (business standard mileage rate). See section 4 of Rev. Proc. 2010-51.

The standard mileage rate is 14 cents per mile for use of an automobile in rendering gratuitous services to a charitable organization under § 170. See section 5 of Rev. Proc. 2010-51.

Church Treasurers:

Mission Support Remittance forms are available on the Synod website under the Resources tab. Mission support can be mailed to the Region 1 Financial Service Office at PO Box 94432, Seattle, WA 98124-6732.

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

FEBRUARY 2013

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

February

8 Joseph Walla (Spokane Valley, WA) ~ 65th anniversary of ordination



Please Remember in Prayer ...

- Pr. Rick Evenson (Medical Lake, WA) and family as he continues his treatment for multiple myeloma.
- Roger deVeer, husband of Pr. Marilyn deVeer (Horseshoe Bend, ID) as he continues with health issues.
- Pr. Jerry Hickman (Pasco, WA), grace in growing older.
- Pr. Allen Ingebritsen (Spokane, WA) as he deals with health concerns.
- Katy Starenko, wife of Pr. Ron Starenko (Retired -Boise , ID) as she undergoes treatment for multiple myeloma.
- congregations and rostered leaders in call processes (see page 3).

Prayer Requests . . .to be included in or removed from the Synod Prayer Requests, please email your request for inclusion in the *Cross Connection* to the synod office by e-mail office@ewaisynod.org or call 509-838-9871.

Synod Mission Support Update Fiscal Year ~ February 1, 2011 - January 31, 2012

2011	December	\$75,925.47	Year to Date	\$707,474.78
2012	December	\$77,505.12	Year to Date	\$666,793.95
	Difference	\$ 1,579.65	Difference	(\$40,680.83)

Renewed Evangelizing Congregations Synod wide “Table” meeting
Saturday February 2nd 11am-2pm at Lord of Life, Kennewick

Latino Ministry synod wide “Table” meeting
Saturday February 16th at 1pm in Yakima, WA

Stewardship synod wide “Table” meeting Thursday January 24th at the Spokane Synod office

Please let Pr Helga Jansons know if you are interested in attending any of these meetings – even if you have not attended before - helga.jansons@elca.org or Phone 509 380 7122

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Lutheran School of Theology Chicago

February 17-19

The Seminary Sampler is a three-day visit event designed to give prospective students a "taste" of LSTC life. Here, they will have the opportunity to discern with other prospective students a call to ministry and how LSTC might be the place for them. Information given will include meeting students, faculty and staff, an introduction to our programs, a tour of LSTC and the surrounding neighborhood, possibilities for financial assistance, and much more. Housing, most meals, and some travel reimbursement are available.

For more information contact Scott Chalmers at 773-256-0727 or schalmers@lstc.edu.

<http://www.lstc.edu/prospective-students/visit/sampler/>

Lutheran Staff Association

March 3-6, 2013

Cannon Beach, Oregon

Theme: One Body, Many Gifts



Lutheran Staff Association promotes individual development for non-clergy staff. We provide opportunities for education, inspiration, training, and networking for mutual support to our members.

Registration information will be available soon and will also be posted at www.lutheranstaffnw.org
Cost: \$285 (new participants will receive a discount)



Upcoming Events at Holden

February 8-11:

Women's Retreat - "Kairos: It's About Time"

February 18-25:

Snowdance Film Festival—"Crossing Borders"

March 15-18

Compassionate Voices Retreat

Singer, songwriter and certified clinical musician Linda Allen will lead a weekend retreat, **Compassionate**

Midwinter Theological Conference

Dr. Michael Trice

Feb. 4- Feb. 6, 2013

Izaak Walton Inn, Essex

\$80/\$70 plus cost of food and lodging

A look at current ecumenical trends and realities in our region, in the nation and in the world. Dr. Trice will look at the role of religion, conflict and how we are Christian today in a world flush with religious pluralism.

Spanish Language & Hispanic Ministry Intensive

Seminary of the Southwest - Austin, TX

May 26 - May 31, 2013

Registration before February 28 is \$700 with a shared room on campus. \$800 for a single room. Registration includes program, lodging and breakfast. Lunch and dinner on your own at nearby restaurants.

Cost of Spanish Bible extra.

For more information: www.lspes.edu

Registrar: Consuelo Reid

Considering Your Call - Conference on Ministry

March 9-11, 2013

We invite you to explore your call to ministry and enter into the community of Wartburg Theological Seminary. For more information, call 1-800-225-5987 and ask for Campus Visits or email Sandy Nickol at campus-visit@wartburgseminary.edu.

Voices," March 15-18, 2013, at Holden Village. The program will include songs, conversations and training for those who may wish to bring the ministry of healing music to the bedside of patients who are seriously ill or dying. In addition to music, the retreat will offer opportunities for conversation about death and grief.

"We will celebrate our gift of life and our passion to serve as we take time to sing, to play, make art, dance and share in the rhythms of Holden," said Linda. "Hospice professionals, village artists and others will join us to teach and facilitate activities."

Anyone wishing to attend may register as a regular guest for those dates at Holden's website, www.holdenvillage.org. There is no additional charge for the retreat.

www.holdenvillage.org

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Upcoming NRIT Events

March 3-5 - Renew: Retreat for Youth & Family Ministry with Pr. Jen Quanbeck



May 2 & 3 Christian Education Cradle to Grave
Dr. Dian Shallue, Christian Education and President of the Lutheran Association of Christian Educators

Summer 2013 - Luther's Spirituality of Prayer
Dr. Mary Jane Haemig, Professor at Luther Seminary
Locations across the Highline
www.nrit.org

32nd Annual Rural Ministry Conference March 3 - 5, 2013

The Center for Theology & Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary hosts the annual Rural Ministry Conference. Each year's conference addresses issues and themes pertinent to the well-being of rural communities and the ministry of rural churches.

This year's theme is Food & Faith. Keynote speaker is Dr. Norman Wirzba, Research Professor of Theology, Ecology and Rural Life at Duke Divinity School and Research Professor at Duke's Nicholas School for the Environment. Learn more. www.wartburgseminary.edu

Lutheran Academy of the Rockies June 17-27, 2013

You Are Invited to join colleagues in ministry to study with Dr. Craig Nesson, Bishop Mark Narum, and Dr. Audrey West at the Lutheran Academy of the Rockies for 10 days of learning, recreation, and renewal for ministry. Home to the Academy for the past 44 years, Meeker Lodge's natural setting lends itself well to outdoor recreation and relaxation, as well as to spiritual and intellectual renewal.

There are two ways to register!!

1. Complete the registration form online and pay online at www.wartburgseminary.edu under LifeLong Learning Events
2. Complete printable registration form and mail with payment to Wartburg Theological Seminary
Attn: LAR Theological Seminary PO Box 5004, Dubuque, IA 52004-5004



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Looking for a way to save money for your children or grandchildren, nieces and nephews? Look at MIF4KIDZ.

MIF4KIDZ investments are a great way to set aside money for college or other needs while teaching children good stewardship and money management. MIF4KIDZ investments make ideal gifts for baptisms, graduations, birthdays or Christmas, and, at an APY of 2.10%, they pay far more than a traditional savings account would pay.

Interested?

Visit <http://www.mif.elca.org/mif4kidz>
or contact

Joel S. Wudel, Regional Manager, at
joel.wudel@elca.org or 773-682-1765.



Economic Justice: Giving Voice to Ethics in Making Budget Policies that Shape our Lives

2013 Eastern Washington
Legislative Conference
Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013
8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Episcopal Cathedral of St. John
127 E. 12th Ave. - Spokane

For information, contact Malcolm Haworth -
The Fig Tree - (509) 535-4112
The Rev. Paul Benz - Faith Action Network
(206) 625-9790

TO RSVP: Send suggested donation of \$20
(scholarships available) or you may donate online at
<http://www.thefigtree.org/donate.html>
or mail your RSVP
To The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St. • Spokane WA
99202



**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE WA
PERMIT 277**

February 2013 Newsletter

Please reproduce any and all articles for publication in congregational newsletters or bulletins. The *Cross Connection* is also available on the synod Web site at www.ewaisynod.org. **Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.**

SYNOD CALENDAR

January

- 20 Westward Cluster Gathering
- 21 Synod Office Closed
- 22 Synod Assembly Meeting - King of Glory
- 25-26 Synod Council - St. Luke's, Spokane

February

- 2 Washington Legislative Conference
Cathedral of St. John - Spokane, WA
- 24 PLU Sunday

March

- 3-6 Lutheran Staff Association - Cannon Beach
- 7-8 Deans' Meeting - Spokane
- 8-9 Way Forward Meeting - Spokane

April

- 18 Executive Committee/Synod Council
- 19-21 Synod Assembly - Boise, ID



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

God's work. Our hands.

STAFF

- Bishop..... The Rev. Martin Wells
- Director for Evangelical Mission The Rev. Helga Jansons
- Program Administrator Cathy Steiner
- Assembly Manager Karla Olson