

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

September 2014

God's beloved People,

I hope these late summer days find you ready and eager to ramp up to the new program year. It's always, for me, a time both of eager readiness and stunned reality that the main months of summer are about gone! Now the last of the Sunday school teachers are recruited, the adult class schedule is finalized, and confirmation dates are confirmed!

Synod work ramps up as well! During mid-August I'll have the first chance to call together our new synod Net-Workers and orient them to the tasks ahead. I'm aware of so much hope attending them and the persistent reality that we have them for a quarter-time each! Here we go...into God's future by paths as yet untrodden!

Ms Kristin Koskella is our new Net-Worker for the Upper Snake and Treasure Valley clusters in So Idaho. Kristin is the ministry coordinator at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Boise. I think the first impression one has of Kristin is her sense of competence and her prayerfulness. She approaches this work with a strong sense of confidence that we have wonderful people in our congregations, ready to follow their Lord as stewards of gifts. Kristin comes with strong gifts from the business world, the experience of parenting five grown children, and lots of outdoor interests.

David Kappus is pastor at Central Lutheran Church in Spokane and will serve the Spokane network area. Many of you will remember Dave from his ingenious presentations of the Synod Budget at Assemblies and his love for the theater. At his interview Dave spoke of the ways he is serving the local theater communities from Coeur d'Alene to Spokane with assets and organizing gifts much like those we hope to get from a Net-Worker. Dave is deeply experienced in teaching stewardship and in using social media for his congregation and for the

theater community.

Jim Peterson will serve as the Net-Worker for the central Washington network area. Soon after he was informed of our choice he sent me a picture of his fly rod, trout and net lying on a stream bed! I think Jim is going to be a visitor and a companion for congregational presidents and pastors throughout central Washington. Jim was nominated by his pastor, Joel Ley, at Christ Lutheran, Walla Walla, and is just finishing a long career as Vice President of Administrative Services at Walla Walla Community College. He has been a go-to guy in a variety of circumstances and I look forward to the way he can share his gifts with all of us.

Linda Howell will serve as the Net-Worker for the Palouse and central-north area of Idaho. Linda comes with years of experience in the non-profit sector leading the Electric League of the Pacific Northwest as Executive Director and currently works part-time for Washington State University in the honors college as a recruiter and advisor. She is eager to share her interest in earth stewardship, evangelism and health education and wellness.

As you can see we have wonderful and skilled group of Net-Workers and we are eager to see how, working with Deans, congregational presidents and pastors, these gifted leaders will enhance congregational ministry in each area of the synod. Please begin keeping them in your prayers!

Blessings and peace,

Bp Martin Wells



SEPTEMBER IS THE “SEASON OF CREATION”

by Pastor Helga Jansons (Director for Evangelical Mission)

My hairdresser told me that her family is preparing to exhibit their pigs with the 4H program. She proudly told me how every part of a pig's body is useful: the bladder can be used in a football and the intestines for sausage casings. She also told me about their intelligence and needs; some beer will lower their stress when transported to the fair. It was delightful to hear her appreciation for these animals.

Many congregations celebrate a “Season of Creation” on the four Sundays of September leading up to the “Blessing of the Animals” on October 5th which is St Francis day. During summer we have experienced the glory of nature and we are poised ready to thank God, the creator and sustainer of this abundant life.

There are excellent resources for making the connecting between our faith and our commitment to care for creation or “earth keeping”. I would like to tell you where to find some of them:

- In The Lutheran magazine, August 2014 pages 34-35, David Rhoads who directs Lutherans Restoring Creation speaks of the “Season of Creation” with themes like River Sunday, Forest Sunday and Animal Sunday and he shares ideas for each. These themes are also found in some of the preaching resources like www.textweek.com or www.letallcreationpraise.org so it is not just a Lutheran observance.
- If you have The Lutheran from July 2013 or an online subscription, you can look back and see that the theme of most of the articles are on “Creation Care”. The article called “Environmental Urgency” gives some sad but useful facts about climate change. There is a lovely piece called “A Theology of Sand Castles” that could be used as the basis for a children's sermon.
- You may be interested in a hilarious skit for worship about how we grow green rectangles of grass. It is on the www.ewaidsynod.org website on the Stewardship tab under Earth Keeping. It comes from the Ventures for Growing Stewards material. Here are a few lines from the skit:

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And when it does grow, they cut it and pay to throw it away?

ST FRANCIS: Yes sir!

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST FRANCIS: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

- If you take a look at www.elca.org and in the search box type in Awakening to God's Call to Earthkeeping you will find an incredibly rich four-session small group study on creation with lovely photography, poetic prayers, litanies and quotes. It can be downloaded and used for free.
- Around the ELCA there are people who have been trained as a resource on earthkeeping and have a website with sermons and events www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org
- In her book The Luminous Web; essays on science and religion, Barbara Brown Taylor describes her journey as a preacher who is trying to learn what the insights of quantum physics, the new biology, and chaos theory can teach the believer. Her questions and theology are profound.

God is the Creator of all that exists. Whether you preach or not, we can all be appreciators of God's gifts. This is the season to pay attention to pigs and water and grass, and reflect on their beauty and value. God's creation is a masterpiece!



“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday Sept. 7, 2014



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

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,
Thank you for considering participation in the “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, Sept. 7, 2014. Whether we plant gardens in urban communities, write letters to soldiers and veterans or serve meals to people and families who are food insecure, we dedicate this day to be church together – as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – for the sake of the world.

It’s not too late to plan your participation in this dedicated day of service! Here’s how I’m planning to spend the day. | [Watch video](#)
To help guide your congregation’s planning download a toolkit, bulletin insert and flyer at www.ELCA.org/dayofservice. T-shirts are once again available from Old Lutheran to help increase the visual impact across the ELCA.

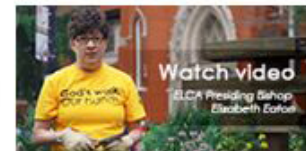
Excited about your congregation’s service activities? The toolkit offers a special media outreach section to pitch your story with local newspaper, television and We hope you are considering plans to organize a day of service. To help guide your congregation’s planning, download a toolkit at www.ELCA.org/dayofservice. T-shirts are once again available from Old Lutheran to help increase the visual impact across the ELCA. Sign up your congregation for the day of service by following the simple steps listed below. This will allow us to keep your congregation updated with new information for what we pray will be another remarkable day of service. **Register in four steps:**

1. Click [here](#) to go to the Registration page
2. Insert your Congregational ID number
3. Insert your ELCA member number: L022791
4. Provide contact information and answer a few questions

Shortly after Sept. 7, we will invite you to share stories about your congregation’s participation. Send your stories and photos to LivingLutheran@elca.org, so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world. With our hands, we do God’s work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ’s name throughout the world. I look forward to doing this work together on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday and every day. In Christ who frees us,

Elizabeth A. Eaton

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



[Register your congregation](#)
for
“God’s work. Our hands.”
Sunday.

Click here for



Yellow: wear it, share it.

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)
VP Visitation Pastor		

POS	LOCATION/CONGREGATION	STATUS	PASTORAL CARE	
P	Blackfoot, ID – Emanuel Lutheran	A		
P	Bonnors Ferry, ID – Trinity Lutheran	B	Kimberly Meinecke	I
P	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul Lutheran	NV	Betty Krafft	SP
P	Coeur d'Alene, ID – Trinity Lutheran	C	Tom Inch	I
P	Firth, ID – Bethel Lutheran	A		
P	Gifford, ID – Good Hope Lutheran	A	Valerie Beesley	TEEM
P	Grandview, WA – Immanuel Lutheran	A	Gary Rhode	P
P	Kamiah, ID – Faith Lutheran	A		
P	Kennewick, WA – First Lutheran	A	Ron Shipman	I
P	Orofino, ID – Ascension Lutheran	A		
P	Pocatello, ID – Church of the Good Shepherd	A	Barbara Harrison-Condon	I
P	Sandpoint, ID – First Lutheran	A	Bob Chenault	I
P	Spokane, WA – Bethlehem Lutheran	NV	Steve Wee	SP
P	Thayne, WY – Star Valley United Church	NV	Al Schoonover	SP
P	Terrace Heights, WA – Tree of Life	NV	Mo Garcia	L
TM	Toppenish, WA – Faith Lutheran	A	Jillian Ross	TM
AP	Yakima, WA – Central Lutheran	C	Mike Scheid	P

Roster Changes

Calls Accepted

Rev. Walter Klockers has accepted the call to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, WA. He began July 13, 2014. He will be installed September 28, 3 pm, Dean Mary Daniels presiding.

Rev. Marsha Hendrickson, Ascension in Orofino, ID has accepted a call to serve in Flagstaff, AZ. Her last Sunday at Ascension is 08/31/2014.

David Duea Assumes Post of President & CEO of Lutheran Community Services Northwest

“Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.” - Martin Luther

David Duea joined Lutheran Community Services Northwest as President & CEO on July 1, 2014. He succeeds Roberta Nestaas, who served in this position for twenty four years.

Duea formerly served as CEO for HopeSparks family services in Tacoma, Washington, the position he had held since 2001. He has worked in the non-profit human services field since graduating from Pacific Lutheran University in 1989 and has extensive experience with services focusing on the needs of youth and families.

He and his family make their home in Gig Harbor, Washington.

Presidingbishop

By Elizabeth A. Eaton

Great expectations not novel

Signs of life to be found across this church if we take the time to notice



MICHAEL D. WATSON

Now the wife of a member of the company of prophets cried to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead; and you know that your servant feared the Lord, but a creditor has come to take my two children as slaves." Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" She answered, "Your servant has nothing in the house, except a jar of oil." He said, "Go outside, borrow vessels from all

your neighbors, empty vessels and not just a few. Then go in, and shut the door behind you and your children, and start pouring into all these vessels; when each is full, set it aside." So she left him and shut the door behind her and her children; they kept bringing vessels to her, and she kept pouring. When the vessels were full, she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." But he said to her, "There are no more." Then the oil stopped flowing. She came and told the man of God, and he said, "Go sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your children can live on the rest" (2 Kings 4:1-7).

Stephen P. Bouman, executive director of the ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission unit,

often uses this Bible story when talking to groups about the possibilities for mission and ministry in their neighborhood. He asks them what catches their attention in this story—some say the desperate poverty, others say the anguish of children being forced into slavery. Everyone says the miracle of the oil.

What people rarely notice and what Bouman always points out is Elisha's question to the woman. His point is that no matter how bleak a congregation's circumstances seem to be, there already exists some capacity in that congregation for mission and ministry. We are not helpless people without agency. God has already given us what we need to participate with God in the work of God's kingdom.

Too often we lapse into a paralysis of grief or anxiety or nostalgia that renders us incapable of seeing anything but

scarcity. We don't have enough money or members or young people. The creditors are at our door and we don't even have any children to give them. The end isn't near, it's here.

One of the most frequently asked questions after I was elected was "What is your plan to reverse the decline in membership?" There are some major assumptions packed into that question—that I have the power to change the church, that there exists some miraculous plan or program that, if applied correctly, will save the church, to name just two. The question also assumes that all of our ministries and all of us live in absolutely empty houses, that we are helpless and completely lacking to be able to participate in God's mission. That is not true.

Recently I have been hearing stories about sightings of life across this church. Bishop H. Julian Gordy of the Southeastern Synod reports that some congregations that reduced or completely cut mission support in 2009 are now increasing or reinstating it. At its assembly this spring the South Carolina Synod welcomed three new congregations that grew from mission starts. Bishop James E. Hazelwood of the New England Synod challenged folks at that assembly to make up a \$25,000 budget deficit. By the end of the assembly they

had pledges for more than \$63,000. It seems when asked, "What have you in the house?" they were all able to find something that God could work with.

All of these sightings remind me of the first green shoots that poked up through this winter's snow. There weren't many at first and they didn't immediately overcome one of the bitterest winters on record, but they were there.

When I read the story of the widow and the oil I noticed something else—Elisha told the woman to gather vessels "and not just a few." God was going to provide abundantly and she had better be prepared for that abundance. How often do we expect too little if we dare to expect God will act at all? The ELCA is God's house and in it is everything we need—word and water, bread and wine—to participate in God's mission. I challenge all of us to notice signs of life and send them in. Join the conversation at [Facebook.com/ELCABishopEaton](https://www.facebook.com/ELCABishopEaton) and post your [#signsoflife](https://twitter.com/ELCABishopEaton). □

How often do we expect too little if we dare to expect God will act at all?

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: bishop@elca.org.

This article originally appeared in The Lutheran's August issue. Reprinted by permission.

Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry
January 5-23, 2015
Trinity Lutheran College, Everett, WA



Trinity Lutheran College will offer a three-week Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry, January 5-23, 2015. The program is designed to equip church staff, volunteers, and pastors for effective leadership in congregational children, youth, and family ministry. It is a terrific opportunity for professional development or those who want to become more involved in **children's and youth ministry**.

Students learn from a faculty in an interactive seminar format, including class discussions, presentations, conversations about readings, videos, role plays, and more. Topics include biblical and theological foundations for faith formation, Bible study methods, human lifespan development (birth through end-of-life), pastoral care skills, and program administration, as well as creative programming for service projects, Confirmation, intergenerational ministry, managing volunteers, spiritual formation, and more.

For additional information about training content, costs, housing options, and registration, visit www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter or contact Rev. David Ellingson at 425.249.4722 or david.ellingson@tlc.edu.

The Altar Guild at Pasco First Lutheran has a couple of used, but cared for paraments, colored green and purple, that have recently been replaced. If any of our congregations could use them, the Guild would love to give them away. Please contact us at 509-547-4622.

All the way to heaven . . . all the way home

“All the way to heaven is heaven.” – Catherine of Siena

At the spring 2014 EWA-ID synod ass'ly, four of us led a workshop called “All the Way to Heaven.” Its intent was to encourage and assist our congregations back home in feeding and growing a “critical mass” of members/learners/leaders in 3 foundational areas of faith development. We believe that when such an ongoing, actively engaged group exists within a congregation, life goes deeper there, hope gets livelier, faith grows roots and wings.

Here are those three foundational areas of faith development:

*The Bible, beginning with its “metanarrative:” ,That is, first be clear about the whole of the Bible’s intent before majoring in the details. *The umbilical tie between Gospel and Justice: The reign of God in and through Jesus’ life, death and resurrection is the Church’s model, vision and shape. How’s that working for you? *The Church’s Worship: Ancient, future, lively, indigenous, inclusive, authentically liturgical.

If this sounds like what you’d love, we think you’re right! If this all sounds a bit too sketchy here, please read on.. Either way, we believe it serves as a good foundational way of undergirding and fueling the life and mission of our congregations.

For more info/conversation regarding resources for a congregational event or retreat : please contact us. Pastors Dean Stewart <dean.m.stewart@gmail.com>, Eric Ohrtman <revsplcolv@gmail.com>, Liv Larson Andrews <parson.larson@gmail.com>, Phil Misner <pastor.philip.misner@gmail.com>.

Our dear friend and colleague, Judy Webb, will be leaving her position as Region 1 Financial Services Office Bookkeeper and moving into a well-deserved retirement.

Judy completes 30+ years of employed service to the Church. She began with Catholic Community Services and then served Bishop Fjellman in the Pacific Northwest Synod Office of the Lutheran Church in America.

When the ELCA was formed in 1988 Judy began her work in the Region 1 FSO. You know her as the friendly voice on the telephone when you call with your questions and as the amazing helper who can work through your financial challenges.

Judy will be missed!

*Cards and notes may be sent to Judy at Region 1 FSO
4525 19th Avenue N. E., Seattle, WA 98105.*



Wartburg Theological Seminary Offers Two New Continuing Education Opportunities This Fall!

Wartburg Seminary is pleased to announce two new continuing education opportunities this fall for those wishing to learn more about the Bible or our Christian tradition. These resources are available to all learners, regardless of training or educational backgrounds. Sign up on your own or take either course with others from your congregation!

LET JUSTICE ROLL



**WELCOMING THE STRANGER:
LOVING OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS**

Join us for Let Justice Roll 2014

Theme: Welcoming the Stranger: Loving our Immigrant Neighbors

What: A weekend immersion experience for high school youth exploring God's call to "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly..." The program will include cross-cultural conversations, field-trips, worship, and a fiesta with food, music and dance!

When: Friday evening, October 3 to Sunday morning, October 5.

Where: El Camino de Emaus, Burlington, WA

Cost: \$95 per student (includes lodging, meals, and programming)

Visit TLC.edu/cyfcenter/cyf_ljr.html for more information.
Questions? Registration? Email ljr.tlc@gmail.com.

Sponsored by Trinity Lutheran College.
Let Justice Roll is planned by a network of social advocacy-minded church leaders around Puget Sound.

*We ask that you keep the ministry of the church,
our synod, and the whole world in your prayers,
as well as the people listed below . . .*

The family of Diane Jacobsen, wife of Rev. Stan Jacobsen at the time of Diane's passing.

The family of Rev. Phylis Stromme at the birth of her granddaughter, Kira.

Congregations and Pastors in call process.

Jon Browder, as he continues treatment for cancer.

Judy Webb, Region 1 FSO, on her upcoming retirement.

Kevin Olson, husband of Rev. Karen Bates-Olson on his upcoming surgery.

Those effected by fires, storms, flooding and diseases that overwhelm people and communities.

Linda Howell, Rev. David Kappus, Kristin Koskella and Jim Peterson as they begin work as the Synod's Net-Workers.

The family of Josephine Neumann, mother of Karla Neumann-Smiley, DM at the time of Josephine's passing.

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.

As of this past Sunday, August 3, Troy Lutheran Church has donated \$2,276 in support of Vicky Hart's mission service through the ELCA, Young Adult in Global Mission.

Sunday, July 27, was her final Sunday with the congregation, she presented Troy Lutheran Church with a very large hand printed thank you card, which read:

To Christ's hands and hearts at Troy Lutheran,

Thank you times a million for your ongoing support and fellowship. Your generosity and enthusiasm just blow me away. I feel so blessed to be part of such a caring, creative, and fun community. It means a lot to know that you pray for me. I will hold you all in my heart. In teacups and tissue paper, fixing computers and baking cookies – you have set an example of what it looks like to live out God's mission in the world through service, and I'm really grateful for that.

In peace, *Vicky Hart*

We Pray



Vicky Hart

Young Adult in Global Mission





Mission of the Month: Abby in South Africa

As a Young Adult in Global Mission, Abby Henderson mentored teen girls and encouraged them to stay in school. Inspire your congregation with her story! For a colorful Word document to display on your congregation's bulletin board, or use in your bulletin or PowerPoint presentation, visit www.ELCA.org/resources/globalchurch.

Synod Directory Update

We will be producing a new Synod Directory this fall, for distribution at Convocation in Walla Walla. If you have changed your email, have a new website or any other changes to be included, we would love to know so that the directory is current.

Thank you

HOLDEN VILLAGE ON THE ROAD

October 17-19, 2014, Ellensburg, WA

Food, worship, Bible study, classes, crafts, outdoor activities,
update on mine / village renewal

Opt for entire weekend or 1 day

Registration: www.holdenvillage.org

Information: Cindy Shultz, email program@holdenvillage.org

You are welcome to participate in any of our events, but we have an event in Ellensburg, October 17 to 19, that we would specifically like to invite you to attend/invite others to come to.

This event is family-oriented with special activities planned for children. Our goal is to give you an experience similar to what you would find on a visit to Holden Village.

The special elements of life at Holden are included: worship, Bible study, teaching sessions, craft opportunities, a hike and/or outdoor recreation and family-style meals. You have the option of coming for the weekend or coming for just the day on Saturday. This one-day event will close with Marty Haugen's Holden Evening Prayer. The weekend retreat will include Prayer Around the Cross, Friday night, Evening Prayer on Saturday and a closing worship with Eucharist Sunday morning.

Featured will be an update on the construction at Holden Village, both the mine clean-up work and village renewal projects. Ample time and opportunity will be given to conversation and connecting anew with fellow Villagers.

The price for the one-day event includes lunch, dinner, snacks and activities for children ages 3 and up. Adults (13 and older) are \$47.50 and children are \$28.50 (3 and up). Children under 3 are free. The family rate (two adults and their children under 18) is \$148. Adults may come at the reduced rate of \$28.50 if they are unable to afford the full price. The price for the weekend event (\$113/person 3 and up) includes six meals, snacks, two nights' lodging and activities for children ages 3 and up. Children under 3 are free. Because we are charged by the local camp for each attendee, we are not able to offer an additional discount.

To register click [here](#) or go to our website, www.holdenvillage.org

Rich Melheim posted in FAITHS



Rich Melheim

5:24am Jul 11

If anyone needs an official letter to their church council inviting them to the "Killing Sunday School/Birthing Cross+Gen Worship" case study conference in Beautiful Boulder, CO, Sept 29-Oct 1, I'm happy to write one. The letter suggests they send you as a "service to the church" rather than vacation or continuing ed. I also include the suggestion they take the funds out of non-designated memorials, rather than budget. Just send me an email at rich@faithink.com with your name, your church name, and the chair of your council's name (or whomever you want it addressed to).

Aside from learning from what the dozen case study presenters are doing, the last part of the conference has a "speed dating" time where everyone will bounce from seat to seat and share what they're going to try to do and how they're going to try to do it. Should be really fun and valuable in cross+pollinating ideas and helping people crystalize what they will be attempting in 2015. The registration price goes up July 15, so if you want a letter to give the council this weekend, I'd need to know today. You can download the brochure, look at the presenter's topics and register at <https://store.faitthink.com/index.asp?PageAction=VIEWPROD&ProdID=4038>.



**finkStore / Killing Sunday School & Birthing
CROSS+GEN WORSHIP - BOULDER**
store.faitthink.com

**Killing Sunday School & Birthing CROSS+GEN
WORSHIP**

Back to School Connections

Do you have a graduating high school senior who will be starting college in the fall? Our Lutheran Campus Ministry sites at EWU, WSU and U of I would love to connect with students from your congregation. Please send names of students and any other contact information you may have to:

Karla Neumann-Smiley, DM

lcm@uidaho.edu

Rev. Randy "Nick" Nicolai

lutheranswsu@turbonet.com

Rev. Shelley Brian-Wee

lcmewu@yahoo.com



Recently, a group of ladies representing the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the ELCA, attended The 9th Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, in Charleston, North Carolina. It was a wonderful time of worship, music, learning and fellowship with nearly 2400 Lutheran women. How many of these ladies do you recognize?



2014 Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Security "Together Nourishing Idaho"



Learn more about how hunger summits are organized from the 2012 Final Report: [2012 Hunger Summit Final Report](#)

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, October 28th, 8:00am - 4:00pm
The Riverside Hotel
2900 W. Chinden Blvd., Boise, ID

Greetings!

It's that time again - the 2014 Summit on Hunger and Food Security in Idaho will be held on Tuesday, October 28! Registration will open soon. Please visit www.idahohungersummit.org for more information.

2014 Idaho Summit on Hunger and Food Security attendees will participate in facilitated small group workshop discussions on hunger and food security in Idaho, learn how hunger and food insecurity impacts all Idahoans, and will be a part of the solution and identify "next steps" for Idaho.

Featuring Presentations From:

Dr. Janey Thornton
Deputy Under Secretary for USDA Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Washington DC, will deliver the keynote address. [Read more...](#)

Hattie Kauffman

Author of *Falling into Place*, First Native American News Correspondent and News Anchor for ABC & CBS, and Member of the Nez Perce Tribe of Idaho will deliver the luncheon presentation. [Read more...](#)

For more information, please contact:

<http://www.idahohungersummit.org>
2-1-1 or 1-800-926-2588
info@idahohunger.org

Lugala Lutheran Hospital

Tanzania, Africa

by Michael Spiedel

Right: Entrance to the grounds of Lugala Lutheran Hospital

For many years, the EWAID Synod has been supporting Lugala Lutheran Hospital in rural Tanzania, Africa, through prayer, accompaniment and support for vital resources.

Lugala Lutheran Hospital is located in **rural south-central Tanzania**. Access to the hospital from the

capital city of Dar Es Salaam demands a perilous 14-hour journey of **rickety ferry crossings over crocodile inhabited rivers** and hours of driving on **baboon covered dirt "roads"** that are impassable during the rainy season. It serves as the only healthcare facility for roughly 160,000 Tanzanians in the Ulanga district of Tanzania. For the majority of these Tanzanians, quality healthcare has been absent for much of their lives, and for many in this rural region of Africa a hospital has been somewhere people go to die, rather than a place to heal and get better. The hospital is run by Dr. Peter Hellmold of Germany, who is the only western-trained doctor at the hospital. He, along with four less-formally trained doctors and a staff of 120 including nurses and medical assistants, have made incredible strides in recent years expanding the infrastructure of the hospital, the quality of staff training and the quality of care patients receive. This has included **the development of a nursing school** which currently trains dozens of nursing students each year. The progress at Lugala Lutheran Hospital has given Tanzanians the hope that **a hospital is a place where illnesses can be cured and sickness can be battled**.

The hospital primarily treats **diseases of poverty**. Malaria is diagnosed daily, and improving the survival rate of newborn children is one of the primary ambitions at Lugala. The **death rate of children in Tanzania is 45 deaths per 1,000 live births, as compared to approximately 2-3 deaths per 1,000 live births in the U.S. and Europe**. Lugala has cared for as many as 80 women waiting to give birth. More than 1,450 deliveries are performed each year in addition to over 800 operations and the treatment of over 30,000 outpatients. The average cost to deliver a baby at Lugala Lutheran Hospital is approximately 45,000 Tanzanian shillings, or the equivalent of \$30 US dollars.

The hospital has received support from both European and North American organizations including SolidarMed- a Swiss NGO, German Lutheran churches and Rotary Clubs, and the EWAID Synod. Over the years, the EWAID Synod has been one of only three church organizations to consistently offer financial support to the hospital on a yearly basis.

Support from the EWAID Synod has come in many forms, including the purchase of new rear tires for a tractor that is in constant use every day at the hospital. Its operation is vital for everything from helping to maintain and construct new buildings to disposal of medical waste to building new roads. Three years ago the decades-old tires finally wore out and the tractor was left inoperable. The EWAID Synod provided support to purchase new rear tires for the tractor which were very difficult to come by in rural Tanzania and within days the tractor was up and running again.



Right: Lugala Lutheran Hospital's tractor with new rear tires.

Left: Dr. Peter Hellmold with the anesthesiologist trained with support from the EWAID Synod.



Staffing is a constant challenge at Lugala. It is difficult to attract and retain quality workers in such a remote region of Tanzania. Two years ago the hospital was facing significant challenges caused by the lack of a properly trained anesthesiologist. **The EWAID Synod offered the support needed to properly and professionally train an anesthesiologist** who today continues to be on staff at Lugala and provide this vital function for the hospital.

This year the EWAID Synod has provided \$4,000 to purchase mosquito nets, bed sheets, uniforms for nurses and additional solar batteries for the hospital. Malaria is one of the most treated ailments at Lugala. Every day many patients arrive to be treated for this life-threatening illness. Without proper mosquito nets for patients to sleep under at night, the hospital is dangerously susceptible to the disease which is one of its biggest challenges. Maintaining a proper and adequate supply of bed sheets for patients is a constant struggle, and support from the EWAID Synod will go far in maintaining clean and sanitary conditions. As the nursing school continues to develop and provide quality staff for the hospital, proper uniforms are a constant need.

Being in rural Africa, ***the hospital is not connected to an electrical grid*** and only has full generator-provided electricity for three hours a day. Three separate diesel engines run to provide electricity. However, these engines consume two gallons of diesel fuel per hour which is extremely expensive and difficult to source in rural Tanzania. Dependency on electricity provided by generators has always been a challenge at Lugala. In years past, the EWAID Synod was instrumental in providing support to build a solar power infrastructure so that vital life saving equipment could operate throughout the day and at night when the diesel generators are shut down. Sunshine to power solar panels is much more cost effective than diesel fuel. Support from the EWAID Synod to provide replacement batteries will go far to maintain and expand the electrical capacity of the hospital and to allow life saving equipment to run both day and night.



Top: Nursing students at Lugala Lutheran Hospital
 Below Left: Hospital beds with mosquito nets in need of replacement
 Below Right: Solar batteries that store energy during the day for nighttime operation



Above: A wing of Lugala Lutheran Hospital with solar panels on the roof
 Bottom Left: Three diesel generators that provide power for the hospital
 Bottom Right: Nursing students singing at the dedication of a new building



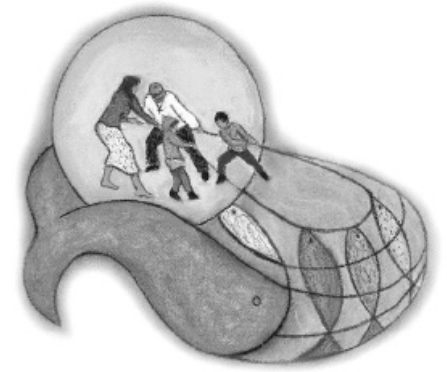
Last summer, Bishop Wells and members of the EWAID Synod Global Mission Committee visited Lugala Lutheran Hospital to meet those individuals who are so important to the hospital and to continue to expand the personal relationships between our Synod and Lugala. The sincere appreciation of so many Tanzanians was clearly evident and the positive impact of the EWAID Synod's ongoing support was very apparent. This support has resulted in a significant and positive impact on the lives of thousands of Tanzanians.

With God's continued grace and the support of the EWAID Synod, Lugala Lutheran Hospital will continue to provide quality healthcare and hope of physical betterment for thousands of Tanzanians. [If you are interested in contributing to the continued support of Lugala Lutheran Hospital, contributions can be made to your church or to the synod office, designating them for the Lugala Lutheran Hospital fund.](#)

**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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September 2014
Newsletter

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



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

The **Cross Connection** is also available on the synod website at

<http://www.ewaidsynod.org/synodpublications.html>.

Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.

Synod Calendar

September 2014

- 7 God's Work. Our Hands Sunday
- 11 1:00 pm Executive Committee
- 12-13 Synod Council

October 2014

- 3-5 Let Justice Roll - Burlington, WA
- 4 Mission Interpreter Training
- 10:00 - 2:00 Immanuel, Moses Lake
- 12 Deans' Meeting
- 13-16 Bishop's Convocation
- Walla, Walla, WA
- 24-25 Candidacy Meeting
- Spokane

November 2014

- 17-19 First Call Theological Education



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our Hands

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