

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

October 2013

God's beloved People,

It hardly seems possible that a month has passed since the end of the Churchwide Assembly. The month has been full of rich beginnings and a sense of hope that I want to share with you.

First, this past weekend Susan and I have had the privilege of being at the installations of our two new bishop colleagues on the West side of Washington State. Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson led and preached at both services and it is a joy to report that he is full of faithful vigor just as we experienced him in the synod two years ago. When asked how he is doing, he says, "I'm getting there," and by that I think he means he is coming to peace with the election of Elizabeth Eaton as our new presiding bishop. He has been a very classy leader over this last month and I'm grateful he has 12 installations to do around the country. I think he is receiving the thanks of a grateful church.

As to my own reflections on the election of Bp Eaton, I now see it more clearly as a time of mood and energy shift for the church. Through no fault of his own, I think the church felt anchored in the leadership of Bishop Hanson, and I mean that in two senses of the word. We were anchored in faith, and faithful to the gospel, during Bishop Hanson's tenure and I believe we were anchored in place during those same years. My sense is that the church has now said it is ready to navigate open water again, and that has required pulling up anchor for a free course into the future under new leadership.

I look forward to the Conference of Bishop's meeting at the end of September when we will have a first chance to hear reflections from Bishop Eaton and faithful proclamation of the Gospel in the new day from our friend, Bp Jessica Crist, the preacher at Bishop Eaton's installation on October 5. I encourage you to listen in on that service via live streaming and celebrate with the whole church that we are setting an open course for the proclamation of Jesus' love in and for this curious, complicated world.

The second sign of hope is the work of "The Way Forward" task force and the way in which that work was received and affirmed by the Synod Council. (See the report of the Council elsewhere in the Cross Connection). We now begin an implementation phase and we will report to the pastors at Convocation in late October and to you through Cluster gatherings this fall and winter.

If I could encapsulate this new work in a few words it would be like this: We are going to do some technical tweaking of the synod structure in order to set course for a more deeply relational and congregationally oriented ministry. I'm deeply pleased with the work of the task force and the energy by which it was received at Synod Council. That meeting was nested within an excellent stewardship event hosted by Emmanuel Lutheran, Moscow, and provided us with an immediate example of the kind of energy we hope our structure will bring to local ministry. Thanks to all for fine work done by the task force, the council, and Emmanuel congregation during a great kick-off week for the new program year! And thanks to all the congregations of the synod who participated that same Sunday in "a day of service" to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

My final reason for hope—always grounded in the Good News of God’s love—is the way I witnessed two cluster groups come together in the last two weeks. Our “clusters” are gatherings of congregations in a local area and part of the work (only part of the work!) is done through the the rostered leaders—mostly pastors---meeting together to offer one another support and encouragement in ministry. When the WHOLE cluster gathers, including the elected leaders of the congregations, we’re really hitting on all cylinders, and those are the meetings we are eager to schedule for this winter.

In the meantime I was privileged to be present for 2 meetings of pastors where attendance was robust and the conversation kind, energetic, and hopeful. One pastor said, “I always end August uncertain and a bit depressed, but when ministry “restarts” I’m always energized and hopeful for the year ahead.” What I witnessed in these cluster gatherings was a hopeful restart to ministry among colleagues who like and respect one another and who brought news of congregations that are eager to be organized and focused again! This is the wonder of the church to me, that we are so well led by our pastors, and that these same pastors are taking their hope from renewed lay leaders, Sunday School teachers, and church councils. Here we go into the new program year!

To sum up, our fall begins with new hope, fresh voices, and faithful leaders who are showing renewed energy for our common mission: In a world challenged by war and an economy still struggling for rebirth; among those who are hungry for food and equally hungry for meaning in life, the Spirit is reviving us. This is a very, very good day to be the Church!

Pr. Martin Wells, Bishop

Just a Reminder

We will publish an updated Synod Directory in October
Please email office@ewaidsynod to note any changes/corrections
you would like to make to the information we are currently using

Thank you.

Roster Changes

Calls Accepted

Rev. James Aalgaard has accepted the call to Grace Lutheran - Wenatchee, Washington

Rev. Steve Crittenden has accepted the call to Our Savior - Twin Falls, Idaho

Rev. Ann Frerks has accepted the call to Holy Trinity - Eprata, Washington and St. Paul - Quincy, Washington

Resignations

Rev. Kimmy Meinecke resigned as Mission Developer in the West Richland mission area

Rev. Larry Stappler resigned from King of Glory - Boise, Idaho

Retirements

Rev. Bruce Barth, Bonners Ferry, Idaho

Rev. Mike Grabenstein, Executive Director Coeur d’Alene Homes, Coeur d’Alene, Idaho

Join us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/EasternWashingtonIdahoSynodELCA>



We Belong

By Pastor Helga Jansons (Director for Evangelical Mission)

From the moment we are born we need to belong. If abandoned, we cannot survive. This need does not diminish as we age. It just changes. The human face of God can no longer tend to our every need; like a mother or father. We search for someone to love us when we are grown up and alone. And we find the God who has been there all along, holding us. We are home. We belong. What relief, comfort and joy.

Recently I learned to love in a new way. I let go of my son as he flew off to Toledo, Ohio. He is part of an ELCA new ministry start called ALT (Abundant Life Together). Like the ALT button on the keyboard this is to be an alternative learning experience that is faith based. It is a GAP year for young adults to live in community, explore their faith, serve the community and churches in the area, and learn from some of The Great Books. They will have a Pastor /Mission Developer, a mentor and even a host family. See the July 2013 edition of The Lutheran magazine.

I grieved in anticipation of his leaving. Even at the supermarket my heart ached: 'I don't have to buy all the food that my teenage son consumes.' Our family has changed. It is not the same. This is a new kind of 'letting go love.' He really does belong to God, not me.

And yet, I am overjoyed at the new life he has found. He is so happy. I can rest knowing that he is living a full life with every moment, an adventure. I am trusting that my son is being held by the church family across the country, just as the church family has held me across the world from Australia. The church of Christ has long arms.

The same is true of God's church. It belongs to God. Letting go of our hold on the church might be the very thing that brings new life. Could we trust God with this kind of adventure where our young people can thrive? Our hearts might ache as we long for the days when everyone was together as a family. Yet if we let go of our desire to have things as they were, we might find a new way to be a family of faith.

What would it mean to love the church enough to let go? Let go of what? Mostly, the notion that it belongs to us, and is under our control. Or, giving up the idea that it is up to us to save our congregation.

God will not abandon us, nor "our" beloved church. The church, our lives, everything we have, who we are (for better and for worse), our Lutheran heritage, our mission, it all belongs to God. What is ours is God's. We get to be the stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. God trusts us, so why not trust God.

Psalm 24:1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Psalm 100:3 Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

1 Chronicles 29:14, 16 "But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able to make this freewill offering? For all things come from you, and of your own have we given you...O Lord our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a house for your holy name comes from your hand and is all you own".

Romans 7:4 In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.



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	Boise, ID – King of Glory	NV		
P	Bonnars Ferry, ID – Trinity	NV	Kimberly Meinecke	I
P	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul	NV	Betty Krafft	SP
P	Coeur d’Alene, ID – Trinity	NV		
P	Gifford, ID – Good Hope	A	Valerie Beesley	TEEM
P	Kamiah, ID -- Faith Lutheran	A	Art Finney	I
P	Moses Lake, WA – Immanuel 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	Terrace Heights, WA—Tree of Life	NV		
P	Thayne, WY—Star Valley United Church	NV		

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

2012	August	\$57,191	Year to Date	\$391,506
2013	August	\$53,783	Year to Date	\$423,439

Are You Registered Yet?

October 28-30 in Richland, Washington

Red Lion Hanford House

This Year’s Topic - Family Systems Theory

with Guest Speaker Dr. Emlyn Ott

Executive Director, Healthy Congregations Inc.

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

Avoid the Late Registration Fee by Registering before September 30th

Look for the offerings that The Book Parlor will have available

Representatives from Portico and Consultation to Clergy will be on hand to answer your questions

The Annual Golf Tournament will be held at Columbia Point Golf Course

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 . . .

Rev. Rick Evenson (Medical Lake, WA) as he continues treatment for multiple myeloma.

The family and friends of Rev. Jerry Hickman (Kennewick, WA) at the time of his death, September 21, 2013.

Rev. Joseph Walla who died Sept. 5, 2013. Memorial service was held at Zion Lutheran - Spokane, WA Sept. 13, 2013

Our Savior Lutheran Church (Sunnyside, WA) as they celebrate 60 years as a congregation on September 22

Salem Lutheran Church (Spokane, WA) as they celebrate 125 years as a congregation on November 3, 2013

The victims and first responders, and all of those effected by the recent shooting in the Washington Navy Yard

Families that struggle with change, and aging, and loss, and their search for hope

Those effected by the wildfires that continue to burn through our country

Those effected by floods in Colorado and other storm related disaster

We Pray

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



See what's happening at

Camp Lutherhaven

<http://www.lutherhaven.com/>



Bits & Pieces

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synodical Women's Organization
founded in 1923

You can see Bits & Pieces, the newsletter
of the Eastern Washington-Idaho
Synodical Women's Organization
on our website at

[http://www.ewaisynod.org/images/
June_2013_EWISO_newsletter_2_.pdf](http://www.ewaisynod.org/images/June_2013_EWISO_newsletter_2_.pdf)

Where in the synod is that?

Answer in next month's newsletter.

September's photo was taken at All Saints Lutheran Church - Spokane, Washington

Send us your photos for use in an upcoming newsletter



Synod Council Adopts “The Way Forward” Recommendations

- ⊕ Supporting congregations in leadership development, mission planning and caring for leaders and congregations
- ⊕ Implementing a more distributed model of staffing across the Synod by creating new positions called Networkers to support the Bishop and other ministry partners
- ⊕ Developing new job responsibilities for all ministry partners within the Synod
- ⊕ Using professional staff to handle conflict management
- ⊕ Encouraging clusters to not let their boundaries inhibit ministry opportunities with other congregations throughout the Synod
- ⊕ Training all ministry partners on *Change Process*, a critical skill in their leadership development and understanding of how to implement new processes

The Way Forward (TWF) task force presented these recommendations to the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Council (SC) in their meeting conducted on September 6-7, 2013. The SC adopted these Phase I recommendations unanimously and supports the continued study and exploration of the Phase II recommendations with our Region I partners. The complete report can be found on the Synod’s website at www.ewaidynod.org. Look under **The Way Forward** tab.

TWF task team recognized that the large geographic territory of our Synod is a barrier to effectively serving all our congregations out of Spokane. A more distributed model for staffing would allow the Synod to support congregations’ ministries in their communities. Therefore, the Networker positions were established. The vision is to have Networkers strategically located across the Synod. They would support the bishop and congregations in the call process; coordinate resources for skill-building, training and leadership development; be a convener, listener and communicator; and help facilitate new ministry development. The positions would be part-time and could be either clergy or lay. They would report directly to the bishop. Building and strengthening caring relationships between congregations, deans, clusters and the office of the bishop will be a critical first step for the Networkers to accomplish. Review the diagram that demonstrates the working relationship between all the ministry partners found in TWF report.

With the Networkers supporting the Bishop in call process and professionals used to handle conflict management, we envision Bishop Wells having more time to be the spiritual and theological leader of the Synod. This would allow him more time to work with the ministry partners in supporting congregations as needed in their ministries. TWF recommended that all the ministry partners’ job duties be updated to better reflect how they will work together in the new organization structure. See some of the major responsibilities listed in TWF report.

The next steps to move forward to implement the recommendations are as follows:

- ⊙ Create an implementation team
- ⊙ Develop a job description for the Networkers and update the other ministries job descriptions
- ⊙ Establish a process to call the Networkers
- ⊙ Develop a timeline for implementation
- ⊙ Convene the Finance Committee to determine the viability of calling 3 to 4 Networkers from a budgetary perspective
- Develop a communication strategy

I will support Bishop Wells over the next several months as he conducts cluster meetings to help communicate the adopted recommendations. I will also attend the Bishop’s Convocation to participate in the presentation of TWF findings and answer questions.

I am committed to supporting the Synod in implementing TWF’s vision, a vision I believe will develop a better ministry partnership between the congregations and the synod.

VENTURES FOR GROWING STEWARDS Workshop Dates

September 28th Workshop II 9:30-12:30pm Lord of Life, WA

October 5th Christ Lutheran, Yakima 10am -4pm

November 2nd Upper Snake cluster 10:30am-3:30pm

MISSION INTERPRETER Training Dates

October 5th 10-noon, Immanuel, Moses Lake

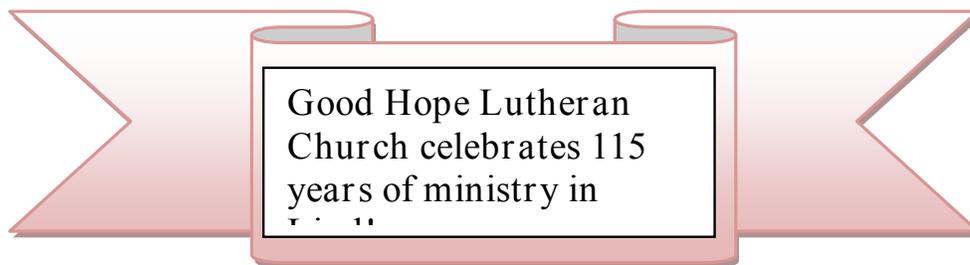
October 26th Central, Spokane 9am-noon Story Telling with PR Shelley

November 2nd Upper Snake cluster 11am-2pm

Anniversaries of Ordination

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

10/2	Rev. Bob Albing	Church of the Master	Coeur d’Alene, ID	25 years
10/19	Rev. Jim Higgins	Retired	Clarkston, WA	25 years



On behalf of Good Hope Lutheran Church, I am pleased to invite you to attend **Good Hope Lutheran’s annual *Oktoberfest*** sausage feed as we celebrate 115 years of ministry in Lind, from 11am to 2:00pm on Sunday, October 27st, 2013 being held at the **Senior Center located on “I” (Main) Street in Lind.**

This wonderful meal includes: German sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, applesauce, rolls, and dessert. The cost for adults is \$9.00 and \$5.00 for children 12 and under, and for a family of 2 adults and 2 children for **\$25. You won’t find a better meal anywhere for this price, plus you can shop at the bake sale and purchase a raffle ticket.**

OKTOBERFEST CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Come to the Annual Oktoberfest-style Fundraiser at Central Lutheran Church. The proceeds support the feeding program at All Saints Lutheran Church in Browne’s Addition. This ministry serves over 4500 meals each year to members of the downtown community.

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance or \$20.00 at the door.



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2013
2:00 PM
512 S. BERNARD ST.
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
CONTACT: MATT SWANSON
954-9519

King of Glory, Boise, Idaho



Celebrates 50 years as a congregation and 25 years of the ELCA

American Lutheran, Newport, WA Celebrated “God’s work. Our hands” Sunday with a play



Sowing the Good Seed

**Upcoming
SEMINARS**

Portland, OR
Nov 4-6, 2013

Seattle, WA
Nov 11-13, 2013



Crossroads

Redefining Your Vocational Vision

What's Next on Your Vocational Horizon?

The purpose of the Crossroads Seminar is to provide a safe and open venue for clergy and other rostered church workers to explore and discern potential vocational transitions in their personal and professional lives.



Are you facing a professional transition?

For some, this potential transition might simply be the consideration of a call to a different setting. Or, it could be a recommitment to your present call—but with some changes in your style or approach. For others, the transition may be to a different kind of ministry that provides a better “fit” for your gifts and interests. And for others, the next chapter may be one of bi-vocational work or the decision to “re-career” and take a different path altogether.

This seminar will provide the opportunity for reflection, discernment, the time to re-explore God’s call, to define your key vocational strengths and to develop a new and vibrant vocational vision.

This 3-day workshop will help you to:

- Clearly assess your key vocational strengths, interests, values and transferable skills
- Better understand your best vocational “fit” in terms of your professional strengths and interests
- Identify a number of viable vocational options and potential “next steps”
- Redefine your personal and professional vision for the next chapter in life and ministry
- Develop a workable strategic plan to live out your vision

Early Bird Special Register early and save \$25.

Registration fee includes:
Consultation Manual, Snacks and Career Testing

Key questions this workshop will address:

- ✓ Do I need to re-evaluate the kind of ministry that I am doing?
- ✓ Do I have a sense of balance between life and work?
- ✓ Should I consider other vocational options?
- ✓ How does stress, burnout, conflict in the parish and/or family relationship strain affect my ministry? Are there healthier, life-enhancing changes I can make?
- ✓ Am I clear about my vocational strengths?
- ✓ Do I have a clear picture or vision of what I would like to be doing vocationally in the future?
- ✓ How might I be more effective in the work and ministry that I am doing now?
- ✓ What are my “growth edges?” Where do I seek to grow and expand as a person and professional?
- ✓ Is God calling me to a vocational transition?

Byberg Preaching Workshop | *Developing skills of ELCA preachers*

**January 13-15, 2014
Cannon Beach, Oregon**

Our Speaker | Anna Carter Florence

Preaching the Verbs | So what happens when we read scripture and let the verbs lead? In this conference, Anna puts a twist on dramatic theory and invites us to read the biblical "script" by focusing on the verbs that are given and chosen by the characters. What new things will we see and hear in both our sacred text and our human drama when we connect the verbs? How can that, in turn, change and renew our preaching?

About Anna Carter Florence | Anna is interested in historical, theological, aesthetic, and performative dimensions of preaching and the ways preaching engages other fields and different traditions. Her research focuses on testimony, feminist theology, the role of experience in preaching, and the history of preaching women. She is the Peter Marshall Associate Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary and author of *Preaching as Testimony*.

Monday Night Lecture | Viticulture, Winemaking, the Gospels, Wine and Spirituality

About Barry Rogge | Barry received his B.A. from Valparaiso University and his M.Div from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. He holds the Certificate in Fund Raising Management from The Fund Raising School, Indiana University. He served many congregations in Washington and Oregon. Since his retirement in 2007, he has served as a fund raising consultant, ski instructor at Timberline Lodge and in guest relations and sales at Archery Summit Winery in Dayton, Oregon. He and his wife, Carole Ann, live in West Linn.

Chaplain | Terry Kylo

About Terry Kylo | Terry is developing The Catacomb Churches as a way to equip and support people in their baptismal ministry of leadership in partnership with Jesus Christ, in whom God is healing and creating the world. In addition, he serves as the Pastor of St. Philip's Episcopal Church in Marysville, WA. He is author of two books, *Being Human* (2004) and *Apprenticeship* (2011). Terry lives in Anacortes, WA, with his wife Sheryl and their two college age children. Terry does not live by bread alone.

Registration, Suggested Reading and Media Archives | We are beginning our transition to electronic communications this year. Please download, print out and mail in the registration form found at www.bybergpreaching.org.

www.bybergpreaching.org



Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

Gospel Road Show:

Preaching and Practicing the Gospel of Matthew

Dr. James Bailey, Emeritus from Wartburg, professor of NT

This workshop will consider texts in the Gospel of Matthew assigned to Year A of the lectionary. For each text studied, Dr. Bailey will provide a handout and make a brief presentation to stimulate thoughts for preaching and teaching. Integral to Dr. Bailey's interactive teaching are the contributions of workshop participants. There will be focus on several lectionary texts from the Sermon on the Mount.

Nov. 7 Billings
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
10am - 4pm

Nov. 8 Bozeman
Christ the King Lutheran
10am - 4pm

Nov. 10 Missoula
St. Paul Lutheran (free will donation)
2pm - 4pm

Nov. 12 Spokane, WA
Central Lutheran
10 am - 4pm

5 Contact Hours
\$65 Clergy and Rostered Leaders
\$50 New to ministry, retired, LPA



While the election of Elizabeth Eaton as presiding bishop was the main news of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, [many other actions](#) were taken by the voting members, including the passage of a social statement on criminal justice and the approval of a five-year fundraising campaign. Jennifer Michael, churchwide president of Women of the ELCA, [brought greetings](#). Her message stirred the voting members to applause when they learned that in the past 25 years, Women of the ELCA has:

- * Supported and sustained over 7,000 congregational units;
- * Won over 150 awards for excellence for resources, content, programing and publications;
- * Provided over \$500,000 in scholarships to Lutheran women;
- * Given over \$3.5 million in grants to ministries both internationally and here at home; and
- * Contributed more than \$16 million toward the ongoing ministries of the ELCA.

Upcoming Events

Get out your calendars and plan to attend an upcoming LCS event in your area. These activities offer wonderful opportunities to have an enjoyable time out and help LCS all at the same time!

If you attended any of our events recently, be sure to check out the highlights and photos of these events by [clicking here](#).

A banner for the 'New Horizons' event. On the left is a photograph of a sunset over a horizon with the text 'NEW HORIZONS' in large white letters. On the right is a dark blue background with yellow and white text.

HOPE IS ON THE HORIZON!

Help us bring health, justice and hope to Northwest communities by making plans to attend one of our signature fall fund-raising events.

Thanks to our generous sponsors, there is no cost to attend. There will be an opportunity, however, to support the work of our agency through gifts and pledges.

[To RSVP online for the event in your community, click here.](#)

October 2013

Saturday, October 12th: Southern Idaho Banquet

Our annual Boise banquet will be held again this year at The Clubhouse Events Center, 7311 W. Potomac Drive. A social hour at 4:00 p.m. will kick off the evening, followed by dinner at 5:00 and a program at 6:00 highlighting LCS services in Southern Idaho. [RSVP for this event](#).

For more information, contact Charlotte Combe at 208/323-0996 or by [e-mail](#).

November 2013

Sunday, November 3rd: Inland Northwest Luncheon

Mark your calendar and bring your friends to The Commons at Mukogawa Ft. George Wright for good food and fellowship, and learn more about LCS programs serving the Inland Northwest. A wine social at 12:30 p.m. will precede the 1:30 luncheon, entertainment and program. [RSVP for this event](#).

For more information, contact Christie McKee at 509/343-5020 or by [e-mail](#).

SPONSORS NEEDED

The generosity of our sponsors is critical to the success of our fund-raising events. If you're interested in sponsoring an upcoming LCS event, please get in touch with the contact person listed above for the events in your area, or [contact our Development Staff](#) at your nearest LCS Office.

Hello to all our Lutheran partners in ministry in the Spokane area!

This year Salem is celebrating 125 years of ministry on this corner of Broadway and Walnut in Spokane, Washington. Our big celebration weekend is scheduled for November 1-3. We are extending a big welcome to any and all brothers and sisters who might have a history at Salem to celebrate with us in our Sunday morning worship, November 3, at 10:15am.

If you are able to put something in your Sunday bulletin and/or upcoming newsletter to let people know, that would be awesome, and greatly appreciated. Anyone who would be interested in the other scheduled festivities for the weekend may contact the church office: either call 328-6280 or email to salemcongregation@gmail.com

Thanks for your help in spreading the word!

If you have any questions, please be in touch with me. Thank you!!

Cheri Nelson,
Community Minister

2013

Fall Gathering

Women of the ELCA

This year's theme

"Rooted in God's Grace"

is led by Pastor Helga Jansons

Presentation Titles are

"Held, Enough and Imagine"

Also several workshops, worship including a Healing Service, fellowship time, Silent Auction, and Business Meeting

Nazareth Retreat Center, Boise, Idaho

October 11-13, 2013

Registration Deadline is September 30, 2013

Registration Fee is \$50.00 – for everyone!!

Full weekend prices (2 nights and 5 meals)

double occupancy \$90.00 per person

single occupancy \$115.00

Commuter (5 meals): \$50.00

Checks payable to: Women of the ELCA

Send to Carole Dinning

6703 Cody Street

Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

208-610-4885 cdinning@frontier.com

September 10, 2013

TheoProbe Attendees,

Here is the FINAL info on TheoProbe 2014!

The dates have been selected as **February 22 – 28, 2014**. No Valentine's Day!! Plus: Ash Wednesday is March 5, Super Bowl is long gone, President's day is behind us (Feb 17) and we are still avoiding March "Spring Break" madness on the slopes

We also have our Professors lined up:

Pastor Glen Segond is an ELCA Pastor and Clinical Psychologist

Professor Mary Hinkle Shore is a former Professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, and is currently serving an ELCA congregation in Brevard, NC

(See info later on in this message for details of their presentations).

We plan to continue at Winter Park/Mary Jane ski areas because of reasonable lodging and skiing cost and smaller weekday crowds.

Due to overwhelming response on lodging preferences, we have moved the **lodging to The Vintage Hotel** in Winter Park. This is a nice hotel (Sally Meier says to make sure you understand it is NOT "upscale" but it is significantly nicer than the Beavers, and somewhat nicer than the Mountain Lodge.)

Check out the web site: www.vintagehotel.com

Lodging at the Vintage Hotel

Now for the details. It turns out the configuration of the rooms is very confusing. As I mentioned in the earlier description, a "room" consists of a standard motel room with two queen sized beds, PLUS a "suite" with 2 queen beds and a kitchenette. Bathrooms in both the motel room and the suite. The motel room and the suite are joined by a lockable door. The hotel counts this "room" as holding 8 people – 2 people in each of 4 beds – and bills us that way.

Thus a "single" room is ½ of what the hotel calls a room. You will have 2 queen beds and bath, plus (possibly) a kitchenette.

A "double" is 2 of you sharing a "single" as described above.

A "triple" or "quad" means you will be sharing a bed with someone else! For a Quad, you would have a motel room with 2 queen beds, plus a bath.

Lutefisk & Meatballs on the Palouse



Sponsored by
 **Thrivent Financial
for Lutherans™**

And area Lutheran Churches

November 2nd
4pm or 6pm seating

Trinity Lutheran Church
1300 NE Lybecker St
Pullman, WA 99163

A Scandinavian dinner benefiting the Palouse-area Family Promise and the ECLA Malaria Project..

Menu

Lutefisk, white sauce, butter
Swedish meatballs & gravy
Norwegian potato lefse
Red new potatoes
Danish braised cabbage
Cucumber and dill salad
Lingonberries
Finnish rye bread
Krumkake, Kransekake, &
other Scandinavian cookies

Ticket Orders

Online at eventbrite.com as
“Lutefisk & Meatballs on
the Palouse”

OR

Send a check payable to
“Trinity Lutheran Church”
c/o Mary Lopes
820 SW Alcora Drive
Pullman, WA 99163

Ticket Prices

\$22 Lutefisk & meatballs \$15 Meatballs only \$10 Age 4 thru College Ages 3 & Under Free
Tickets must be purchased in advance by October 18; no tickets at the door. Questions: 425-652-6618





Wenatchee Valley Lutheran Latino Ministry

Community Festival

free admission

OCTOBER 20TH, 2013

1 TO 5:30 P.M.



Kids activities

Music and Entertainment

Food

Ministry Fair

Blessing of Ministry 2:30 pm

Location: Celebration Lutheran Church
801 8th St. NE
East Wenatchee

(509) 654-0615

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**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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



October 2013 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 www.ewaidsynod.org.

Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.



God's Work. Our Hands.

Synod Calendar

September

- 24 2014 Synod Assembly Planning Meeting
- 28 Ventures Training (Tri-Cities)

October

- 11-12 Synod WELCA Retreat
(Boise, ID)
- 13 Upper Snake Cluster Gathering
(American Falls, ID)
- 18-19 Synod Candidacy (Spokane, WA)
- 27 Deans' Meeting (Richland, WA)
- 28-30 Bishop's Convocation (Richland, WA)

November

- 18-21 First Call Theological Education
(Auburn, WA)



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
- Program Administrator Cathy Steiner
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THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

Coeditors: Herb Miller and Cynthia Woolever - www.TheParishPaper.com

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Growth or Decline? 10 Key Questions about Worship Attendance

Three out of four congregations attract the same number of or even fewer worshipers than they did five years ago. Review the following questions to determine if your church could take steps to attract and retain more newcomers.

1. Does your newcomer rate exceed your departure rate? Churches lose members each year—through death, transfers to other churches, members moving out of town, or people becoming less active participants. To maintain a stable and active membership, churches must offset any losses by welcoming new members. The average congregation loses 7 percent of its members each year. Therefore, for every 100 members, a church must add 7 newcomers annually for the church to remain the same size.

2. In any given year, what percent of your worshipers are visiting for the first time? On average, 2 percent of attendees in any given worship service are attending that congregation for the first time. Without first-time visitors, congregations shrink in membership over time.

3. What prompts someone to visit your congregation for the first time? Half of new members say they found out about the church they eventually joined because someone they knew mentioned the church or invited them to attend worship. More new members in conservative Protestant churches—two out of three—say they visited a church for the first time because of this personal invitation.

One out of four first-time visitors said they decided to attend services because they noticed the church building when they passed by. A small number—one in ten—said they were actively looking for a church associated with a particular denomination.¹

What other factors increase the number of first-time visitors? Visible signage informs potential visitors about the kind of congregation it is and when services are held. Additional signage should designate directions if the church is set away from major

roads, building entrances, parking, the nursery, and other important areas of the church. Adequate signage signals to visitors that you are expecting them.

Additionally, an increasing number of people now “see” your church for the first time through the church’s website. Your website should be designed to meet the needs of both visitors and current members. On the home page, give visitors the essential information they need—the times of worship services, the church’s street address, a map showing the location, and how to contact the pastor and other church staff. Don’t make your potential first-time worshipers click through your site searching for basic information.²

4. What percent of your first-time visitors return for a second time, and again and again, until they become members? About one in three new members say they visited *one* other congregation before attending their current church for the first time. An equal percentage visited *two or more* churches before attending the present one. On average, congregations can expect about 10 percent of their first-time visitors to become future members.



ACCORDING TO YOUR WEBSITE, THIS CHURCH IS CURRENTLY "UNDER CONSTRUCTION."

In a few fast-growing churches, as high as 30 percent of first-time visitors eventually join. Increasing both the number of first-time visitors *and* the percent that return is essential.

5. Why do first-time visitors decide to return?

Research shows that newcomers name three factors that most impressed them as worship visitors and made them want to come back again: the friendliness of the people (40% mentioned it), the overall worship experience (36% gave this reason), and the quality of the sermon or homily (34% said this played a role in their decision to return).

Visitors often report that they were only greeted by the official greeters posted at the door and the pastor as they exited. Divide the sanctuary seating area into sections and station additional undercover greeters to look for visitors. If a fellowship time or study group follows services, ask the pew greeters to invite visitors to go with them. Having someone show the way is another demonstration of generous hospitality.

6. How does your church follow up with first-time worship visitors?

Surprisingly, one in three new members said they were *not* contacted after their first visit to the church. Asking visitors to complete a visitor card is the first step in gaining the information for a later contact. Design a strategy that involves multiple methods (letters, postcards, emails, phone calls, or personal visits) based on the number of times someone has visited. A first-time worship visitor would receive a different kind of follow-up than on subsequent visits.

7. What percent of your attendees are between 18 to 29 years of age?

The aging profile of current members strikes many young people when they visit for the first time. That is because the average worshiper is 54 years old, 10 years older than the average American. Often the largest age group among attendees is worshipers over 65 years of age. In the average congregation, one in three worshipers is 65 years of age or older. Attracting 18 to 29 year-old visitors is not impossible. Congregations with a high concentration of emerging adults offer multiple points of entry into the life of the congregation such as non-traditional worship times and formats, study groups and age-specific adult education, opportunities to volunteer in community service, and social gatherings. An expert on best practices for young adult ministry argues that congregations should pay more attention to the church's identity, not less.³ Even congregations

with small numbers of emerging adults can provide opportunities for worship leadership and ministry in the church or community.

8. What percent of your current attendees are not yet members?

On average, one in ten worshipers regularly participate in a congregation but are not yet members. Most of these nonmembers are not involved in any church programs or activities beyond attending worship services. Nonmembers tend to be younger than 45 years of age. How does your church construct a bridge that helps attendees cross over into membership? Are new-member or adult programs aimed at explaining tenets of the faith and a call to discipleship?

9. How is your congregation known in the community?

If a dozen random people in your area were approached and asked, "What do you know about [fill in the name of your church]?" How many would say they have never heard of it or that they know nothing? Every community is different and every congregation has the opportunity for unique ministry that fits their location such as quality children's ministry or school-age programs, senior services, outstanding music or promotion of the arts, or advocacy for marginalized groups of people. Identify and build on your congregation's distinctive strengths to better serve God and others.

10. Do the worship services help people connect to God?

Long-time members grow accustomed to the liturgy, music, and pace and find meaning in the familiar. Ask the last 10 people who joined the church how they experienced the services when they first began attending. Also contact recent visitors and ask them about their reactions to the service. Listen carefully to these reflections and share them with worship leaders. Newcomers often provide good insights into the ways services can be more effective in meeting attendees' spiritual needs.

1. Statistics in this issue come from the U.S. Congregational Life Survey (www.USCongregations.org).

2. See the free download, *Church Effectiveness Nuggets: Volume 8, How to Attract First-Time Worship Visitors* (www.TheParishPaper.com).

3. J. Roberto and M. Hayes, "Best Practices in Young Adult Faith Formation," Lifelong Faith Associates (2007).