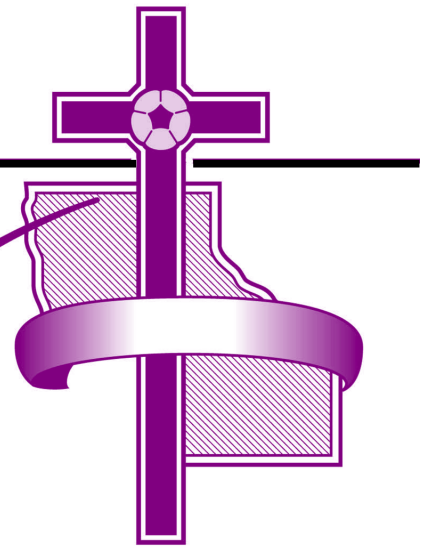


CROSS

Connection



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

From the Bishop

April 2013

God's Beloved People,

In just a few days we'll be gathering for our Synod Assembly in Boise, Idaho, and I look forward to this annual gathering of the synodical church. We have much to do as the regional church that is dedicated to the vitality and health of congregations throughout our beautiful territory. For those of you not attending the Synod Assembly, I ask for your prayers that we would be faithful, wise, courageous, and tenacious in our calling as the church of Jesus Christ. Many, many thanks to all who serve on the planning committee in Boise! Under the leadership of Mary Rickerd and Karla Olson this committee has planned rich days for us and we can expect to be inspired, encouraged, and informed for the life of ministry ahead.

Other important meetings have characterized the last few weeks. I'm just back from the spring meeting of the Conference of Bishops. It was a solid time of conversation over the plans for our church, readiness for the Churchwide Assembly in August, concern over the violence in our country expressed in a pastoral letter, and the melancholy reality of saying goodbye to 10 colleagues who leave the conference this summer. In all there will be 27 bishop elections this summer, four in our Region. We give thanks for the partnership of Chris Boerger in the Northwest Washington Synod and Rob Hofstad in the Southwestern Washington Synod, and look forward to meeting the new partner-Bishops who will be elected at their synod assemblies.

This last weekend was the semi-annual meeting of the Deans of our synod ministry clusters. We rely on these Deans to convene local congregations for mission and offer pastoral care for the leaders of the congregations. In addition, the Deans offer a sounding board for conversation about the health of ministry across our territory and assist me when pressing needs pop up and I'm not able to be physically present. As conversation continues about our Way Forward in ministry the Deans may be asked to take a more significant role in the future. Thank you to Barbara Condon, Dick Sansgaard and Tom Christensen, Gail Hart, Dean Stewart, Paul Anderson, Dave Olson and Bob Albing, Duane Anderson, Steve Gutzman, Mary Daniels, Dave Haven, Gary Rohde, and Joel and Margaret Ley for their leadership as Deans.

Finally, the third meeting of The Way Forward Task Force is just complete. This special task force has been asked to assist us with our organizational foci and forms of leadership as we address the reality of a shrinking budget for synodical ministry. Along with partners from our abutting synods, this group of leaders held solid conversation that resulted in a list of the bare-bones priorities for our synod ministry. All this, and the work from their fourth meeting, will be reviewed at the Synod Assembly. We're looking at this as a time of exciting opportunity to confirm the work of regional (synodical) ministry and arrange the leadership for this ministry in a way that honors your local stewardship. For those of you who won't hear the report of this group at Assembly, we'll dedicate space in the Cross Connection in May and June to bring you the results.

Christ is Risen! Risen Indeed!
Pr. Martin Wells, Bishop



Director of Evangelical Mission

The Elevator Speech

There aren't many tall buildings in our synod and so we don't spend much time in elevators. However when I was in Seattle accompanying PR Kimmy Meinecke in her Mission Developer training, I had to wait for an elevator to get down to the hotel lobby. There was a woman waiting with me and by the time we reached the lobby I knew about her divorce, son's career, and her plan for where she was to live. She in turn learned about the Lutheran church and Mission Development.

A few months ago Bishop Martin Wells encouraged us to have an elevator speech so as to be prepared for a conversation where we can share our faith or ministry in a simple and concise way. In our own words we can be ready to share with those who do not know about our church. Some of mine include:

Describe the Lutheran church: The Lutheran church began with Martin Luther in the 1517 based on the belief that people are able to be in an intimate relationship with God by faith in Jesus and this is a gift of grace. The church values Christian education, and an interpretation of the bible that takes into account historical and cultural context. We tend to have a traditional worship based on scripture; a liturgy passed on over centuries. We value connections to our past as well as connections with other faith traditions. ELCA Lutherans are bridge builders who value relationships and can respect differences. God's grace includes everyone. Lutherans enjoy music and fellowship; especially potlucks. Our theology of the cross means that we see Christ in places of suffering and human need, and when we live out our faith we do not expect it to be easy nor do we expect success as the world would see it. Particularly through the church-wide ELCA body we are involved in social justice issues.

What is the synod and what is its function. The Christian life is not lived in isolation. Churches also need support, resources and a connection with others. Our synod is one of 65 geographical areas in the ELCA (Eastern WA, Idaho and a little of Wyoming) within which are 93 ministries with around 27,000 members. We have synod staff, a synod council, 12 clusters each with a dean, synod wide ministries such as college campus ministry, 4 outdoor camp ministries, Lutheran Community Services and chaplains. We also have a companion synod; Tanzania. We stay connected through Synod Assemblies, cluster meetings and through the Synod office.

What I do as Director for Evangelical Mission: My role is to equip and resource congregations as they seek to reach out to the community and share their faith. I encourage churches to be clear about their identity, strengths, and purpose and to be intentional about their direction and goals. I engage people who are interested in working in synod wide ministries particularly in the area of stewardship, congregational renewal and Latino ministry. I am part of the synod staff, as well as churchwide staff.

Why go to church? The church is the place where a faith community gathers to worship and praise the God who created and loves us all. We hear the word of God, and receive God's direct presence through the sacraments, we pray together and for one another, grow in faith and share our sorrows and joys. We learn to love and serve others. The church can do more for the community than we can do alone.

What is Evangelism? It is when we have the courage to tell other people about the love of God and how being part of a faith community makes a difference in our lives, and we listen to their story too.

by *Pastor Helga Jansons*, Director for Evangelical Mission

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, and Firth, ID, Emanuel and Bethel	B	Stan Hoobing I
p	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul	NV	Betty Krafft SP
p	Ephrata and Quincy, WA – Holy Trinity/ St. Paul	B	Phyllis Stromme & Bill Voris I
p	Gifford, ID – Good Hope	A	Valerie Beesley TEEM
p	Kamiah, ID -- Faith Lutheran	A	Art Finney I
p	Kendrick, ID—Cameron Emanuel	B	Doug Nemitz I
p	Moses Lake, WA – Immanuel Lutheran	NV	Todd & Tyger Penson I
p	Pocatello, ID – Church of the Good Shepherd	NV	Barbara Harrison-Condon I
p	Spokane, WA—Bethlehem Lutheran	NV	Steve Wee I
p	Twin Falls, IID—Our Savior Lutheran	A	Dick Sansgaard
p	Wenatchee, WA—Grace Lutheran	A	Bob Chenault I
p	Wilbur, WA – Wilbur Lutheran	C	Tom Inch I
p	Yakima, WA – Tree of Life	C	I

Calls Accepted

Rev. Roger Hudson, UMC has accepted the call to serve at Wilbur Lutheran and Community Presbyterian Churches in Wilbur, WA.

Reverend Janice Meier has accepted the call to serve at Tree of Life in Yakima, WA.

Elizabeth Damico has accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor to Holden Village and Fullness of God.

Ordination

Elizabeth Damico will be ordained by Bishop Ann Svennungsen April 6, Grace University Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN.

Roster Change

Pastor Dave Olsen (Sandpoint) placed on disability.



*Information for Congregational Leaders*Pacific Lutheran University
*Conference on Pastoral Theology***June 17 - 19, 2013**

God is with us: Preaching, teaching, and living the Gospel of Matthew

Welcome to the 2013 PLU Summer Conference on Pastoral Theology. In December 2013, congregations and parishes will engage the Gospel of Matthew throughout the up-coming seasons. In preparation for a year centered in Matthew's distinctive and challenging portrait of Jesus and the Christian community, this summer conference welcomes preachers, directors of Christian education, musicians, adult education committee members, liturgical artists, and those who teach the Bible to an engaging series of presentations, small group work, and workshops set within the context of communal prayer and lively conversation.

For more information visit www.plu.edu/congregations

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians
2013 Biennial Conference

"God is Here: Worship in a Wireless World"

June 30 - July 3, 2013, Valparaiso, IN

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

Events and Sessions:

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

HELP WANTED: TRADE PROFESSIONALS

Holden Village, a Lutheran ministry in the remote wilderness of the Cascade Mountains, is seeking **skilled trade professionals** to help us complete some large scale capital improvement projects. Ideal candidates will be able to make a 6-month to 2-year commitment. Compensation /benefits dependent on qualifications.

Questions can be directed to: humanresourcesmanager@holdenvillage.org.
Please submit a resume and letter of interest to: staffing@holdenvillage.org.

Our Church in Action

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



Please remember in prayer . . .

The family of Betty Ledbetter (Spokane, WA) at the time of her death. A memorial service was held Feb. 13 at All Saints Lutheran. Betty was the spouse of Pastor Tom Ledbetter.
 Pastor Scott and Lori Kershner (Holden Village-Chelan, WA) at the death of their son Caris.
 Pastor Dave Olson (Sandpoint, ID)during temporary medical leave.
 Roger de Veer, husband of Pastor Marilyn de Veer (Horseshoe Bend, ID) as he continues with health issuers.
 Pastor Jerry Hickman (Pasco, WA), grace in growing older.
 Prayers of thanksgiving for Esther Schulz (Spokane), wife of Pastor Al Schulz.
 Prayers of thanksgiving for Gary and Kathy Gemar at the birth of their grandson Oscar born March 9.
 The family of Pastor Roy Johnson at the time of his death.
 Pastor Allen Ingebritsen (Spokane, WA) as he deals with health concerns.
 Pastor Bob Stone (Caldwell, ID) as he continues treatment for cancer.
 Katy Starenko, wife of Pastor Ron Starenko (Retired-Boise, ID) as she undergoes treatment for multiple myeloma.
 Congregations and rostered leaders in call process.
 Northwest Washington Synod, Southwestern Washington Synod, Oregon Synod and Montana Synod as they prepare for Bishop elections late this Spring.

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

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

2012	February	\$47,809.87	Year to Date	\$47,809.87
2013	February	\$62,983.85	Year to Date	\$62,983.85

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Wartburg Theological Seminary

LUTHERAN SEMINARY PROGRAM IN THE SOUTHWEST

SUMMER PROGRAM

SPANISH LANGUAGE AND HISPANIC MINISTRY INTENSIVE

WHEN? Beginning Sunday evening (May 26, 2013) at 6:00 pm and ending on Friday noon, May 31, 2013.
 LSPS P. O. Box 4790, Austin, TX 78765 | (512) 477-2666 | Fax: (512) 477-6693 | www.lspss.edu |
lspss@lspss.edu

Information for Congregational Leaders

Open and Free to the Public

Last July, 30,000 Lutheran youth heard Shane Claiborne speak at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Over Beignets and coffee, I asked our youth what their opinion was of his talk. One young man said, “He actually made me think.”

High praise from a high schooler when talking about their faith! When we got the opportunity to host Shane Claiborne for a workshop and speaking engagement here in Yakima, Central Lutheran jumped at the opportunity. Thanks to the generous support of our congregation’s Endowment Fund, it was possible to invite Shane to speak here on May 18th and 19th this spring.

Shane Claiborne travels, writes, and speaks extensively on peacemaking, justice and Jesus. I have now read two of his books: *Irresistible Revolution* and *Jesus for President*. They are beautiful books about not only thinking about Christianity, but also doing Christianity. One of the major critiques that he offers is that Christianity has too often offered little to this world, other than a hope that things will be better some day when we die and go to heaven.

The theme for his visit is “Resurrecting Community”. It is easy to see where we have grown distant from one another. We hear terrible things in our community like poverty, addiction, gang violence, domestic violence and more...but where is the church? How is the body of Christ moving amongst the brokenness of Yakima? Shane reflects, “I came to realize that preachers were telling me to lay my life at the foot of the cross and weren’t giving me anything to pick up.” Have we created a religion and a faith that focuses too strongly on the “don’ts” and neglects talking about what we are called to do?

On Saturday, May 18th, there will be a workshop, free and open to the community about this idea of creating, resurrecting, and sustaining community. This will be in the early afternoon and the cost is free, and will be primarily targeted at pastors and lay leadership in the church, but all are welcome to attend. Saturday evening at 7:00 pm, there will be a prayer service led by staff and musicians from Holden Village where we will create space to listen to in what direction God is calling the faith community of Yakima to go. On Sunday, May 19th, Shane will speak at Central Lutheran at 7:00 pm, followed by questions and answer session, and a reception.

Peace,

Jim Engel

Stirring the Waters: Reclaiming the Missional, Subversive Nature of Baptism

June 27 - 29, 2013

Techny Towers-Divine Word Seminary/Chicago IL

This year, the North American Association for the Catechumenate (NAAC) will hold its Annual Gathering concurrently with the Associated Parishes for Liturgy and Mission (APLM) in Chicago, IL. APLM is an organization that, among other goals, “champions the centrality of baptism as the foundation for Christian ministry and has worked for the restoration of the Catechumenate within the life of the Church.”

The 2013 Annual Gathering features keynote speakers Ben Stewart and Ruth Meyers, and practical workshops and inspiring worship. NAAC and APLM will share program and worship, with time for the NAAC membership to fellowship and hold its membership meeting. Visit their website for more information and online registration.

For more information about APLM, visit their website.

Educational Opportunities

For those who would like to be a MI and those already are trained

MISSION INTERPRETER TRAINING and FOLLOW-UP

Saturday, April 6th 5:30-7PM

Our Savior Lutheran

1115 13th St. Clarkston, WA 99403

Donna Kary, Mission Interpreter for Lord of Life, Kennewick will share many creative ways to be a Mission Interpreter

Mission interpretation is telling the story of what God is doing through our giving. People telling real stories of ministry is the most effective way to bring ministry to life and to dramatize the importance of our work together in the world. Mission interpreters are the bridge between the work of the church and the people who fund the work. It is about telling, listening, and thanking.

Contact Ken Jones for details Ken@cpcinternet.com

An Invitation

For congregations yearning to live the mission of Jesus.

Sample the Adult Catechumenate led by the team from

Lake Chelan Lutheran Church, where this ancient faith formation
has been practiced for 12 years.

This discipleship process is an authentic way to share faith with those
who are exploring their faith and are new to the life of the church,
as well as those who want to their faith renewed.

Come and See! As many as can come from your congregation!

Saturday, April 13 10:00am-2:30pm

Lutheran Church of the Master

4820 W Court Street, Pasco, WA 99301

Register by April 5th, 2013 by contacting Pr. Karen Bates-Olson at prkaren@charter.net.

Cost is \$10.00 which covers materials, presenters' travel and lunch.

**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**



of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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April 2013 Newsletter

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

Synod Calendar

April

- 5-6 Way Forward meeting
- 6 Mission Interpreter Training - Clarkston
- 14 South Central Cluster gathering
- 18 Executive Committee/Synod Council
- 19-21 Synod Assembly - Boise, ID
- 27 Big Bend Cluster gathering

May

- 11 EWU LCM Auction
- 19 Shane Claiborne at Central, Yakima

June

- 21-22 Synod Candidacy meeting



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

God's work. Our Hands

Staff

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