

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

May 2013

God's beloved People,

I've just had a wonderful visit with a wise pastor from our synod, Pr. Bill Voris. Bill was for many years a hospital chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor at Good Samaritan Hospital, Puyallup, WA. He knows pastors through and through! He finished his active career as the Chaplain at one of the WA State Hospitals on the wet side of the state. Retired in our synod, Bill is just completing an excellent interim ministry with our great congregation, St Paul, Quincy, WA.

The reason I bring Bill to mind is to celebrate his service among us. He is one of so many fine interim pastors who serve faithfully in our synod! And I want to share with you a new saying he's given me. It's going to be my new favorite thing to say, so get ready to hear it often: "We'll go as fast as we possibly can and we'll go as slowly as we need to."

"We'll go as fast as we possibly can and we'll go as slowly as we need to."

I don't know about you, but that's the line I need for our hectic and anxious day! It summarizes the good will and attention we need from one another ("We'll go as fast as we possibly can...[to address your concerns, etc.]") and it confirms that some things take time, and that time shouldn't, can't and won't be rushed; "We'll go as slowly as we need to."

There are some things that take time, aren't there? Like a pregnancy; a mature engagement period; the leavening of bread. Prayers take time because one of the important functions is to change us into trustworthy pray-ers rather than beat down the gates of heaven. It's often more important to take a deep breath and to see how God has provided the answer than it is to assault God with anxious demands.

We're taking time right now as a synod to define how we will do ministry for the future. ("The Way Forward") It's a matter of deciding what's most important, the assets we bring to the tasks, and the results we want to accomplish. In a rapidly changing day these reflection cycles seem to come more often and our temptation is to be reactive rather than thoughtful. But "We'll go as fast as we possibly can and we'll go as slowly as we need to."

One of the reasons for publicizing this work is to give you a model for doing your own ministry assessment in your local context. In all we trust that God is at work through the Holy Spirit to bring us wisdom, cooperative discernment, and trust in Him. For we know that God, too, is at work to "gather up all things." "In Christ we have this inheritance." (Ephesians 1:10-11).

God bless and keep you,

Pastor Martin Wells, Bishop



Director of Evangelical Mission

Would you like to know what your congregation thinks about stewardship?

Let's face it; stewardship is not a subject that people talk about very often. Few people will discuss it of their own volition. When did you last hear words such as these:

"I am struggling to become a more generous person. Would you pray for me?"

"Pastor, I would like to talk to you about my stewardship practices."

Given our reluctance to talk openly about stewardship it can be difficult to know how people feel about the various aspects of this important faith practice. We may not even know what we think ourselves, since rarely does anyone ask us a question about it directly. So here is a way to take the stewardship pulse of the congregation you are part of: by asking members to answer these questions and rank them from strongly agree to disagree.

1. I believe everything I have comes from God
2. I believe everything I have belongs to God
3. I have made a personal commitment to give of my time, talents and treasures
4. I am a generous person
5. I understand the mission and priorities of my congregation
6. I believe my congregation is fulfilling its vision and mission
7. I understand where the offerings in my congregation go
8. I can connect the mission of my congregation with the mission of the ELCA
9. I believe growing toward a tithe (giving 10 percent of income) is a basic faith practice
10. I am striving toward tithing or beyond
11. I give freely of what God has first given to me
12. My gratitude for God's blessings in my life continues to grow
13. I believe my sharing of God's blessings is a privilege
14. I regularly experience "abundant joy" in my role as a steward of God's blessings
15. I am comfortable talking with others about my financial giving
16. I am comfortable talking with others about their financial giving
17. I see a spirit of gratitude and generosity in my congregation
18. I am comfortable telling others about my congregation's mission
19. I understand my giving is part of my response to God's call for mission
20. I support my congregation's efforts to grow Mission Support to the synod

Aren't these things you would like to know from your congregation? These questions are taken from a free congregational survey that parishioners can take anonymously online. ELCA staff collates the surveys and send the results back to the church leadership. Ideally this survey is taken before stewardship education – like Ventures for Growing Stewards – and then a second time some time later to be able to tell the impact of the education.

If your church is interested you will want to choose a Congregation Survey Coordinator and ask that person to contact me as the Synod Survey Coordinator. You would want as many households to sign up as possible (around 30). It is all done online – and if someone can only do a hard copy that is fine, just have the Congregational Coordinator enter the information online.

To sign up/for more information email helga.jansons@elca.org ph: 509-380-7122

P.S. Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Moscow, Idaho has invited Mark Allen Powell to come to do a stewardship workshop on September 7th and we are all invited. Members of your church may want to take the survey before, and then again sometime after the workshop and see if it makes a difference.

Also a fabulous stewardship resource is www.elca.org/macedonia open all the pink tabs to the left.

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	Phylis Stromme & Bill Voris	I
p	Gifford, ID – Good Hope	A	Valerie Beesley	TEEM
p	Kamiah, ID -- Faith Lutheran	A	Art Finney	I
p	Kendrick, ID—Cameron Emanuel	B	Doug Nemitz	I
p	Moses Lake, WA – Immanuel Lutheran	NV	Todd & Tyger Penson	I
p	Pocatello, ID – Church of the Good Shepherd	NV	Barbara Harrison-Condon	I
p	Spokane, WA—Bethlehem Lutheran	NV	Steve Wee	SP
p	Twin Falls, ID—Our Savior Lutheran	B	Dick Sansgaard	
p	Wenatchee, WA—Grace Lutheran	B	Bob Chenuault	I
p	Wilbur, WA – Wilbur Lutheran	C	Tom Inch	I
p	Yakima, WA – Tree of Life	C		

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.lsps.edu |
lsps@lsps.edu

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

2012	March	\$58,419.41	Year to Date	\$106,229.00
2013	March	\$49,965.09	Year to Date	\$112,942.54

Did you know?

Mission Support funds Consultation to Clergy, Faith Action Ministries, Holden Village, Luther Heights, Luther Seminary, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Lutherhaven Ministries, Lutheran Community Services, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Pacific Lutheran University.

Information for Congregational Leaders

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

2013 Biennial Conference

"God is Here: Worship in a Wireless World"

June 30 - July 3, 2013, Valparaiso, IN

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

Events and Sessions:

- Plenary sessions with speakers: Elizabeth Drescher, Craig Mueller and Benjamin Stewart
- Hymn festival, with commentary by Susan Cherwien and choral leadership by David Cherwien & 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



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

Did you know?

The 1521 Edict of Worms pronounced Martin Luther a heretic, and eventually burned at the stake, some Luther followers who refused to recant their following of the leader of the Reformation.

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 . . .



Pastor Scott and Lori Kershner (Holden Village-Chelan, WA) for continued healing on the death of their son Caris.
Pastor Jerry Hickman (Pasco, WA), grace in growing older.

Rev. Dave Ellingson (Everett, WA) at the death of his mother.

Pastor Bill Voris (Quincy) for continued healing.

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 continues treatment for multiple myeloma.

Congregations and rostered leaders in call process.

Those involved in our Synod Assembly.

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@ewaisynod.org, or call 509-838-9871.

Resurrecting Community

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*

Free and Open to the Public

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



THIS YEAR'S RETHINKING EVANGELISM: FAITHFUL WITNESS IN A NEW APOSTOLIC ERA

St. Paul, Minn. – Rethinking Evangelism will focus on reclaiming evangelism as a central practice for Christians today. It will be held July 22-24, and registration is open.

"Many church members today recognize that evangelism is vitally necessary for the church to have a future amidst widespread decline. At the same time, few prospects provoke greater dread and discomfort. This conference offers an opportunity to reframe evangelism in a grounded, holistic, accessible way for a new apostolic age," said Dwight Zscheile, assistant professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary, and a keynote presenter.

The event will be hosted by Luther Seminary and sponsored by the Center for Missional Leadership.

This event gathers nationally known preachers, teachers and pastors to explore what it means to witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in an increasingly diverse and pluralistic society. "Congregations treasure their stories of Jesus. Led by the Spirit, they are venturing into their neighborhoods with this good news," said Mary Sue Dreier, associate professor of congregational mission and leadership at Luther Seminary and a keynote presenter.

Rolf Jacobson, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, will serve as the moderator. Inspiring keynote presentations will be given by:

- Mesfin Ayele, Ph.D. Student, Luther Seminary
- Nadia Bolz-Weber, Pastor, House for All sinners and Saints, Denver
- Ruben Duran, Director of New Congregations, ELCA
- Mike Housholder, Senior Pastor, Lutheran Church of Hope, West Des Moines, Iowa
- Stephanie Spellers, Treasurer and Canon for Missional Vitality, Diocese of Long Island, N.Y.
- Bryan Stone, E. Stanley Jones Professor of Evangelism at Boston University School of Theology
- Walter Sundberg, Professor of Church History, Luther Seminary
- Jannie Swart, Pastor, Second Presbyterian Church, Oil City, Penn.

For more information, visit www.luthersem.edu/rethinking.

Luther Seminary educates leaders for Christian communities called and sent by the Holy Spirit to witness to salvation through Jesus Christ and to serve in God's world.

For more information contact:

Kelsey Holm • (651) 641-3353 • kholm001@luthersem.edu

Sally Peters • (651) 641-3399 • speters@luthersem.edu

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.

*You are cordially invited to attend
 Lutheran Campus Ministry
 at Eastern Washington University's
10th Annual Spring Fling
 Come and Enjoy your Favorites
 with a Pasta Bar complete with Wine and Beer
 May 11, 2013 at five o'clock in the evening
 for silent, live and dessert auctions*

*All Saints Lutheran Church
 314 South Spruce
 Spokane Washington*

*Do you have
 items to donate?*

*Do you want
 to buy tickets?*

Do you have questions?

Please contact
Shelley Bryan Wee
 909.951.5791
pastor@lcmewu.com
www.lcmewu.com

Cash
 Credit Cards
 Checks accepted

Check out our online auction at www.biddingforgood.com/LCM-EWU
 online bidding open April 16 - May 10

Living with Mysticism in an Emotionally Committed Relationship A Request for Research Participants

Rev. Ward A. Robak, M.Div., BCC, a clinical psychology doctoral candidate in Spokane is currently seeking couples that meet the following requirements, to interview for a research project:

- Couples who are currently or have been in an emotionally committed relationship for at least 3 years, including couples who are separated or divorced.
- During the relationship at least one partner has:
- Engaged in a transformative practice (e.g., meditation, prayer, self-reflection, inspirational reading and/or writing, listening to or participating in music, worship, fasting).
- Experienced self-transcendence (e.g., felt lifted out of fear, suffering, limitations).
- Been immediately aware of or felt the presence of ultimate truth (e.g., deep silence, unity, emptiness, love, openness, peace, God)

The research is designed to increase understanding of marital relationships that live with mysticism and provide resources and insights that will be of value to couples and clinicians. If you and your partner (current or past) are interested in participating in a joint interview to talk about your relationship while living with mysticism please contact Ward at (509)220-4398, or by email, DepthTherapy@comcast.net

All correspondence will be confidential.
 Pastor Robak is a pastor of our synod on leave for graduate study.

Shane Claiborne: Ordinary Radical Resurrecting Community



Worship is more
than just what
happens on
Sunday morning.
It is learning how
to live.
- Shane Claiborne

**FREE
and
OPEN
to the
Public!**

Shane serves in inner city Philadelphia and international war zones seeking creative, non-violent ways to show God's love for all people. Shane speaks about peacemaking, justice, and Jesus around the world, and has written numerous books: *The Irresistible Revolution*, *Jesus for President*, *Red Letter Revolution*, and more. These titles and others can be found at your local bookstore, Inklings.

May 18 • Community Workshop, 1-3:30pm

May 18 • Prayer Service, 7pm

May 19 • Inspirational Talk, 7pm

CENTRAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Corner of 16th and Yakima Avenues

575.6490 - www.clcyakima.org

8 Lakes Leg Aches



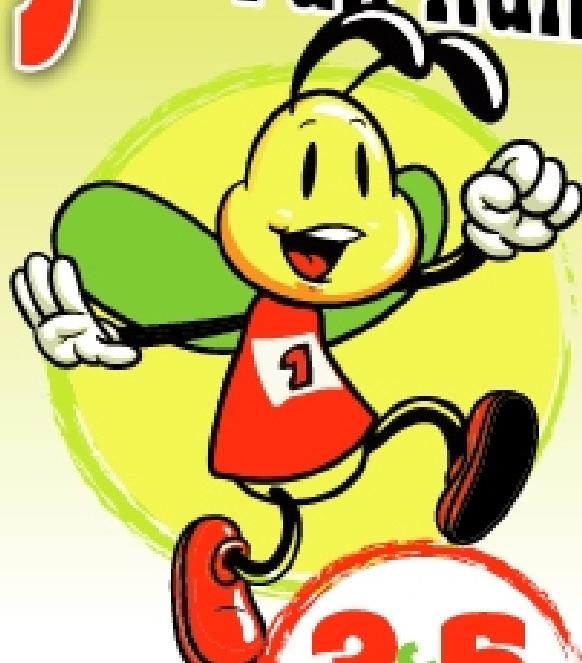
A Scenic Ride with a Touch of the Burn!

Saturday, August 3rd, 2013

Spokane, WA

*Go! See!
And Do!*

June Bug Fun Run



3 & 5

MILE
OPTIONS

Saturday
June 8, 2013
8:30 AM

*... with
Lutheran
Community
Services
Northwest*

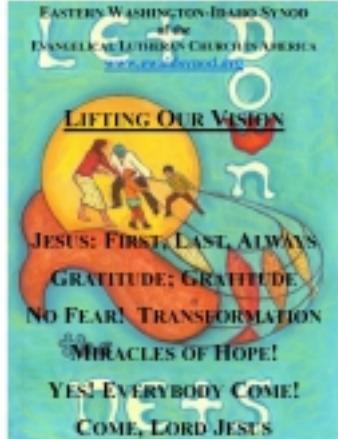
**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**



of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
314 S. Spruce St., Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201-5823

May 2013 Newsletter

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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.ewaisynod.org.

Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.

God's Work. Our Hands.

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 Spring Fling EWU LCM Auction
- 18-19 Shane Claiborne at Central, Yakima
Resurrecting Community

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