



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

God's work. Our hands.

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# A Report from the Synod

## *January 2010*

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### *A message from Bishop Wells*

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,*

Welcome to your annual meeting, the place where you make your big decisions about ministry! It has been some kind of year, hasn't it! And the next year is anything but clear. How shall we set ministry goals in such a tempest? How shall we try to chase down the ways our members make decisions about their time and talents and treasure? How shall we anticipate who will lose a job or need to move? How can we account for the deep sadness and real joy caused by the Churchwide decisions on Human Sexuality? "Lord, to whom shall we go?"

Against this moving gauntlet of the world's realities, God offers us a place to stand. We stand because Jesus has renewed our upright posture with God. We stand only because Jesus intervenes for us by the power of the Holy Spirit. Having been brought back to life when we were dead in sin, Jesus now urges us to follow "the Way, the Truth, and the Life" that is his gift.

This call is to entrust everything to Jesus and join the adventure of faith. What is it worth to know where our treasure is located? It is simply worth everything and we represent this by a tithe (10%) of our income for the work of the Church. The Church is, every Sunday, the regathering of the Body of Christ for worship and service. In this service we find our destiny as the people Jesus has designated as his Body. So let the adventure begin and may God's richest blessings be yours in the New Year!

*Bishop Martin Wells*

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## Guiding Principles

JESUS: First, Last, Always  
GRATITUDE; gratitude  
No Fear! TRANSFORMATION  
Miracles of HOPE!  
YES! Everybody Come!  
Come, Lord JESUS

