



Eastern Washington Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Rev. Martin Wells, Bishop
Rev. Helga Jansons, Director for Evangelical Mission

July 31, 2015

Dear Congregational presidents, treasurers, and 2015 Synod Assembly Voting Members,

Grace and peace to you in these hot, dry, and less-scheduled days of summer!

We're at the end of the second quarter of the Synod budget year and so I want to fill you in about progress toward our budget and the life of the church in these summer days.

After two weeks, I'm still wearing my pink wristband from the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit! I'll wear it for a month just to prompt conversation about the event. You would be deeply impressed to have seen our kids at work and play as the church! In a completely safe environment we offered Detroit three days of 10,000 kids per day working in Detroit neighborhoods to give them hope. It was a terrific display of generosity, the promises of God made on Detroit residents, and the resolve of our kids to make a difference in the world! Our synod congregations sent 200+ kids and chaperones and we had a fine "synod day" of music, teaching, prayer, and laughter. Here is the present joy and future hope of our church! Today I give thanks for all the national staff time that went into planning for this singular event.

In the last week we've taken five synod members to the joint meeting of the Association of Church Musicians and the ELCA Worship Jubilee. This too was an impressive event, planned and coordinated by ELCA Churchwide staff working from our mission support. Here we practiced different worship forms and music, learned about the planning for the 500th Commemoration of the Reformation in 2017, and studied the unique contribution of Lutheran scholars, hymn-writers, composers, and choirmasters. Our synod worship will be invigorated because of this event!

All this is to say that our church in Eastern Washington, Idaho, and Wyoming is alive with vibrant youth and at work to serve the world in Jesus name. We're also part of a regional, national, and international ministry that exists because of the generosity of congregations offering "mission support," that portion of your offering that is sent monthly to the synod to extend the ministry of Jesus. For reasons that aren't clear our synod mission support is seriously behind as we begin the second half of the year. Will you check to see if you are up-to-date with your giving plan and let us know if we can be of assistance? We're confident you mean to be generous and fulfill the Synod Assembly approved budget for 2015.

Blessings in ministry!
Bishop Martin Wells