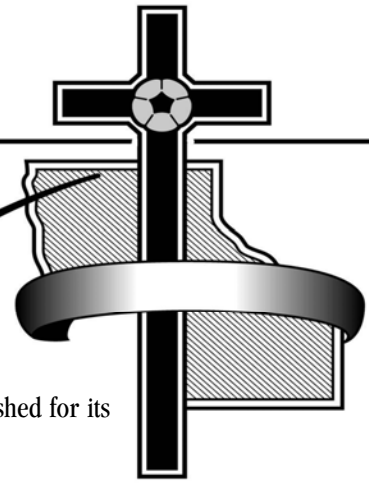


CROSS

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 friends.

FROM THE BISHOP

APRIL 2009

God's beloved people,

I'm just back from the spring Conference of Bishops meeting and will have the privilege of attending the ELCA Church Council meeting about the time you receive this edition of the Cross Connection. I feel blessed to have this opportunity to see into the length and breadth of the ELCA through these two representative bodies at this important time in the life of our church.

Why such an important time?

- Because we're just about to celebrate the heart of the faith during Holy Week...
- Because the heart of the heart of faith is a Risen Lord Jesus calling us into the future...
- Because we're in the midst of testing our resiliency as the financial stresses batter our country and congregations and families...
- Because as a synod we're pressing into the challenges of growth in ministry through the dream of new housing ministry in Meridian, ID...
- Because the United Methodist Church is encouraging us to declare Full Communion this summer...
- Because (What's the biggest stressor in YOUR life or congregation these days?)...
- And yes, you were waiting for it I'm sure, because the ELCA has taken on Human Sexuality and we're all eager to know what this means...

So does it all devolve to sex? Don't let it. Don't let it! These are penultimate matters in the context of the adventure of faith! The issues don't approach the grandeur and security of God's promise of faithfulness in this new, resurrected Life. Since Jesus has gone before us it is all promise, ALL promise!

For me it all comes down to God's faithfulness to God's promises, none more important than the promise that our churchly or personal failure will not be the end of hope. It is God's promises and God's trustworthiness that form the beginning of our conversation about human sexuality. Our invitation is to model for our neighbor that same willingness to make promises and that same trustworthiness. This is our mission and calling.

So how's it going to go for us? If the Conference of Bishops meeting is any gauge we will do well. I believe that we are a stronger church because of this conversation. By next week we will know the shape of the proposals that will come to the Churchwide Assembly this summer and then we'll have a chance to review those proposals and offer memorials (resolutions to Churchwide Assembly) at our Synod Assembly in May. I hope you'll dig in to these issues with me, but always in the context of God's promise of faithfulness to us. First things first!

Pr Martin Wells

Bishop

mshmmwells@aol.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---|
| Call Process Update | 2 |
| Calendar | 8 |
| Church Staff Openings | 4 |
| Educational Opportunity | 6 |
| LPPO Advocacy Update | 7 |
| Prayers | 4 |
| Pre-Assembly Cluster Gatherings Schedule | 3 |
| Synod Assembly News | 3 |
| YELS | 5 |

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 | TM Transition Minister |
| TC Term Call | SP Supply Pastor | (available for the open-ended call) |

| POS | LOCATION/CONGREGATION | STATUS | PASTORAL CARE |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| P | Cheney, WA - Emmanuel | NV | Paul D. Anderson I |
| P | Colfax-Endicott, WA - Peace/Trinity | A | Phylis Stromme I |
| P | Davenport-Egypt, WA - Zion/Christ | C | Roger Bruggink I |
| P | Jackson, WY - Shepherd of the Mountains | A | Barbara Harrison Condon I |
| P | Kamiah-Orofino, ID - Faith/Ascension | NV | |
| P | Kennewick, WA - First | B | Keith Hammer I |
| P | Mountain Home, ID - Grace | A | Scott Berner I |
| P | Nampa, ID - Trinity | NV | |
| P | Othello, WA - Pilgrim | C | Teresia Calene-Hasseries I |
| P | Spokane, WA - Prince of Peace | A | David Ophus I |
| P | Sunnyside, WA - Our Saviour's | A | Ron Shipman I |
| P | Twin Falls, ID - Our Savior's | A | Stan Hoobing I |
| AP | Yakima, WA - Central | A | Mike Scheid LP |

RESIGNATIONS

Chaplain Robin Pizanti retired from active duty as an Army chaplain February 1, 2009. He and his family are living in Union, WA and he is available for call in the Southwestern Washington Synod.

CALLS ACCEPTED

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee, on leave from call - family, has accepted the position of campus minister at Eastern Washington University in Cheney, WA. Rev. Wee was called by the Synod at the February Synod Council meeting. She began serving at EWU in the Emmanuel Lutheran Campus Ministry office January 1, 2009, and will be installed at the Synod Assembly in May.

The Rev. Bart Coleman, on leave from call, has accepted a call from Zion Lutheran in Beausejour, Manitoba. A moving date to Canada and a starting date at Zion are not set at this time.

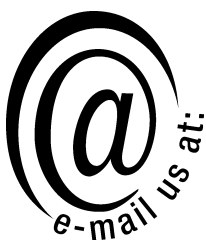
INSTALLATIONS

The Rev. Ann Frerks was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene, ID on Sunday, March 15 at 2:00 pm.

INFORMATION FROM THE SYNOD OFFICE

In July 2007 the Synod Office was assigned a new ZIP Code 99201-5823.

The Post Office allows a 1 1/2 - 2 year grace period before they start returning mail and that grace period has now ended. Please check and make sure you are using the correct Zip Code for the Synod Office on all correspondence. **Thank you!**



E-mail address info ~

A quick reminder that the correct e-mail address for the Synod Office is **office@ewaidsynod.org**. We have been using this account since 2007 when the Synod's Web site was redesigned. **The AOL account (ewaidsynod@aol.com) has been cancelled.** Having two open accounts can be a bit confusing as well as expensive. We are always on the look out for ways to save money and it seemed appropriate to cancel the account that had a monthly fee attached to it and keep the account that is free through the Web site.

Thanks for making the switch!

2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

May 1-3

Yakima Convention Center

Guest Speaker:

Diana Butler Bass

Churchwide Representative:

Pastor Marcus Kunz

Offering:

Coyote Ridge Religious
Activities Center



Experience the abundance of our synod in worship, workshops, speakers, business, discussion, fellowship, ministry partners displays, hearings and more!

PRE-ASSEMBLY CLUSTER GATHERINGS . . .

The following is a list of dates and locations for Pre-Assembly Cluster Gatherings around the Synod. Please let the Synod Office know if you have a gathering scheduled that is not listed. An up-to-date list will be available on the Synod Web site. ***These Pre-Assembly Cluster Gatherings are open and if you have a calendar conflict for your cluster's event, plan to attend a neighboring cluster gathering.***

A - Upper Snake River Valley -

B - Treasure Valley -

C - Tscemicum -

D - Palouse - Saturday, April 18 - 10:00 am - Emmanuel Lutheran, 1036 West A Street, Moscow, ID - 208/882-7067

E - North Idaho - Sunday, April 19 - 3:00 pm - Lutheran Church of the Master, 4800 Ramsey Rd., Coeur d'Alene, ID - 208/765-1002

F - South Central Washington -

G - Lower Columbia Basin - Sunday, April 26 - 3:00 pm - First Lutheran, 418 N. Yelm, Kennewick, WA - 509/783-6108

H - North Central Washington -

I - Big Bend - Sunday, April 19 - 3:00 pm - Christ Lutheran, 602 E. Amende Dr., Odessa, WA - 509/982-2411

J - Mt. Spokane - Sunday, April 19 - 2:30 pm - St. Luke Lutheran, 9704 N. Division, Spokane, WA - 509/467-5256

K - Spokane Valley - Sunday, April 19 - 5:00 pm - Holy Trinity Lutheran, 2511 S. Pines, Spokane Valley, WA - 509/926-7966

L - Spokane Westward - Sunday, March 29 - 1:00 pm - Salem Lutheran, 1428 W. Broadway, Spokane, WA - 509/328-6280

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

APRIL 2009

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

Please Remember in Prayer ...

...Pr. Rick Evenson (Medical Lake, WA) and family as he continues his treatment and recovery for multiple myeloma.

...Ms. Connie Myers, wife of Pr. Steve Myers (Spokane, WA) as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

...Congratulations to Pr. Elizabeth Larsen (Troy/Zion - Troy/Deary, ID) & Jonathan Cheskin and family at the birth of their son, Edward Samuel Larsen, born February 13th.

...Sandra Mays (Everett, WA) and family as they mourn the death of her husband The Rev. Charlie Mays. Charlie died at his home from cancer on March 5th. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, March 21st at 3:00 pm at University Lutheran, 1604 NE 50th St., Seattle.

...Pr. Duane & Marilyn Ulleland (Retired - Spokane Valley, WA) as Marilyn has been diagnosed with ovarian cancer.



PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

If you or someone in your family wants to be included in the Synod Prayer Requests, please email your request for inclusion in the *Cross Connection* (please list specifics if you want them included) to the synod office by e-mail office@ewaidsynod.org or call **509/838-9871**. We want to protect the privacy of members of our synod and will not publish a request without the permission of the individual to be included on the prayer list.

CHURCH STAFF OPENINGS

Announcement:

Grace Lutheran Church (Wenatchee, WA) is soliciting applications for a full-time Minister of Music, to begin work in summer 2009. If you would like to apply, please send a letter of interest, a resume, and names of three references (with contact information) to Grace Lutheran Church, Attn: Minister of Music Search, 1408 Washington Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801. To assure full consideration, completed applications should be received by March 28, 2009. Questions may be directed to Alice Schmidtman (alices926@gmail.com), Dave Peterson (davidpeterson83@yahoo.com), and/or Deb Lapo (deblapo@charter.net).

Description:

The Minister of Music directs a church-wide music program that enriches worship and encourages participation by musicians of all ages and skill levels.

Qualificaions:

We seek a person of faith who is called and committed to the mission of the Christian church, values Lutheran liturgical heritage, and enjoys working with people of all ages and musical abilities.

To request a complete position description, contact Grace Lutheran Church 509-663-2189 or E-mail glc@nwi.net.



AN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND YOUR OUTREACH

Coming Soon!

An Opportunity to Expand Your Outreach to Those Without a Christian Church Home

In December 2005, Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church established as its legacy to the community the **Tri-Cities Area Mission Endowment**, which now totals approximately \$186,500. A formal process for requesting, awarding, and reviewing endowment projects will soon be released for your action. Proposed projects should be for the purpose of encouraging new mission activities that expands the Lutheran presence in the Tri-Cities area. The focus of such new activity is to be people who are not currently members of a Christian church. ELCA congregations in the Tri-Cities area (Kennewick, Pasco, Richland) or Tri-Cities organizations affiliated with those ELCA congregations are encouraged to apply. Release of a formal Call for Proposals is anticipated on April 1, 2009. The deadline for proposals will be 4 months after the date of release of the Call. Announcement of the Call will be made through the Synod's *Cross Connection* newsletter, Synod and cluster Web sites, and email to Tri-Cities ELCA congregations.

Stay tuned! Think expansive outreach! Be ready!

LWR IN-GATHERING

The Spring LWR In-Gathering for Spokane is scheduled for Friday, May 1 (9:00 am - 3:00 pm) & Saturday, May 2 (9:00 am - Noon)

Look for signs at **Trent & Fancher** in Spokane.



God's Plans - Our Hands

Walla Walla's Christ Lutheran Church has had a quilt sewing group since 1967. Last year their group made 400 school kits, 280 health kits and 212 tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

What brings you every Tuesday morning to CLC? Here are some of their thoughts:

"I get up earlier and eat a smaller breakfast." "What shall I bring to share at coffee time at 10:00?" "I connect with older members, and am a link in the chain that started here years ago." "Bonding with members, and sharing our life stories." "Hearing the laughter from all parts of the room." "I think of the faces of the children that open the school kits and health kits that are donated by members and friends." "Our supplies are gathered from all over the state, by past members and families, who want to be part of this mission."

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) is a non-governmental organization (NGO) founded in 1945 to respond to the devastation of World War II. It has evolved from a relief agency shipping material resources, such as the famous quilts, to war-torn Europe, to an agency that works with partners worldwide to respond to emergencies, seeks lasting solutions to rural poverty, and works for peace and justice for all <http://www.lwr.org>.

YELS ~ YOUTH EMPOWERED FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

YELS Event

June 28 - July 1, 2009 @ Shoshone Base Camp

The youth of the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod will be having their annual service and leadership event, YELS (Youth Empowered for Leadership and Service), June 28-July 1, 2009. It will be held at Shoshone Base Camp. At the event, youth will perform service projects, make new friends, and learn more about leadership, service, God, and themselves. There will be guest speakers and fun activities. The cost will be \$165.00 for each youth or adult. Four youth and one adult from each congregation are invited to attend!

If you have any questions or want to register your group for the event, please contact either Hailey Rile, LYO President, at ewolleyball09@comcast.net, or Tom Rounds at tomar_216@msn.com. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2009. We hope to see you there!

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY

“THE SHACK” -- A CHANCE FOR SOME POST-EASTER/SUMMER BOOK DISCUSSION

Not since the DaVinci Code have I had people come and ask about a book. But The Shack has been that kind of a book. I picked it up just because I heard of the ‘buzz’ about it...and because I had three people I know who don’t go to church read it and say “I wish the church I go to was like this...I’d go more often!”

Maybe in the summer when things slow down (we can hope, can’t we) you might want to read the book, and gather others in your circle of friends and members of your church for a discussion of the Shack. When I wanted to discuss in January, there was really no template discussion guide available. Now there are many. So, I offer to anyone who is interested a copy of what we have done in the 13 sessions we have had on the book.

What we have tried to do is not so much discuss the book as use it’s story as a way to talk about our faith, to do some study also in grief, the Trinity, the atonement, the way of discipleship, confession, what sin is (independence), and a host of other subjects. We have found this to be an exciting way to invite others, who may have no knowledge of scripture to come and participate in a ‘significant small group’. Some have even found their way to worship for the first time in years. And many have said: “We have found this so hopeful as a way of thinking about our faith and a way of being church.”

If interested, drop me an email at emanuellutheran@centurytel.net and we’ll be glad to send you a hard copy. Use as you wish, or not at all. We ask only a few dollars sent to cover postage, as it comes as a booklet. No electronic copy is yet available—sorry! Enjoy...it’s a good chance to enjoy a conversation about our faith—and our God.

~ Pr. Bob Kenyon

CONGREGATION OBSERVERS AT THE 2009 CHURCHWIDE ASSEMBLY

Have you ever wondered what goes on during a Churchwide Assembly? Did you know that every congregation of our synod has the opportunity to send one congregation observer to the Churchwide Assembly?

The 2009 Churchwide Assembly will be held August 17-23, 2009 at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The theme is: **God’s Work,. Our Hands.**

Each congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is invited to register with the secretary of this church one congregation observer for the Churchwide Assembly prior to May 31, 2009. Such individuals have reserved seating in the observers section of the plenary hall and receive a copy of the report of recommendations for assembly action and materials distributed on the plenary floor to voting members, advisory members, and non-voting members during the assembly. Observers have neither voice nor vote in plenary sessions of the assembly. A registration fee of \$150 has been established by the secretary of this church for administrative costs and materials. Observers may purchase the same meals as are provided for voting members. Transportation costs, housing, and related expenses shall be the responsibility of the registered observer or sending congregation.

Online registration for the 2009 Churchwide Assembly will open mid-April.

Voting members, non-voting members and visitors will be able to register on the ELCA Web site:

<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/ELCA-Governance/Churchwide-Assembly.aspx>



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

WASHINGTON STATE ADVOCATE NEWS

STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By the time you receive this the legislature will have about four weeks left. They will be passing a few more bills, see our Web site (www.lppowa.org) for our weekly legislative alerts for specifics. The main work that will be left will be the budget. Our state will have an almost 9 billion dollar revenue shortfall. Our message from LPPPO has been, since the governor's release of her budget back in mid December, that an all cuts approach to balancing the budget will be devastation upon devastation particularly upon low & middle income working families and the many unemployed and vulnerable kids and adults in our state. LPPPO urges you to support a partial revenue approach to save public safety, public health, and safety net programs to help keep people off the streets and out of our emergency rooms. We are indeed in very difficult times and this is the time for all of us to sacrifice, work together to help our neighbor in need, and also for government to not abandon its baseline services & programs for the poor & vulnerable.

Rev. Paul B. Benz, Director
Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State
Cell: 206-390-4133
Office: 206-464-4133
Email: pbenz@lcsnw.org
Web: www.lppowa.org



2/9/09 'RIDE ALONG'

On February 9th I had the privilege of accompanying Rev. Paul Benz to the state capital in Olympia. As a current graduate student studying public policy at UW, I was excited for the opportunity to experience ways in which the academic and theoretical side connected to where the advocacy meets the road!

I was able to sit in on committee hearings and listen to testimony on important legislation – that day it was Pay Day Lending Practices and Voting Restoration Rights. I sat in on a committee of advocates working on many facets of an anti-poverty agenda. I walked until my legs almost fell off while Paul testified, connected with other advocates, tracked down legislators, followed up on bills, called other ministers and lay leaders to ask for their testimony of the next few days' hearings and prepared for a meeting with Governor Gregoire. Paul connects astonishingly well with such a broad range of stakeholders, advocates, legislators, aides and anyone else he bumps into. I consider myself a high-energy person, but Paul could run circles around most people!

On the drive home I had a chance to reflect. What is at the intersection of faith and policy advocacy? Jesus - and the fulfillment of his call to us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the imprisoned. For those who have ever questioned or wondered whether public policy (some may call it politics) and faith should mix? Those who have questioned whether this may be too 'political', I invite you to ride along with Rev. Paul Benz – learn about LPPPO. This work is living out the gospel call to 'seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God'.

~ Mary Jonassen



**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE WA
PERMIT 277

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

April 2009 Newsletter

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

SYNOD CALENDAR

MARCH

- 24-26 Campus Ministry Reviews @ EWU & U of I
- 25-26 EOCM Review Table - Chicago, IL
- 27 **2nd Mailing for Assembly**
- 27-30 ELCA Church Council Meeting - Chicago, IL
- 20 Spokane Westward Pre-Assembly Cluster Gathering - 1:00 pm @ Salem Lutheran

APRIL

- 1 Synod Staff Meeting
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 10 **Good Friday - Synod Office Closed**
- 14 Synod Staff Meeting
- 16 Synod Assembly Committee Meeting
- 19 Mt. Spokane Pre-Assembly Cluster Gathering - 2:30 pm @ St. Luke Lutheran
- 19 North Idaho Pre-Assembly Cluster Gathering - 3:00 pm @ Lutheran Church of the Master
- 19 Spokane Valley Pre-Assembly Cluster Gathering 5:00 pm @ Holy Trinity Lutheran
- 20-22 Region 1 Pastor's Conference
- 22 Synod Staff Meeting
- 24 **Assemble Notebooks for Assembly**

INFORMATION ON THE 2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY CAN BE FOUND
AT
WWW.EWAIDSSYNOD.ORG



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

314 S. Spruce Street, Suite A ~ Spokane, WA 99201-5823
Phone: 509/838-9871 ~ FAX: 509/838-0941
E-mail: office@ewaidssynod.org
Web site: www.ewaidssynod.org

STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Bishop | Rev. Martin Wells |
| Assistant to the Bishop | Rev. Mark Nelson |
| Office Administrator | Laurel Eschenbacher |
| Program Administrator | Cathy Steiner |
| Newsletter Editor | Laurel Eschenbacher |
| Assembly Manager | Karla Olson |
| | assembly@nctv.com |