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GRACE DRAWS US IN + GRACE SENDS US OUT

Dear Friends and Neighbors in Christ throughout the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod,

Please join us for a grace-filled experience of being the church at work together at the 2017 Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod Assembly in Spokane, Washington, May 19 – 21, 2017. On behalf of the Synod Assembly Planning Committee, I encourage you to save these dates to begin planning for a time of learning, prayer, and worship centered in Christ, as we conduct business that, through the election of a new Bishop, will shape the future of our synod for years to come. We look forward to welcoming you to Spokane!

*In this year of focus on the 500th anniversary of the reformation, the theme for the assembly is **Grace Draws Us In + Grace Sends Us Out**. That theme is anchored by Psalm 46, the ancient song of trust that inspired Luther to write ‘A Mighty Fortress is Our God’. Indeed, God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble!*

We have much to do and celebrate at this assembly:

- 1) Our Churchwide representative is Reverend William Chris Boerger, Secretary of the ELCA.*
- 2) We will celebrate 18 years of dedicated service to this synod by Bishop Martin Wells as we bid him Blessings and Godspeed in his retirement.*
- 3) We will celebrate the faithful work of Helga Jansons as she completes her service to the synod as our Director for Evangelical Mission.*
- 4) As we look to the future, we will prayerfully consider and decide who God is calling to be our Bishop moving forward.*
- 5) We will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of workshops to explore what Reformation means for us today and how we might celebrate that in our local congregations.*
- 6) We will get to meet with our ministry partners to learn more about their work.*

Please register early! We need to know what to expect as we plan for housing, seating and meals.

And finally, consider this advice from oldlutheran.com as you prepare to participate in this assembly:

“Together, we can make a difference.... Let’s lean into 500 years of grace and hope and peace and love and joy and rest and welcome and forgiveness and music and worship and study and proclaiming and supporting and encouraging and calling and listening and sharing and giving and praying and preaching and learning and empowering and caring.”

That’s God’s church at work! Thank you for being part of it!

Kathy Gemar

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