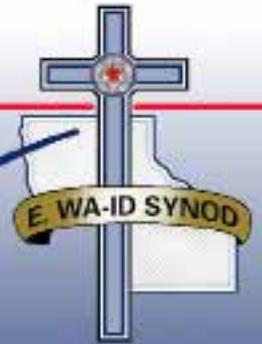


# CROSS

# 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 partners.*

June 2016

God's beloved People,

## **2 NEW NET-WORKERS SOUGHT!**

Application materials available  
through the Synod Office!

The lead for this article is based on a review of the Net-Worker concept and a recommitment by the Synod Council Executive Committee. With the resignation of 2 of our original Net-Workers, the Synod Council asked for a review of the idea and reconsideration of the position description and ¼-time commitment. With enthusiasm a small sub-committee of the Council determined that we still have a very solid idea that supports the ministry of synod congregations and that we should proceed to call two new Net-Workers for the Central WA and Palouse, Prairie, and Panhandle area of central and northern Idaho.

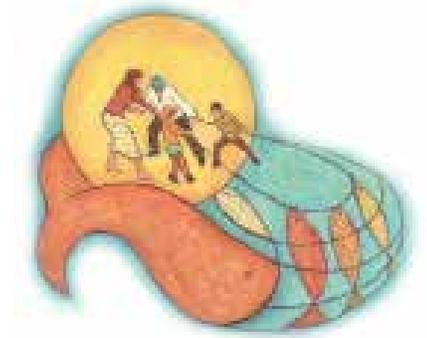
So, if you are a potential candidate, or if you know the right person for this position, a job description and application process and time-line will be available later this week from the Synod Office ([office@ewaidsynod.org](mailto:office@ewaidsynod.org)). Please send us your letter of interest!

The heart of this recommitment is the amazing, varied, and vital ministry of our congregations, on full display once again during the "Synod Shorts" portion of the Synod Assembly. For well over an hour the voting

members of the Assembly heard from congregation after congregation as Jesus-inspired ministry was described. The enthusiasm for ministry and the receptiveness of other congregations signaled to me that we are on the right track with the Net-Worker position, a position designed precisely to cultivate this faithfulness and offer encouragement for congregations uncertain of their purpose or focus.

After Trinity Sunday we turn our attention from the Christ-Cycle of readings to the season of the church's response, Ordinary Time. There couldn't be a better moment to bring on new Net-Workers in support of your congregation's ministry and so we begin to pray now for those persons who will apply for and lead this renewed ministry. Thanks be to God!

Bishop Martin Wells



## Story Time

by Pastor Helga Jansons Director for Evangelical Mission

### Once upon a time...

Aren't those beautiful words! What happens to you when you hear them? I immediately relax and get excited about what I am about to hear. In a story anything is possible. I can imagine being in the story and can identify with the characters; their joy, fear, sense of injustice, triumph and gratitude. I try to anticipate what will happen. I can remember and retell the story if it was interesting enough.



At our Synod Assembly we are never short on people who want to tell their stories of faith in action. There is a lineup of people wanting to share “Synod Shorts” that is, short stories of what God is up to in the life of their church. It is not gloating. We are just so thrilled to tell people about the good news.

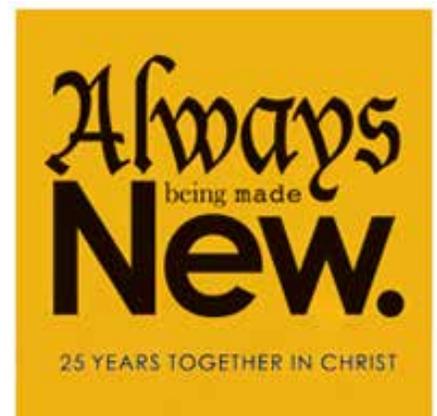
When we hear a story we can feel inspired, we get some new ideas and it can act as a catalyst to stir our own imaginations. We can also learn how others went about doing things and some of the obstacles along the way. A good story has a conflict and a resolution to it. Nothing new and exciting is without some tension. When we hear about the difference that a church can make in a community, or how even one person's passion can lead to something that a whole church gets excited about, it draws us out too. What could I do? What could our church try?

If we tell a story well, those listening may feel their hearts burning within them. Whether we tell our own story or retell the story of others, it is good to think it through ahead of time. Just as a pastor thinks through how to share what God is up to in a sermon, it is good to have an outline of what we will say and to practice. Telling stories does not come naturally to everyone. I joined Toastmasters International to learn how to tell stories better. There is a part in the meeting where people are chosen, on the spot, to talk on a topic for one minute. Meanwhile someone is listening for content, another for the “uhms”, and another is timekeeper. Fabulous practice! It is amazing how much we can share in one minute.

When we hear stories of what other churches are up to, we can feel more connected to each other. Sometimes congregations forget they are one body with other Lutheran churches across town, across the synod and across the country. The word “synod” means to walk alongside each other. As we journey together as part the wider church, we can recognize Jesus in our midst. We are not alone.

On our synod website [www.ewaidsynod.org](http://www.ewaidsynod.org) is a link called Mission Interpreter Story and there you will find stories about ministries and individuals whose lives have been changed. You do not need to be a Mission Interpreter for your church in order to share the stories of ministry in our synod. A pastor can use these as sermon illustrations, and others can share them freely. You can read about Campus Ministry, how a church is using technology to “boost” their presence in the community, and how Latino people from different traditions have come to be part of Lutheran ministry; in Spanish and English.

You can send in a story from your church also, or your own story. Just send it to me and I will forward it onto the synod office – that way I can ask you some questions or perhaps suggest some edits. Email it to [helga.jansons@elca.org](mailto:helga.jansons@elca.org) It can include photos or even a video clip. Wouldn't it be great if we had a story from every congregation!!! A Net-Work of God's ministry.



# Presiding bishop

## Love your neighbor



*“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” (Matthew 22:36-40).*

At the end of March, I spent a delightful week with the bishop and rostered leaders of the Montana Synod at their annual theological conference. The added bonus was that we were joined by the bishop and clergy of the Episcopal Diocese of Montana and by Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church. There are many things that are unique to our particular traditions, but it became clear that we share a whole lot more. At one point during a presentation, Curry leaned over to me and said that if he closed his eyes he would swear that he was at one of his own meetings.

During the convocation two participants, one Lutheran and one Episcopalian, noted that other civic and religious leaders had issued statements about the need for civil discourse during this election season, and they wondered if the leaders of the ELCA and Episcopal Church could do the same. Both were clear that they didn’t want a political statement or an endorsement of any party or candidate. They just felt that some of the rhetoric was no longer appealing to our better selves, but was opening a door to division and suspicion. They wanted to know if their faith communities could speak a word to our people that could bring some clarity and hope.

It’s worth noting that the first part of the First Amendment has to do with religious freedom: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” By the time of the Bill of Rights, the United States was already home to those who had been at least hindered in their religious life

because of established religions in former countries and in this country. Dissenters from England, Roman Catholics and Quakers faced opposition and suppression from the state. The First Amendment was intended to keep the government out of religion. It wasn’t intended to keep the religious community from speaking to or participating in government.

Lutherans don’t withdraw from the world. Martin Luther believed that people of faith have a duty to participate in the political sphere and, when necessary, to call civil authorities to account. He also offered this helpful explanation of the Eighth Commandment: “We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light” (Small Catechism).

Now to the issue of civil discourse during this political season. I understand that the world is a dangerous place; I understand that many in our country feel left behind and left out. There are legitimate security, foreign policy and domestic policy concerns. Candidates and political parties have the duty to speak to these concerns and make the case for their platform.

During the theological gathering, Curry held up Jesus’ answer to the lawyer that love of God and love of neighbor, and the standard by which we treat others, should be the way we engage society. Political speech that doesn’t ensure that the “other” is treated with the same respect and care that we would wish for our own brother or sister or father or mother is not what God intends for God’s beloved community.

We are Easter people. We have been redeemed by the indescribably beautiful act of love on the cross. I ask that we, and those seeking office, would remember that we are entrusted with a redeemed world, and we must always remember that those who disagree with us are also those for whom Christ died. 

A monthly message from the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Her email address: [bishop@elca.org](mailto:bishop@elca.org).

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# Faith and the **Thin Green Line**

## Pope Francis and Environmental Advocacy in Washington

Wednesday, June 1 at 9:30am

**Faith Lutheran Church**  
224 Benton St, Leavenworth

Join LeeAnne Beres and Jessie Dye of Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light for a discussion of the pope's recent encyclical on the environment, and how people of faith can take action to protect our climate and communities.

In Washington, our urgent responsibility is to keep fossil fuels in the ground and out of our shared atmosphere. Faith communities can be effective voices for climate justice and for protecting the Northwest's "**Thin Green Line**" from oil and coal exports.

At our gathering, Jessie & LeeAnne will give an overview of what the pope's encyclical says about climate change and fossil fuels, and how we can put faith into action on several key issues in our region. Dr. Barbara Rossing, Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology, will also share information on Eco-Reformation, a project of Lutherans Restoring Creation in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.



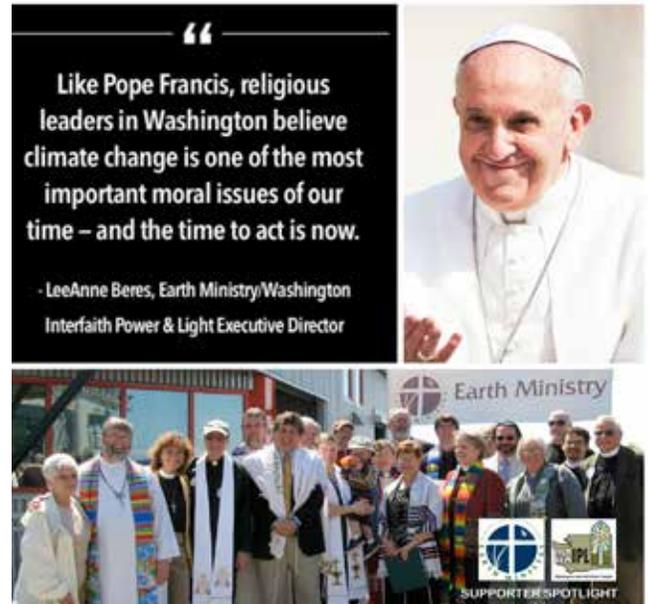
**LeeAnne Beres** is Executive Director of Earth Ministry/WAIPPL, a position she has held for 11 years. LeeAnne has over 25 years of experience working on environmental advocacy campaigns in Washington State, Washington, DC, and Alaska.

**Jessie Dye** has served as Program & Outreach Director of Earth Ministry/WAIPPL since 2007. Jessie has a law degree and a previous career as a mediator, including 20 years with the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle.



**Earth Ministry** is the statewide leader in engaging the religious community in environmental stewardship and advocacy. Our Greening Congregations Program was the first in the country to help houses of worship implement sustainable practices, and our faithful advocacy program is on the cutting edge of empowering clergy and lay leaders to speak out on public policy issues. [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org)

For more information contact Barbara Rossing at [brossing@lstc.edu](mailto:brossing@lstc.edu) or 509-548-7278



## Spring has arrived!

But before you attack the dust bunnies, don't forget to share the excitement!



## Empowering Women by Grace through Faith

### The Region 1 Women's Gathering

**June 24 - 26, 2016**

Embassy Suites, Lynnwood Washington

For those of you who acted quickly and got your reservations in early, **now is the time to reach out** to your friends, neighbors, and church family to encourage them to join us!

**Listen to the following women in ministry tell their stories in a format similar to "The View" on TV:**

Bishop Jessica Crist, Montana Synod  
 Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, Alaska Synod  
 The Reverend Nancy Winder, Assistant to The Bishop, NW Washington Synod  
 The Reverend Susan Kintner, Assistant to The Bishop, Oregon Synod  
 The Reverend Liv Larson, Parish Pastor, Spokane  
 Sister Clare Josef-Maier, Mental Health Counselor, Seattle

Bible Study "Sing Our Way to Justice" with Diaconal Minister, Jan Cherry,  
 President of the Church Council of Greater Seattle

For more information, visit [www.lutheransnw.org/synod-women](http://www.lutheransnw.org/synod-women)

## Forerunner Summer 2016

Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center and former mining camp in the North Cascades of Washington state, is welcoming volunteers to come up for one week stays to help prepare for the return of guests and retreats following a 4-year-long mine remediation construction project and forest fire last summer. The work weeks will include skilled projects and general sprucing up, as well as bible study, teaching sessions on a variety of topics and hiking and other recreation opportunities. Please join us this summer for one of our Forerunners Weeks. Information and applications can be found at <http://www.holdenvillage.org/visit/forerunner-summer-2016/>. Any questions? contact [staffing@holdenvillage.org](mailto:staffing@holdenvillage.org). Hope to see you this summer!

## Augsburg Fortress

## Summer 2016 Music Clinic

**will be in the Pacific Northwest at Trinity Lutheran Church - Lynnwood**

visit [augsbuurgmusic.org/ncsm](http://augsbuurgmusic.org/ncsm) for more information

# Call Process Status

<b>A</b> Process beginning/congregational study	<b>I</b> Interim	<b>AP</b> Associate/Assistant Pastor
<b>B</b> Names received or on-site visits in process	<b>P</b> Pastor	<b>VP</b> Visitation Pastor
<b>C</b> Call in process/issued	<b>CP</b> Co-Pastor	<b>AIM</b> Associate in Ministry
<b>NV</b> New Vacancy	<b>LP</b> Lead Pastor	<b>L</b> Lay Position
<b>TC</b> Term call	<b>SP</b> Supply Pastor	<b>TM</b> Transition Minister
<b>VP</b> Visitation Pastor		(available for the open-ended call)

POS	LOCATION/CONGREGATION	STATUS	PASTORAL CARE	
P	Boise, ID – King of Glory	B	Kristi Bummer	I
P	Boise, ID – Shepherd of the Valley	A	Joel Westby	I
P	Chelan, WA – Holden Village, Fullness of God	A		
P	Cheney, WA – Emmanuel Lutheran	A	Shelley Wee	I
P	Chewelah, WA – St. Paul Lutheran	NV	Betty Krafft	SP
P	Firth, ID – Bethel Lutheran	A	Paul Malek	TEEM
P	Kennewick, WA – Lord of Life	B	Ron Shipman	I
P	Lind, WA – Good Hope Lutheran	NV		
P	Mattawa, WA – Grace Lutheran	NV	Ginny Kreckling	I
P	Pasco, WA – First Lutheran	A	Phylis Stromme	I
P	Spokane, WA – Bethlehem Lutheran	NV	Steve Wee	SP
AP	Spokane, WA – St. Luke Lutheran	NV	Jim Johnson	LP
P	Wilbur, WA – Wilbur Lutheran	NV		
P	Yakima, WA – Central Lutheran	A		

## Roster Changes

Sierra Westerman, member of Grace, Wenatchee, will be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, June 25, at Grace Lutheran. Bishop Tom Aitken of the Northeast Minnesota synod will preside at the ordination. Watch for further details.

## OPPORTUNITY *at* HOLDEN VILLAGE!

Are you looking for something new to do this summer or beyond? Do you have talents to share and time to volunteer? Are you intrigued with living in a vibrant community in the Cascade Mountains? If you answered YES, then Holden Village might be just what you are looking for!

Holden is in need of people who have time to volunteer this summer (or longer!) – college students, teachers, retirees, etc. If you have at least three weeks to commit, we would love to have you join the Housekeeping, Lawns & Gardens, Landscaping, or Maverick (manual labor) crews. If you have more than three weeks to commit, we are in need of construction help, carpenters, trail crews, and more!

If you are interested please visit the Holden Village website at [www.holdenvillage.org](http://www.holdenvillage.org) to find out more information. Specific information regarding volunteering at Holden can be found at [www.holdenvillage.org/volunteer/](http://www.holdenvillage.org/volunteer/) If you have any questions about volunteering at Holden Village, contact staffing at [staffing@holdenvillage.org](mailto:staffing@holdenvillage.org). Hope to see you this summer!

# Pray with us

*We ask that you keep the ministry of the church,  
our synod, and the whole world in your prayers,  
as well as the people listed below . . .*



for Al Krafft, his family and friends as he was recently placed in hospice care.

for the Saints of Lutheran Church of the Master - Pasco, WA and the ministries they provided over the past 55 years. LCM, Pasco celebrated it's last Sunday service on April 10.

for our rostered leaders, may their words and their ways inspire us as followers of our Lord and of our church.

for our children, may they teach us to be children at heart.

for those in the caring professions, may their works effective and life changing.

for those that walk an uncertain path, may their hearts lead them in the right direction.

*Prayer Requests . . .* to be included or removed from the Synod Prayer Request list, please send your request to the synod [office@ewaidssynod.org](mailto:office@ewaidssynod.org), or call 509-838-9871.

## Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network Opportunity

LEVN, the Lutheran Episcopal Volunteer Network, is looking for young adults (age 21-30) with Bachelor's degrees for an 11-month program of non-profit volunteer work and learning about social justice. From the end of August 2016 to the end of July 2017, our corps members will be provided housing, utilities, health insurance, transportation, spiritual direction, and a \$400/month food stipend. We also offer a \$1000 re-entry grant at the end of the program for moving expenses.

The placement sites for the upcoming program year include faith-based non-profits, secular non-profits, congregations, the Sierra Pacific Synod office, and our campus ministry at UC Davis. We meet each week for worship, dinner, and discussion. The corps members live in intentional community in a 4-bedroom apartment in Davis, CA. We're an ecumenical program in the Episcopal Service Corps network; applicants needn't be either Lutheran or Episcopal to apply—interest in Christian spirituality is the only expectation.

Visit [levn.org](http://levn.org) or contact Program Director Casey Kloehn at 530-756-1550  
or [programs@thebelfry.org](mailto:programs@thebelfry.org) for more information!

## “Deeper Life” at Grace Lutheran Church - Wenatchee, WA

by Rev. Jame Aalgard

In the summer of 2015, Grace Lutheran Church in Wenatchee WA started to think about what a catechumenate process would look like in our context. “Catechumenate” is a word we’ve inherited from our liturgical forebears. It provides the basic shape of a time of preparation for baptism, or for affirmation of baptism for those who have already received that gift. The liturgical season most often used for this time of preparation is the season of Lent. We started that summer with a guided study of Pastor Paul Hoffman’s book *Faith Forming Faith*. We created our own reflection questions based in the readings, pledged to read the book *SLOWLY* and had very rich conversation together (mostly based in our Evangelism Team who was looking for ways to “re-boot”).



We’ve called our version of the catechumenate *Deeper Life* and began the process in late January 2016. We looked for people in our congregation who might be seeking the sacrament of baptism, and were so pleased when God led us to one adult, and one family expecting their second child. Both households agreed to join us and agreed to be present at the Vigil of Easter, March 26th. We thought and prayed about who we could invite to be “faith companions”, people who are already members of Grace but would like to accompany the adults throughout this time. This was easier than we thought! We even picked up a few others who were curious about this small group experience. By the time our small group was formed (we call them “focus groups”) we had as many as 14 people joining in a conversation circle.

A very important element of *Deeper Life* is that this is less about “information” and more about “formation”. This means people are encouraged to come with doubts and deep questions, and with their own testimonies about how God has already been active in their lives. In fact it made us a little nervous, but we were affirmed and “stretched” when we decided that this particular “class” of *Deeper Life* participants in a sense created the curriculum. The sessions’ content was based on what our group seemed the most interested in.

On the night of the Vigil, it was finally time for the baptisms to happen. Family and friends were present, and they were invited to use a favorite cup, mug or other vessel to help fill the baptismal bowl. It was awesome to witness so many people cued up, ready to pour their water into the font, and in doing so, have an important part in the baptism of their loved-one.

One of the vessels was a soup bowl, hand-painted by the father of the child who was to be baptized. It was even more special to notice that the person holding the soup bowl was the grandfather of that baby boy. He mentioned that the bowl was painted by his son, some years ago, as a fundraiser for Leavenworth’s “Empty Bowls” hunger relief effort.

The leader of our focus group poured out water from a bottle she brought from her home. The water in that bottle was taken from a monastery near Ephesus. She bottled it up herself while traveling there awhile back, and thought she would save it for a special occasion.

A participant brought a commemorative plate, which is from the church of his childhood in North Dakota. He poured water from a cup, onto the plate, and into the font. This was to symbolize his appreciation for the start of his baptismal identity in Christ.

These stories materialized out of thin air, out of the moment where we anchored our life, our deeper life, in the waters of new life in Christ. If those stories would have been planned, they would have been less effective!

Grace in Wenatchee is planning to host a catechumenate training event April 28-30, 2017. Please mark it on your calendars and we will get more information out when it’s available. Pastor Paul Hoffman will be one of the facilitators and if it’s anything like our experience, it will be a rich and rewarding time. Please consider bringing a team of at least three! It will be so very helpful to have a leadership group from your congregation, all on the same page.

In a world where we often seek quick, technical patches to problems in congregational life, we are called to think deeply about how to adapt, use our strengths in creative new ways, and in so doing, relearn how to articulate the Good News and claim that we really are evangelical.

I'm Walter B. Klockers, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, Washington. When I served a church in McGregor, Texas, I wrote a weekly column for the religious section of the local newspaper (The McGregor Mirror). I found that it was a great way of connecting with the community as well as getting free advertising for our church. When I was called to Moses Lake, I contacted the editor of the Columbia Basin Herald and asked if I could do the same thing here. She said that they did have a religion section years ago and welcomed the idea of jumpstarting it again.

After writing for a number of months, I learned that not all of our members subscribe to the paper. So, I asked the newspaper if I could also reuse my column online. The Herald gave me permission to do so if the newspaper was given credit. So, I started an online blog – using wordpress.com – where I reprint the weekly pieces. There was no cost to this. After some time though, I decided to take it a step further. I purchased a domain name with the ending of “.com” This gave me even greater visibility on the internet. I also added features to the website which included more layout options. My website is: imperfectexpressionsoffait.com

Immanuel has its own Facebook page. It is under the category of a Facebook “community” page. The URL is: facebook.com/ilcmoseslake/. I linked the articles from the website to Immanuel's Facebook page. I shared them to my personal page as well. These actions added to the number of people reading the weekly pieces that I submitted to the newspaper. I then discovered another way of increasing readership. As a “community” page on Facebook, there is an option to “boost” each post. Here is what that looks like:



A boost is a way of advertising. You pay a fee to have your particular post show up on the news feed of other Facebook users. To do so, Facebook steps you through the process of selecting your target audience: you type in key words that you think these people of interest might use in their posts (like “church”), and then select the desired age and geographical ranges. I boosted a number of my articles and received “likes” from church members, as well as those who were not members, within the Moses Lake area. I then decided to try something different. In the past, I taught a six-session class on prayer. I decided to teach it again in Moses Lake. However, instead of offering this event at the church, I checked out a local restaurant that had meeting space and reserved that room. I posted the information for this upcoming class on our church Facebook page and boosted it. At first, I spent \$15.00 on boost advertising, but soon learned that the target audience was much larger. As an experiment, I wanted to see the maximum potential of what this might yield. So, I took a risk. I swallowed hard and ended up spending \$41.00. At first I thought that was a lot of money and perhaps a waste of my personal funds. However, in the end, twenty people signed up for the class. Four of these people were not members; two have now been attending worship services on a regular basis, and one of those is now a regular member of a women's circle. The two others attended a service during Holy Week.

Here are the results of that boost:



At Immanuel Lutheran, we now have an emphasis upon holding a number of events outside of our church walls. We boost many of these on Facebook, such as: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry – a knitting and crochet group -- that occasionally meets at Starbucks. (Two people have expressed interest in participating who are not members). I have offered to show my macro photographs of insects and spiders to classes in the local schools. (I will be doing so soon for a kindergarten class because of boost advertising; the teacher who responded to the post is a non-member). We are putting up a “Little Free Library” on the street just outside of our doors. Check out littlefreelibrary.org (One person is interested in helping who is a non-member).

The Church Council has recently approved an advertising budget for Facebook boosts. We typically have been giving these a maximum of \$15.00 per boost. Boosting Facebook posts has proven to be a great evangelism tool for Immanuel Lutheran. One key though, is that we especially promote events that we now hold outside of the church walls. This has proven to be more welcoming to the stranger. I was pleasantly surprised to discover that there are plenty of grandparents on Facebook. Their children and grandchildren often have set up their accounts. That way they are connected to their lives on social media and easily follow family updates. So, it is not just “younger people” who are Facebook users.

I've learned that boosting posts on our Facebook page is money well spent on Evangelism.



**ELCA World Hunger**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.

APRIL 2016

# GO *and* DO NEWS

A monthly publication for ELCA World Hunger Leaders

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Grace Gathering

Monthly network  
webinar

By the numbers:  
The Campaign  
for the ELCA

## FROM DAN'S DESK: FISCAL YEAR 2015 IN REVIEW

Having recently marked seven years of service as the director for ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, I have never been more excited by this work than in 2015.

Over the years we have stood in the face of many challenges. Despite these challenges, giving to ELCA World Hunger has remained strong. A couple years ago the church asked itself, "could we be doing more?" Last year the dreams of more became a reality.

### **\$21.95 million – total income for the work of ELCA World Hunger.**

This is an all-time high, exceeding the pre-recession income by more than half a million dollars. About half the growth between 2014 and 2015 was in "direct giving." The other half of the growth was as a result of bequests and estate gifts.

### **\$15.45 million – total giving for the multi-year ELCA Malaria Campaign.**

Together we exceeded the goal of \$15 million for participation in a cooperative effort to end deaths from malaria in Africa – including a new program in Madagascar!

### **\$6.88 million – total giving for response through Lutheran Disaster Response.**

The largest portion of this funding was given for "general disaster response." Giving provided for response to more than 50 disasters for which four received significant support through designated giving.

The dream continues! We are aiming for \$24 million of giving in 2016. That would represent an additional half-million dollars of giving for programs in the United States, and almost \$1.5 million internationally. Imagine the difference that MORE will make for those who right now struggle with not having ENOUGH.

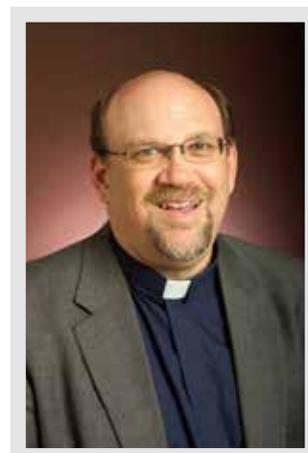
I love when a dream becomes a reality! May 2016 be the best year ever for ELCA World Hunger, until that time when all might be fed.

Thank you for your leadership and support,

*Dan*

The Rev. Daniel Rift

Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal



## Congregational giving reports

All the data has been collected and the fiscal year 2015 congregational-giving reports are ready to go! These reports break down the amounts congregations gave directly to ELCA World Hunger and how much they gave through their synod. For each congregation, the amount of the average gift per member to ELCA World Hunger is also included. Finally, the reports list total gifts given directly to ELCA World Hunger from synods and individuals and organizations. The reports are organized by synod and are only available upon request. To request your synod's report, please contact us at [hunger@elca.org](mailto:hunger@elca.org) or 800-638-3522, ext. 2616. If you have already made your requests you'll receive your report within the next week.

## THANK YOU!

April is National Volunteer Month, and ELCA World Hunger rejoices and gives thanks for you, our Hunger Leaders and friends! The time, effort and funds you share and dedicate to this ministry of the church is without compare. You bring inspiration to the work we do together – thank you! Below are a few pictures of the ELCA World Hunger Ambassadors (more of our amazing volunteers) at a training on ELCA World Hunger resources.



## 60th session, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Thank you to all who joined last month's webinar, "Live from New York," with the ELCA Young Adult Cohort as they were in the midst of the 60th session, United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Under the theme of sustainable development, the call to the global community is clear. While progress is being made, global inequality in countries is increasing faster than the decrease in poverty. Let's get to work – it's more important now than ever.

So many things can be said about the purpose, goals, outcomes and more of this trip. Please click on the links below to hear from ELCA Young Adult Cohort members and to see what it means for the church to engage within these circles as one way to strive for a just world where all are fed.

[ELCA Young Adult Cohort blog](#)

[ELCA Young Adult Cohort #UNCSW16 Videos found here](#)

[Storify for the ELCA Young Adult Cohort at U.N. CSW 60](#)

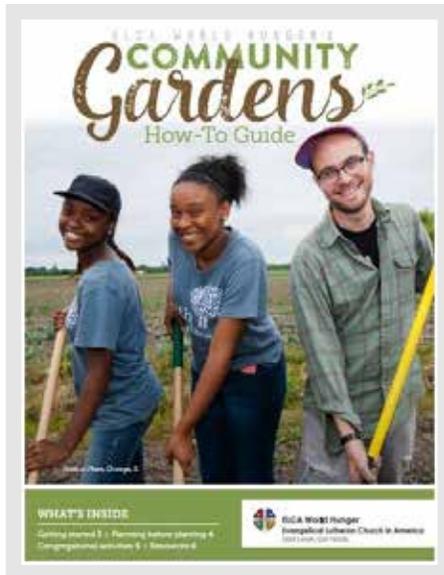
[Information about the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women](#)

[The Sustainable Development Goals explained](#)



## RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: COMMUNITY GARDENS HOW-TO-GUIDE

Is your congregation interested in starting a community garden and looking for ideas to get started? ELCA World Hunger's Community Gardens How-to Guide can help! This guide is filled with tips and wisdom from the initial brainstorming stages through integrating the garden into your worship. It provides inspiration and guidance from many gardeners throughout the church. The guide functions as a workbook to help throughout the process, including developing a sustaining vision for your garden. Read tips and stories from other congregations that are making community gardens a vibrant part of their ministry. Download a copy [here!](#)



## Grace Gathering

Join us in New Orleans! God's Grace in Action Afternoon will be a special time for Grace Gathering attendees to join churchwide staff in experiential learning activities in the Crescent City. On the "Food Security" track, ELCA World Hunger will take participants into the heart of the city to visit the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, Café Reconcile and Crescent City Café. Together, we will learn how economics shaped Creole cuisine, how different models of relief and development are helping meet the challenges of poverty and hunger, and how New Orleanians are leveraging the tremendous assets of their city for sustainable solutions. We'll also have time to wander the museum with a guide and to enjoy some of the culinary delights of Café Reconcile.

Register now at: [ELCA.org/gracegathering/Registration-Information](http://ELCA.org/gracegathering/Registration-Information)

## MONTHLY NETWORK WEBINAR: APRIL LINK AND MAY MEETING DATE

This month the ELCA World Hunger webinar featured the ELCA World Hunger's Fundraising Team as they presented and facilitated conversation about 2015 fiscal year results, bequests and the regional gift planners of the ELCA Foundation. We learned a little about how this deployed staff works with congregations and individuals to support the ministries of the ELCA, in this case ELCA World Hunger. You can listen [here](#). The recording is broken down by topic below:

- 00:00 - 00:38** Welcome and introductions
- 00:38 - 41:10** Fundraising update and conversations
- 41:10 - 46:15** Synod assembly preparations
- 46:15 - 49:20** World Malaria Day (April 25)
- 49:20 - 51:27** National Volunteer Month
- 51:27 - 57:09** Current disasters, questions and closing

### **Next month's webinar: Tuesday, May 17**

8:30 p.m. Eastern/7:30 p.m. Central/6:30 p.m. Mountain/5:30 p.m. Pacific

**Feature topic: Public church – with guest presenter the Rev. Amy Reumann, director, ELCA Advocacy**

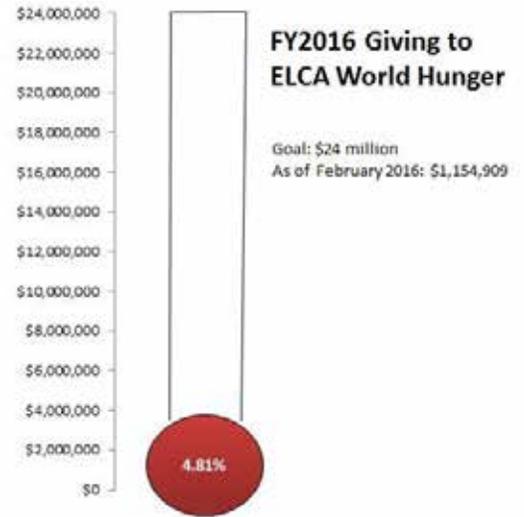
**BY THE NUMBERS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ELCA**

*"I am looking for something right away for this Sunday."*

*"Does ELCA World Hunger have something fun we can work on?"*

If these are questions you ask or hear from others, be sure to check out the new Summer Congregational Activity Guide. This 16-page resource has been sent to all congregations and to many individual leaders. Inquire with your congregation, grab your own copy from the mailbox or request one from [hunger@ELCA.org](mailto:hunger@ELCA.org) and bring it to your congregation's planning and activities.

AND – look inside for the new Table Prayer Magnet and a sample of our updated ELCA World Hunger bulletin insert.



**Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA – Totals as of the end of February 2016**

<b>ELCA World Hunger year-to-date</b> (toward overall goal of \$24 million by end of FY2016)	\$1.15 million
<b>ELCA World Hunger</b> (toward <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i> goal of \$115 million by end of FY2018)	\$42.42 million
<b>Overall <i>The Campaign for the ELCA</i></b> (toward overall goal of \$198 million by end of FY2018)	\$77.08 million

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION STAFF**

**ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal**

- Daniel Rift, director
- Robin Brown, associate director
- Emily Dubay, associate director
- Sharon Magnuson, associate director
- Ashley Debilzen, development assistant
- Krystal McClinton, development assistant

**ELCA World Hunger Engagement and Education**

- Mikka McCracken, director
- Ryan Cumming, program director
- Jessica Fairfax, program associate
- Iain Chester, assistant
- Tashina Good, program assistant
- Elyssa Salinas, program assistant

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Order all of our  
resources online at:  
[ELCA.org/resources](http://ELCA.org/resources)

Any staff member may be contacted directly by using this format: [firstname.lastname@elca.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@elca.org).

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**EASTERN  
WASHINGTON  
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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



**June 2016  
Newsletter**

Let Down the Nets  
Lifting Our Vision  
Jesus First, Last, Always  
God's Grace, Our Gratitude  
The Spirit Powers Us  
No Fear! Transformation  
Connections Multiply Miracles  
Go, Tell & Serve



Please reproduce any and all articles for publication in congregational newsletters or bulletins.  
The **Cross Connection** is also available on the synod website at  
<http://www.ewaidsynod.org/synodpublications.html>.  
*Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.*

**Synod Calendar**

**May 2016**

- 21 Planned Giving/Stewardship Workshop - Pullman/Moscow
- 30 Memorial Day - Synod office closed

**June 2016**

- 6-8 PLU Institute with Rev. Gordon Lathrop
- 9-11 Transformational Minisatry Training - Seattle, WA

**July 2016**

- 16 Lodge Dedication at Luther Heights
- 31 Ice Cream Social at Messiah Lutheran - Spokane, WA



**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 ..... Julia Bennett
- Communication Director ..... Gib Dominguez
- Net-Worker ..... Linda Howell
- Net-Worker ..... The Rev. David Kappus
- Net-Worker ..... Kristin Koskella
- Net-Worker ..... Jim Peterson

# THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

EDITOR: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM

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## MAKING CONGREGATIONS GREENER

The celebration of Earth Day began in 1970 and has now spread to 192 countries. The early organizers could not imagine that almost fifty years later environmental issues would remain challenging, emotional, and controversial. However, for faith communities, the concept of caring for all creation fits with the Gospel message of assuming responsibility for what God has given us. How much have congregations embraced the practices of refuse, reduce, reuse, and recycle?

### Beginning Steps

Making the decision to become a greener congregation can seem overwhelming. However, there are several small and cost-effective ways to shape church practices and policies to honor the stewardship of creation.

*Start a conversation.* If the congregation has never discussed ecological issues as a community, consider a study or discernment process devoted to the topic.<sup>1</sup> Ask: How do our theological and biblical commitments translate into spiritual practices of caring for the earth? Perhaps a church group could read and discuss the seven different biblical perspectives on creation and reflect on the connections between these traditions and the natural sciences.<sup>2</sup>

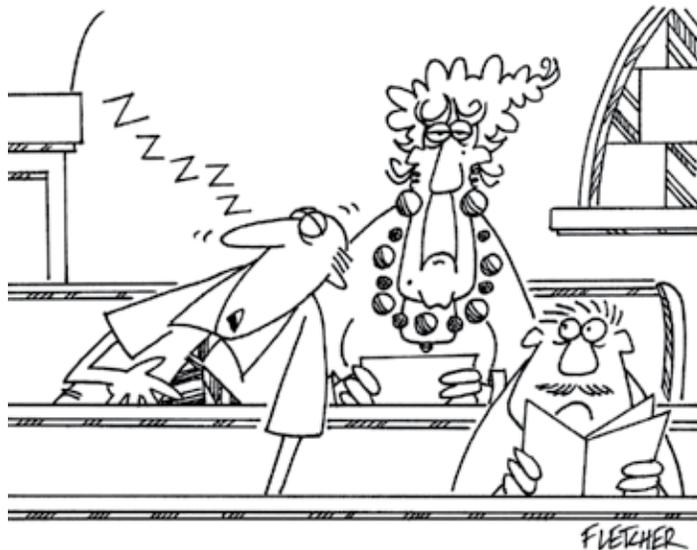
Another strategy would be to ask a group to review the congregation's vision or mission statement, website content, and other important documents. Does your congregation's vision reflect the care of creation? If it does not, how might some aspect of caring for creation that is authentic to your church be made more explicit?

*Learn more about local environmental issues.* Often members lack up-to-date information about local energy and food sources, water and wastewater treatment, forms of environmental damage, or potential hazards. Consider inviting guest speakers from community organizations involved in environmental health to inform church groups. Begin a study or discussion series on local environmental topics.

*Identify people with passion and gifts to lead the church in stewardship practices.* Almost every church has members involved in local efforts to address environmental concerns. But they may have never been asked to use their knowledge to help other church members move toward greater awareness and stewardship.

*Reassess current consumption and waste patterns.* An easy starting point is to use only recycled paper and other products for church materials. Most congregations could do a better job of providing more visible recycling receptacles for paper, glass, plastic, cans, and cardboard. Some churches even serve as recycling drop-off locations for their members and communities. Install bike racks to encourage worshipers to cycle to services and activities. Another overlooked area relates to the cleaning chemicals used around the building. Are these products safe for the people using them and for the environment? Are cleaning products stored safely?<sup>3</sup>

*Laying Down Burdens.* The author of *Less Clutter, More Life* says, "clutter represents postponed decisions."<sup>4</sup>



A STRONG PROPONENT OF EFFICIENT  
ENERGY USE IN THE CHURCH,  
EUGENE GOES INTO "SLEEP MODE" ON A REGULAR BASIS.

Experts estimate we never use 80 percent of what we keep. Does the same statistic apply to congregations? How much space is devoted to storing outdated props, equipment, curriculum, and seasonal material? One church cleared out two storage rooms, including old records and paperwork, to gain Sunday school rooms in return. Perhaps hanging on to objects reminds us of great periods in the church's past. However, giving away and recycling items from the past frees the congregation to move forward in ministry.

### Bigger Steps

A congregation that is striving to manage church resources as caretakers of God's creation can take on even more ambitious projects.

*Conduct an energy audit.* A facilities committee should evaluate energy uses in its facilities every two years, including checking the heating and cooling equipment for efficiency. The committee can establish a baseline of heating, cooling, and lighting costs. About forty states have affiliates of Interfaith Power & Light ([www.interfaithpowerandlight.org](http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org)), a non-profit that aids congregations with energy conservation and efforts to shrink their carbon footprint. Their website provides valuable information about agencies who conduct energy usage for specific states. The U.S. Department of Energy ([www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)) suggests some do-it-yourself versions of an energy audit.

*Address underutilized buildings.* The Garden Church in San Pedro, California, permanently solved this problem—they have no church building. The congregation meets at an outdoor central table surrounded by gardens—"a living sanctuary." Few congregations would find this a workable approach, yet other strategies could make a significant difference. For instance, too many church buildings remain empty for many hours during the week even though their facilities could be an important anchor for the wider community. Do the policies and fees that apply to outside groups encourage or discourage potential users? Seek out new partnerships and remove the barriers that prevent greater use of church facilities. One nonprofit organization, Partners for Sacred Places ([www.sacredplaces.org](http://www.sacredplaces.org)), assists congregations in sustaining and actively using their structures. Leaders could learn about and consider some of their suggestions for maximizing buildings.

*Replace equipment.* Photocopiers, computers, and printers should have power saving features. If not, then consider replacing older equipment. Refrigerators and

freezers use large amounts of energy. If these units are older, the church might save money and energy by replacing them with equipment that is more efficient. A water heater should get special scrutiny if the unit keeps large amounts of water hot all the time. On-demand, tankless, or instant water heaters could be a good investment in a church where daily demand is not common. Light fixtures and bulbs should also be replaced with new technology that use less energy and cost less over the life of the bulb. Replacing poorly insulated windows and putting in more insulation also reduces energy use.<sup>5</sup>

*Consider other sources of energy.* Some churches install solar panels to generate renewable heat. Your region may offer the possibility of purchasing "green power" from wind and geothermal sources.

*Become advocates.* Most denominations offer opportunities for congregations to be a collective witness for environmental concerns. Other ecumenical efforts, such as Creation Justice Ministries ([www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)), provide information on current legislation and policy initiatives to mobilize people around environmental justice issues.

### When Abundance Leads to Resistance

Americans can easily take the beauty and abundance of our country for granted. When we live in a land of plenty, we are often blind to the erosion of natural resources and that leads us to resist any limits to our choices. Serving God by protecting God's creation conveniences that we expect God's presence in all places.<sup>6</sup>

1. See the excellent Mennonite Creation Care Network curriculum (<http://www.mennocreationcare.org>).

2. William P. Brown, *The Seven Pillars of Creation: The Bible, Science, and the Ecology of Wonder* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

3. See Rebecca Barnes Davies, *50 Ways to Help Save the Earth, Revised Edition: How You and Your Church Can Make a Difference* (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox, 2016) for more ideas.

4. Barbara Hemphill, *Less Clutter, More Life* (Pasadena, CA: True Roses, 2014), 12.

5. See Creation Justice Ministries ([www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)) for purchasing guides and Earth Day Sunday worship materials.

6. Mark Torgerson, *Greening Spaces for Worship and Ministry: Congregations, Their Building, and Creation Care* (New York: Rowland & Littlefield, 2012).