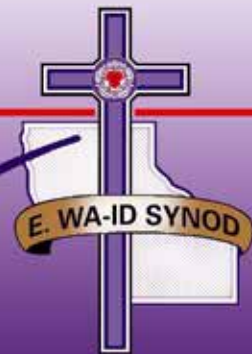


# CROSS Connection



*The Cross Connection is a monthly publication of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod published for its clergy, members, deacons, lay leadership and ecumenical partners.*

April 2018

This week, I asked our Cluster Deans to join me at the Grunewald Guild for a time of retreat, reflection, re-visioning, and relaxation.

We ate incredible food. We prayed together. We laughed together. We imagined the future of the church together. We shared Holy Communion.

It was a blessed time.

I would like to share with you one of my “philosophies around the future of the Church” that I shared with them (and have shared with some of you). One of the scriptures that informs my attitude is from Psalm 119:105 *Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path.* It occurs to me that in this psalm, God’s Word lights our feet. Our feet. Not twenty-five years down the road, or ten or five. But our feet.

I interpret this to mean that God will provide us the next step. We panic when we can’t see where the Church we love will be in a decade—but perhaps that is because God doesn’t want us to see that. God wants us to look at the next step. And then we’ll look for the one after that. And the one after that. And the one after that. One step at a time, walking together with God who loves us more than we can imagine.

People love to say that this is a challenging time to be the Church. And while I don’t disagree with them, I also tend to think that there’s never really been an easy time to be the Church—not if we’re living into our baptismal calling. We’re set up to fundamentally oppose the things that this world values. We’re called to love the unlovable, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, advocate for the widow and orphan (those who are marginalized in our society). We’re called to welcome the stranger. If we’re actually doing these things, it will at the very least put us in conflict with the world around us. More often, I see it put us into conflict with our own sinful selves. There is nothing easy about being God’s people in the world.

But I would guess, because God is faithful, that if you were to stop worrying about what things will be like thirty years from now, centered yourself and listened for that still small voice of God, you would realize: there is a next step. There is a step that is clear, and solid, and you can take it in confidence.

Take that step! Take it! It may feel like not enough, but “With God all things are possible.”

Here is the next step for the Synod: **Establish a more robust Synod Staff to support the work of the synod and the needs of the congregations in EWAID.**

1. Call a full-time DEM We will be receiving a second slate of DEM candidates to interview in May. This pushes back our hoped for goal again, but I am dedicated to making sure we have a DEM with the right configuration of gifts that will help us all learn how to be “church together, for the sake of the world.”

2. Call a full-time Assistant to the Bishop This individual will help me balance the work that needs to be done (the have to’s) with the work that I really feel called to oversee as your Bishop (the want to’s). Just how that will work is something I am still in prayer and discernment about—and I welcome and crave your prayers, as well.

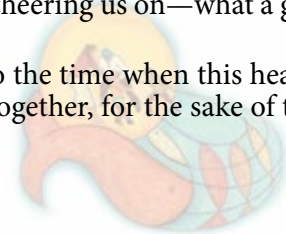
It is my prayer that with three full-time staff working with the people of the Eastern WA-Idaho Synod that we can begin to strengthen our ties to one another, to our Synod, and to our Churchwide partners who are get so excited when they hear what’s happening in our not-so-little corner of the ELCA. They are praying for us, partnering with us, and cheering us on—what a gift to know that people all over the United States are united in helping us step out in faith!

In the time that I was in discernment about this call, to the election, to the “Bishop-elect” period, to the time when this heavy mantle fell fully on my shoulder, the words of Bishop Eaton have rung in my ears, “We are church together, for the sake of the world.”

Thank you, beloved ones, for being so willing to show me the awesome truth of this statement.

#weareewaid.

+Bishop Kristen



## *Rural Ministry Resources*

March 1, 2018

Dear Friends of Rural Ministries and in support of our schools,

You are receiving this invitation because Rural Ministry has a vested interest in your community. The Rural Ministry Resource group is inviting you to a workshop that is very pertinent to ministry and your community today, both rural and congregations in larger communities. Our board has prayed about this workshop and the planning of it, so as to provide information to you that you will be able to not only use in your community but share with others.

The workshop "Pulling it Together" will be held on Friday, April 6, 2018 beginning at 1pm and will conclude after lunch on Saturday, April 7, 2018 and will be held at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center (6910 S Ben Burr Rd, Spokane). You can come for all or part of the weekend. We are asking a donation of \$50 for the weekend including meals and room for the night. Full scholarships are available. We won't turn anyone away. If you intend to come for Friday only, we would ask \$10 to help cover dinner. Checks (or cash) may be given to Kathy Kramer and made out to RURAL MINISTRY RESOURCES.

The planned agenda includes the following:

Friday:

Meet and greet with opening devotions and prayer.

Three workshops that will be presented twice:

- 1) Spiritual directors Pastor Paul Palumbo and Sandy Bryant (from Lake Chelan) Relying on faith.
- 2) 5th Quarter: Pastor Stacey Friedlein (Working with the youth, a program developed in Davenport, WA)
- 3) Dealing with grief six months after loss: Michelle Mitchell, Grief counselor, Hospice of Spokane

Each workshop is 50 minutes long and you can attend two of the three workshops.

There will be time between workshops and dinner to go for a walk, reflect or take a nap!

Then in the evening after dinner we will gather together to share thoughts and ideas and close with a short worship service, leaving free time to visit.

After a good nights rest and a delicious breakfast, we will meet the following morning at (9:30am).

- 1) A report from Freeman School District Principal James Straw on the last six months.
- 2) Discussing the restart of the Rural Ministry Network, meeting in rural communities every 3 or 4 months to share our successes and our challenges. You will have the ability to sign up to host one in your community!
- 3) Closing worship.

We hope you will attend and bring others with you to this workshop filled with wonderful information.

Please register in advance so we can make appropriate arrangements for your stay. To register, please call Kathy Kramer at (509) 284-6107, or email [kramerrmrelmore@frontier.com](mailto:kramerrmrelmore@frontier.com) by March 26, 2018. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

*Mary Daniels*

Rural Ministry Resources

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# Presiding bishop

## God's irresistible call

By Elizabeth A. Eaton



When first elected presiding bishop, I was often asked what it meant to be the first woman entrusted with this call. I didn't like that question then. I'm still ambivalent about it now.

Why, in the 21st century, did gender matter? Why, in 2013, was the election of a woman historic? I didn't understand all the fuss. My parents had raised me to believe that if I worked hard enough I could be whatever I wanted to be when I grew up. My maternal grandmother was a businesswoman in the 1930s. My pediatrician was a woman. My high school biology teacher had her doctorate. All in the last century. However, "the question" does draw me to reflect on my journey in Word and Sacrament ministry.

We had a faithful home. Church was an important part of our lives. Sunday school, Sunday worship, vacation Bible school (I'm pretty adept at illustrating salvation history with pipe cleaners and Popsicle sticks), the seasons of the church year all shaped my life. God was real and close. So, when asked by my junior high guidance counselor what I wanted to be when I grew up, I answered: "A Lutheran pastor." Women can't be pastors, he told me, and that was that.


During my senior year in high school, my father had open-heart surgery. In 1973 this was a serious and risky procedure. My faith was shaken, and it caused me to ask all of the existential questions: Why do bad things happen to good people? If God is omnipotent and loving, why is there suffering? Is there a God? What does life mean? I presented these questions to my pastor, John Evans, and waited for answers. Instead of lecturing me, he gave me the space and the grace to think even more deeply. Then I went off to college.

College isn't always conducive to church attendance. Having Sunday morning come after Saturday night on a college campus is not the best arrangement. I drifted, but I still had my list of questions. Then something unexpected happened—I went to a fine Presbyterian college

and the assistant campus chaplain was a woman! So I sent her my list, and she also encouraged me to question, doubt and explore. I wasn't the only one. She invited several of us to meet with her. We called ourselves the Heretics Group.

By my senior year I knew I didn't want to be a band director. I applied to divinity school and was accepted! By now the Lutheran Church in America (an ELCA predecessor) had been ordaining women for seven years. By the end of my first year of div school I felt deeply called to Word and Sacrament ministry. I contacted my bishop and let him know. That's not how the process works. One meets with one's bishop *before* one attends seminary. Oops. Nevertheless, Kenneth Sauer, then bishop of the Southern Ohio Synod, brought me into the fold and I was a model candidate after that. I was ordained in 1981.

The 37 years I have served have been a blessing. I was encouraged by my pastors, supported by my church, and have been extended calls from congregations. But the 37 years have not been without difficulty. Early on I was often the only woman at clergy gatherings. The legitimacy of my call was challenged. My compensation was less than my male colleagues. In every congregation I served, people left because they couldn't accept a woman pastor. Once, while pumping gas in my clerics, a shocked man exclaimed, "I've never seen a woman before!" A pastor told me that I was no bishop of his.

In this issue of *Living Lutheran*, you have read the stories of remarkable women living out their baptismal vocation as laypeople, pastors and deacons. We didn't say yes to God's call because we wanted to be pioneers, or trailblazers or to make some kind of a statement. We said yes because God's call was irresistible, because of the joy of serving the gospel, because of the great privilege of walking with people as the deep love of Jesus becomes real for them. These are our call stories. 

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

This column originally appeared in the March 2018 issue of *Living Lutheran*. Reprinted with permission.

## ASSEMBLY 2018



### Meet Your Churchwide Representative

Rev. Ron Glusenkamp serves as the Director of the current ELCA Campaign *Always Being Made New*. Glusenkamp says, "Our baptismal identity calls us to be claimed, gathered, and sent into the world. The (campaign) is a great way to do so much more together for the sake of the world in Jesus' name." In addition to his report to the Assembly and a Q&A workshop, Rev. Glusenkamp will serve as keynote speaker Friday night, conduct a community Bible study Saturday and lead us in worship Sunday morning.



### THERE'S STILL TIME!

Submit your content to *Sharing our Gifts* video.

A new video sharing the differing ministries from across our Synod will be introduced at Assembly. Congregations and Synod partners are encouraged to submit content. We want you to share your unique ministry or engagement strategies at work in your congregation.

**TO PARTICIPATE**, you can either:

- Send 60 seconds of video (MP4)
- OR
- Send 5-10 high-resolution photos along with 3-5 short descriptions of your ministry. Your images and words will be edited into the video.

**Submit all content by April 8 to:** [videos@clcyakima.org](mailto:videos@clcyakima.org).

If you are gifted with video production talents and would like to help, contact Jason Moos at [jason.moos@clcyakima.org](mailto:jason.moos@clcyakima.org)



### ASSEMBLY OFFERING 2018

Assembly worship offerings will be shared with our partners **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** and **Lutheran Community Services Northwest**



**WASTE NOT  
WANT NOT**

### DONATION DRIVE

The 2018 Assembly Program Committee is seeking donations of cases of toilet paper to be brought to Assembly. This physical donation will help underwrite a significant operation cost for the following organizations: Camp Lutherhaven, Luther Heights Bible Camp and Union Gospel Mission. For more information, contact Ginny Krekling at [pastorginnyk@gmail.com](mailto:pastorginnyk@gmail.com)

### GET GUIDEBOOKED!

In keeping with the ELCA's *Caring for Creation Social Justice Resolution*,



we continue to seek out renewable resources, including technology. Guidebook is an all-access app that serves as your one-stop shop for all things Assembly. (For those who prefer hard copies, you may print your own or a printed Assembly registration packet is available for a \$10 fee.)

**To get the app:**

Visit <http://guidebook.com/getit>  
OR  
Search for "Guidebook" in your device's app store.

**To learn how to access** the EWAID Assembly guide and how to explore the features within, check out this short YouTube video *How to Download Guides on the Guidebook App*. Find it at: <https://youtu.be/k-tFdQrGhsM>



## 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>D</b> Deacon  |
| <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<br>(available for the open-ended call) |
| <b>VP</b> Visitation Pastor                          |                         |  |

| <b>POS</b> | <b>LOCATION/CONGREGATION</b>            | <b>STATUS</b> | <b>PASTORAL CARE</b>            |
|------------|---|---------------|---------------------------------|
| P          | Chewelah, WA – St. Paul Lutheran        | A             | Bob Edwards <b>SP</b>           |
| P          | Davenport, WA - Zion Lutheran           | NV            | Stacey Friedlein <b>TEEM</b>    |
| P          | Davenport (Egypt), WA – Christ Lutheran | NV            | Stacey Friedlein <b>SP</b>      |
| P          | Ephrata, WA - Holy Trinity              | C             | Ann Murphy <b>SP</b>            |
| P          | Goldendale, WA – Christ the King        | NV            | Mary Johnson <b>SP</b>          |
| P          | Kennewick, WA – First Lutheran          | A             | Alan Berg <b>I</b>              |
| P          | Leavenworth, WA - Faith Lutheran        | B             | Misael Fajardo-Perez <b>I</b>   |
| P          | Mattawa, WA – Grace Lutheran            | B             |                                 |
| P          | Otis Orchards, WA – Peace Lutheran      | A             | David Olson <b>TM</b>           |
| P          | Quincy, WA - St. Paul Lutheran          | C             | Ann Murphy <b>SP</b>            |
| P          | Spokane, WA – St. Mark’s Lutheran       | B             | Eric Dull Kate LePard <b>CP</b> |
| P          | Sunnyside, WA – Our Saviour’s           | NV            | Phylis Stromme <b>I</b>         |
| P          | Toppenish, WA – Faith Lutheran          | NV            | Phylis Stromme <b>I</b>         |

Ann Murphy has been called to serve Holy Trinity – Ephrata, WA and St. Paul – Quincy, WA.

Arianna Arends has accepted the call to serve Emmanuel – Cheney, WA and Lutheran Campus Ministry at EWU – Cheney, WA starting March 18.

## Building Bridges of Understanding

An Introductory Workshop in: Cultural Self-Awareness & Competency and  
Understanding the Dynamics of Intolerance and Racism

**NOW HAS A NEW WEBSITE!**

<https://sites.google.com/view/buildingbridges>

*The journey* towards cultural self-awareness and a greater understanding of the history and dynamics of intolerance and racism is long, difficult, and at times troubling. Yet, it is critically important especially in this our current social and political climate! Not only does a person need to examine one’s own family of origin and subsequent socialization, but also exercise intentional examination of one’s self. With this knowledge, the individual can now also examine, with greater discernment, their own behavior, biases, beliefs, and attitudes towards the “other.” Providing a safe, non-intimidating, and structured setting allows participants to engage in this important journey for their own betterment and that of their organization and community. And in doing so, to better understand with renewed clarity and critical thinking, to effectively challenge those destructive dynamics so prevalent in our nation today. Is now the time for your congregation/cluster/community to become engaged? View the new “Building Bridges” website!

## Summer Institute in Pastoral Theology: Leading a Congregation in Anxious Times

**June 11-13, 2018**

Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, Washington

Join renowned clergy coach and consultant Margaret Marcuson along with PLU Professors Marit Trelstad and Samuel Torvend and Institute Chaplain Pr. Jan Ruud for the 2018 Summer Institute in Pastoral Theology.

This event is designed especially for pastors and congregational leaders who want to reflect on leading a congregation during anxious times.

Save the dates! More information at <https://www.plu.edu/congregations/>

## 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 . . .*



Please pray for Pastor J. Michael Scheid (Retired) as he is undergoing Chemotherapy treatment for Plasmablastic Lymphoma at Swedish Hospital in Seattle.

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

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## OUTDOOR MINISTRY JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There is nothing more life changing and forming than a summer spent working in outdoors ministry.

Ideally we are looking for staff that have finished their first year of college, but will employ kitchen staff that have finished high school. We have many positions at both Lutherhaven and Shoshone Mountain Retreat open including counselors, lifeguards, kitchen staff, and program staff.

We hope that you have several young adults in mind, and will encourage them to grasp this opportunity this summer! They can learn more at - <http://www.lutherhaven.com/about/employment/summerstaff/>.

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## You Are Invited

Sunday, April 1, 2018 at 6:00 am  
Easter Sunrise Worship at  
Cordelia Lutheran Church  
1501 Danielson Road  
Genesee, Idaho 83832



# ADULT *Spirituality* RETREAT



April 15-17, 2018  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Join us for a weekend of learning, fellowship, relaxation & fun! Spend time in the great outdoors hiking around camp, enjoying great conversations, and worshipping together.

Come for just a day or the whole weekend to experience the teachings of Dr. Mark Allan Powell, professor of New Testament at Trinity Lutheran Seminary. He will lead discussion on well-known Gospel passages, helping us to approach the Bible with new eyes.



. Retreat begins on Sunday at 6:15 pm for dinner & concludes on Tuesday at 12:15 pm with lunch.

### 2018 REGISTRATION

Adult Spirituality Retreat- April 15-17

\_\_\_ \$205 - Full Weekend (Sunday dinner to Tuesday lunch)

\_\_\_ \$95/day - Commuter (Circle day(s) attending: Sunday Monday Tuesday)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any dietary restrictions or severe allergies that you may have: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Please register no later than 7 days prior to arrival.

A Non-Refundable deposit of \$50/person due at time of registration. Balance due upon arrival.

Send your registration to: FLBC 603 S Main St., Kallispell, MT 59901 or office@flbc.net

A list of what to bring, and a schedule will be sent to you two weeks prior to the retreat.



406.752.6602 • 603 South Main Street, Kallispell, MT 59901 • office@flbc.net • www.flbc.net

Join Us for a **FIESTA**  
Benefiting Lutheran Campus Ministries  
at Eastern Washington University

**DEEMAY**

**MAY 5<sup>th</sup>**

**5 PM** Appetizers  
**6 PM** Dinner

**Advent Lutheran Church**  
13009 E Broadway Ave,  
Spokane Valley, WA 99216

**A donation time will follow dinner**

Please email [pastor@lcmewu.com](mailto:pastor@lcmewu.com) for reservations, information, or donations





# EASTERN WASHINGTON IDAHO SYNOD

of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

314 S. Spruce St., Suite A  
Spokane, WA 99201-5823  
509-838-9871



## April 2018 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

#### March 2018

- 18 Cluster F Assembly Meeting
- 18 Synod Assembly Meeting - Yakima, WA
- 20 Synod Assembly Notebook materials deadline
- 30 Good Friday - Synod Office Closed

#### April 2018

- 1 HAPPY EASTER. HE IS RISEN!
- 15 Cluster G Assembly Meeting
- 26-27 Synod Council - Yakima, WA
- 27-29 Synod Assembly

#### May 2018

- 5 LCM@EWU Cinco de Mayo Fundraiser  
at Advent Lutheran - Spokane, WA

#### June 2018

- 8-9 Candidacy Meeting - Spokane, WA
- 21 Pre-Retirement Seminar - First Kennewick

### DON'T FORGET - WE'VE MOVED

**Our new address is  
245 E 13th Ave, Suite A  
Spokane, WA 99202**



**Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod**  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our Hands

### Staff

Bishop ..... The Rev. Kristen E.M. Kuempel  
 Program Administrator ..... Cathy Steiner  
 Assembly Manager ..... Julia Bennett



# THE PARISH PAPER

IDEAS AND INSIGHTS FOR ACTIVE CONGREGATIONS

EDITORS: CYNTHIA WOOLEVER AND DANA HORRELL—WWW.THEPARISHPAPER.COM

April 2018—Volume 26, Number 4

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## CHURCH ENERGY USE: CAN WE HARNESS HOPE?

Carbon dioxide emissions have been implicated as a key factor in rising global temperatures. Because all church buildings use energy, much of it derived from carbon-based sources such as oil and coal, congregations play a role in energy consumption. Although congregations represent a small piece of the big picture, they can still offer hope for the community or the wider church.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that if every house of worship nationwide (about 300,000) cut back energy use by 10%:

- \$200 million could be saved and used for other projects for the community good
- 5.4 billion kilowatt hours of electricity could be used elsewhere without generating additional pollution
- 200 million tons of greenhouse gases would *not* be emitted—the equivalent of keeping 400,000 cars off the road or planting half a million trees.<sup>1</sup>

### The Basics: What Is Energy?

Inside Energy, a collaborative journalism initiative, describes the current situation in a video titled “Energy Explained.”<sup>2</sup> Energy use was flat until the past century when it skyrocketed. The average person in the U.S. today uses 100 times the energy that his or her great grandmother did a hundred years ago. Today, worldwide, our biggest single source of energy is petroleum. The vast majority of energy use goes to generating electricity. We generate electricity by burning coal and natural gas, splitting atoms, damming rivers, and harnessing the wind and sun.

While the demand for energy in the U.S. has started to level off, energy use varies greatly across countries. The average American uses three times the energy of a typical Chinese citizen. For certain, our energy use patterns will be quite different in coming generations. For example, more cars could run on electricity than on gasoline. Whatever happens, today’s energy choices will affect how we make energy in the future.

### Establish a Carbon Footprint Baseline

A carbon footprint is “the weight of carbon or carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere each year from the burning of fossil fuels.”<sup>3</sup> Another way of measuring the carbon footprint is the number of acres of the Earth’s surface required to absorb the carbon once it is emitted. Several online tools allow individuals and households to calculate their carbon footprints. Congregations can use these same tools to estimate their carbon footprint. Inter-faith Power and Light (IPL)—a nonprofit organization devoted to environmental stewardship—developed the Cool Congregations calculator specifically for churches.<sup>4</sup>

### Conduct an Energy Audit

An energy audit, a systematic analysis of how and where a building is using energy, affords a framework for determining how and where energy efficiency measures might be taken. Jerry Lawson, the National Manager of Energy Star Small Business/Congregations at the EPA, recommends that small- to medium-size churches start



“THE NEW SOUND SYSTEM IS AN ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADE... IT ONLY KICKS ON WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING PROFOUND.”

with a walk-through of the building with knowledgeable church members. Kansas IPL offers a do-it-yourself energy audit form for congregations.<sup>5</sup> A professional consultant might be required for larger churches or those with a complicated HVAC system. Before hiring someone, ask your local utility whether it offers free consulting services. If IPL has an affiliate in your state, ask them for a professional referral.

### Organize an Energy Treasure Hunt

Another option involves organizing an Energy Treasure Hunt for the whole congregation. While the EPA designed this program for businesses, the idea can be easily adapted for congregations. Gather a group to spend several hours scouring the church facility for ways to save energy. As with any treasure hunt, turn it into a contest. For ideas, download the “Energy Star Treasure Hunt Guide.”<sup>6</sup>

### Finally, Get Down to Business

Footprints, audits, and treasure hunts supply a baseline as leaders begin to measure progress toward the goal of reducing carbon emissions. And these activities further serve an educational function when the congregation is invited to get involved. But where to start? The EPA offers an “Energy Star Action Workbook for Congregations.”<sup>7</sup> The Interfaith Coalition on Energy (ICE) also offers additional web resources for anyone. They supply these tips for saving energy:<sup>8</sup>

*Monitor energy usage and cost.* Weight watchers know the importance of monitoring what you consume. This principle applies to church buildings and energy as well. Start by reading the utility bill. This can be intimidating, but by continually monitoring usage and cost, churches get sound feedback on progress. Ask questions: How much is being spent? What are the units being consumed (kWh for electricity, CCF for natural gas, gallons for oil)? An added bonus: you might detect billing errors.

*Turn things off.* No matter how small the device—lamp, computer, or air conditioner—the greatest savings come from turning it off and keeping it off. This is especially true for worship facilities, which are used intermittently. Visit when the building is empty and you might be surprised to see energy wasters still running. To reduce “standby power” (power used by equipment when switched off or in standby mode) plug appliances into a power strip and turn the strip off.<sup>9</sup> For heating and AC, install programmable thermostats and set them to heat and cool at times when the building is in use.<sup>10</sup>

*Look for the least expensive energy.* Many states deregulated electric and gas markets. That means consumers have retail choice when it comes to which company supplies electricity and natural gas. The utility provides the transmission, while an independent supplier provides the energy. Do an internet search using the term “energy deregulated states” to see if this applies to your state.<sup>11</sup>

*Tune systems to optimal performance.* It helps to have a single person controlling the energy system for the building. That person should learn to become a tinkerer, adjusting water temperatures, air temperatures, dampers, and pilot light flames, for example. Ask a contractor to help with an annual tuning of oil or gas burners.

*Purchase energy efficient upgrades.* Fortunately, with each passing year, the equipment used in most worship facilities is becoming more energy efficient, including heating and air conditioning systems, computers, dishwashers, light bulbs, and ballasts. Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing products.

### Start Small!

Energy conservation represents an example of “chunking down,” moving from a complicated reality (such as climate change) to its smaller components (purchasing energy efficient LED light bulbs). George A. Miller, a psychologist, coined the term “chunking” to refer to the strategy for mastering information overload by breaking a larger whole like a phone number or shopping list into groups or “chunks” like 888-888-8888 or meat-dairy-produce. In this instance, the church building represents a small chunk, connected to a larger conglomeration of oil wells, coal mines, solar panels, power plants, utility grids, and much more. Start small and aspire to do more!

1. Rebekah Simon-Peter, *7 Simple Steps To Green Your Church* (Nashville: Abingdon, 2010), 10-11.

2. <http://insideenergy.org/2017/01/12/energy-explained/>

3. <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator>

4. <http://www.coolcongregations.org/calculator>

5. <http://www.interfaithpower.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Energy-Audit-KSIPL.pdf>

6. <https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy-star-treasure-hunt-guide-simple-steps-finding-energy-savings>

7. [https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy\\_star\\_action\\_workbook\\_congregations](https://www.energystar.gov/buildings/tools-and-resources/energy_star_action_workbook_congregations)

8. <http://www.interfaithenergy.com/>

9. <https://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/3-easy-tips-reduce-your-standby-power-loads>

10. Rebekah Simon-Peter, *7 Simple Steps*, 84.

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