

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

God's beloved people,

I've always liked the text from Deuteronomy 30, Moses' final challenge and prayer given to God's people just before they crossed over the Jordan into the Promised Land: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him; for that means life to you and length of days...." (30:19-20a).

The text comes at a pivotal moment both for Israel and for Moses. Moses has been told he is not going into the Promised Land with his people. He is scared for them and afraid that they will fall into temptation, especially the worship of false gods in the new land. Yet his prayer is that they "Choose Life...and live!"

It now seems clear we are at a pivotal moment of transition in our ministry as well. This next year will bring an election of a bishop, based, we hope, on the missional work of the Synod Council and the priorities for bishop as identified at the Synod Assembly. I will let you know the results of my own discernment by October 1 so that the fall nomination process can be informed.

The other reality is that changes in mission support are going to force changes in the way the Synod is in ministry with you. Today I want to urge us all to "Choose Life" and the promises of God that guarantee our eternal life and make possible challenging decisions today. So: A gift and a challenge.

The gift is more of Mark Allan Powell, our speaker at Synod Assembly. At Assembly we asked Powell to address the Synod's Guiding Principles, particularly as they had to do with loving and following Jesus. I think Powell did an outstanding job and I think most of you in attendance will agree. What you may or may not know is the Powell has done excellent work for the Church in a number of other areas including: Stewardship ("Giving to God: The Bible's Good News about Living a Generous Life"); Contemporary Christian Music ("encyclopedia of Contemporary Christian Music"); and Preaching ("What Do They Hear? Bridging the Gap Between Pulpit and Pew).

Today I want to highlight Powell's gift in Biblical Interpretation. Select Learning has made available his seven-session DVD study entitled, "How Lutherans Interpret the Bible." This resource has been recognized as one of the very best resources our Church has

**JULY-AUGUST
2010**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Book Parlor News	9
Call Process Update	4
Calendar	12
Community of the Cross Award	4
Director for Evangelical Mission	6
Financial Report	3
Global Mission News	9
IIRAH	11
Leaders' Retreat @ Luther Heights	10
Lutheran Public Policy Office of WA	11
Prayers	8
Women of the ELCA	7

Continued on Page 2 . . .

FROM THE BISHOP CONTINUED . . .

available for biblical interpretation. See:

(http://www.selectlearning.org/index.php?main_page=product_info&cPath=72&products_id=503).

Our Synod “Book of Faith” committee has determined that the very best use of our Book of Faith restricted funds **is to purchase a copy of this Powell resource for any congregation requesting it!** Please let us know—at office@ewaidssynod.org-- if you would like us to order one of these for you. After we have them delivered to the office we’ll arrange for delivery. Please let us know your decision by July 1, 2010, if you want to use this resource for fall programming.

Now, here’s the challenge: We live in difficult days for our economy. Many have lost jobs; others are cutting back on what they can afford. Our schools are pressed for funding. Our retired—and soon to be retired--worry about their resources. It’s no surprise that the church is pressed as well. Five congregations have left the Synod for reasons related to the sexuality decisions. Three more may leave by fall. All of this means that mission support—the dollars your congregation sends to the synod for Synodical, National, and Worldwide ministry, is pressed in very difficult ways. Here’s the real news: **On the current trajectory our synod will take in less this year than at the first year of the ELCA merger!** Our projected income is 20% lower than two years ago.¹ The Churchwide partner must cut 25% from the national and international budget. (In April 2010, no mission support was sent because of poor cash flow.)

The challenge before us is a drastic reorganization of the synod and Churchwide ministry or a response from the congregations that permits us to continue in ministry according to the adopted budget. The Synod Finance Committee will have recommendations for the Synod Council by mid-July.

Please look at your congregation’s financial picture and advise us what you are able to do.² If the answer is that you are not able to participate with your share as passed at Synod Assembly, please let us know, and let us know what you believe you will be able to do. If there are intentional reasons for a low mission support contribution, please let us know your thinking.

We depend on one another as parts of the Body of Christ. We will not waver in our mission of bearing Christ to the world in word and deed, but we will adapt to the realities of a cramped world if your budget shortfall requires that of us. We need your help—information!--in order to do that.

God be with you in the local mission field! Choose Life!
Keep your eyes open for false gods, including fear!

Pr. Martin Wells

Bishop

mshmmwells@aol.com or 509-838-9871

¹ Here are the numbers for synod income for the first 1/3 of the year:

Income in 2010: \$245,019.17 down \$65,738.48, 80% of 2008

Income in 2009: \$310,758.19

Income in 2008: \$306,866.95

Benevolence income for this year is projected to be: \$789,221, \$66,000 or 9% off budget for a total of 18-20% in the last two years.

Benevolence income for last year was: \$897,793, down 9% from 2008

Benevolence Income for 2008 (2009 budget year) was: \$986,526

² Here are the congregations we thank for exemplary support during these difficult days. Not all congregations who have contributed are included in the list below. Criteria used includes whether a parochial report was turned in for 2009; whether a mission “intent” was turned in to the synod; whether the congregation is at 1/3 of its intent at the four-month point in the fiscal year. Other congregations are noted because they have stretched to offer mission support. The figures are from the May 2010 report of the Financial Services Office, Region 1 and reflect the standard monthly cut-off date for

FROM THE BISHOP CONTINUED . . .

contributions.

King of Glory, Boise, ID	\$ 40,000. intent	\$14,544. given in the first third of the budget year
Shepherd of the Valley, Boise, ID	\$ 49,500. intent	\$16,495. given
Trinity, Bonners Ferry, ID	\$ 12,000. intent	\$ 4,000. given
Lake Chelan, Chelan, WA	\$ 7,500. intent	\$ 3,708. given
Emmanuel, Cheney, WA	\$ 11,250. intent	\$ 3,752. given
Clark Fork, Clark Fork, ID	\$ 1,740. intent	\$ 725. given
Celebration, E Wenatchee, WA	\$ 8,900. intent	\$ 2,926. given
Christ, Egypt, WA	\$ 5,500. intent	\$ 1,800. given
First, Ellensburg, WA	\$ 21,300. intent	\$ 7,288. given
Holy Trinity, Ephrata, WA	\$ 17,700. intent	\$ 5,800. given
Christ the King, Goldendale, WA	\$ 7,000. intent	\$ 1,945. given
Faith, Leavenworth, WA	\$ 6,950. intent	\$ 1,738. given
American, Newport, WA	\$ 9,660. intent	\$ 2,793. given
Good Shepherd, Pocatello, ID	\$ 6,300. intent	\$ 1,794. given
Emmanuel, Reardan, WA	\$ 3,100. intent	\$ 994. given
First, Sandpoint, ID	\$ 13,100. intent	\$ 5,460. given
All Saints, Spokane, WA	\$ 7,500. intent	\$ 2,500. given
St. Luke, Spokane, WA	\$ 37,300. intent	\$ 8,023. given
St Mark, Spokane, WA	\$ 39,000. intent	\$13,000. given
Bethlehem, Spokane, WA	\$ 5,000. intent	\$ 2,833. given
St John, Sprague, WA	\$ 2,220. intent	\$ 760. given
Our Savior, Sunnyside, WA	\$ 7,000. intent	\$ 2,500. given
Christ, Walla Walla, WA	\$ 28,800. intent	\$12,166. given
Grace, Wenatchee, WA	\$ 12,000. intent	\$ 4,432. given
Wilbur, Wilbur, WA	\$ 8,500. intent	\$ 3,293. given
Central, Yakima, WA	\$ 43,500. intent	\$13,723. given
Grace, Cashmere, WA		\$ 4,000. given
Fullness of God, Holden Village		\$ 1,700. given
Hope, Eagle, ID		\$ 6,200. given
Immanuel, Grandview, WA		\$ 3,600. given
Cameron Emmanuel, Kendrick, ID		\$ 3,823. given
Lord of Life, Kennewick, WA		\$ 3,951. given
Emmanuel, Moscow, ID		\$ 6,666. given
First, Pasco, WA		\$ 2,600. given
Trinity, Pullman, WA		\$ 7,576. given
St Paul, Quincy, WA		\$ 3,340. given
Central, Spokane, WA		\$ 3,084. given
Prince of Peace, Spokane, WA		\$ 3,768. given
Zion, Spokane, WA		\$ 5,932. given
Troy, Troy, ID		\$ 2,074. given

EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT

Fiscal Year ~ February 1, 2010 - January 31, 2011

2010	May	\$42,876.32	Year to Date	\$245,019.71
2009	May	\$72,498.35	Year to Date	\$310,758.19
	Difference	(\$29,622.03)	Difference	(\$65,738.48)

Many ministries and agencies depend on your faithful giving each month.

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	L Lay Position
TC Term Call	SP Supply Pastor	TM Transition Minister

(available for the open-ended call)

POS	LOCATION/CONGREGATION	STATUS	PASTORAL CARE
P	Boise, ID - King of Glory	A	Keith Hammer I
		Kari Sansgaard AP
P	Chewelah, WA - St. Paul	C	Jeryl Phillips-Kelley TM
P	Colfax-Endicott, WA - Peace/Trinity	B.....	Phylis Stromme I
P	Coeur d'Alene, ID - Church of the Master	NV	
P	Ephrata, WA - Holy Trinity	NV	
P	Gifford, ID - Good Hope	A	Valerie Beesley TEEM
P	Kamiah, ID - Faith	A.....	Art Finney I
P	Mountain Home, ID - Grace	A.....	Tom Christensen I
P	Nampa, ID - Trinity	B.....	Dick Sansgaard I
P	Orofino, ID - Ascension	A.....	Gail Hart SP
P	Post Falls, ID - Calvary	NV	
P	Pullman, WA - Trinity	NV	Tom Inch I
P	Quincy, WA - St. Paul	A.....	Bill Voris I
P	Spokane, WA - Central	NV	
P	Spokane, WA - Prince of Peace	C.....	Darrel Lundby I
P	Sunnyside, WA - Our Saviour's	C.....	Ron Shipman I
P	Troy, ID - Troy	A.....	Teresa Calene-Hasseries I
P	Yakima, WA - Christ	A.....	Jillian Ross I

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Rev. Bill Martens of Richland Lutheran Church, LCMC resigned from the ELCA clergy roster effective February 28, 2010.

Rev. Karen Gardner resigned from the ELCA clergy roster effective June 3, 2010.

Beverly Jensen was administratively removed from the ELCA clergy roster effective February 15, 2010.

COMMUNITY OF THE CROSS AWARD Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago



This award is presented, by vote of the faculty, to a Christian group whose activities manifest the invitation of our Lord to take up the cross and follow him, and whose service is directed to the world around it, both Christian and non-Christian, and whose satisfaction and honor clearly derive from the Gospel.



Holden Village Retreat Center, (www.holdenvillage.org) in Washington state, received the award for its “practices of care for creation, commitment to social justice, and daily worship (which) have played a profound role in the renewal of individuals and communities across the United States and around the world.”

CHRISTIAN DIRECTOR POSITION AVAILABLE

TLC Learning Center, housed and supported within Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is seeking a highly qualified, dynamic, Christian Director.

A full job posting and job description can be found online, under the employment link, at: www.trinitylutheran-cda.org



WHEAT RIDGE MINISTRIES OFFERING SABBATICAL GRANTS

Wheat Ridge Ministries is offering ministry sabbatical grants to Lutheran congregations to support and encourage the health and wellness of clergy in their congregation. The Ministry Sabbatical Grant Program aims to increase healthy ministry by promoting a sabbatical leave for rest and renewal to support the **whole person health** of the Lutheran ministry leader and the congregation.



Congregations interested in applying for a Wheat Ridge Ministry Sabbatical Resource Grant can visit www.wheatridge.org to review the requirements and determine whether the grant is appropriate for their needs and to download a grant application. **The deadline for grant applications is January 15, 2011.** Grant awards will be made in March, 2011. Questions may be referred to the Wheat Ridge office by email at grants@wheatridge.org or by phone at 1-800-762-6748.

NEW FEDERAL RULE BANS USE OF SOME WIRELESS MICROPHONES

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Washington, D.C., has issued a new rule that may affect use of some wireless microphones by congregations. The rule bans the use of wireless microphones or similar devices that operate in the 700 MHz Band no later than June 12, to avoid interference with fire and police departments now using the band. The new rule affects wireless microphones or similar devices used by a host of businesses and organizations, such as churches, theaters, schools, conference centers, theme parks and musicians, according to an FCC consumer advisory.



Wireless microphones and similar devices that operate in the 700MHz Band must be tuned to another frequency or replaced, an FCC consumer advisory said. Wireless microphones or similar devices that operate outside the 700MHz Band are not affected, nor are microphones and similar devices with cords. Wireless microphones are normally marked with the frequency the devices use. The FCC announcement, including access to a list of microphones affected, is at <http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/wirelessmicrophones/>.

Because the wireless microphones operating the 700MHz band can interfere with public safety and wireless consumer services, the FCC issued the rule to halt the use of wireless microphones and similar devices operating in this band.

The FCC advisory emphasized strict compliance with the new requirement. Violations of the rule may result in substantial fines, confiscation of the equipment, or criminal sanctions, including imprisonment, the FCC advisory said.

The complete FCC consumer advisory is available at:

http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/consumerfacts/wirelessmic_advisory.html

FROM THE DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION

STEWARDSHIP - THE TIME IS NOW

In my first week as Director for Evangelical Mission, I received a phone call from a chairperson of a Stewardship committee to ask me to work with them in preparation for their program for the following year. That was last November! More than ever we need to be intentional about our Stewardship. To cultivate a climate of gratitude, the recognition of our abundance and trust in God's future takes time.

As the Synod's DEM here are some of the things I have learned about Stewardship from my training in Chicago with Evangelical Outreach for Congregational Mission:

- Cultivating a climate of enthusiastic giving is a possibility even in these economic times. People can be excited and joyful about being generous.
- The most powerful way to increase stewardship is by sharing personal stewardship stories in small groups, committees or Bible studies.
 - ◆ A temple talk is helpful but people mostly listen to it passively.
 - ◆ When in a group where everyone is encouraged to share, it causes people to reflect on their own story of giving: why do I give, how did I come to want to be generous, when have I struggled to give...
 - ◆ Here are two questions for discussion – “Who taught you about stewardship?” and “What’s the best gift you’ve ever given?”
- As Pastors, work out the best way to share your stewardship journey so that you are ready to tell it whenever appropriate; make it concise and real.
- The focus of stewardship is to grow in your giving. It is good to share the congregation's giving history and to have a conversation about that. It is also good to think about our own giving history and reflect on whether we are growing in our giving.
- People want to know where the money goes.
- Church councils should have a discussion about giving and stewardship: don't just leave it to stewardship committees. Do not focus on the shortfalls as much as on God's provision, the practice of stewardship and the joy of giving.
- Stewardship committees should be formed intentionally; not the same people. Choose the most generous people and those who have the potential to grow.

There are many resources available: the ELCA website, Key Leader Program, Consecration Sunday, *Make it Simple*. Two fabulous books are: *Giving to God* by Mark Allan Powell and *Ask, Thank, Tell* by Charles Lane. Use people in the synod – ask me to come and talk with your congregation and cluster (an outsider can say things you cannot), set a cluster meeting to talk about stewardship, ask other pastors about what their churches have done and share a story with each other; “when was it most challenging to be a good steward?”

Stewardship is often considered a year to year thing. Make long range stewardship plans. The Synod is establishing a Synodical Mission Table with a focus on Stewardship; which will plan for the next few years. You may be asked to be part of it.

Lord you have given us many things, just give us one thing more; a grateful heart. Amen

Pr. Helga Jansons

Director for Evangelical Mission

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WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THEME VERSES

Philippians 4:4-9

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

RENEW

Take a walk through the park on your way to the Gathering as the sun winks over the mountains outside Spokane. Soothing waterfalls, birds' morning songs, laughter and singing remind us that we are loved, cared for and meant to be whole. This is your time to pray, to sing, to see and to hear. Find the new you and be renewed.

RESPOND

Unpack your gifts along with your toothbrush! Open yourself to the revelation that you are a gift from God, waiting to be shared, as an expression of God's love. All that you need has been provided in your baptism. Respond to God and to the world around you as a testament to God's love and grace.

REJOICE!

Rejoice at God's amazing grace unfolding and shared with sisters of all sizes, colors, shapes, persuasions, intentions, histories, dreams and desires. You have come to Spokane to share, to sense, to see, to sing and to hear how God's unending love is for you and for all. You have been to Women of the ELCA's Renew, Respond, Rejoice!



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

Nora Gallagher ~ Author, journalist

She has written for numerous magazines and newspapers. Her books include *Things Seen and Unseen: A Year Lived in Faith* and *Practicing Resurrection: A Memoir of Work, Doubt, Discernment and Moments of Grace*. Her latest book is *The Sacred Meal*, reflections on the Eucharist. She will speak on Friday morning.

Leymah Gbowee ~ Peacemaker

Currently the executive director of Women Peace and Security Network Africa, this Lutheran headed up the inter-faith, female-led efforts that brought peace to Liberia after more than a decade of civil war. She is featured in the film, “Pray the Devil Back to Hell.” She will speak on Saturday morning.

Jane Redmont ~ Educator, spiritual director

A popular blogger, she is well-known for her book *When in Doubt, Sing: Prayer in Daily Life*. This professor of religion at Guilford College (Greensboro, NC) and chair of the anti-racism committee of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina will offer workshops on prayer and lead Evening Prayer on Friday.

Watch for updates in future issues of the *Cross Connection* and on the synod's Web site (www.ewaidsynod.org/womenoftheleca.html). If you have questions, please contact Laurel Eschenbacher at the Synod Office 509-838-9871 - laurelesch@gmail.com or Tamie Evers at 509-489-3177 - tjevers52@webband.com.

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

JULY-AUGUST 2010

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

JULY

- 2 James Kashork (Holy Trinity - Spokane Valley, WA) ~ 15th anniversary of ordination
- 9 Eric Dull (St. Mark's - Spokane, WA) ~ 15th anniversary of ordination
- 15 Chris Marien (Redeemer - Boise, ID) ~ 10th anniversary of ordination
- 28 Tom Soeldner (Salem - Spokane, WA) ~ 40th anniversary of ordination
- 30 Matthew Goodrich (American - Newport, WA) ~ 15th anniversary of ordination
- 30 Beth Jarrett (Spokane, WA) ~ 15th anniversary of ordination

AUGUST

- 1 Keith Krebs (Retired - Walla Walla, WA) ~ 50th anniversary of ordination
- 3 Ron Jetter (Lower Valley Hospice - Sunnyside, WA) ~ 25th anniversary of ordination
- 27 Carol Nelson (Retired - Yakima, WA) ~ 10th anniversary of ordination
- 29 Roy Jeremiah (Retired - Spokane, WA) ~ 45th anniversary of ordination

Please Remember in Prayer ...

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

...Pr. Palmer Gedde (Retired - Yuma, AZ) and family. Palmer was diagnosed with a fast spreading cancer.

...Pr. Roger Pettenger (Retired - Pullman, WA) and family as he continues his treatment for multiple myeloma.

...Mr. Jim Webb, husband of Judy Webb (Region 1 Financial Services Office - Seattle, WA) as he recovers and receives treatment for recent heart issues.

*Special Prayers
For Those in Need*



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@ewaldsynod.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.

HEALTHY LEADERS

Working to *live well* in mind, body & spirit

An Alaskan Collegium

Pastor Shelley Wickstrom, Coordinator for Ministry Leadership, Region 1, designed and facilitated a collegium in the Alaska Synod that invited pastors and rostered leaders to exercise their intellectual and social selves.

"The get-to-know-you exercise," says Shelley, "was based on a poll reporting that Alaska leads the nation in introverts. The differentiation exercise discovered really interesting things about each of us. The history exercise got people to share what they know of sub-regional Alaskan history and tell the stories of those who went ahead of us."



Board of Pensions
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NEWS FROM THE BOOK PARLOR

Don't forget to READ this summer....



In this fast faced, I-pad, twittering world - it's great to know so many people are still reading books! And apparently plenty of them are Lutherans too!

Many, many thanks to the wonderful folks in the Oregon Synod for the support they gave us during their Assembly. And the same "shout-out" to our brothers and sisters in Montana (we didn't know Billings was THAT far!). We have felt very appreciated and look forward to serving all these fine folks across the miles with the supplies they need.

The ministry of the store on Broadway continues to be a huge blessing to neighbors and visitors from afar. Daily, we greet new faces who are eager to experience and learn about this eclectic little place where the mix of humanity can be seen anytime and the presence of God's love can be felt.

We will have some special inventory sales over the next 2 months, so be sure to watch our website and please come see us when you have a moment to browse the books and enjoy a really good cup of coffee at Indaba.

Happy reading from your friends at The Book Parlor!

Connie, Lolita, Cheri and Casey

1425 W. Broadway Ave.

Spokane, WA 99201

509-328-6527

info@TheBookParlor.com

www.TheBookParlor.com

Read • Reflect • Act

GLOBAL MISSION NEWS



This "TUIMBE" wall hanging is going to Tanzania in October. The "Tuimbe" (Swahili for "Let's Sing") choir members from Bonners Ferry gathered samples of the caftan tops they made and wore as they sang their way through six concerts this spring to help Tumaini School get the roof on their Dining/Assembly Hall. Hand-drawn pictures and messages from the children's choir were sewn into this creation which a group of twelve will present to Tumaini students when visiting our Companion Synod later this year.

Offerings from the six "Tuimbi" concerts totaled \$5,200 and that amount, together with half of the Synod Assembly offering plus wonderful donations of \$2,000 from First Lutheran of Ellensburg, \$600 from Cameron Emmanuel of Kendrick and several faithful quarterly offerings from other congregations, will be sent to Tumaini this month.

The budget for the Dining Hall was expanded last year to \$91,000. After sending the above amounts, we will have contributed \$84,725 leaving \$6,275 to go. **SO** - if you haven't yet had a chance to donate to the Dining Hall, **this would be a great time do so!** Donations from individuals or congregations can be mailed to the Synod Office and designated for the Dining Hall Project.

ASANTE SANA WOTE (thank you, everyone)

LEADERS' RETREAT @ LUTHER HEIGHTS

**LEADERS' RETREAT
FOR CLERGY, CLP'S AND THOSE HUNGRY FOR "MORE"**

**FORMING LEADERS IN CHRIST'S
MINISTRY
JULY 9-11, 2010
LUTHER HEIGHTS BIBLE CAMP**

*Go therefore and make disciples, baptizing
them in the name of the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit. -- Matthew 28:19*



How do we strengthen our Christian identity and our various ministries? How do we support and build up our pastors and other leaders? How do we bring reconciliation and healing where it is needed?

According to Clark Cowden, missional congregations are grown through the development of: 1) a leader's character, 2) forming people, 3) forming a congregational system, and 4) engaging the context.

Believing that God is gifting us for just this time, we will dig deep into 1) the leader's character through our personal discipleship and 2) forming people by discipling leaders in our congregations. Your hunger for "more" will be fed.

ERIC PFEIFFER

Eric Pfeiffer entered his first ministry position ten years ago as worship leader for a mid-sized Southern Baptist church in Southern California and has spent the past two years planting a missional house-church community in Glendale, Arizona. In between, Eric has served as interim pastor for a non-denominational church in downtown San Diego, College Pastor of a Reformed Church in America congregation in Southeast, Los Angeles, and as associate pastor for a large Lutheran congregation in Arizona (Community Church of Joy). From mega-church to church plant, from mainline to emerging expressions of church, Eric has enjoyed the privilege of learning how to develop a discipleship culture in virtually every expression of church in North America.

Cost: \$100 per person

Cost includes 2 nights lodging and all meals
(Friday dinner through Sunday lunch)

Contact Pr. Kristine Blaess at 208-237-0789 or e-mail her at mkblaess@hotmail.com

LEADERS' RETREAT

A joint project of the Presbytery of Kendall
and the ELCA Upper Snake River Valley cluster

IDAHO INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE AGAINST HUNGER

Joining our voices with organizations such as Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger (www.iirah.org) and Bread For the World (www.bread.org) is one way we can make a difference with hunger in Idaho. IIRAH believes in the two feet of service mercy and justice. As we prayerfully reflect on the serious problem of hunger in our world we know that we are compelled by the Gospel message of Jesus to actively become involved in alleviating that unnecessary suffering.

Up coming events, SAVE the Date, Tuesday October 19th will be the third Idaho Summit in Hunger being held in Boise at the Doubletree Hotel. Keynote speakers, workshop topic, and planning are happening now. Check out www.iirah.org for more details when they come available.



LUTHERAN PUBLIC POLICY OFFICE OF WASHINGTON

LPPO Annual Fundraiser

On April 25, the LPPO celebrated our 7th Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction. It was a great evening with good food and good friends, honoring the 2010 Evergreen Justice Award honorees: University Lutheran Church in Seattle, United Food and Commercial Workers – Local 21, and Rev. Jon and Juni Nelson.

2010 Legislative Session Highlights

This past session, LPPO helped to secure the following legislative victories:

- Worked with a broad coalition of partners to secure a revenue package of over \$800 million—preventing even deeper cuts to vital social service programs.
- Preserved and expanded funding for General Assistance Unemployable, the assistance program for our state's most vulnerable.
- Protected Basic Health Plan funding after the program experienced significant cuts in 2009.

For a more detailed report on the 2010 session visit our website at www.lppowa.org.

Advocating Congregations

This year we have seen a sharp increase in the number of congregations across the state of Washington who are affirming their commitment to advocacy through our Advocating Congregations program. Will your congregation be next? To learn more, visit www.lppowa.org.

LPPO Endorses Initiative 1098

The ELCA and the Lutheran Public Policy Office have a long history of commitment to working to rectify the injustice of our wealthy but inequitable society. The ELCA's Social Statement on Economic Life stresses the importance of correcting regressive tax systems "so that people are taxed progressively in relation to their ability to pay."

Washington has one of the most regressive tax systems in the United States, a system that increasingly shifts payment for state services onto low and middle income families. Initiative 1098 would address this problem. It would provide dedicated funding for education and health care by creating an income tax for those with incomes in the top 3% of our state. It would reduce owner occupied property tax by 20% and repeal the B&O tax for small business. It would make our tax system more progressive while helping to ensure funding for vital social services.



The Lutheran Public Policy Office is part of a coalition of religious leaders working on collecting the 325,000 signatures necessary to get I-1098 on the ballot. We invite you to join us in this effort. Contact the LPPO office to learn how you can get involved.

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July-August 2010 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.ewaisynod.org. **Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.**

SYNOD CALENDAR

JUNE 2010

- 23 Synod Staff Meeting
- 24 Campus Ministry at EWU Golf Tournament @ The Fairways in Cheney
- 25-27 Region 1 WELCA Event-Kalispell, MT
- 27-30 YELS @ Shoshone

JULY 2010

- 4 Independence Day
- 5 **SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED**
- 5 **No Newsletter this Month!**
- 21 Synod Staff Meeting

AUGUST 2010

- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 8-14 Abriendo Caminos - Holden Village
- 9-11 Bishop's Admin Gathering - Chicago
- 25 Synod Staff Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2010

- 2 Synod Staff Meeting
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 6 **SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED**
- 17-19 Synod Youth Gathering @ Lutherhaven
- 20-23 First Call Theological @ Holden Village
- 24-25 Campus Ministry Consultation

Cross Connection Mailing List

If you prefer reading the *Cross Connection* online and would like to be removed from the printed copy mailing list, send an e-mail to office@ewaisynod.org with your name, address and e-mail address and you will be added to the E-News list. **THANK YOU to all who have signed up to the E-News list!**

If you have any questions, contact Laurel Eschenbacher at 509-838-9871 or by e-mail at office@ewaisynod.org.



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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