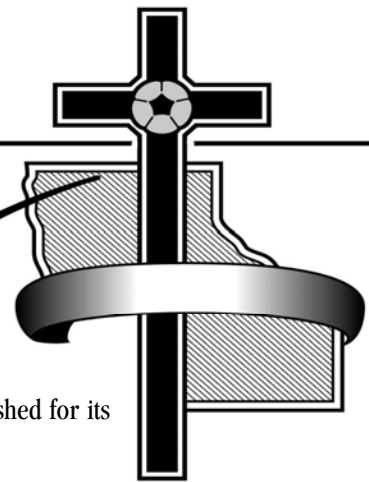


CROSS

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 don't know if we've ever talked about Life in this space. It comes to mind because the State of Washington has now scheduled an execution at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

I've been drawn to what is called the "consistent ethic of Life" of deceased Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, the former Archbishop of Chicago. As I understand the approach, it links all the Life issues we face in a seamless garment of respect. War, euthanasia, capital punishment, abortion, even poverty and pornography, must be tested against God's deep desire to perpetuate Life. There is a presumption always favoring Life. Why? Because God is the author of Life and for Christian people our lives are purchased at the price of the Son of God, such is God's desire that all live and thrive in Life.

I consider myself pro-Life, though I imagine more fervent opponents of abortion wouldn't accept my membership in the movement. There I'd ask them to distinguish between an ideological approach to the question, which brooks no opposition, and the theological approach that must take into account human nature as saint and sinner at the same time. In this we affirm, if uncomfortably, that God is at work through the State to protect Life, even when it takes it.

I understand the deep ambiguity the Lutheran family faces around these issues. We are not pacifists, instead observing stringent rules for war under the Just War Theory. These rules have recently come to the fore over the question of "proportionality" in the conflict in Gaza. On the question of abortion we remember two lives at the same time, the life forming in the womb and the life of the mother. I have seen what I regarded as real evil in my time as a prison chaplain so I understand the desire to erase such evil through capital punishment. I opposed the move toward "physician assisted suicide" on the last Washington ballot, but that assumes we're capable of improving palliative care to control pain at the end of life.

The truth is we are not God. We are called to perpetuate Life but we did not create it in its original glory. Life, in itself, deserves our respect, but we take it easily and so the presumption must always favor Life, putting the burden on any rationale for death. We now enter the season of Lent and I can't think of a better time to bring new focus to our most deeply held beliefs about Life. It is also the time to recognize how far we "miss the mark" in honoring Life.

Our Synod's Guiding Principles name as one of our values the cry of Advent, "Come Lord Jesus!" In this we pray for God to come and resolve all our perplexities. Until then I hope I'm always present to light a candle for Life and to protest against the false kingdom of death.

Peace be with you,
Pr Martin Wells

Bishop
msmmwells@aol.com

Resource: <http://www.elca.org/ELCA/Search.aspx?q=Death+Penalty>

MARCH 2009

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CALL PROCESS STATUS

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

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

CALLS ACCEPTED

Seminarian **Netsie Griffith** and **Rev. Wendell Hendershott** of Trinity Lutheran in Nampa, ID have accepted the call to serve as co-pastors at Grace Lutheran Church in Corvallis, OR. They plan to begin there April 1, 2009.

RESIGNATIONS

Rev. Wendell Hendershott will resign as pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Nampa, ID as of March 31, 2009. His last day at Trinity will be March 15, 2009.

ORDINATIONS

Seminarian **Netsie Griffith** will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament on February 28, 2009 at 2:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran in Nampa, ID.

Seminarian **Steve Crittenden** will be ordained into the ministry of Word and Sacrament and installed at Star Valley United Church Thursday, March 7, 2009 at 7:00 pm.

DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Christ Lutheran Church in Walla Walla, WA is seeking to fill the position of **Director of Youth Ministry**. This person would be responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive program of Christian ministry of middle and high school youth. This person will work as part of a team with staff and volunteers, and be under the direct supervision of the Pastor. A complete position description is available upon request. Please contact Christ Lutheran at 509/525-2243.



To apply, please send resume and statement of faith to:
 Rev. Joel Ley
 Christ Lutheran Church
 1420 S. 2nd Avenue
 Walla Walla, WA 99362



GREETINGS FROM THE BOOK PARLOR

Read • Reflect • Act

Blessing to you as we enter the season of Lent. We want to be so bold as to encourage you to read something that might strengthen and/or challenge you on your faith journey. Following are some reading suggestions to help make this year's Lenten faith journey a good one. We've included a little description of each title to whet your appetite.

"The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer – This book is a compelling statement of the demands of sacrifice and ethical consistency from a man whose life and thought were exemplary articulations of a new type of leadership inspired by the Gospel, and imbued with the spirit of Christian civic duty.

"Lent and Easter Wisdom from Henri Nouwen" - The intimate words of Henri J.M. Nouwen inspire readers on their Lenten and Easter journey toward a better understanding of their faith. Each day of the season includes a pertinent excerpt from the writings of Father Nouwen, a related quotation from Scripture, a prayer for the day, and a suggested activity.

"Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer - After his martyrdom at the hands of the Gestapo in 1945, German pastor-theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer continued his witness in the hearts of Christians around the world. Life Together deals with the theology and practice of true Christian community in the midst of cultural paganism.

"Cross-Shattered Christ" by Stanley Hauerwas - In "Cross-Shattered Christ," theologian Hauerwas offers a moving reflection on Jesus' final words from the cross. This small and powerful volume is theologically poignant and steeped in humility.

Those are just a few suggestions we hope you might consider. They are most likely available at your local library and of course at The Book Parlor. Whether or not you decide to read one of these titles, we wish you a meaningful and reflective and challenging Lenten season.

Thanks! The Book Parlor Staff

Cheri, Casey, Connie, and Lolita,

Read • Reflect • Act

1414 W. Broadway Ave

Spokane, WA 99201

(509)328-6527

lutheranbooks@msn.com

www.lutheranbookparlor.com



YELS ~ YOUTH EXCITED FOR LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

YELS Event

June 28 - July 1, 2009

Shoshone Base Camp

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

If you have any questions or want to register your group for the event, please contact either Hailey Rile, LYO President, at evolleyball09@comcast.net, or Tom Rounds at tomar_216@msn.com. The deadline for registration is June 1, 2009. We hope to see you there!

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

MARCH 2009

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

25 Adrienne Heskin (Campus Ministry Region 1 & 2 Director) ~ 30th Anniversary of Ordination

*Special Prayers
For Those in Need*



Please Remember in Prayer ...

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

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

...Congratulations to grandparents (Jan & Gary Ryden - Jan is a volunteer at the Synod Office) and great uncle Pr. Mark Nelson (Synod Staff) and their families at the birth of their granddaughter/great niece Audrey Leigh Provance, born January 22, 2009.

... Wendy Cudmore, wife of Pr. Larry Cudmore (First - Idaho Falls, ID) as she continues her recovery from recent knee surgery.

... Erv Johnson, AIM (Retired - Richland, WA) as he recovers from a small stroke and undergoes corrective treatment.

PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

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

LPP0 ADVOCACY UPDATE

By the time this reaches you our state legislature will have completed seven of their fifteen week session. Their main priority is to form the new budget for the 2009-2011 biennium that begins on July 1st. By the time the 105-day session ends on April 26th the budget also needs to be balanced; and with a near 8 billion revenue shortfall that will be a most difficult task – to say the least. Three things you and/or your congregation can do:

- Pray for your state legislators by name and by their district in your congregation's area; and pray for the governor as well.
- Put your prayers into 'action' and do an offering of letters during March or early April (LPP0 can help select an issue and help coordinate this).
- Display and use the toll free state legislative hot line # (1-800-562-6000).

Here are some LPP0 sponsored and coordinated events:

- **Wednesday, February 11th** ~ religious leaders meeting with the governor
- **February 7th & 8th** ~ Advocacy Weekend in Spokane
- **February 21st & 22nd** ~ Advocacy Weekend in Vancouver
- **February 28th & March 1st** ~ Advocacy Weekend in Shelton
- **March 17th** ~ Faith Advocacy Day in Olympia. Packets were mailed to your congregation the first week in February. Visit our website (www.lppowa.org) for more info on this event. Even if you can't come there is a way for you and your congregation to participate.



LPP0 desires to be out in your church and local community engaging people of faith in the political process and building a statewide network for justice. Contact us at lppoffice@lcsnw.org to schedule a time to come and what that involves.

Rev. Paul Benz, director
206-390-4133

SAVING GRACE MISSION TRIP

Dear Ministry Partners,

I just returned from the Y&F Extravaganza 2009, which in preparation for the Youth Gathering this summer, was held in New Orleans. If you remember back at our 2006 Assembly, our synod was partnered with Grace Lutheran Church, in New Orleans, whose buildings (including their preschool building) and neighborhood were destroyed during Hurricane Katrina. The morale of the neighborhood was devastated again when Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit last year. Grace worked diligently to rebuild its sanctuary space, and the congregation celebrated Easter 2007 in their new space. Along with that, they have added facilities to house volunteer workers who travel there to help with the reconstruction of the neighborhood and community. Grace also developed their Saving Grace Ministry -- an outreach ministry to help pair up volunteers with sanctioned organizations so that homes might be reconstructed, and families returned home. In the midst of their pain and hurt, Grace visioned boldly, broadly and with great confidence knowing that people would come to help.

Since 2006, Emmanuel Lutheran (Moscow, ID) has been keeping Grace in our weekly prayers. This past summer, we decided to try and get together a group of families/youth for a mission trip down to NOLA. So I contacted Grace, and to make a long story short, this commune June 7-14, 48 Emmanuel-ites (including my own family) will be spending a week on a mission trip to New Orleans. We'll be serving with the St. Bernard Project, helping with reconstruction of homes. The youngest ones in our group will participate through the Saving Grace social ministries outreach in the neighborhood Food Bank, cleaning up City Park, among other options. I encourage you to look up Grace's Web site: www.gracenola.com to learn more about them, and the people they serve.

To help us get there, we have been working hard to plan and prepare . . . and of course to fundraise. We are needing to raise \$40,000. We are nearly half way there, through a gift from Emmanuel's Mission Endowment Fund, the proceeds from our first fundraising "Gumbo Dinner" event and through the generosity of other Emmanuel members. Over Christmas one of the high school youth shoveled sidewalks and donated the \$75 she earned. Last week, two of the 5th graders, had a Bake Sale and raised \$23. On February 21, as a kick off to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, we are hosting a Cheese and Dessert Gala and Auction (a tasting of auction items include Jazz Fest tickets; a signed CD from Harry Connick, Jr., 2 nights stay at Selkirk Lodge, Schweitzer Mountain - and so much more!); in March - we'll host a Pancake and Waffle Breakfast. And somewhere along the way we are having Hurricane Night at the Movies, as well as a Saving Grace Fund Run. This is an exciting time for us! We are having fun, working hard and so looking forward to spending our week in New Orleans. I know that this will be a transforming event not simply for the 48 going down, but for the entire congregation.

I am writing you for a number of reasons. First, to invite you to any of our events. You may find information at: http://users.moscow.com/elc/Saving%20Grace/saving_grace.htm. Second, to say that if you are unable to join us, but would like to donate to our cause, we would certainly appreciate any and all donations. But *more than anything*, we are asking for your prayers. Know that when we travel to NOLA, we will be bringing this synod's hopes and prayers for Grace Lutheran Church, their neighborhood and their Outreach Ministry.

Thanks so much for taking the time to read this and for your prayerful support!

Pastor Dawna Svaren
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
1036 West A Street
Moscow, ID 83843
208/882-3915
pastordawna@moscow.com



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

March 2009 Newsletter

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

SYNOD CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 27 **Deadline for Resolution & Early Nominations**
- 27-28 Outreach Committee Meeting

MARCH

- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 5-11 Conference of Bishops - Chicago, IL
- 13-14 Candidacy Committee Meeting @ Synod Office
- 19-20 Deans Meeting @ St. Joseph's - Spokane, WA
- 19-22 Bishop's Assistant Gathering - San Francisco
- 25-26 EOCM Review Table - Chicago, IL
- 27 **2nd Mailing for Assembly**
- 27-30 ELCA Church Council Meeting - Chicago, IL

APRIL

- 1 Synod Staff Meeting
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 10 **Good Friday - Synod Office Closed**
- 14 Synod Staff Meeting
- 16 Synod Assembly Committee Meeting
- 20-22 Region 1 Pastor's Conference
- 24 **Assemble Notebooks for Assembly**

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



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
314 S. Spruce Street, Suite A ~ Spokane, WA 99201-5823
Phone: 509/838-9871 ~ FAX: 509/838-0941
E-mail: office@ewaidssynod.org
Web site: www.ewaidssynod.org

STAFF

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