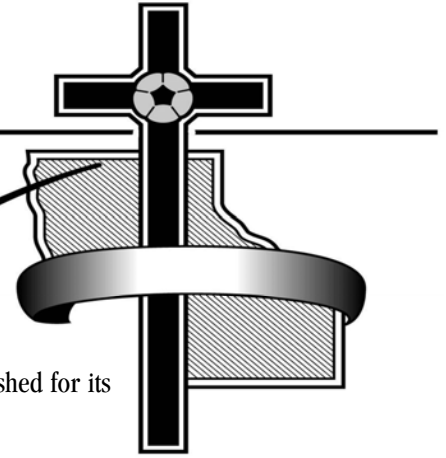


# CROSS

# 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 ask you to pray for our Church in these late weeks of summer as we meet in Churchwide Assembly. As you know we are configured as three interdependent expressions of ministry, each expression equipped for its own area of unique calling and leadership. The Churchwide Assembly is equivalent to the Annual Meeting for your congregation and the Synod Assembly for the synodical Church. During the Churchwide Assembly we will act on matters that help define our ministry for national and international concerns. Among our votes will be sexuality decisions, full communion with the United Methodist Church, a Malaria and HIV Initiative, and many other matters. The full agenda and reports can be found at [www.elca.org/assembly](http://www.elca.org/assembly).

Of particular concern to many of you are the decisions about human sexuality. We have a Social Statement to vote on (this requires a 2/3 vote under our constitution) and ministry recommendations that affect whether we will ordain gay persons who live in publicly accountable, life-long, monogamous relationships. The Task Force on Human Sexuality has encouraged us to approach these recommendations by going through a four-stage process of discernment, each stage presenting a more significant commitment. Only at the fourth stage of this process will we consider particular changes to the ministry standards of our Church. At this point (and there will be a Rules struggle over this on the first day of Assembly) each of these four steps must pass by a majority vote. If any of the four votes fails, the recommended process ends.

I can't tell you how I am going to vote on any particular question until I know how the question is presented to us in the course of debate. I will report each day on the Assembly (posted to the Synod Web site, [www.ewaidsynod.org](http://www.ewaidsynod.org)) and each voting member from our Synod will write a report at the end of Assembly. But this is how I'm thinking about the questions.

I think the Task Force did a good job on the Social Statement. Well meaning folks will disagree. For me it centers on our Promise-Making God and invites us to become disciples of these promises by trusting God and acting in deep "social trust" for the good of our world. Sexual intimacy is tied to the good of the neighbor and relies on promises of fidelity to reach mature fulfillment. I've already used some of the thinking in this statement for pastoral counseling and found it very helpful.

I have argued, as an advisor to the ELCA Church Council's Legal and Constitutional Committee, for a 2/3 vote on the ministry recommendations. I witnessed the discussion in the full Church Council where they voted to remain with a majority for passage instead of creating a special rule requiring a 2/3 vote. This debate was civil, faithful, and thoughtful. I did not discern ideological bullying. I wish the vote had gone the other way but I have deep respect for the Church Council's process.

Given the opportunity I may vote to change the rules as proposed and seek a 2/3 requirement on the

## SEPTEMBER 2009

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## FROM THE BISHOP CONTINUED . . .

ministry recommendations. My rationale comes from the very difficult CCM debates where after all was said and done our Church had voted twice at the 2/3 level and came extremely close on a third occasion. The solidity and consistency of those votes gave me confidence that the Church knew what it intended to do.

It's also possible to argue that requiring four increasingly difficult votes on the ministry recommendations is no small burden. I want us to avoid making such significant decisions in a willy-nilly way and I will vote against "end runs" or attempts to alter the ministry recommendations process that has been before the Church since February. We do have some confidence because these questions have been studied in the church for a decade or more even while the Social Statement and Ministry Proposals both admit—even after all this time—that we are not of one mind.

The hardest questions come from those who fear that the Church is abandoning scriptural authority in these matters. There are four reasons why I think we face this issue: 1) About 30 years ago we discovered that scripture does not condemn being homosexual. Scripture condemns homosexual conduct, a threat to the cohesion and endurance of the covenanted people. 2) Along with developments in the sciences many Lutherans are more likely to understand homosexuality as a given nature rather than a chosen lifestyle. 3) I think the Church has learned a great deal about why scripture condemns homosexual conduct. For some that means a growing conviction that these condemnations are not addressed to the new reality of mature, faithful, promise-making gay persons. 4) We are learning together the Lutheran way of understanding the phrase "Word of God." (See <http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Office-of-the-Secretary/ELCA-Governance/Constitutions-of-the-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-in-America.aspx>, particularly section 2.02). This is a broader and more faithful understanding of our theological heritage and it reinforces that we are not fundamentalist Christians and we are not a "Biblicist" people who put scripture ahead of the living witness of Jesus Christ, God's Word incarnate. For Lutherans who grew up with an infallible, inerrant, and verbally inspired notion of biblical authority this represents a change that requires prayer and conversation to consider. Add to these four reasons that we have voted very consistently and on many occasions that we want gay and lesbian persons to have full membership in our congregations. We must now face the question why "full membership" does not include serving as a pastor when legal, life-long covenants (a relatively new phenomenon in our culture) are now available to our gay members.

To summarize: It seems to me that the biblical question comes down to, not whether scripture condemns homosexual acts, but whether we believe that in the continuing revelation of God in creation we now have a different view of what homosexuality really is and whether the form of promise-making between gay people can be honored as true to the deepest teaching of scripture about law and gospel and the fulfillment of the law by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. On these matters we are not in agreement. The move made in the current proposals is that since we are not likely to come to agreement, neither "side" should be made to bear all the burden. I believe this is the heart of the notion of "structured flexibility" in recommendation four. But recommendation four can only be considered if we have first agreed, in recommendation three, that each "side" will incorporate the faith-deep misgivings of the other "side" and that we believe we can live with this tension in the Body. It remains to be seen how much diversity we can stand before we lose unity in the more critical areas of our calling. I wonder whether this question is present with us today precisely because, for the world, our view on this matter defines the "size" of the Gospel.

Finally, for me it seems to me that we are caught between a rock and a hard place: I believe tradition has a vote in our life and that our traditional response is, as the lawyers like to say, a "rebuttable presumption" that should guide us until we have compelling reasons to change course. The hard place that begs for attention is that it is the religious traditions of the world that have spawned hateful, deadly violence against God's children, our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. That hatefulness has just been on full display in Israel and it seems to me one way of withdrawing any scintilla of support for such violence is to begin recognizing such life-long commitments (Recommendation 1).

Please pray that our church would listen for the Holy Spirit of God and be guided by that Teacher as we make our decisions.

***Pr Martin Wells***

Bishop

mismwells@aol.com

# 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<br>(available for the open-ended call) |

| <b>POS</b>    | <b>LOCATION/CONGREGATION</b>            | <b>STATUS</b>   | <b>PASTORAL CARE</b>             |
|---------------|---|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>P</b>      | Boise, ID - King of Glory               | <b>NV</b> ..... | Kari Sansgaard <b>AP</b>         |
| <b>L or P</b> | Chelan, WA - Holden Village Director(s) | <b>NV</b> ..... |                                  |
| <b>P</b>      | Cheney, WA - Emmanuel                   | <b>A</b> .....  | Paul D. Anderson <b>I</b>        |
| <b>P</b>      | Chewelah, WA - St. Paul                 | <b>NV</b> ..... |                                  |
| <b>P</b>      | Colfax-Endicott, WA - Peace/Trinity     | <b>A</b> .....  | Phylis Stromme <b>I</b>          |
| <b>P</b>      | Davenport, WA - Zion                    | <b>A</b> .....  | Roger Bruggink <b>I</b>          |
| <b>P</b>      | Gifford, ID - Good Hope                 | <b>NV</b> ..... |                                  |
| <b>P</b>      | Jackson, WY - Shepherd of the Mountains | <b>A</b> .....  | Barbara Harrison Condon <b>I</b> |
| <b>P</b>      | Kamiah, ID - Faith                      | <b>A</b> .....  | Art Finney <b>I</b>              |
| <b>P</b>      | Kennewick, WA - First                   | <b>B</b> .....  | Keith Hammer <b>I</b>            |
| <b>P</b>      | Mountain Home, ID - Grace               | <b>A</b> .....  | Scott Berner <b>I</b>            |
| <b>P</b>      | Nampa, ID - Trinity                     | <b>NV</b> ..... | Dick Sansgaard <b>I</b>          |
| <b>P</b>      | Orofino, ID - Ascension                 | <b>NV</b> ..... | Barrett Lindsey <b>I</b>         |
| <b>P</b>      | Quincy, WA - St. Paul                   | <b>NV</b> ..... | Bill Voris <b>I</b>              |
| <b>P</b>      | Spokane, WA - Prince of Peace           | <b>A</b> .....  | David Ophus <b>I</b>             |
| <b>P</b>      | Sunnyside, WA - Our Saviour's           | <b>A</b> .....  | Ron Shipman <b>I</b>             |
| <b>P</b>      | Twin Falls, ID - Our Savior's           | <b>A</b> .....  | Stan Hoobing <b>I</b>            |
| <b>P</b>      | Yakima, WA - Christ                     | <b>NV</b> ..... |                                  |

## RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

The Rev. Carol Nelson of Christ Lutheran in Yakima, WA will retire from parish ministry. Her last day of active ministry at Christ Lutheran will be August 31, 2009

The Rev. Janice Kelly will resign as pastor of Good Hope Lutheran in Gifford, ID as of August 31, 2009.

## CALLS/APPOINTMENTS ACCEPTED

The Rev. Janice Kelley, has accepted the call to be pastor of two congregations in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.

The Rev. Dick Matson, a member of Trinity Lutheran in Coeur d'Alene, ID, has accepted the appointment to ministry at Clark Fork Lutheran Church in Clark Fork, ID.

Seminarian James Engel, has accepted the call to be Associate Pastor at Central Lutheran in Yakima, WA. He began there August 1, 2009.

## ORDINATIONS, CONSECRATIONS, AND COMMISSIONINGS

Seminarian James Engel will be ordained into the Office of Word and Sacrament on Sunday, September 27, 2009 at Hosanna Lutheran in Pataskala, Ohio. Time to be announced.

## ROSTER CHANGES

The Rev. Jim Higgins of Lewiston, ID will retire as of September 1, 2009.

# OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

## SEPTEMBER 2009

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

16 Rick Evenson (Disability - Medical Lake, WA) ~ 25th Anniversary of Ordination



***Please Remember in Prayer ...***

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

...Ms. Marilyn Ulleland, wife of Pr. Duane Ulleland (Spokane Valley, WA) as she continues treatment for cancer.

...***Congratulations*** to grandparents Pr. Mary & Ken Daniels (Sprague, WA) and family as they celebrate the birth of their granddaughter, Jenna Marie Daniels, born May 19, 2009.

...Ms. Kassie Lynn Boers (granddaughter of Pr. Mary & Ken Daniels) as she receives a cochlear transplant this summer that she receives hearing and healing.

...***Congratulations*** to Pr. Chris & Ileen Marien (Redeemer - Boise, ID) and family as they celebrate the birth of their daughter, Anna Kvale, born June 16, 2009.

...Chuck Battles (Lewiston, ID) and family as they mourn the death of his wife, Virginia (former Synod Council and Synod Finance Committee member). Virginia died on June 30th.

...***Congratulations*** to Kimberly & Erik Manz (Kimberly is our *Lutheran* Insert editor) and family as they celebrate the birth of their daughter, Eliza Ruth, born July 10, 2009.

...***Congratulations*** to Pr. Ginny Johnson (Pilgrim - Othello, WA) and family as she celebrates the adoption of Rosalina 'Rosa' Emilie Johnson. The adoption was finalized on July 31st

...Bishop Wells, Susan Berg, Cheri Nelson, Gary Dahlke, Gary Gemar, Pr. Kate LePard, Pr. Erik Samuelson and Sarah Comi, as they travel to Minneapolis, MN to attend the 2009 Churchwide Assembly.

**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](mailto: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.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

**Budget Comparison 2009**

**Current Month: JULY**

|                     |             |                       |             |                        |           |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Year to Date Income | 450,397.94  | Year to Date Income   | 450,397.94  | Current Month Income   | 58,219.45 |
| Year to Date Budget | 525,500.49  | Year to Date Expenses | 474,597.93  | Current Month Expenses | 58,312.27 |
| Difference          | (75,102.55) | Difference            | (24,199.99) | Difference             | (92.82)   |

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### An Opportunity for Promoting Healthy Professional Boundaries October 7-8, 2009

As you know all of our rostered Clergy, Diaconal Ministers and Associates in Ministry are expected to attend one of our Synod-led boundary training sessions. Most of you remember the workshop, "Clergy Misconduct: Sexual Abuse in the Ministerial Relationship". Leaders in our Synod have now been trained in a new one day Faith Trust Institute curriculum, "A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers". Along with our Presbyterian friends in the Spokane area we will be leading two days of workshops with the new curriculum October 7 and 8. Each day's agenda is identical so you can choose to attend in the morning one day and the afternoon the next, or simply attend one full day. For those rostered leaders who have attended a boundary training in the past, this new curriculum is designed as an advanced course. Those rostered leaders who have never attended a boundary training and are near the Spokane area are expected to attend the session(s) this October. They will receive a special invitation in the mail. It is the plan to offer "A Sacred Trust: Boundary Issues for Clergy and Spiritual Teachers" in the Tri Cities area and in the Boise area in 2010, so that the program is available for all of our rostered leaders. Details are still being worked though, but costs should be minimal—in the neighborhood of \$25.00 for the day. In an often troubling world, let's continue to work at making our congregations safe places.

If you have questions and would like more information, contact Pr. Mark Nelson at [nelsonrevmark@msn.com](mailto:nelsonrevmark@msn.com) or 509-838-9871.

### "Journeys to Joy" Sunday, October 11, 2009

Mukogawa Fort Wright Commons  
4000 W. Randolph Road  
12:30 to 1:30 Wine Social  
1:30 to 3:30 - Luncheon, Entertainment, Program

#### Featuring:

Robyn Nance, KXLY TV, Emcee

#### Welcome By:

Roberta Nestaas, President & CEO  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest

#### Program Spotlight:

"VRRRT - Victim Rights Response Team"  
Jenn Davis Nielson, Victim Advocate  
Dena Strasser, Volunteer Victim Advocate

An opportunity will be given at this event for donations and pledges to help the life changing programs of Lutheran Community Services.

For information, call Stephanie,  
509-343-5074  
or e-mail: [sjeffries@lcsnw.org](mailto:sjeffries@lcsnw.org)



### Save the Date for the 2nd annual Second Chance Extravaganza!

An event to benefit the *Faith & Environment Network*  
Sunday, September 27th  
St. John's Cathedral Great Hall  
Doors open at 4:30 pm, Dinner at 5:30 pm  
Silent & live auction of quality reused items, art, trips, services, and outdoor gear  
Catered dinner with fresh, local and organic ingredients

#### *Please help by donating new or gently used items or services for our benefit auction!*

Antique furniture & collectibles, & art  
Sporting goods/outdoor equipment  
Home & garden items / Flower bulbs or perennials  
Tools & Musical instruments  
Garden produce  
Services of any kind such as baking, massage, teach a skill

To donate an item, please contact Becky Weiland at [r.s.weiland@hotmail.com](mailto:r.s.weiland@hotmail.com) or 724-991-7752



## UPCOMING EVENTS CONTINUED . . .

### EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION God's Love Through Our Hearts: Bring Hope to your Community October 9-11, 2009

Come with us to the Upper Snake River Valley Cluster for the Eastern Washington-Idaho Women of the ELCA 2009 Gathering. Our theme this year is ***God's Love Through Our Hearts: Bring Hope to your Community.*** Join us in Bible study, worship, learning opportunities and fellowship as we gain insights into how we spread **Hope** in our every day lives.

- ❖ Pastor Kristine Blaess who serves Community Presbyterian Church in Rigby, Idaho will be leading our Bible studies and worship. Romans 15 is our text.
- ❖ Margie Fiedler, Associate VP of Marketing, ELCA Mission Investment Fund, is our guest speaker. She will be speaking to our theme and sharing her experiences.
- ❖ Marie Tesch, our Churchwide Representative, is from Waseca, Minnesota. She will bring a message from Churchwide and share in our activities.
- ❖ "Bold Women on the Move" - we are offering water aerobics, a river walk tour, crafts, quilting and a silent auction with proceeds going to our Women in Ministry scholarship fund.
- ❖ We are very excited the **The Book Parlor** from Spokane will be joining us for the weekend.

***We are offering a \$50 scholarship to the first 25 women to register that are first time attendees to an Eastern Washington-Idaho Women of the ELCA Gathering. Just put "first time" on the registration form.***

***Is anyone interested in hiring a 15 passenger van to car pool to Idaho Falls? Contact Tamie Evers at 509-489-3177 or tjevers52@webband.com.***

### Let Justice Roll 2009 October 3-5 (Saturday to Monday)

This year's theme is **Hearts4Justice** and will feature as speaker Rev. Dr. George Johnson. George is the former director of the hunger program in the Lutheran Church nationally and the author of *Beyond Guilt and Powerlessness*. He also founded the Hearts4Justice Conference held in Tijuana, Mexico with internationally known leaders, speakers, and writers.

The program includes presentations on the biblical call to justice, discussion of current justice issues, small group sessions, a service project, and lots of time to relax, hike, and enjoy the gracious hospitality of Holden Village. The goal of LJR is to equip young people to be peace-makers and justice-seekers in their homes, churches, schools, communities, and the world.

The cost of LJR is \$150 which includes round-trip boat trip on Lake Chelan, 3 days/2 nights and 7 meals and the program at Holden Village. Download the basic information, individual and group registration forms, complete and send in to the address listed on the forms.

For registration information go to [www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter](http://www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter). For more information/questions contact Dr. David Ellingson [david.ellingson@tlc.edu](mailto:david.ellingson@tlc.edu), 425-249-4722.

**See you at Holden and LET JUSTICE ROLL!**

### Come be a part of the PLU Family Saturday, November 7, 2009

Bring your high school youth for a day of food, football, and fun! Join Pacific Lutheran University families in the morning for a Lute Brunch on campus and then cheer on the Lutes football team at Sparks Stadium in Puyallup as they take on Menlo from California. The brunch and football game are on us!

#### Schedule - Saturday, November 7, 2009

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>9 am - 11:30 am</b> | <b>Registration</b><br>University Center<br>Pacific Lutheran University<br>Tacoma, Washington |
| <b>10 am</b>           | <b>Campus Tours</b>   |
| <b>11 am</b>           | <b>Lute Brunch</b>  |
| <b>1:30 pm</b>         | <b>Football Game at Sparks Stadium</b>  |
| <b>4:30 pm</b>         | <b>Depart for Home</b>  |



Please call the Office of Congregation Relations at 253-535-7424 for more information or to RSVP by October 23rd.

## THE BOOK PARLOR



### Ministry booming at The Book Parlor . . . Sales? Not so much!

Well, all of you faithful supports are doing a good job keeping The Book Parlor going through these hot, recession, "ready-to-move but waiting days." Each of the staff enjoys your visits, your phone calls and now your email orders through our updated Web site - keep it up! And seriously, we'll spread the word for "moving helpers" the minute we know the date! In the meantime, keep reading, reflecting and acting!

What you don't get to experience is the daily joy of interacting with and serving our neighbors here in West Central, Spokane. There has not been one day in my brief 4 years that I would trade in. **Every time you make a purchase, drop off donations, tell a friend to stop in ... You strengthen our capacity to provide a safe, welcoming space for the relationships that just keep building and growing stronger. The BP staff says "thank you! For supporting us in this place where we can participate with God."**

When we move across the street into Walnut Corners with our retail sales, we will begin a sharing situation with new partners in this good 'ole green house. The Gaia House will begin occupying the main floor of 1414 W. Broadway and they will be an added blessing to the community with their mission of serving low-income families and individuals with a "sliding fee scale" law practice. More on this next time!

Again, thank you and come see us!  
**Connie, Casey, Cheri & Lolita**

See you at The Book Parlor!  
**Read • Reflect • Act**  
1414 W. Broadway Ave.  
Spokane, WA 99201  
(509)328-6527  
info@TheBookParlor.com ~ [www.TheBookParlor.com](http://www.TheBookParlor.com)

## DONATIONS OF HYGIENE AND BABY KITS ARE GREATLY NEEDED

### Church World Service needs your help to "restock the shelves!"

The CWS Emergency Response Program is working on some large shipments of material aid to Liberia, Moldova, and the West Bank. Once those shipments are completed, the supplies of Hygiene Kits and Baby Kits will be greatly depleted. During the first 3 months of 2009, the CWS Kit Program sent out over 2,500 kits in response to flooding, ice storms, fire, hurricanes, and tornadoes in the United States. Many states received kits, including Alaska, Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Mississippi, and Oklahoma. Iraqi refugees in Syria received 3,000 kits and over 9,000 kits were sent to Ghana!

With hurricane season approaching, and with the needs from other countries continuing, it is imperative that we prepare for these requests. Kits are needed, as is funding for supplies and transportation.

For more information about how to put together kits please visit [www.churchworldservice.org/kits](http://www.churchworldservice.org/kits) or call us at 206-988-1622 or toll-free at 888-297-2767

Thank you for considering how to respond to this urgent need. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Lynn Magnuson  
PWN Church World Service  
Regional Director.



## FIVE DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### WALKING ON HOLY GROUND: JOURNEY OF PILGRIMAGE & DISCOVERY

February 21-26, 2010

Palisades Retreat Center ~ Federal Way, Washington

All lay and clergy members of the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod are invited to attend the next 5 Day Academy for Spiritual Formation (Sponsored by Upper Room Ministries and the Pacific Northwest Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church) to be held in Federal Way, Washington, February 21-26, 2010, at the Palisades Retreat and Convention Center. This modified monastic experience will have two wonderful speakers, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth J. Canham and Robert Benson.

The concrete sidewalk, the wooded trail, the waiting room, the sandy beach, the aisles of the grocery store, the prison cell, the carpet in our cubicles - *all* holy ground. We will spend the week tuning our eyes to see and ears to hear "all things in God and God in all things." Praying for the sustenance to walk our daily paths with awe, curiosity, courage, and grace for ourselves, our loved ones, and the stranger. We will spend time with our Celtic spiritual ancestors, places and people that resonate with the prayers and longings of many and the wisdom of the earth. We will pray together: where is God calling us to journey? Is it right under our feet?

#### The Five Day Academy Offers You

- † A time to nourish your thirst for authentic prayer and spiritual growth.
- † A time to experience gentle silence, absorbing worship, and rich learning.
- † A time to be refreshed in the graceful, loving and healing presence of God.
- † A time to enter the theme and journey on your own holy ground and pilgrimage of discovery.

#### Daily Rhythm

Each day moves in a rhythm of study and prayer, rest and activity, solitude and fellowship, providing an environment where participants can open their lives to receive God's love and grace to be formed for faithful Christian living and discipleship. Each day is embraced by morning and night prayer and fortified with daily Communion. Faculty teachings are followed by silent and group reflection time. Free time for rest and reflection is also a daily provision.

#### The Academy for Spiritual Formation

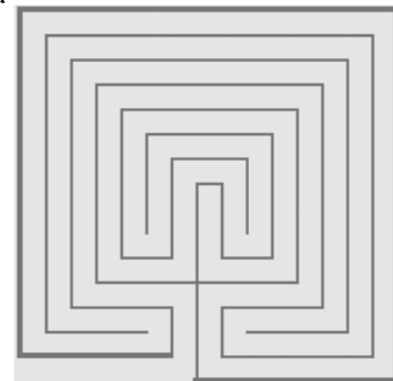
The Academy was developed in 1983 to provide a truly ecumenical, in-depth, and comprehensive experience in spiritual formation. The Academy is for *all* persons: laity, clergy, and seekers of all denominations, or of none, who are seeking God and wish to grown in Christian community with others. Because the Academy seeks to offer an experience of community as well as individual devotion, all participants are expected to be residents of the retreat center. Commuter enrollment is *not* available.

#### Registration Deadline - February 1, 2010

Co-Retreat Leaders Randy Henderson and Emily Linderman are available to answer any questions you may have and will provide registration materials upon request. They can be contacted at:

Randy Henderson - hendersonrandy@comcast.net

Emily Linderman - emilylinderman@hotmail.com



# LUTHERAN PUBLIC POLICY OFFICE OF WASHINGTON

## CHURCH & STATE

Yes? No? Maybe so?

Mark your calendars for a time to discuss and learn more about this relationship, how to raise your voice for justice, and to become part of our Statewide Network. Bring your questions, doubts, and ideas - All are welcome!

### Coming to a church near you . . .

September 12-13 ~ Beautiful Savior in Vancouver, WA

**October 3-4 ~ Celebration in East Wenatchee, WA**

**October 24-25 ~ Lord of Life in Kennewick, WA**

October 31 - November 1 ~ Holy Trinity in Port Angeles, WA

**November 21-22 ~ St. Mark's in Spokane, WA**



The Saturday morning activities run through lunch and Sunday mornings are with the hosting congregation

For questions and further information, contact LPPO (206-464-4133 or [lppooffice@lcsnw.org](mailto:lppooffice@lcsnw.org))

Greetings Advocates. August is always a transitional month for Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State because of our very unique shared seminary internship program. LPPO has an ELCA seminary intern two days a week and will now be entering into our 8<sup>th</sup> intern – Matt Keadle. Matt and his wife will be arriving the end of August and we look forward to his time with us and his contributions to strengthening the advocacy work of our Church here in Washington State. A brief bio of him is included in this article.

Also, as the fall begins LPPO usually does advocacy forums across the state to engage people of faith in the ministry of advocacy, build relationships between LPPO congregations and congregational advocates, and continue to build our statewide network for justice. Three of the five will be in Eastern Washington. You have those dates and times also in this article. They are no charges for these and we encourage your attendance, publicizing the event, and inviting people from other churches to come as well. We look forward to being in the Wenatchee, Tri-Cities, and Spokane areas this coming fall and hope to see you there.

Our congregational connection and to individuals is very important to the success of our work. To learn more about how to be a part of our statewide electronic network just go to our website at [www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org). There you can view some of the current issues we are engaged in and our most current alerts. We are always looking for congregational advocates who would like to volunteer to be LPPO coordinators for their legislative/congressional district contact us at our office ([lppooffice@lcsnw.org](mailto:lppooffice@lcsnw.org)) if you are interested in this. If you'd like us to come to your congregation for an advocacy Sunday contact us as well. Blessings on your congregation's ministry this fall and hope you will consider the ministry of advocacy & public church as a part of that.

Rev. Paul B. Benz, director  
[pbenz@lcsnw.org](mailto:pbenz@lcsnw.org)/206-390-4133

### LPPO ANNOUNCEMENT ~

It is once again a transition time for the LPPO staff! 2008-2009 Intern Kristi Kleinbeck has concluded her year with us and we now welcome our 2009-2010 Intern, Matt Keadle. Matt graduated from Valparaiso University in 2003. Since 2006 he has been working toward his M.Div at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. He did his CPE work at a homeless shelter on Chicago's North Side as part of the Urban CPE program, a course which combined pastoral care with social analysis. Most recently, Matt spent a year in Mexico, where he studied Spanish and liberation theology in the first-ever Mexico Semester Program at the ELCA's Lutheran Center in Mexico City.

Please join us in sending our blessings to Kristi and giving our welcome to Matt!

Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington State  
206-464-4133 ~ [www.lppowa.org](http://www.lppowa.org)



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September 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](http://www.ewaidssynod.org). **Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.**

## SYNOD CALENDAR

### AUGUST

- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 17-23 Churchwide Assembly - Minneapolis, MN
- 25 Synod Staff Meeting
- 26-27 Kaleidoscope Event @ Trinity Lutheran College

### SEPTEMBER

- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 7 **SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED - Labor Day**
- 10 Synod Staff Meeting
- 14 DEM Interviews @ Synod Office
- 16 Assembly Planning Committee Meeting - Boise, ID
- 18 Global Mission Committee Meeting @ Synod Office
- 21-24 Holden Theological Conference
- 24 Executive Committee Meeting @ Synod Office
- 25-26 Synod Council Meeting @ Emanuel - Ritzville, WA

### OCTOBER

- 1-6 Conference of Bishops @ The Lutheran Center
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 7-8 Boundary Training - Spokane, WA
- 9-11 Women's Fall Gathering - Idaho Falls, ID
- 11 LCS Banquet - Spokane, WA
- 16-17 Synod Outreach Committee Meeting



### Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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### STAFF

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- Assistant to the Bishop..... The Rev. Mark Nelson
- Interim DEM ..... The Rev. Brian 'Red' Burchfield
- Office Administrator ..... Laurel Eschenbacher
- Program Administrator..... Cathy Steiner
- Newsletter Editor ..... Laurel Eschenbacher
- Assembly Manager..... Karla Olson