



Eastern Washington Idaho Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Rev. Martin Wells, Bishop
Rev. Mark Nelson, Assistant to the Bishop
Rev. Helga Jansons, Director for Evangelical Mission

Go!—Tell!—Serve!

Dear friends in Christ,

Welcome to the preparations for the 2012 Synod Assembly! We'll gather in beautiful Wenatchee, WA, April 27-29, 2012 for worship, education, inspiration and service! I hope each congregation will begin making plans to elect curious and faithful voting members who will bring the congregation's ministry to the Assembly and take home fresh ideas for new ministry.

We gather under yet another missional theme, "Go! Tell! Serve!," because this is the call into ministry given to each follower of Christ and each congregation gathered to worship Christ and serve the world for whom Jesus lived and died. There's no way around it: We're here not for ourselves but for the neighbors! God asks us to remain focused on this service. God's call must be ever more urgent in a day when every other "god" disappoints and is found untrustworthy.

We were honored to receive Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson last year and this year we receive the second most influential evangelist in our church, the Rev Dr. Stephen Bouman, leader of our Congregational-Synodical Mission Unit of the ELCA and the former bishop of the Metro-New York Synod during the fateful days following 9-11-01. Stephen is a theologian of the cross, a wonderful writer, and an imaginative leader whose life reflects the power and gentleness of Jesus Christ. Other speakers, including Jim Tiffany, will reflect on ministry in our land of Hispanic neighbors, and day-trips to various ministry sites will make this an unusual assembly. All that and the beginning of Apple Blossom Festival, a lovely time of the year to enjoy Wenatchee!

Come be the church with us and help us renew and refresh our shared mission!

Pastor Martin Wells
Bishop