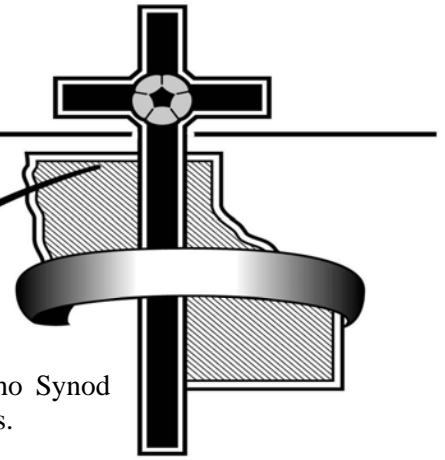


CROSS

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,
Blessed Advent!

The sixth Guiding Principle of the synod is "Come, Lord Jesus." It forms the "back half" of an inclusio with the first Guiding Principle, "Jesus: First, Last, and Always." Between them we stake our lives and our future.

This is particularly appropriate during the season of Advent because the great Advent prayer is the phrase "Maranatha." Depending on how this Aramaic phrase is divided it either functions as a prayer for the early return of Christ, "Our Lord, Come!," or as a statement of our faith, "Our Lord has come." 1 Cor 16:22.

Isn't this perfect for Advent? This is the season when we affirm that Christ will be all in all at the end of time. If my ears are tuned accurately we are praying this with a vengeance these days! All around us there is chaos, confusion, fear, and uncertainty. Huge pieces of what we thought were settled certitudes seem to be moving on their own logic. Our fragile world is a mess!

Only God can account for this, at least at the end of time. Until then it is our ministry to those lost and confused that forms our most urgent mission. Don't let this season slip by without welcoming the stranger and serving those whose poverty is clear.

And how do we propose to do that in the middle of our own fear? Just as we pray for the early return of Christ, we will turn, mid-Advent, to the promise of Jesus' birth. "O Come, O Come Emmanuel (ELW 257) becomes "People, Look East" (ELW 248), and then "Fling Wide the Door" (ELW 259), until finally all is summed up in "Joy to the World" (ELW 267).

The movement is from the darkest of dark hopes to the brilliance of fulfillment, from "Our Lord, Come!" to "Our Lord Has Come!" And come he has; but without fanfare or ostentation. No, instead he slips into our hearts under the form of a child, born of the first disciple, his mother, and a scared but stalwart man who didn't run away when he might have. I see us all in Mary and Joseph, scared vessels bearing and delivering a transcendent blessing.

God bless you and keep you in this Advent time!
"Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" (Rev 22:20)

Pr. Martin Wells,
Bishop

DECEMBER 2009

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Byberg Preaching Workshop 2010	6
Call Process Update	3
Calendar	8
Financial Report	2
Lenten Preaching Series	7
Mission Investment Fund News	7
News from the Tri-Cities	4
Prayers	4
SmallTownAndRural Leadership Conference	4
Special Needs Retirement Fund	2
The Book Parlor	5

SPECIAL NEEDS RETIREMENT FUND

This fund provides financial assistance for eligible retired members and spouses who are living with the greatest need.

Why does the need for financial assistance exist?

Many retired leaders of this church received lower incomes or served in positions where steady contributions to the ELCA Retirement Plan were not possible. As a result, they retired with low retirement income and experience a very real financial hardship. Imagine living on less than \$1,400 a month. That's the challenge facing some retired members and spouses. The Special Needs Retirement Fund offers one way for the ELCA community to help support these faithful, retired servants.

The need for this Fund will now expand with the announcement that retired members must absorb a 9% reduction in pension for the next three consecutive years. This will result in a payment that is 25% smaller than today's pension payment.

The basics:

- Provides additional income to help pay for basic expenses such as food and housing
- Eligible individuals may also receive ELCA health coverage
- Assists about 50 people each month
- Exists through generous donations from individuals and congregations, as well as support from the churchwide organization and Board of Pensions
- Established in 1993
- Co-administered by the Board of Pensions and the ELCA Foundation

Donate to the Special Needs Retirement Fund

Donate today ~ gifts of any size make a difference!

Send your check to:
Special Needs Retirement Fund
ELCA Foundation
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

For more information on the Special Needs Retirement Fund please visit:

<https://www.elcabop.org/Home/UnderstandMyBenefits/Retirement/SpecNeedsRetFund.aspx>

EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT

Fiscal Year ~ February 1, 2009 - January 31, 2010

2009	October	64,137.78	Year to Date	662,187.39
2008	October	88,673.63	Year to Date	695,016.25
	Difference	(24,535.85)	Difference	(32,828.86)

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	NV	Keith Hammer I
		Kari Sansgaard AP
L or P	Chelan, WA - Holden Village Director(s)	B	
P	Chewelah, WA - St. Paul	A	Jeryl Phillips-Kelley TM
P	Colfax-Endicott, WA - Peace/Trinity	A	Phylis Stromme I
P	Gifford, ID - Good Hope	NV	
P	Jackson, WY - Shepherd of the Mountains	C	Barbara Harrison Condon I
P	Kamiah, ID - Faith	A	Art Finney I
P	Kennewick, WA - First	B	Matthew & Kristen Kuempel SP
P	Mountain Home, ID - Grace	A	Scott Berner I
P	Nampa, ID - Trinity	A	Dick Sansgaard I
P	Orofino, ID - Ascension	NV	Barrett Lindsey I
P	Quincy, WA - St. Paul	A	Bill Voris I
P	Spokane, WA - Prince of Peace	B	
P	Sunnyside, WA - Our Saviour's	A	Ron Shipman I
P	Troy, ID - Troy	NV	
P	Yakima, WA - Christ	A	Jillian Ross I

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Rev. David Ophus has resigned his call from the Synod to interim ministry at Prince of Peace Lutheran effective November 30. His last Sunday was November 15, 2009.

Rev. Scott Berner will resign his call from the Synod to interim ministry at Grace Lutheran in Mountain Home, ID at the end of 2009.

CALLS/APPOINTMENTS ACCEPTED

Rev. David Ophus has accepted the call to be pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran in Cheney, WA. He expects to begin December 1, 2009.

Rev. Scott Berner has accepted the call to be pastor at Our Savior Lutheran in Twin Falls, ID. He expects to begin January 1, 2010.

INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Jim Stern will be installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran in Davenport, WA on Sunday, December 6, 2009 at 4:00 pm.

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

DECEMBER 2009

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

- 5 John Stevens (Emanuel/Bethel - Blackfoot, ID) ~ 10th Anniversary of Ordination
 27 Larry Nelson (Retired - Bonners Ferry, ID) ~ 45th Anniversary of Ordination
 29 Gail Hart (Faith - Pierce, ID) ~ 5th Anniversary of Ordination
 30 Alex Schmidt (Faith - Leavenworth, 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.

...Pr. Palmer Gedde (Retired - Yuma, AZ) and family. Palmer was diagnosed with a fast spreading malignant cancer. He covets your prayers for him, his family and especially his wife, Beverly.

...Pr. Bob & Mary Anderson (Seattle, WA) and family as they continue with Hospice care for Bob.

...Pr. Mary Daniels (St. John/Good Hope - Sprague/Lind, WA) and family at the death of Mary's brother, Chris Miller, who died October 22nd.

...Dan Watrous (son of Dave & Dee Watrous - Richland, WA) and his entire family. Dan was recently diagnosed with throat cancer and we pray for strength and healing as he begins 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@ewidsynod.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.

NEWS FROM THE TRI-CITIES!

When Good Shepherd, Richland, closed some years ago they left a legacy of funds to begin new ministry. Two grant applications have been received and one will be under active consideration in the next month, that of Lutheran Church of the Master proposing a children's choir/music ministry for the Tri-Cities area. We give thanks to Good Shepherd for their forward thinking, their missional thinking, and we pray for new avenues for ministry in the Tri-Cities area. Stay tuned!



SmallTownAndRural (STAR) Leadership Conference

Save the dates of February 4-5, 2010 for a 24-hour leadership retreat at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center in Spokane. Pastors, Lay Leaders, AIMs, Synodically Authorized Ministers, seminarians and anyone with a passion for outreach in rural and small town sites are welcome! Part of the program will be presented by Devanie Helsing with Food Resource Bank, a world hunger organization in partnership with Lutheran World Relief that targets support from rural areas for hunger projects around the world. The conference is subsidized by our ELCA

Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission, so costs should be minimal. Watch your "Cross Connection" for more information

NOTES FROM THE BOOK PARLOR



Enjoy this brief introduction (in Lolita's own words) to one of the many "faces" that you support every time you make a purchase from The Book Parlor. We, as a staff and community, have been blessed by the addition of Lolita and her family.

P.S. Our Tagalog is clearly not as proficient as Lolita's English!!

P.S.S. Come see us in The Commons! 1425 W. Broadway or utilize the Web site: TheBookParlor.com. Browse the new Fair Trade gifts, enjoy a sandwich at Katie's Table and meet the baristas from Indaba's coffee bar.

Connie, Casey and Cheri

See you at The Book Parlor!

Read • Reflect • Act

1425 W. Broadway Ave.

Spokane, WA 99201

(509)328-6527

info@TheBookParlor.com ~ www.TheBookParlor.com

From Hinunangan, Philippines to West Central, Spokane and The Book Parlor

By Lolita Javier

"Without going out of doors; one may know the whole world.
Knowing others is wisdom; but requires power.
Knowing oneself is enlightenment; needs strength." By Lao Tzu

It has been two years I being part and associates with The Book Parlor. When I look back 3 years from now, still in woman's shelter, I can see myself how scared and lack of confidence I am. Not knowing how to get up my own feet struggling raising my 8 year-old daughter in a strange neighborhood without any relatives. My assumption was totally wrong because I notice that West Central community is a sweet place to live in: friendly people and active community around Spokane.

I started working at the Book Parlor last year through "Career Path Services" and when I saw the place I am so excited because this is my passion to work in a hospitable place, assisting the customer and I feel like being involved in the community. The Book Parlor is not only an ordinary book store; it is a place of sharing, coping with life and connecting with other people.

On behalf of my family and myself, I will extend my great attitude to all the members of Salem ministry, founders and supporters for giving me an opportunity to work, develop and enhance my skills. I thank you all for all the supports, not being tired of sharing your blessings because without you all, Book Parlor would not be exist and getting stronger.



BYBERG PREACHING WORKSHOP 2010

Developing skills of ELCA preachers

May 3, 4 & 5, 2010
Trinity Lutheran Church
812 N 5th St ~ Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Be affirmed and refreshed with us in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho for this year's Byberg:
join us as we enjoy hiking and beach time on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene!

The brochure is available at: <http://www.bybergpreaching.wordpress.com/>

This year's topic:

Through Mediterranean Eyes

with
Richard Rohrbaugh



The New Testament was not written for 21st century Americans. Rather, it speaks the language, metaphors and issues of the ancient Mediterranean world. In the same way, Jesus spoke primarily to and about Mediterranean peasants. It was their lives that provided the material for the stories he told and it was to them that he announced the coming kingdom of God. His audience could never have imagined the fast-paced, individualistic, guilt-oriented, introspective lives of modern Americans. For Americans, reading the Bible is therefore quite similar to a cross-cultural conversation -- subject to all kinds of cultural misunderstanding.

So how did ancient Mediterranean peasants understand Jesus' stories? Did they see in them the same things we do? Or did they pick up things we miss? Moreover, is it possible that we unknowingly import our culture into the stories, thereby distorting what they once meant? In this workshop we will look at a series of stories in the Gospel of Luke in order to ask: How did Jesus' stories look through Mediterranean eyes? And is it possible for 21st century Americans to cross the cultural divide and gain common ground with the ancient peasant audience of Jesus?

Richard Rohrbaugh

Richard Rohrbaugh is the Paul S. Wright Professor of Christian Studies at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He teaches the courses on Jewish and Christian origins, including courses on both the Old and New Testaments. His special area of research is the anthropology of the early Christian period and especially the social and cultural world of the New Testament. He is the author of six books exploring the social and cultural context of the earliest Christian writings, especially the Gospels in the New Testament.

If you have any questions or would like to register for the event, please contact Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA at 360-254-9243 or by e-mail at bslc@pacifier.com

Reading Suggestions:

DeMaris, R. and Neufeld, D., *Understanding the Social World of the New Testament*

Malina, B., *The New Testament World*

Rohrbaugh, R., *The New Testament in a Cross-Cultural Perspective*

MISSION INVESTMENT FUND NEWS



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Looking for a great meaningful gift, for a child under 16???

With Christmas coming ... you may be thinking ... The kids have a lot of stuff!! What would be a wonderful gift that would be good for the children in my life, and help the church and the world??

Prayerfully consider a *MissionFuture4KIDZ investment through the ELCA Mission Investment Fund*. You can open these investments for as little as \$50. Additions of \$25 or more can be made to an account at any time by friends and family members to celebrate Christmas, birthdays, graduations and other milestones in a child's life. The investment earns interest, helping the family to save for their child's future. As the child grows, the young person will want to add their own money too!

The Mission Investment Fund uses the invested monies to provide loans and supporting services to new and established ELCA congregations and related ministries. These ministries use the loans, in turn, to strengthen mission and better serve their communities.

To learn more about how you can purchase a MissionFuture4KIDZ investment, contact **Margie Fiedler, Associate VP Marketing**, Mission Investment Fund, 208-664-7973, or by e-mail at margie.fiedler@elca.org or visit www.elca.org/mif

LENTEN PREACHING SERIES ANNOUNCEMENT

LOOKING FOR A 2010 LENTEN SERIES THEME to lead people deeper into the waters of grace and discipleship? Mindful of Lent in the early church as a time of baptismal preparation, consider "Water for Your Soul: The Baptismal Plunge with Christ," a five-week series on living in baptism every day. The series utilizes Glenn Borreson's book WATER FOR YOUR SOUL, with the option of daily readings for individuals and families. The Lenten series is available without charge to pastors, as well as information on the book, at www.waterforyoursoul.com.

For more information, please contact:
Glenn L. Borreson
1006 Deerfield Street
Holmen, WI 54636
borresong@yahoo.com

Glenn Borreson has given us a profound and yet wonderfully accessible book on baptismal spirituality. This pastor gently leads us deeper and deeper into the water of this gift, and in the process he leads us into the heart of the Christian faith itself and into clear proposals about what happens to our lives when this gift is taken seriously. Wade in this water. Drink it. You will find yourself much refreshed.

Gordon W. Lathrop, Professor of Liturgy Emeritus
Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia



**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPOKANE WA
PERMIT 277

December 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

NOVEMBER

26-27 Thanksgiving Weekend -
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER

1 Synod Staff Meeting
2-4 Bishop's Assistant's Gathering
3 Assembly Planning Committee Meeting
5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
15 Synod Staff Meeting
24-25 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED

JANUARY 2010

1 New Year's Day
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED
5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
5-9 Bishop's Academy - Itasca, Illinois
18 Martin Luther King Day
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED
28 Executive Committee @ Synod Office
29-30 Synod Council @ Immaculate Heart
Retreat Center - Spokane, WA



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..... The Rev. Martin Wells
Assistant to the BishopThe Rev. Mark Nelson
Director of Evangelical Mission.....The Rev. Helga Jansons
Office Administrator.....Laurel Eschenbacher
Program Administrator Cathy Steiner
Newsletter Editor.....Laurel Eschenbacher
Assembly Manager Karla Olson