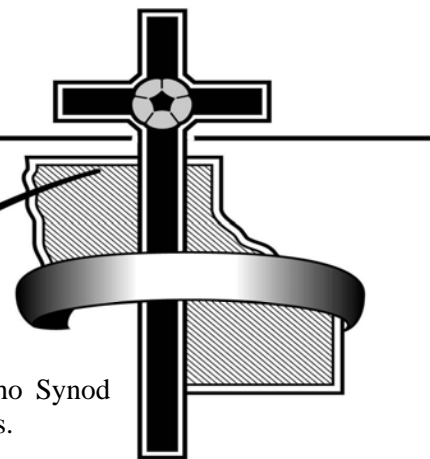


CROSS Connection



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,

You cannot know this, but I am praying for you each day, particularly those of you, and those congregations, who are wracked by conflict over Churchwide Assembly decisions. We are pressed, this is sure. We are listening, reflecting, and seeking to discern whether we have offered a prophetic word in a cramped and fearful world, or a word that is some kind of accommodation with impulses not anchored in God's Word that is Jesus, the first Word of God for Lutheran Christians. We will continue to listen and move forward into these decisions, confident only that we can be forgiven when we are wrong (even as we are obligated to change). It is a basic word of scripture that we not to be afraid, but move into God's future in confidence of God's Gospel word of forgiveness. This is our hope, our anchor, our sure confidence. At the beginning of this New Year this is the Word for us in the midst of chaos: "Do not be afraid." (Mark 6:50)

Let this word be confidence for us and confidence for others as well. Here's one way: I am struck by a phrase on the nightly news today, a phrase used for those who have given up on finding work in this very tough economy. They are being called "discouraged workers." Note that there is still dignity in that term; these are *workers*, but they are discouraged. I know of at least two congregations who have reached out to such people and I hope your congregation will consider it as well. What wonderful ministry it would be to invite to our buildings folks who need encouragement in a tough and fearful time! How might we serve them?

--One way might be through introducing them to the network of employers who are members of our church.

--Another way is simply by providing a warm and hospitable space for gathering. Perhaps you have a member who is good at facilitating conversation, assisting people who are looking for a chance to speak. Are there other members who would volunteer to make the coffee and bring sweets?

--But more than anything else, what we have to offer is a theology that grounds each child of God in a call and a calling. This call was issued in baptism and we were named "Child of God" and then given a vocation in the world, to serve the neighbor in Jesus' name. Maybe some of our "discouraged workers" have never heard of this first vocation or even baptism itself. This is our opportunity to talk about how meaning in life comes before an occupation,

JANUARY 2010

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As we look with great anticipation to Christ's birth, your Synod staff wishes you a blessed season of joy and hope!

*Martin, Mark, Helga,
Laurel & Cathy*



FROM THE BISHOP CONTINUED ...

and for those who have work, a chance to reinforce how the calling of God is bigger than our occupations.

--Martin Luther's notion of "vocation" is an emphasis in our synod following the Synod Assembly with Michael Bennethum, author of "Listen! God is Calling." This would be a fine book to read together, reinforcing that each of us occupies more than one "station" in life and we have a vocation as child, as sibling, as parent, as spouse, as aunt or uncle, as citizen. And, based on the gifts of the Spirit which have been spread among the participants, it may be that additional callings are present as well. The point is that this time of discouragement doesn't have to be the only reality; God desires our gifts in so many other ways!

--And then, of course, such a group needs to become a place of prayer for good work, dignified work, work that supports a family. Do you have good intercessors in the congregation that could take the prayers of this group into Sunday worship during the prayers of the people? Wouldn't this be a profound way to support these neighbors during discouraging times?

Blessed New Year!

Pastor Martin Wells,
Bishop
msmmwells@aol.com

2009 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

A message from Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson

"But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us..." (Titus 3:4-5a).

Into this shadowed world light shines and joyous voices sing. Glad tidings cheer the heart and liberate hope. "A child has been born for us, a son given to us" (Isaiah 9:6). God our Savior has appeared!

God's saving goodness and loving kindness have arrived in Jesus, the Word made flesh. Though hidden in the humility of a manger, and later in the scandal of the cross, God's promise is being made good in plain sight for all to see, in a life of generous mercy, richly poured out for all.

"See, your salvation comes," the prophet wrote (Isaiah 62:11). God's faithfulness to God's promises calls us to a new hope, for the hope of eternal life is an inheritance that we can enjoy today in lives of generosity and compassion, joy and peace.



EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT

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

2009	November	81,271.17	Year to Date	743,458.56
2008	November	81,407.17	Year to Date	776,423.42
	Difference	(136.00)	Difference	(32,964.86)

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	A	Keith Hammer I
		Kari Sansgaard AP
L or P	Chelan, WA - Holden Village Director(s)	B	
P	Chelan, WA - Village Pastor	A	
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	
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	Darrel Lundby I
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. Kathryn LePard will resign as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church in Post Falls, ID. Her last Sunday will be December 27, 2009.

Rev. Kimberly Meinecke will resign as pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Goldendale, WA. Her last day will be February 28, 2010.

Because this is a unique, ecumenical context, the staff at Holden Village has asked us to publish the following position vacancy. Note that all ELCA applicants that are screened to a shorter list will need to work within the call process of the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod so that the selected candidate may be called to this position.

Holden Village -- a Lutheran center for retreat and renewal -- seeks a pastor to proclaim the gospel, facilitate daily worship and weekly Eucharist, and serve as a spiritual/theological leader for the village. The pastor should be ordained on the roster of the ELCA, LCMS, or denominations with which the ELCA is in full communion. An understanding of and commitment to Lutheran theology and traditions in worship is required. The pastor should be an outstanding preacher, and be flexibly creative in worship expression. Competence in pastoral care is also desired. Start: August-September 2010 for a two-year term. Interested applicants should contact the Holden Village Directors at director@holdenvillage.org

A more detailed job description is given in reply to potential applicants' emails, and more about Holden Village can be found at <http://www.holdenvillage.org/>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR FOR EVANGELICAL MISSION

I am so grateful to God, our Bishop and others who have been instrumental in my being called to be the new Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the Eastern WA-ID Synod. This is a critical time in the life of the ELCA and Bishop Mark Hanson has said “the ELCA is betting the farm on the DEMs.” The Evangelical Outreach for Congregational Mission (EOCM) unit of the ELCA has determined that each Synod is to have a DEM on Synod staff mostly paid for by the ELCA. This is to ensure that all congregations and clusters have access to resources that will support them to reach out into the community, become more missional and grow. Most DEMs are also responsible for providing Stewardship resources and education since the way we live out our Christian calling is linked to loving our neighbor, sharing the faith that gives us hope and generous living. DEMs are accountable both to the Synod and EOCM.

The purpose statement of the EOCM is: *To engage leaders in the formation of evangelizing congregations that make disciples for Jesus Christ and equip people who use their gifts for God's reign in the church and in the world.*

At our training in Chicago on November 16-19th we were told that as DEMs we are to be *coaches, scouts, midwives* and among other things *Metamucil* for the church. As best I can summarize them my responsibilities are as follows:

- Pray for the synod, congregations and pastors. If I am directly working with you, know that I am praying for you by name.
- Leadership Development: engage leaders who are, or would like to become Missional. Synod Missional *Tables* (teams that gather around the Lord's Table in conversation and strategic planning) will be formed starting in February. I will be on the look-out for people who would like to become Mission Developers/Redevelopers.
- Equip congregations to implement their commitment to evangelical outreach/stewardship such as using demographic resources, and to reroot in the community.
- Encourage and help start ministry among ethnic people and those who are poor.
- Support communities who would like to use the *emergent church* model or other creative ministry/worship practices.
- New church starts/ministries: assist them in writing profiles and applying for funds.
- Guide and provide resources for renewing and evangelizing congregations such as *Natural Church Development* coaches and *Transformational Ministry* processes.
- Discipleship and Faith Practices/ Spiritual Renewal formation
- Stewardship education and creation of opportunities like *Consecration Sunday* and the *Stewardship Key Leader Program*.
- Create networks, connecting people with each other as I discover their interests and gifts.

My prayer to God is to “use me” and here's how you might do that. Invite me for a presentation, to preach, teach or lead a workshop. I am available to pastors, lay leaders, congregations and clusters. Use me as the “outsider” who can challenge your church and encourage you, as well as to help you to see or discover what God might be up to in your church and community.

I will continue to live in Kennewick, Washington with my husband Kirk Ruehl and two boys Erik and Lukas. I will work from home and travel to meet you and your congregations.

This Synod is especially blessed with a Bishop and Assistant to the Bishop who are missional in their concern and approach. The commitment of the Synod and EOCM to have someone who is full-time in this position says a lot.

I hope to serve God who loves us all through Christ, and the churches in our Synod, well.

Pr. Helga Jansons

helga.jansons@elca.org

helga.jansons@ewaidsynod.org

2010 EASTERN WASHINGTON-IDAHO SYNOD ASSEMBLY

LIVE CHRIST!

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

1 John 4: 9

Friday, April 23—Sunday, April 25
Doubletree Hotel—Boise Riverside

Featuring:

◆ KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Mark Allan Powell

◆ GLOBAL MISSION CENTER with

Bishop Renard and Rosemary Mtenji
Ulanga Kilombero Synod, Tanzania

Youth and Young Adults are encouraged to participate as voting members to the 2010 Synod Assembly.

At the 2009 Churchwide Assembly, amendments to the constitutions, bylaws and continuing resolutions of the ELCA were adopted to allow for expanded roles for youth and young adults in the governance in all expressions of our church including our synod assembly. The goal is that at least ten percent of the synod assembly voting members would be persons who are youth (not yet 18 when elected/appointed) and young adults (between the ages of 18 and 30 when elected/appointed.) As your synod council explores ways to implement this goal for future assemblies, we are asking congregations to have conversations with the youth and young adults in their midst. Please consider electing/appointing a young person as one of your voting members if you do not already do so. Lifting up and empowering our young people to serve is part of our calling as a congregation!

OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

JANUARY 2010

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

- 1 Erv Johnson (Retired - Richland, WA) ~ 45th Anniversary of Commissioning
 6 Karl Heinz Kunder (Cameron Emanuel/Zion - Kendrick, ID) ~ 30th Anniversary of Ordination
 22 Alan Eschenbacher (All Saints - Spokane, WA) ~ 5th 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.

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

...Dan Watrous (son of Dave & Dee Watrous - Richland, WA) as he continues treatment for throat cancer.

...Pr. Marilyn & Roger deVeer (Grace Lutheran - Horseshoe Bend, ID) and family at the death of Marilyn's mother, Marjorie Eaton, who died November 25.

...Chaplain Ken DuVall, a son of First, Kennewick, and former pastor at Blackfoot and Firth, ID, has been promoted to the rank of Full Colonel in the Montana National Guard. He was "pinned" in a family ceremony on November 25th.

Congratulations Ken!

...Pr. Steve Neuder (First - Sandpoint, ID) as he underwent brain surgery the week of November 30th. He and his family are hopeful that this will take care of the seizure disorder he has been experiencing.

...*Congratulations* to Pr. Phylis Stromme (Peace/Trinity - Colfax/Endicott, WA) and family as they celebrate the birth of her grandson, Bryson Curtis Bland, born December 3, 2009.

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



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.

Faith Lutheran Church (Leavenworth, WA) has two free-standing room dividers they would love to sell. The height is 6'8" and the length is 13'1" (seven 22" panels). They fold up neatly and are easily moved and also have the additional interlocking bracket. They are in virtually new condition as they hardly ever used them. They would like to sell them for \$1400 (or \$700 each), but would consider any reasonable offer.

They also have a very usable basic Ricoh Aficio 1015 B&W copier. It has served them well for 6 years and still works fine. It has a storage stand underneath that is included in the price of \$275 or best offer.

If you are interested in either of these items, please contact:
 Pastor Alex Schmidt
 509-548-7012



COMPANION SYNOD TRIP TO TANZANIA

Bwana Yesu Asifiwe! Which is Swahili for Praise the Lord! The time has come to begin making plans for the next synod trip to Tanzania! Our companions in the Ulanga Kilombero Diocese are eager to welcome us. We will be going in early August of 2010.

Much will need to happen over the next eight months to prepare for this journey. First and foremost, who will be going on this journey? Is God whispering in your ear to represent the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod to our brothers and sisters in Tanzania? Is the Holy Spirit moving in your life and making it possible to spend a couple of weeks in East Africa? Maybe someone in your congregation has expressed an interest in mission work in Africa or has been especially excited about our Companion Synod. Please help this information get to the right people.

The trip will be limited to about a dozen people (the number that our companions and vehicles can accommodate). We want to make this a multi-generational trip so ages teen and up should consider their involvement. Each person will need to pay for their own travel expenses (near \$4000).

Details for the trip are still being worked out but just traveling to the school is an adventure!! We will visit the Diocese Headquarters in Ifakara and visit with Bishop Mtenji and his staff. We will spend time with the students at Tumaini Secondary School and we might do a project there as well. We also hope to officially dedicate the new Dining and Assembly Hall! We will tour Lugala hospital and see the amazing work they do. This trip will be a wonderful opportunity to experience firsthand the hospitality of our companions in Christ.

Heidi Cryer is excited to be organizing this trip and share some of what she discovered during her 3-month sabbatical at Tumaini School. If you are interested in learning more about this trip, please email Heidi Cryer at hcryer@lordoflifelutheran.net or call her at 509-539-0449. God be with you as you pray and ponder and discern what your involvement might be.

SMALLTOWNANDRURAL (STAR)

SmallTownAndRural (STAR) Leadership Conference

Who: Rural and small town lay leaders, pastors, Synodically Authorized Ministers, seminarians, and those with a passion for rural church life and mission

What: Time to share with colleagues
Worship
Program by the Food Resource Bank, Rural Ministry Resource, and our new Director for Evangelical Mission, Rev. Helga Jansons

When: February 4-5, 2009, noon to noon

Where: Immaculate Heart Retreat Center on Spokane's South Hill

A special mailing will be out in January with costs, registration materials and directions to the retreat center.

“MY LIFE IN MISSION” BY JOHN M. BRETT

Greetings from a fellow member of the E.WA-ID Synod, member of Grace, Wenatchee and associate member of Fullness of God, Holden Village, currently representing the ELCA and you while serving on a volunteer service mission in Mexico City! My thanks to the E.WA-ID Global Mission Committee for their part in making this call a reality.

This past October I embarked on a journey many years in the making. By one count, the efforts to arrange a volunteer mission service term in Mexico City through the ELCA took two years, but by another, the call entailed a 10 year process of gestation through the twists & turns of my life path.

I first heard of The Lutheran Center in Mexico City in 1998 from a Lutheran campus pastor when traveling as a Lutheran representative on an exchange with the Council for Ecumenical Student Christian Ministries to Cuba & Venezuela. Afterward, information about The Lutheran Center continued to cross my path: while at Holden Village in 1999, through a friend at Texas Lutheran, &, of course, through Pastor Jillian Ross, who prior to having been an ELCA mission developer in Wapato, WA, had served a call here in the ELCA-Mexico office. It enriches my experience knowing that the E.WA-ID synod has a profound connection with this center, not only through Pastor Ross's former call, but as I consider the changing faces of the people who live within our synod.

My desire to return to Latin America & serve the church has, to date, been worth the wait. I've encountered a small community of Lutherans and our mission partners in this large city and have also enjoyed meeting & getting to know the coordinators and members of the Young Adults in Global Mission program located close by in Cuernavaca.

My work here in the ELCA-Mexico office primarily consists of supporting their programs, particularly the Transformational Immersion Program, using my background in the non-profit field. Currently I am assisting in portfolio development regarding issues affecting the marginalized communities with whom the Center works, on topics such as immigration policy & migration.

The Transformation Immersion Program through the ELCA-Mexico office challenges and empowers participants as God's people to become advocates and promoters of a more just and humane world. Participants experience the reality of the poor; reflect critically on the root causes of this reality; experience the hope for transformation through movements and projects arising from marginalized sectors of society; and return home with a recommitment to the gospel of Jesus, who lived in solidarity with the poor and excluded.

The program follows a “reverse mission” model, rather than the work projects that often come to mind when people think of a church-related trip abroad. Instead of coming with all the tools, resources and solutions to overcome poverty and injustice, participants are invited to enter into a partnership of mutuality that calls us to hear, learn and grow through dialogue and relationship with those on the margins of life. The true “mission” happens when groups return home, transformed by new encounters with the living Christ and moved to act for justice in their own local communities and the wider global world that we all share. The program encourage participants to come with empty hands, but with open hearts and minds, ready to receive the hope, wisdom, and gifts that our Mexican sisters and brothers seek to share with us.

Another aspect of my work here consists of developing relationship with the community where I am placed. As I am living at The Lutheran Center, and as it forms part of a consortium of several co-located small mainline seminaries, I have come to know & create friendships with several Mexican seminarians. As part of this call, I am engaging in informal conversational English-Spanish classes with a handful of these brothers, looking to learn as much as I may share while living amongst them.

As the season of advent continues, I look to Mary's encounter with the angel announcing the birth of Jesus. May I accept this call and live into it with similar humility and grace. May God enter and fill my life & so bless the world around me.

Congregations are invited to support this mission in prayer. If you or your congregation wish to support this volunteer mission financially, please email elcamexicomission@yahoo.com &/or mail support to:

Grace Lutheran Church
Attn: Gwen Everett
1408 Washington Street - Wenatchee, WA 98801

Look for updates on this mission in future issues of the Cross Connection!

CHURCHES CONTRIBUTE LAND RESOURCES TO COMBAT HUNGER



Seeds of Hope

As the economy worsens, more and more people are finding it hard to meet their basic needs. Food banks and shelters are registering record numbers of requests for their services. At such a time, some congregations have that green lawn is not an asset. Rather, they are digging up the sod and planting gardens instead. At least five churches in the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod of the ELCA have joined the effort to feed the hungry by growing food on their premises or in the neighborhood surrounding them.

The churches which have committed their land to gardens include All Saints (Spokane); Emmanuel (Moscow); Faith (Caldwell) and Trinity (Nampa). Salem (Spokane) is also supporting a lawn to garden effort through Project Hope, an outreach ministry begun by two members of the congregation that includes as part of its outreach a scattered site urban agriculture program.

Trinity (Nampa) distributes the food their garden produces to local food banks, homeless shelters and others in need. Emmanuel (Moscow) supports the community garden project run by Palouse-Clearwater Environmental Institute by providing ground for gardens. All Saints (Spokane) uses some of its produce in the Tuesday night suppers it offers to the homeless and provides space for neighbors to grow their own produce. Much of the food produced by Project Hope's Riverfront Farm goes to food banks in the West Central neighborhood, such as Our Place. All of these efforts provide tangible ways a congregation can reach out to its neighbors in need. This is the face of the future, ministry concerned more about helping those less fortunate than about simply filling the church.

For more information about individual sites, please contact:

All Saints, Spokane ~ allsaintsoffice@comcast.net

Emmanuel, Moscow ~ elc@moscow.com

Faith, Caldwell ~ faithlc@qwestoffice.net

Salem, Spokane ~ salemcongregation@gmail.com

Trinity, Nampa ~ www.nampatrinity.org

Submitted by, *Lynda Maraby* (member of Salem Congregation)

LUTHERAN STAFF ASSOCIATION

**2010 LSA Conference
Jubilee! Proclaim Freedom
March 7-10, 2010**

Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center ~ Cannon Beach, Oregon

The idea of Jubilee was a unique concept that was included in the Levitical law. The 50th year (after 7 cycles of 7 years) the people would observe what was basically a grand-scale Sabbath. Land would revert back to its original owner, families would be reunited, slaves would be freed, work would cease, and the land and everyone in it would rest.

Imagine what a year like that could do for a person! It's a compelling idea! While we don't know how, or even if, Jubilee was observed by the Israelite people it speaks volumes about what is significant in our lives, and the need for rest and balance.

This year LSA will celebrate its 50th year of ministry to those who minister in lay leader roles in Lutheran churches. We explore this idea of Jubilee, and the way in which it calls us to "Proclaim Freedom!" in the various areas of our life! We hope you will join us for the celebration!

For more information and registration forms, visit the Lutheran Staff Association Web site www.lutheranstaffnw.org



**EASTERN
WASHINGTON
IDAHO SYNOD**

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

January 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.ewadaysynod.org. **Deadline for articles is the 5th of each month.**

SYNOD CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 24-25 Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED
- 31 New Year's Eve
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

FEBRUARY 2010

- 2-4 Ag Expo
- 4-5 Rural Leaders Retreat @ IHRC
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 15 President's Day
SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED

Cross Connection Mailing List

If you are currently receiving the Cross Connection and wish to be removed from the mailing list, please cut your mailing label from the back of the newsletter and mail it to the Synod Office or send an email to office@ewadaysynod.org. ***Thank you!***



Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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