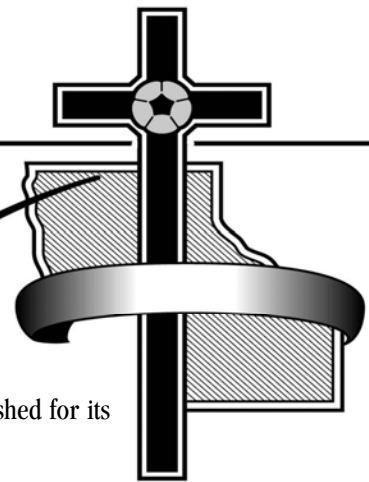


CROSS *Connection*



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

MAY 2009

God's beloved people,

"Gratitude, Gratitude" is the second Guiding Principle of the Synod. Albert Einstein said, "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." It's no wonder that our fourth Guiding Principle is "Miracles of Hope!"

I think Easter People live in gratitude, where life itself (and everything else: Thanks Albert!) is a miracle of hope. I pray your days are filled with the life of Jesus, now once again hailed as our resurrected Lord and Savior. It is good to live in thanks!

How might it be possible to share your gratitude for these miracles of Life? Today I am remembering those unsung heroes of our congregations who labor, often unpaid or underpaid, for their work on behalf of ministry. Wednesday the 22nd of April is Administrative Professionals Day and also Earth Day. In our office we'll celebrate the work of Cathy Steiner and Laurel Eschenbacher with a festive lunch and the simple "thank you" that means so much in anxious times.

I invite you to remember the volunteers and paid staff of your congregations: janitors, groundskeepers, choir directors and musicians; the team that folds and mails the newsletter and the team that fixes things; the youth group chaperones and youth group leaders; the administrators and secretaries; the van drivers; the prayer team; the assembly voting members; the altar guild and ushers; the flower arrangers and the coffee hour hosts. I'm sure I've missed many faithful servants!

It's quite a circle of thanksgiving isn't it? It reminds us of all the tasks that go on quietly, making it possible to be the church and together express our joy as Easter People.

Wednesday the 22nd is also Earth Day, a day brought into being in order that we might pay attention to the fragility of our creation. We're learning more every day about the cost of the "entitlement thinking" that is poisoning our earthen home. To live from gratitude is to tend this garden within which we've been placed as stewards. If nothing else I hope you'll remember our farmers today, planting and tilling and tending with such hope! What investment in earth-keeping might you make today? How will it mirror sheer gratitude for Life?

Blessed Easter Season!

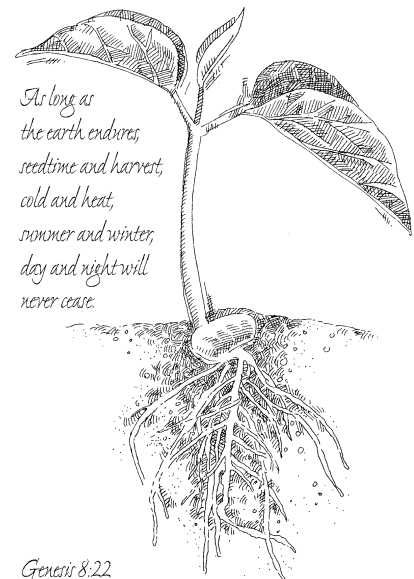
Pr Martin Wells

Bishop

mshmmwells@aol.com

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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	A	Paul D. Anderson I
P	Colfax-Endicott, WA - Peace/Trinity	A	Phylis Stromme I
P	Davenport, WA - Zion	A	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	C	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	B	Mike Scheid LP

CALLS ACCEPTED

The Rev. Michael Nelson has accepted the part-time call from Christ Lutheran in Egypt, WA. He expects to begin there May 1, 2009.

INSTALLATIONS

The Rev. Shelley Bryan Wee will be installed as campus Pastor, Eastern Washington University, Sunday, May 3, 2009, at the morning worship at the Synod Assembly in Yakima, WA.

2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY



2009 SYNOD ASSEMBLY
 May 1-3
 Yakima Convention Center

Guest Speaker: Diana Butler Bass

Churchwide Representative: Pastor Marcus Kunz

Offering: Coyote Ridge Religious Activities Center

Experience the abundance of our synod in worship, workshops, speakers, business, discussion, fellowship, ministry partners displays, hearings and more!

2009 EASTER MESSAGE

Presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson
2009 EASTER MESSAGE

"Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified ... has been raised" (Mark 16:6)

When Mary Magdalene, Mary and Salome came to the tomb, their hopes and fears intersected. They wondered aloud about the impossibly large and heavy stone that presented an obstacle to their immediate plans. Worse, what they thought lay behind the stone was unspeakably devastating. Jesus, who embodied the hope of God's promise in a fully human life, was not simply dead, but crucified -- executed in the most extreme humiliation, a savage mockery of the hope that had lived with him.

But the stone was gone, the grave empty. Where they had expected to hear the silence of death's mockery, they were met by an astonishing message that the crucified one was raised from the dead, that their hope was victorious over humiliation, and that Jesus lives and is leading the way into an unexpected, surprising future with God.

Jesus lives and resurrection hope beckons. Jesus' resurrection on the third day signals that God is not finished until the life of Jesus renews the whole creation. Sinners once haunted by the threats of judgment will live forgiven, restored, renewed and freed. All lives broken by sin's injustices and haunted by death's terrors will be transformed by joy and transfigured into the new creation in Christ.

You and I are witnesses of this new creation. You have been baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection and have heard his promise. Your lives are hidden in his and he feeds you with a foretaste of the eternal feast of joy. He will meet you in your hope. He claims your daily work and makes it into a holy calling. He lives in you and sends you into the world as an ambassador of reconciliation, a testimony of God's incomparable love. Jesus lives! Your life in him is resurrection witness.



"This is our God ... let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation!" (Isaiah 25:9)

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

HANDBELLS WANTED . . .

DOES YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE A SET OF HANDBELLS THAT ARE NO LONGER IN USE???

American Lutheran Church in Newport, WA is interested in buying a set of hand bells or they would even consider a long term lease if the congregation wanted to retain ownership of the bells for some time in the future.

If your congregation has a set of hand bells that they would like to sell or lease out, please contact American Lutheran Church at 509-447-4338 ~ alc@surf1.ws.

Thank You!



OUR CHURCH IN ACTION

MAY 2009

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

- 16 H. Sam Babington (Retired - Kennewick, WA) ~ 55th Anniversary of Ordination
 20 Robert A. Peterson (Retired - Moscow, ID) ~ 50th Anniversary of Ordination
 24 Robert E. Nale (Clark Fork - Clark Fork, ID) ~ 60th 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. Connie Myers, wife of Pr. Steve Myers (Spokane, WA) as she undergoes treatment for cancer.

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

...Our Synod Assembly and Churchwide Assembly Voting Members as prepare to attend the upcoming assemblies . . . may they faithfully discern issues before the Church. **“God’s work. Our hands.”**



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.

CLERGY WORKSHOP FOR RETURNING SERVICE PERSONNEL

- WHAT:** 4 hour workshop for clergy and pastoral staff to give basic understanding of Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) among servicepersons returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as effects on family members, including **signs and symptoms, family dynamics, related issues** and **appropriate referrals**.
- WHO:** Offered by Catholic Charities Spokane and Lutheran Community Services, with presenters from the Veterans' Outreach Center. Pastors, clergy and staff from **all** congregations and faith communities are invited to attend.
- WHEN:** Wednesday, May 13, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., lunch included.
- WHERE:** St. Anne's Children & Family Center, lower level, 25 W. 5th Ave. (corner of 5th & Division) - Spokane, WA
- WHY:** Clergy and Pastoral Staff are in a unique position to assist returning service men and women and their families as they struggle with re-adjusting to life in the States and with PTS.
- COST:** None, but please RSVP to (509) 358-4273.

ELCA BOARD OF PENSIONS NEWS . . .

PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

May 27-28, 2009 @ Immaculate Heart Retreat Center - Spokane, WA

ELCA Board of Pensions and the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod will host a Pre-Retirement Seminar beginning at Noon on Wednesday, May 27th and ending at Noon on Thursday, May 28th in Spokane at the Immaculate Heart Retreat Center.

A two-day pre-retirement seminar is planned for pastors, rostered lay persons and lay participants in the ELCA Board of Pensions' benefits plan. In this seminar you will explore issues that form the foundation of a healthy retirement -- and learn how your financial decisions can help you achieve your retirement dreams. Persons who will be 50 years of age or older are invited to attend.

Please call the Synod Office if you have any questions – 509-838-9871

WANT TO TRY FITNESS WALKING???

ELCA health plan members, sign up for the 28-day Walk to Wellness program starting soon on the Mayo Clinic EmbodyHealth web portal (www.elcaforwellness.org). It's a healthy small step and a great way to enjoy the spring weather.

ELCA-primary plan members, Walk to Wellness can also earn you reward points on EmbodyHealth which, in turn, helps you earn personal wellness dollars -- assuming you've already taken the online health assessment!

How to have a great **Walk to Wellness** experience:

- 1. Sign up**
You must enroll between April 17 and April 29. (If you haven't taken the health assessment, take it first!)
- 2. Invite Others**
Encourage others who have access to EmbodyHealth to sign up for Walk to Wellness, too.
- 3. Walk regularly**
Walk between April 30 and May 27. Choose your goal and record your progress using the online Walk to Wellness tracking tool -- enter steps or minutes.
- 4. Cheer each other on**
Walk with another plan member who's signed up or just hold each other accountable. Encourage each other; challenge each other to increase steps or minutes. Above all, have fun and enjoy being outside.
- 5. Pause to take stock**
After two weeks, notice the progress you've made. Consider how walking regularly makes you feel, how your muscles respond and if your stamina is increasing. Are you feeling less stressed, more optimistic?
- 6. Celebrate**
At the close of the program, look at the steps or minutes you've tracked, celebrate the discipline you've achieved and whatever satisfactions you've enjoyed along the way.

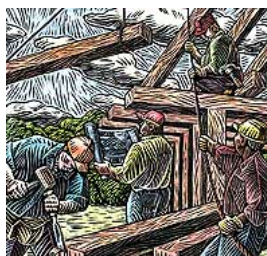


LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Master Builders Bible Offer

We are making three or four Master Builders Bibles available for **Leaders** (not just anyone who wants a Bible) in congregations who are:

- 1) Willing to work through the leaders supplement in the front of the Bible and develop men's ministry as a **Leadership Team** (not "a group") according to the instruction in the guide and
- 2) Share with us the names/contact information of each leader that receives a Bible. The Bibles will be distributed through our LMM leaders in our Synod.



**Master
Builders**

Master Builders: Building Men for Christ

If you are interested in participating, contact Pastor Mark Nelson at the Synod office at mark.nelson@ewaisynod.org. There are 44 Bibles available on a first-come, first-served basis and will be available for pickup on May 1, 2009 at the Synod Assembly in Yakima.

We will forward a .PDF copy of the Leadership Guide and registration form for those who are interested.

SYNODICAL WOMEN'S GATHERING



God's Love Through Our Hearts

"God's Love Through Our Hearts"

October 9-11, 2009

Shilo Inn - Idaho Falls, ID

Pastor Kristine Blaess - Bible Study & Worship

Margie Fiedler - Guest Speaker

Congregations, mark your calendars, as **ALL** women are invited to come. Our annual gathering is exciting, educational, inspiring, encouraging, empowering and lots of fun. Please inform women about their synod conference opportunity to come together in worship, fellowship, activities, Bible study, prayer, and music.

In May, each congregation will receive an information packet. For any questions, contact me, Jolene Pooley 208-687-8371 or jdpooley@aol.com.

YELS ~ YOUTH EMPOWERED 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 Empowered 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!

IDAHO INTERFAITH ROUNDTABLE AGAINST HUNGER

ROUNDTABLE AGAINST HUNGER

New resource for understanding hunger in Idaho is available. Go to Idaho Hunger Relief Taskforce Web site <http://www.idahohunger.org> and click on Resources on left side of screen this will take you to 2009 - NEW PUBLICATION! Idaho Hunger Atlas: A County-Level Profile of Hunger in Idaho

[http://www.idahohunger.org/files/000038/Resources/Final%20Report%20Idaho Hunger Atlas%20revised%20022709-2.pdf](http://www.idahohunger.org/files/000038/Resources/Final%20Report%20Idaho%20Hunger%20Atlas%20revised%20022709-2.pdf).

Educate yourselves more by taking a look at this unique tool in Idaho. Only 3-4 states have done a report by a county by county basis. Please take the time to thank Governor Otter for making _Food Stamp eligibility _easier for many struggling families in Idaho by removing the asset test. This was the number one next step goal coming out of the Summit on Hunger October 2008. The Governor needs to hear from YOU! If you can also contact your legislator and share your support of this decision. Phone Governor Otter and leave message of thanks at 208-334-2100. Go to Governor Otter's web site and click on contact and leave e-mail message - <http://gov.idaho.gov/> Or write Governor Otter P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720 From the Idaho Statesman March 27th, "The change, which will be enacted by May 1, means Idahoans will no longer have to have less than \$2,000 in assets to be eligible for food stamps. Assets include a bank account, a boat, an RV and any more than one vehicle per adult per household. "It's an issue that has arisen in that we've had families where the head breadwinner has been laid off — in some cases, both parents," said Jon Hanian, Gov. Butch Otter's spokesman. "They had assets, and now all of a sudden they're finding themselves selling a house. And houses and boats just aren't moving. They've still got to eat. That's the issue we're addressing with this temporary change." The change would be good for a year. An income test would remain for applicants. That limit is 130 percent of the poverty level. A family of three cannot gross more than \$1,984 per month...."

CHILD NUTRITION ACT - Your letters are needed now to Congress to support the Child Nutrition Act. This Act is reauthorized (this fall) every five years and supports programs of school lunch, school breakfast & summer feeding programs. We are also showing support for the Women, Infants & Children program. You are encouraged to write a letter to our congressional decision makers. Background paper on the Child Nutrition Act from Bread the World go to

<http://www.bread.org/get-involved/at-home/bread-newsletter/2009/feb-09-background-paper.pdf>

Say something about your motivation (as a person of faith), tell a personal story, and/or state a fact. Choose from the list below or share your own reason. The Bible tells us to care for all people and to do justice. With more and more people losing their jobs or taking pay cuts, increased funding for this act is more important than ever. Families that were already struggling are affected the most by the current economic problems. Children who are hungry can't learn as well and are more likely to do poorly in school, end up with lower paying jobs, and need assistance as adults. It's harder for children who are hungry to pay attention in school; they're more likely to be angry, worried or depressed, and more likely to miss school because they're sick. School meals are really important. Studies have shown that they are usually much more nutritious than the meals that students bring from home. Good nutrition at school sets an example, teaches children to eat and like different foods, and helps them to stay healthy.

Representative Walt Minnick
1517 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Mike Simpson
2312 Rayburn
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Mike Crapo
239 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator James Risch
2 Russell Courtyard
Washington, D.C. 20510

Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger - Seek Solutions -
idroundtable@yahoo.com Questions & comments





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May 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

APRIL

- 24 Assemble Notebooks for Assembly
- 26 Lower Columbia Basin Pre-Assembly Cluster Gathering @ First - Kennewick, WA - 3:00 pm
- 30 Synod Executive Committee Meeting
- 30 Synod Council Meeting

MAY

- 1-3 Synod Assembly - Yakima, WA
- 4 **SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED**
- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 6 Synod Staff Meeting
- 8 Region 1 Governing Council
- 20 PTSD Training - Spokane, WA
- 25 **SYNOD OFFICE CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY**
- 27-28 Pre-Retirement Seminar - Spokane, WA

JUNE

- 5 **Newsletter Article Deadline**
- 9-11 First Call Theological @ Palisades
- 15-18 PLU Summer Retreat
- 21-24 Region 1 Bishop's Summer Retreat
- 28 - July 1 YELS @ Shoshone

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.

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