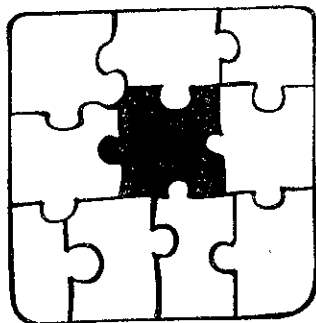


CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
5606 W. Lincoln Ave.
Yakima, WA 98908



Find Your Spot

9850264008 0018



From the Pastor's desk

The LORD bless you and keep you,

*The LORD make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious unto you,*

*the LORD lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of
the Holy Spirit.*

Amen

Pastor Carol

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE...

September brings new beginnings to the church year and this September is no different for the Social Ministry committee. This year will be a little more low keyed than the previous year. But we will still be active in helping with needs in the community.

The first big project will be the Thanksgiving boxes. Please start watching the local advertisements for the standard items for the boxes. These include rice, vegetables, fruit, oatmeal, tuna fish, jell-o, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese, juice, soup, olives, pickles, fruit snacks, raisins, pumpkin pie mix, evaporated milk, and flour. We have added other items, such as cereals and dried milk, in the past years depending on the money available. We will put together at least 40 boxes this year. Look for the shopping cart in the narthex sometime in October.

The YWCA still has a wish list for their Family Crisis Program. Their wish list includes several food items, underwear, socks, and nightwear for women and children, towels and washcloths, diapers, and hygiene items. The full list will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Watch for a hygiene drive in the spring. We can put a box in the fellowship hall for people to drop off items for the Battered Women's shelter. We will take them to the shelter as the box fills.

As always, the committee is looking for new ideas, new projects, and new areas of concern. Please feel free to pass them on to Kathy or Ilene and we will look into them further.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

Special Congregation Meeting
September 13th after Worship Service

The support committee has been working this year on obtaining cost estimates and work bids for the following much needed repairs:

1. West back door replacement
2. Replacement of the sky light covering over the sanctuary.
3. Repair of the roof area over the fellowship hall.

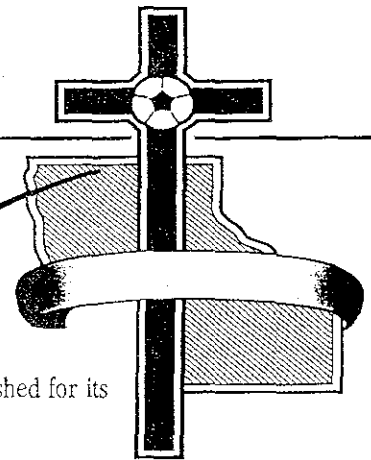
We need to replace the back door before this winter and the council approved the recommendation for a special congregational meeting to vote on the financing of the door, roof and skylight repairs. Financing options will be discussed.

We will also be electing our Call Committee at this meeting.



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

SEPTEMBER 2009

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.

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) 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

Continued on Page 2 . . .

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

mstmwells@aol.com

September Birthdays

- 3 Marion Van Corbach
6 Laura Gillespie
9 Grace Rath
11 Zach Bissell
12 Liberty McClanathan
13 Paul Rath
14 Jim Sund
Joe Duncan
18 Julie Eichler
21 Bob Rasmussen
23 Tom Duncan
25 Lindsay Larson
27 Kathy Sebree
Darlene Smith
Floyd Butterfield
29 Jennifer Turner
30 Jim Hilton

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office 966-1720, we would be happy to add you to our list.

Wedding Anniversaries

- 6 Steve & Crystal Lehman
17 Scott & Sylvia Whitmer
18 Patsy & Gilbert Lake
27 Jeff & Laura Gillespie

Altar Guild

Laura Larson
Ethel Rasmussen

Counters

Mark Karn
Andy Sauer

Chancel Flowers **

- 6 Julius Family
13 Caroline Templine
20 Ethel Rasmussen
27 Open

Lectionary Texts

September

- 6 Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146
James 2:1-17; Mark 7:24-37
- 13 Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116;
James 3: 1-12; Mark 8:27-38;
- 20 Jeremiah 11:18-20; Psalm 54:
James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9: 30-37
- 27 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29;
Psalm 19; James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

September Worship Schedule

September 6, 2009 Worship Team

Worship/Communion Assistant – Jill Carroll
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Kathy Sebree
Greeter – Walt & Ginger Mick
Ushers – Al Bryson

September 13, 2009-- E L W

Worship/Communion Assistant – Open
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Jim Sund
Greeters – Rita Fisher
Ushers – JD Sundseth

September 20, 2009 Worship Team

Worship/Communion Assistant – Kathy Sebree
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Billie Hilton
Greeters – Jim Sund
Ushers – Open

September 27, 2009 Now the Feast

Worship/Communion Assistant – Open
Acolyte – Open
Lector – Bonnie Eichler
Greeters – Bonnie Eichler
Ushers – Jim Sund

**Please consider signing up for flowers for October-December. There are several empty Sundays. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER 2009

<u>SUNDAY</u>	<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
		1 7pm Support 7pm Scouts	2 9am Text Study noon Executive Board 1:30pm Quilters	3	4	5 9:30am Worship Team Practice?
6 9:30am Worship/Comm Special Congregation mtg with Bishop Wells after service Learning & Youth mtg WT	7 Labor Day	8 7pm Scouts	9 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters	10 7pm Council	11	12
13 9:30am Worship/Comm Special Congregation mtg (re: roof repair) after the service & Election of Call Committee ELW	14	15 7pm Social Ministry 7pm Scouts	16 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters	17 3pm Fellowship Committee 7pm Worship & Music Committee	18	19
20 9:30am Worship/Comm WT	21 7pm Prayer Group	22 7pm Scouts	23 9am Text Study 1:30pm Quilters	24 7pm Christian Growth	25 Newsletter Articles due for October	26
27 9:30am Worship/Comm NTF	28	29 7pm Scouts	30 9am Text Study noon Executive Board meeting 1:30pm Quilters	October 1 9:30am Office Helpers Oct newsletter		

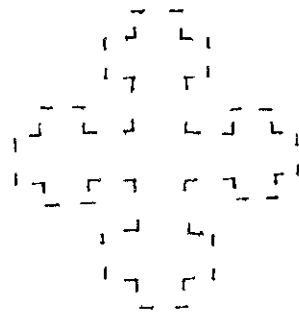
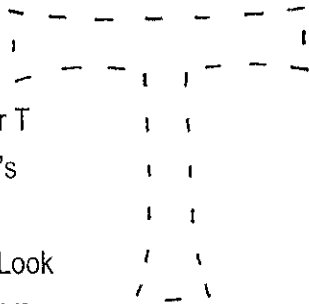
Marked with the cross of Christ

At baptism the pastor traces the symbol of a cross on the forehead of each newly-baptized person saying, "You are marked with the cross of Christ forever."

Trace these crosses with pencil or crayon. Each one has a different name and meaning but they all remind us of the power and wisdom of God.

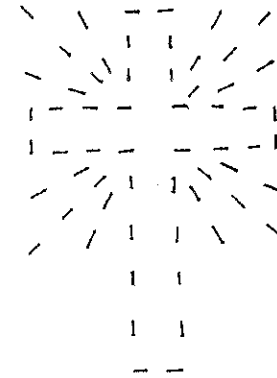
TAU CROSS

This looks like the letter T and reminds us of God's command to Moses in today's First Reading (Look in your Bible for Numbers 21:8-9.)



CROSS CROSSLET

This looks like four little crosses and one big one. We carry the story of Jesus to the four directions of the world: north, south, east, and west.

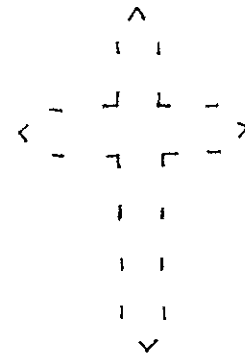
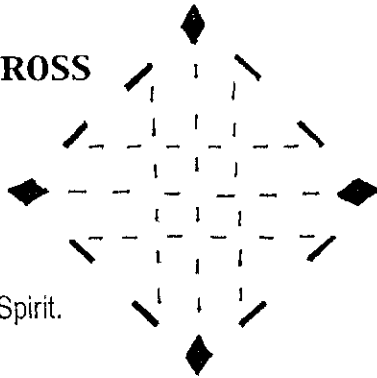


CROSS OF GLORY

Imagine a bright sun with sun rays behind this cross. Jesus' love for us is glorious!

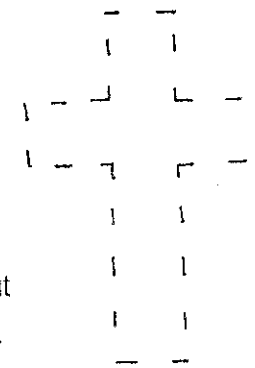
THREE-PART CROSS

Trace three lines in each direction and remember that God is three in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



PASSION CROSS

The passion story of Jesus tells about his suffering, death, and resurrection. The pointed ends on this cross remind us of the pointed nails they placed in Jesus' hands and feet.



LATIN CROSS

This is most familiar to us. We trace this cross over each person at baptism.



Trace the sign of the cross in the air with your finger, then on your forehead, then on a family member or friend.

CLC Pictorial Directory

Please come and be a part of our directory!

- ⚡ Portrait dates – Tuesday, Sept 8 & Wednesday Sept 9
3:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m.
- ⚡ When signing up, please note highlighted instructions on sheet:
 - single or couples, sign in white areas
 - groups of three or more, sign in shaded areas
 - note your appointment date on the available flyer
- ⚡ You will receive a reminder phone call as the date approaches!