

October 2024



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General Announcements

We are excited to be bringing **Children's Sunday School** back this year! We will have our first Sunday School class on October 6th, immediately following the 9:00 am worship service. This class is for ages 3 yrs to 6th grade. We will hold Sunday School the first Sunday of the month (watch the bulletin for dates). Come and be part of the fun!

Adult Study the Bible Hour with Mary Cocking is returning beginning October 6. We will begin our first week studying the Accuracy of the Bible Translations throughout the Centuries, giving you an understanding of why the Bible translations have NOT been incorrectly translated over the last 2 millennia as so many people believe. We will then dive deeply into the book of Acts, properly referred to the Acts of the Apostles. The book of Acts is about the time AFTER Jesus ascended into Heaven. This will be an important study in understanding the role of Jesus' lessons in our lives and gives us hope that anyone can be saved. There are so many aspects of the book of Acts that will surprise and inspire you to become what God has created you for! "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it." Joshua 1:8a

Experience a transformative 3-day gathering at the 2024 Be **Bold for Jesus Conference in Spokane at the Spokane Convention Center on October 11-13**. This event is designed to inspire and equip you with the confidence to share the Gospel boldly. Hear from renowned Christian speakers who will inspire you to be bold in your faith in Jesus Christ! Mary Cocking has several tickets she purchased last year she is happily giving away to anyone who would like to experience this life changing opportunity! Guest speakers include Dallas Jenkins (The Chosen director), Kevin Sorbo, Riley Gaines, Dr. Gary Chapman (The 5 Love Languages), Mike Huckabee, and more! Check it out at BeBold4Jesus.org.

Mary Cocking is bringing back her **Sunday evening video series**, "The Chosen", starting in October. To kick off the series, we will be showing the movie "**Jesus Revolution**", on Sunday October 6th at 6:30 pm. You don't want to miss this!!

THANK YOU to everyone who has volunteered to help with **Meals on Wheels! All the spots are filled now.**

Mark your Calendars! Peace will be hosting our second **annual "Trunk or Treat"**, here in our parking lot, the afternoon of October 31st. We would like to pack the parking lot with cars and candy, **so please sign up to help make this a fun community event!**

Summary of the Northwest Intermountain Synod Council Meeting

September 6-7, 2024

Summary of Decisions Made:

- 1) Appointed Greg Steeber (Faith Lutheran, Leavenworth, WA) to the Congregation Constitution Review Committee. (We are looking for additional members to add to this committee.)
- 2) Approved synod sabbatical policy guidelines and a sample model policy for congregations.
- 3) Approved a three year cycle for synod assemblies and regional gatherings. This decision is non-binding. For instance, if a bishop election needs to be held on one of the alternate years, an in-person assembly could be planned instead.
 - a. Year A; in-person assembly
 - b. Year B and C; online assembly and regional gatherings. The online assemblies will be to handle business (elections, approving budget, resolutions and memorials) but will not have all the additional features of an in-person assembly.
- 4) Approved and accepted the removal of Ascension Lutheran Church located in Orofino, ID from the Northwest Intermountain Synod and terminate their association with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in accordance with ELCA Constitution Ch 9.62g.
- 5) Approved compensation guidelines for both Ministers of Word and Service, and Ministers of Word and Sacrament to reflect a 2.5% increase in wages, in line with the anticipated social security COLA.
- 6) Approved an increase of \$5 per service for pulpit supply, which is approximately a 3.5% increase.
- 7) Approved giving Lutheran Church of the Master, located in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, blanket autonomy to sell or manage their property as they see fit, in accordance with the Northwest Intermountain Synod constitution. This was needed in response to language in the synod constitution and congregation constitution.
- 8) Appointed Cory English (Calvary Lutheran, Post Falls, ID) to the Global Mission Committee.
- 9) Appointed two people to Bishop Manlove's Mutual Ministry Committee. Sarah Bates (Grace Lutheran, Wenatchee, WA) and Wayne Stevens (New Day Lutheran, Idaho Falls, ID). The other three people on the committee were selected by the bishop.
- 10) Approved the Ballot of Call.

Other Important Topics:

- 1) We started four new working groups.
 - a. Lutheran Campus Ministry Research on Funding. This group will see how campus ministries in other synods are funded. The goal is to develop a sustainable approach to funding campus ministry into the future.
 - b. Compensation Guidelines Deep Dive. This group will do a thorough review/revision to the compensation package for rostered ministers, with the goal of approving new guidelines for 2026.
 - c. Website Review/Audit. It is time to revamp our website and possibly move to a new platform.
 - d. Executive Assistant Sabbatical. This team will determine timeline, how to pay for additional sabbatical expenses, and how to provide staff coverage while Cathy is gone.
- 2) Received reports/updates from the EcoFaith Action Network, the pending retirement and replacement of Alyce Bakker (Region One CFO), stewardship/mission support, SHARE grant reporting, planned revision of synod constitution regarding bishop elections, and call status.
- 3) Rev. Liv Larson Andrews led a one hour session on Formation for Racial Justice.

We shared spiritual autobiographies and met with new prayer partners.

Your financial gifts can be received in a number of ways!

In addition to leaving your offering during in-person worship, we also have, Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, which can be found here:

https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe.ly/give-one-time/1302894

You may also drop your offering in the mailbox at church or mail it to:
309 N Lake Street, Colfax, WA 99111



October Birthdays

5th - Diane Miller
14th - Rich Landers
15th - Tom Cocking
20th - Kiah Miller
23rd - Amber Sellars (Boyd)
24th - Arlene Hatley
25th - Dan Hart
30th - David Repp Jr.

October Anniversaries

28th - Wayne & Christine Henning (1972)

September Sunday Attendance

Week 1 September 1	Week 2 September 8	Week 3 September 15	Week 4 September 22	Week 5 September 29
16	10	14	13	15

PLC Treasurer's Summary Report

09/30/2024

PLC Treasurer's Summary Report

	2024 YTD	
Regular Offerings	\$	71,975
Funds transferred from other accounts for non-budgeted expenses/Grants	\$	-
Total offerings available for expenses	\$ -	\$ 71,975
Budgeted Expenditures	\$	86,165
Non-Budgeted Expenditures/Refunds	\$	-
Total Expenses	\$ -	\$ 86,165
Net Balance	\$ -	\$ (14,190)

Pastor's Message

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. **6** We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. **7** For whoever has died is freed from sin. **8** But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. **9** We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. **10** The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

—Romans 6:5-11

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

I read a book earlier this year titled *The Congregation in a Secular Age*, by Andrew Root, who is a professor at Luther Seminary in Minnesota. I've preached on this before, so for some this may be a repeat, but it bears repeating nonetheless. The book is rather philosophical in nature and truth be told, makes rather complex points that I either don't understand or are too much for a simple newsletter article, but the basic point comes down to the fact that the world is simply busier than it once was. The world demands that we are busy. Root gives the example that, long ago, humans would write letters with their ink and quills which would take something like an hour to write, and then a month or two of waiting would ensue as we waited for a response. The simple invention of email (with many steps in between of course) should save us something like 59 minutes and thirty seconds. What once took an hour, now takes a mere half a minute, leaving us with almost an hour of leisure time that we would otherwise not have had. I've actually seen this argument made recently about artificial intelligence. What once we needed humans to perform, we no longer need. This frees humans from the grueling task of flipping burgers, for example, to explore art, interests and leisure. Computers can simply do the work now!

However, we already know that this is not the case. Where once the expectation was one letter every month, our extra time simply gets filled with more emails. We are now expected to write upwards of fifty emails a day, and to wait for replies that will come in days, sometimes hours, and certainly not months.

Where once we were called to work retail, and where AI has simply taken over, we are now called to fill our time with more work, more productivity. The world calls us to be productive, to be busy, to find something to do. If we aren't, it has almost instilled a sense of guilt into us.

It is Root's contention that this busy-ness has led humans to believe that they can achieve good for themselves. If we simply work hard enough, do the right stuff, never sleep, write the emails, make the contacts, create and lead the classes, etc. then we can achieve "the good life" that we have always wanted. Then, once the good life is achieved, we can rest. The problem, of course, is that the good life is never achieved, there is always more to be done. We always want more and we can, by virtue of living in a busy world, never be content.

By extension the problem is that the church has, by-and-large, given into this narrative. The church needs to be busy so that busy people are willing to take time out of their busy schedules to receive a good from the church that will help them deal with their already busy lives. The church, however, was not built for that. Not only was it not built to compete with a world that continuously speeds up, but we also proclaim, quite loudly, that we do not think the good life is achieved on one's own. We cannot do it alone. Not only that, but the good life exists not only here and now, as the world would have us believe, but it actually exists in the next life as well, not because of anything we have done, but because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This world is not all that there is. There is more to be had. The eternal life and promise of Christ are real and relevant to the world in which we live.

Paul writes, "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." This is a message worthy of proclamation. It is also a message that the world has no interest in hearing. It runs counter to every narrative the world spins, and it is no less important because of it. So let us not lose hope. Let us continue to proclaim the message in new ways to reach new ears. And, at the same time, let us not simply be a church that gives into the notion that we must be busy all the time. Let us be intentional about what we do. Let us be faithful in how we do it.

Let us listen to the call of Christ in the midst of a chaotic world that, now more than ever, needs a message of hope, resurrection, and transcendence.

Peace, Pastor Ian

