

34TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION

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FEATURES 40+ EVENTS



Monthly newspaper and website covering faith in action throughout the Inland Northwest online at [www.thefigtree.org](http://www.thefigtree.org) • check The Fig Tree Facebook page daily for news and links

# Camps can transform children

By Mary Stamp

Ryan Brown, youth outreach director with Union Gospel Mission (UGM) hopes the UGM Camp at Tshimakian near Ford will turn around lives of children from ages eight to 11, as UGM helped turn his life around. He also hopes to inspire young leaders who want to serve the poor.

This is his third summer overseeing the camp. His predecessor, Dennis Roach, who served 14 years, established how the camp functions.

The camp started 20 years ago but shifted 10 years ago to be a nine-week program with eight Spokane churches bringing about 70 unchurched children from their neighborhoods and 30 adult and youth staff from their churches.

“Church members help lead the camp and go back with the kids to the neighborhoods,” Ryan said.

The camp’s 18 staff include behavioral specialists as well as low ropes leaders and lifeguards.

“Often at camp, youth meet counselors who mentor them and then they part,” he said. “Our counselors go back and continue to relate with the children and their families.”

Grace Christian connects with



Children join in cooperative game at the Union Gospel Mission camp.

Photo courtesy of UGM Camp

the Logan neighborhood; Faith Bible with Garland/Emerson; Liferoads with East Central and Logan; Valley Assembly with the Spokane Valley; South Hill Bible with Grant Elementary; Christ the Redeemer with West Central; Coeur d’Alene Assembly of God with Coeur d’Alene, and Sandpoint Assembly of God with Sandpoint.

“The churches work with schools to reach children who are struggling,” he said. “Along with mentoring children after school or at lunch, they invite children and their families to church events.

“Parents may feel nervous, but after their children have had good camp experiences, some become involved with the church,” said Ryan.

At the five-day, four-night camps, there are two chapel services a day, plus canoeing, fishing, biking, trail hiking, low ropes, crafts and archery, new activities for some.

“We also share Gospel values through team building,” said Ryan, who connects with the churches all year.

Pastors say families find jobs, access resources, reconcile relationships and join churches.

*Continued on page 5*

## Unity in the Community activities celebrate the region’s many cultures

For the 23rd year, the Inland Northwest will join in Unity in the Community, the region’s largest multicultural celebration, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 19, in the Clocktower Meadow at Riverfront Park in downtown Spokane.

The 2017 theme is, “Our Diversity Is Our Strength.”

A new activity will be a Unity Parade at 9 a.m. through downtown Spokane to demonstrate the region’s respect and support for, and honoring of diverse communities.

“It is designed to celebrate how

similarities and differences make us a stronger and better community,” said co-chairs April Anderson and Mareesa Henderson.

Participants will focus messages on celebrating and sharing their cultures, identities or communities.

Other highlights include free K to 8th grade school supplies, live entertainment, the Cultural Village, Education, Career and Health Fairs, Art Displays, and activities for toddlers to teens.

The Cultural Village showcases many cultures in the region, including those of American Indians, India, Burma, Bulgaria,

Turkey, Persia, Tonga, The Federated States of Micronesia, South Africa, West Africa, Scandinavia, Germany, Hmong, Mexico, China and more.

That section will include a stage for performances and storytelling. Children entering the village are given a “passport” they take to each booth to be stamped to use to receive school supplies.

The Career and Education Fair offers employment and educational information.

The Health Fair has booths with information on traditional and alternative medicine approaches to health care with blood pressure testing, first aid, reiki healing, sound healing, hospice care, dental care and more.

The Youth Fair will include the Cultural Village treasure hunt, face painting, family friendly activities, and a section for families with little children to play with blocks, balls and bubbles.

There will also be booths with information on the area’s non-profit organizations.

Unity in the Community was  
*Continued on page 3*

## Fig Tree seeks partners for Resource Directory

The Fig Tree is initiating the Resource Directory Community Partners Program to help build distribution for the 2017-18 Resource Directory and to have the cost of the copies for targeted agencies or demographics covered by underwriting partners.

**Community partners will enrich** the quality of life in the region by helping service providers connect with each other and helping people in need gain access to resources that can change their lives, said directory editor Malcolm Haworth.

“**This year we have run out of copies** of the directory because of increased demand for their use,” he said. “Agencies appreciate that we provide this service so their staff does not need to do the research for making referrals, but can spend more time on clients’ needs.”

**The plan is to have both distribution partners**, who will share copies with more of their staff and volunteers, as well as clients. The Resource Directory is comprehensive, so even though people may come with one need, they may have multiple needs or family members with other needs.

“**While our directory is available** online, directory users tell us they want print copies, because they can go through them sitting beside clients,” he said. “In addition, agencies tell us that their clients may be able to access resources on their cell phones at the first of the month, but at the end of the month when they are most in need, their cell phone minutes run out.”

“**Underwriting partners will help support** bulk orders for a particular agency, helping us plan early how many copies we will print so we can meet the requests,” Malcolm added.

*Continued on page 2*

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### Around the World

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#### Climate change is more than politics in Pacific

For nations in the Pacific Islands, climate change is more than a political concern. It's rapidly leading to extinction of peoples, lands and a way of life. A major victim of environmental injustice, the Pacific region is extremely vulnerable to climate change, despite contributing minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Effects of climate change are an urgent part of everyday life for Pacific Islanders, said the Rev. Tafue Lusama, general secretary of the Tuvalu Christian Church. Tuvalu is an island nation in the Pacific Ocean, midway between Hawaii and Australia.

"We are already experiencing increased intensity of tropical cyclones, severe storm surges, coral bleaching, saltwater intrusions, coastal erosion, changing rain patterns, submersion of islands and ocean acidification," said Tafue. "This puts us at the brink of extinction, threatened by the ocean, which is the core of our existence."

He voiced his concerns during a meeting of the World Council of Churches (WCC) Working Group on Climate Change, which is preparing its advocacy plan for the 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. At its meeting in early May in Wuppertal, Germany, the working group decided to focus on the Pacific.

"A crucial task is to ensure that the mechanisms under the Paris Agreement such as 'climate finance' and 'loss and damage' help Pacific islands build climate-resilient, equitable societies," said Athena Peralta, WCC program executive for economic and ecological justice. "By scaling up financial contributions and technology, affluent and industrialized segments of society that are mainly responsible for climate change can begin to compensate for their ecological debt to Pacific peoples."

#### What can churches and individuals do?

"Faith communities can contribute to the discussion on 'loss and damage' to address irreversible loss and destruction from climate change to homes, lands and indigenous ways of living. Often these have deep spiritual, non-material value. The loss or destruction of your homeland cannot be measured," said the Rev. Henrik Grape, working group coordinator. "How do we as churches play a healing role and let voices of the affected be heard? How can faith communities become cradles of hope?"

Interfaith engagement remains an important strategy for COP 23, he added. "Together faith communities have to be relentless in reminding the world that the climate crisis is a moral issue. We need to continue to deepen multi-faith relations, such as in Fiji, where at least 30 percent of the population is Hindu."

Composed of theologians, experts and activists from around the world, the WCC Working Group on Climate Change discussed challenges to climate action, such as the lack of concern for just policies by the U.S. administration, the weakening of climate justice laws as the UK leaves the European Union, and the urgent need to support a rapid transition to a de-carbonized economy, particularly in the U.S., but also around the world.

During the meeting, the group also tackled strategies to promote climate justice in the current political and economic environment following the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement.

The agreement, which came into force in November 2016, aims to keep global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. COP 23 is expected to further lay groundwork for implementing the Paris climate accord.

Through a United Evangelical Mission program, the WCC Working Group learned about initiatives of local churches and governments in Wuppertal to help lower greenhouse gas emissions and mobilize broader faith and civil society groups during COP 23 in November at Bonn, Germany.

For the first time, the Bonn meeting is being presided over by a developing, small island state in the Pacific - Fiji.

## REGIONAL ECUMENICAL & INTERFAITH NEWS

### Directory partners help expand circulation

Continued from page 1

Those supporting 10 to 50 copies will be invited to donate \$5 a copy and those supporting 50 copies or more, will donate \$4 a copy.

There will also be opportunities for "general underwriting partners" to give \$500 or gifts of \$1,000 to \$2,500.

The deadline for advertisers to commit to space and submit their copy, and for updates to listings is June 15.

The Arc of Spokane has also offered to help with distribution.

More than 1,300 congregations and 2,500 social service agencies are included in the directory and distribute it.

The Resource Directory is distributed and used by food banks, homeless programs, community centers, senior services, childcare and preschool centers, public schools, colleges, universities and more.

The circulation this year will be 12,000 to 14,000, in addition to about 48,000 page views per month online.

The directory includes services offered by nonprofit and faith communities, government agencies, and advocacy groups providing human services and health care, services for children, families, seniors, veterans and more, and information on environmental and justice education and advocacy.

For information, call 535-1813, 216-6090, email resourcedirectory@thefigtree.org or visit thefigtree.org/directorycommunitypartners.pdf.

### Ben Brody helps prepare 'Singing Welcome'

Benjamin Brody, professor of church music at Whitworth University, has helped the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada develop a collection of 46 songs, "Singing Welcome: Hymns and Songs of Hospitality to Refugees and Immigrants."

The collection, which was selected from 200 submissions from around the world, is available to download at thehymnsociety.org.

For nearly 100 years, the Hymn

Society has created new hymns related to contemporary circumstances. The current concerns about refugees and immigrants have stimulated many songs in a variety of musical styles.

"Our hope and prayer is that these hymns and songs will serve to form and deepen a commitment to hospitality and enable worshipping communities to sing that commitment and welcome in new and engaging ways," said Ben, con-

vener of the six-member Singing Welcome Working Group, which formed in February 2017.

Many of the songs come from countries that are homelands of current refugees and immigrants to the U.S. and Canada.

The publishers, authors and composers have granted permission to use the hymns and songs at no royalty cost for two months.

For information, call 777-3214 or email bbrody@whitworth.edu.

### United Methodist Women set 'Mission u'

United Methodist Women and Global Ministries are holding the 2017 "Mission u" July 14 to 17 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

Bishop Mary Ann Swenson, study leader, and other speakers will address "Missionary Conferences," exploring the past, present and future of the Alaska, Red Bird

and Oklahoma Conferences, including the Doctrine of Discovery.

Neal Christie, assistant general secretary for education and leadership formation at the General Board of Church and Society for the United Methodist Church (UMC) in Washington, D.C., will discuss UMC social principles.

Other leaders will explore cov-

enantal living and climate justice.

Youth ages 12 to 17 will join a program with Amanda Hutchinson and Christopher Gudger-Raines on "In Mission Together: A Youth Study on Missionary Conferences."

For information, call 509-427-2738 or email amhutchinson13@gmail.com.

### Clare View hosts Summer Senior Speakers

Clare View Seniors and Spokane Housing Ventures are offering Senior Empowerment Summer Speakers on the third Thursdays in June, July and August at Clare View Seniors Community Building, 4827 S. Palouse Highway.

Topics for the program from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., June 15, will

include nutrient depletion from prescriptions, writing an obituary, STA's Mobility Mentor program, Cap-Tel telephones and 10 facts on Hospice.

Presenters from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., July 20, are Frontier Behavioral Health, Aging & Long-term Care, Hospice of Spokane, Evergreen Elder Law, United Health

Care and SCRAPs.

The 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 17 program includes Elder Law Group, ResCare, Elder Finances, ACT 2, Horizon Hospice and Palliative Care, and the Better Business Bureau.

Meals on Wheels Silver Café will serve the lunches.

For information, call 252-6512.

### Holocaust survivor speaks in Spokane

Marthe Cohn, a holocaust survivor and co-author of a book about her experiences as part of the French First Army intelligence service, will speak about the book,

"Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany," at 7 p.m., Wednesday, June 14, at the Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.

As a nurse fluent in German, she travelled into German territory and collected intelligence for

the French army. She was decorated with the Croix de Guerre in 1945 for her work as a member of the first French army intelligence service.

The event is being presented by Chabad of Spokane County.

For information, visit jewish-spokane.com/marthecohn.

The Fig Tree is published 10 months each year, September through June.

#### Deadlines:

COPY - 3rd Fridays ADS - 4th Tuesdays  
It is published by The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.

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## Hospice of North Idaho builds new building

Hospice of North Idaho is building a campus for its end-of-life care, and grief and loss services. Ground has been broken for an administration and community building beside its Schneidmiller House, built in 2011.

There will be offices and meeting space for 120 support groups, counseling, professional develop-

ment and community events.

Kim Ransier, executive director, said they envision one campus with in-patient unit houses for end-of-life care and for in-home hospice care nurses, social workers and care teams next door.

The construction is scheduled to be completed in December.

Hospice of North Idaho, which

has provided care since 1981, serves people in Benewah, Shoshone and Kootenai Counties.

"We will be able to offer a space for our children's afterschool grief program and capacity for 200 in the community room," said Kim.

For information, call 208-772-7994 or visit [hospiceofnorthidaho.org](http://hospiceofnorthidaho.org).

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### Lutheran Community Services will hold Partners in Justice Awards Ceremony

The Lutheran Community Services Northwest Partners in Justice Awards Ceremony will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, June 22, at the Barrister Winery, 1213 W. Railroad Ave.

The annual event uplifts the work done by individuals, businesses and agencies in Spokane that show a commitment to justice by helping change the lives of victims of sexual assault and other crimes.

The event will include an opportunity to donate to support the SAFeT Response Center and Crime Victims Service Center.

For information, call 343-5032, email [ddupey@lcsnw.org](mailto:ddupey@lcsnw.org) or visit [lcsnw.org](http://lcsnw.org).

### Whitworth Institute of Ministry is July 18 to 22

The theme for the annual Whitworth Institute of Ministry, which provides spiritual renewal for people in ministry leadership and their families, is "For Such a Time as This: Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century."

The week of Bible teaching, preaching, worship, seminars and personal renewal—with special programs for spouses, youth and children—will be held July 18 to 22 at Whitworth University.

The 2017 featured speakers are Brenda Salter McNeal, associate professor of reconciliation studies in the School of Theology at Seattle Pacific University, and Mike Breen, speaker, author, minister, entrepreneur and innovator in the discipling movement.

For information, call 777-3275, email [oce@whitworth.edu](mailto:oce@whitworth.edu) or visit [whitworth.edu/FaithCenter/WIM/Index.htm](http://whitworth.edu/FaithCenter/WIM/Index.htm).

### Abbey offers session on 'Exploring Buddhism'

Sravasti Abbey in Newport is offering a session on "Exploring Buddhism" for young adults, July 10 to 17. The retreat, exploring Buddha's teaching and young adults' hope for a better world, will be led by Bhikshuni Thubten Chodron, a Buddhist nun, teacher and author. Participants will learn about creating peace in a chaotic world and will experience life in a Buddhist monastery.

For information, call 447-5549, email [office.sravasti@gmail.com](mailto:office.sravasti@gmail.com) or visit [sravastiabbey.org](http://sravastiabbey.org).

### August bike ride benefits LCS

Lutheran Community Services Northwest is the beneficiary of the annual "8 Lakes Leg Aches" bike ride between Spokane, Medical Lake and Cheney on Saturday, Aug. 5, starting and finishing at the top of Sunset Highway.

Riders may choose 30, 45 or 70 mile distances. For information, call 747-1224, email [cmckee@lcsnw.org](mailto:cmckee@lcsnw.org) or visit [lcsnw.org](http://lcsnw.org).

### Palouse provides access ramps

Access ramps have been purchased and distributed in northern Idaho at no cost to the recipients so they can stay in their homes, said Vicki Leeper of Disability Action Center Northwest.

In September 2016, Disability Action Center Northwest received a \$17,500 grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to provide access to ramps in the Palouse.

They bought various aluminum ramp systems to address different needs. Some ramps are used to make public events accessible.

These have been set up for community members on a short- or long-term loan basis, with volunteer labor from organizations like Palouse Habitat for Humanity.

The grant pays for transportation and a trailer to move the ramps when they are reassigned.

Low-income people needing a ramp can contact the center.

For information, call 208-883-0523 or email [vicki@dacnw.org](mailto:vicki@dacnw.org).

### Event celebrates area's diversity

*Continued from page 1*  
founded in 1994 by Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church under Pastor Lonnie Mitchell in Liberty Park to break down racial and cultural barriers. In 2004, AHANA (African America, Hispanic and Native American Association) under Ben Cabildo took on responsibility for continuing Unity in the Community. In 2007, it moved to Riverfront Park. Unity in the Community is now an independent nonprofit coordinated by April and Mareesa.

For information, call 979-8267 or 599-6669, or email [nwunity@icloud.com](mailto:nwunity@icloud.com).



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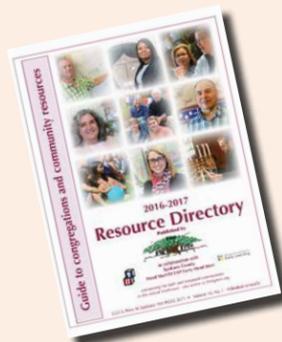
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# New Habitat staff in North Idaho learn need for flexibility in building

**Photo and Story by Kaye Hult**

In leading their first Habitat for Humanity Women Build Week in Coeur d'Alene, Elisabeth Haas and Barbara Pianko learned that projects require flexibility.

Because the city was putting in water and sewer lines, the concrete truck did not have access to pour the foundation for the home being built for Habitat partner family Jon and Casey Stimmel.

Elisabeth, who began as volunteer coordinator with Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho (HFHNI) in December, and Barbara, who began as administrative assistant in April 2016, had arranged for groups to work during the second week of May.

More than 70 people volunteered.

Not only did the street repair stand in the way but also the weather hindered the build. The women could work only one day, building forms for the foundation.

Unable to begin building the 42nd house in the Coeur d'Alene area, they planned as a back-up option to paint a house through the North Idaho Habitat's A Brush with Kindness (ABWK) program.

Women Build groups spent two days scraping, power-washing and priming that structure.

Elisabeth and Barbara worked with HFHNI's new executive director, James Casper, who began in December and veteran construction supervisor Greg Nowak, who has participated in HFHNI's 10 Women Builds.

Habitat for Humanity International, partnered with Lowe's to launch Women Build Week 10 years ago. The program invites women to spend a day helping build a safe, decent, affordable house. Many volunteers for



**North Idaho Women's Build volunteers prepare for foundation.**

the Coeur d'Alene project were Lowe's Heroes, employees who volunteer.

When a Habitat affiliate undertakes building a home or helps a homeowner with improvements through A Brush with Kindness, homeowners partner by offering "sweat equity."

Habitat partner families are Kootenai County residents who live in unsafe, unaffordable housing, and earn 30 to 60 percent of the median income for the county. Families repay a zero-interest mortgage and put in 500 sweat equity hours in their own homes and others' homes.

"We seek to empower families by providing economic opportunity, home ownership, education, long-term partnership and hands-on learning," Elisabeth said.

Individuals, corporations, faith groups and others support through home sponsorships, monetary contributions and in-kind donations.

On the opening day of Women Build, May 9, Jon and Casey told how they became Habitat partners. They had owned a home but, with the economic downturn, had both lost their jobs and then their home. They were homeless

for three months before Jon found work, and they moved into what they thought was a sound mobile home. Realizing it was unsafe, they applied to Habitat last year.

Habitat provides a mentor to walk through the process with homeowners.

Nathan Smaley is next in line for a Habitat house through HFHNI. He won a silver and a gold medal in downhill skiing at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria this March. Despite his personal difficulties, he approaches challenges with a positive attitude.

He will spend the summer providing the sweat equity to become a homeowner. He likens it to skiing, in that it requires work and determination to accomplish.

Elisabeth, who came to Coeur d'Alene a few years ago and studies at North Idaho College, was drawn to Habitat because of their mission to put God's love into action, following the Bible's call to "love thy neighbor."

"I wanted to give back to the community," she said. "I like to help people. Habitat seeks to build hope. There is always hope."

Working with Habitat fulfills a

vision Barbara had when she was in California studying for her real estate broker's license.

"I envisioned working with youth to build houses for mothers and children. When I described that vision, someone said Habitat does that," said Barbara, who moved to Coeur d'Alene, where she finished a master's degree in human services from Liberty University in 2015.

She said every Habitat affiliate is an independent entity, raising funds for its projects and tithing to Habitat for Humanity International to build houses globally.

Habitat buys land, pays for licenses, materials, plumbing and more. Volunteers do the building and help throughout the organization—in the office, at the ReStore and on ABWK projects.

Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho was one of about 300

Women Build Week projects throughout the nation.

Habitat-Spokane also took part. There, volunteers helped two families, one who immigrated from Ghana and the other with roots in Cuba and Bhutan.

Spokane's Women Build took place on May 10 in Deer Park. Volunteers put finishing touches on two homes, said Habitat-Spokane CEO Michelle Girardot.

"National Women Build Week is something we look forward to every year," she said. "Seeing women come together in both building homes and building up each other shines light on the spirit of what Habitat for Humanity-Spokane tries to accomplish."

For information, call 208-762-4663 in North Idaho or 534-2552 in Spokane, or email [volunteer@northidahohabitat.org](mailto:volunteer@northidahohabitat.org) or [mgirardot@habitat-spokane.org](mailto:mgirardot@habitat-spokane.org).



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## Habitat-Spokane Blitz Build is June 5-16

Habitat-Spokane's annual Blitz Build kicks off Monday, June 5, and continues to Friday, June 16.

The opening ceremony begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Blitz Build site, 300 East "J" Street in Deer Park. It concludes with a dedication of two homes.

Habitat-Spokane has been "Blitz Building" for 15 consecutive years, drawing community volunteers, businesses, organizations and builders willing to partner with Habitat for Humanity-Spokane to eliminate the cycle of poverty.

The 2017 project is to continue building on four homes, and finishing and dedicating two other homes.

"Though Habitat for Humanity-Spokane builds year-round, the Blitz Build is an accelerated

construction effort that brings the community together," said Michelle Girardot, CEO for Humanity-Spokane. "It's a fun way for the community to make a difference that will last for generations."

Future Habitat homeowner Kat Ford's home is one of the six homes in the build.

"Habitat is about learning and teaching. Through partnership,

families are taught how to give back. That's how I learned to heal," she said.

Several hundred skilled and unskilled community volunteers, sponsor groups and Habitat candidate families will work side-by-side to build homes.

For information, call 534-2552 or email [mgirardow@habitat-spokane.org](mailto:mgirardow@habitat-spokane.org).

## Paper Plus

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2017 Summer Camping

# Camp program integrates into year-round diocesan education program

Colin Haffner, executive director of Camp Cross for the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, sees the program at Camp Cross as part of the year-round diocesan education programs.

“We want campers and guests to have the camp experience more than one week in the summer. We want what they learn at camp to be a part of their faith journey all year long,” he said.

About 60 percent of campers are from congregations in the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. Others are from Episcopal dioceses of Olympia and Boise. In addition, congregations sponsor



Campers share in leading worship.

Photo courtesy of Camp Cross

children and youth from their communities to attend camps.

Colin said the goal is to develop church leaders.

“When I was a camper, my eyes were opened to realize that there were Episcopal youth beyond my own church and Eastern Washington,” he said. “Many are now lifelong friends.”

Colin said Camp Cross programs center around “God’s nature and the use of resources of the lake and property for swimming, canoeing, kayaking and hiking.

Camp Cross has 10 weeks with six youth sessions, a family camp, young adult and college weekends, and two adult retreats.

A volunteer resource team of clergy and lay people develop programs for each session around

a theme and Bible lessons.

The 14 full time summer staff include counselors, resource leaders, a program director, facilities director and kitchen staff. There are also 12 volunteers for most youth sessions.

“We provide financial assistance for anyone who wants to attend camp,” he said.

Numbers are about the same this year as last and at about 80 percent of capacity, giving room to grow, Colin said.

For information, call 624-3191 or email colinh@spokanediocese.org, or visit campcross.org.

# Camp’s mission projects draw youth groups from churches around the U.S.

At Twinlow, the Inland District United Methodist camp on Twin Lakes near Rathdrum, Idaho, one focus of its summer program is the Idaho Mission Project. That program brings high school youth groups from around the country to serve with Elder Help, Habitat for Humanity of North Idaho, Second Harvest and other agencies. Last year, 250 youth came and this year 300 have signed up, with 25 to 50 campers a week.

That camp is full with small groups coming every week for eight weeks from churches in Colorado, Arizona, Oklahoma and other parts of the Western U.S., said Tyler Wagner, director at Twinlow Camp and Conference Center for six years. Five of 20 staff lead that program. Other staff



Grade school campers learn sailing skills. Photo courtesy of Twinlow

work with volunteers.

For United Methodist children, there are three elementary, five middle school camps and one high school camp, plus counselors in

training high school youth.

“I’m old school,” said Tyler. “Camp is the most exciting part of church, and for the younger generation camp is an important

part of church. Churches want leadership for our congregations and the community.

“We see ourselves as the church’s front door, drawing in new people by offering a taste of church through camps, retreats and weekends,” he said.

Twinlow teams also lead Community Day Camps at churches.

January is one of Twinlow’s busiest months with winter camps for youth to play in the snow.

For information, call 208-352-2671 or email office@twinlowcamp.org.

# Program involves both children and families

Continued from page 1

“My focus is to transform children, families and neighborhoods. As we reach 500 kids, we are involved with 500 families, said Ryan, who sees progress in returning campers.

Growing up in Southern California, he was in trouble at the age of eight and into drugs at 12. At 26, he had three children with two women and was addicted to meth. His children did not know him.

From family in Deer Park, his mother knew of UGM in Spokane and sent him to the men’s shelter, where he accepted Jesus, got off drugs and gained custody of his 10 year-old son.

While attending Glad Tidings Assembly of God, he met his wife and reconnected with his two children in California.

They moved to Portland where he was assistant youth leader at a Four Square church from 1999 to 2014 until he returned to the

UGM camp and youth program in Spokane.

For information, call 535-8510 x 166 or email ryan.brown@



Fishing is one of many activities. Photo courtesy of UGM Camp

## Region’s summer camps designed in many models

Summer faith-based camps are about canoeing, campfires, swimming, lakes, rivers, streams, hiking, high and low ropes, waterskiing, tubing, sailing, singing, crafts, archery, creek walks and many more activities that build skills, relationships with peers and relationships with mentors.

Today, there are many models for summer camps. Some focus on children and youth of their denomination’s congregations. Some focus on recruiting children and youth with no church connections. Some serve low-income children. Some integrate the summer learning with year-round learning. One has churches invite at-risk neighborhood children for a week at camp and follows up through the year with mentoring the children to turn their lives around.

Several give youth opportunities to serve people in communities surrounding the camps. Some send out teams of youth and adults to lead day camps like vacation Bible schools in congregations.

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## To grow, two-thirds of campers are outside of denomination that owns one area camp

Camp Spalding near Newport extends its welcome beyond Inland Northwest Presbyterian churches that own it. Just 500 of the 1,600 campers are from Presbyterian families.

“Church camps cannot be content to stand still if we are to preserve our mission in a way that adapts to the changing culture,” said Andy Sonneland, director at Camp Spalding for 26 years. “We need to add facilities to expand what we do, to keep our mission and grow for the next generation.”

This summer, Camp Spalding will dedicate a new year-round Creekside Pavilion, a craft and nature center in the summer and a year-round meeting space for 50, with a view through glass garage doors to Davis Lake 50 feet away.

It’s part of an \$868,000 capital campaign to redesign the camp entry, replacing an old garage with a wall for hanging 14 mountain bikes on one side and rock climbing gear on the other side.

The 2017 renovations also include a suspension bridge to Monkey Island and purchase of 40 acres across the lake for access to the county road. It also provides 100 acres as a buffer wooded area for an off-the-grid elementary camp.



Teens enjoy activities on the water. Photo courtesy of Camp Spalding

With the new pavilion, a small group can be on site when a medium or larger group is using the rest of the camp.

Camp Spalding is open mostly weekends from Easter to Thanksgiving or Christmas, and for weekend and mid-week groups from May through September. Many churches use it on weekends, and nonprofits, including area universities and government agencies, use it midweek.

“We exist so kids can be away from their daily routines for a

week and hear about Jesus’ invitation to follow,” he said. “Campers and their families not involved in a church know that we are a Christian camp, so they are not surprised.”

Andy added that in the summer, “campers have opportunities to interact with peers and role models, connecting with cabin mates and counselors, and experiencing the presence of Christ as something powerful and attractive.”

For information, call 509-447-3449 or visit [campspalding.org](http://campspalding.org).

## Despite options, record numbers coming

Bob Baker, director of Lutherhaven and Shoshone Base Camp for 25 years, said registrations are up 30 percent this year. The high school program will have nearly 900, compared with 600 last year.

“High schoolers can choose other options, so it’s heartening to see close to record numbers coming,” he said.

About 140 come each week from around the country for community service camps, which will serve 100 North Idaho service sites this summer. Projects include working with children with disabilities, putting a new roof on a house, building a handicap ramp, cleaning basements and more.

Eight to 10 groups, some from different denominations, come with adult leaders who plan worship and campfires. Most stay at the Shoshone Mountain Retreat. Some are at Lutherhaven on Lake Coeur d’Alene. After breakfast at 6:45 a.m., campers go to service projects and return at 2 p.m. for leadership training and recreation on the lake or on the river.

Since 1946, Lutherhaven has offered campers traditional weekly Bible camp experiences for youth from elementary through



Youth campers join building project. Photo courtesy of Lutherhaven

high school. There are 400 a week in all the programs.

There are also adventure programs with water skiing, wake boarding, sailing, kayaking, rock climbing and paddle boards.

“The big draw of summer camps is the opportunity to be outdoors in a beautiful setting,” Bob said. “There’s nothing like sitting around a campfire by the lake when the stars are out and telling campers the old, old stories from the Bible.”

The camp is open all year for retreats. Seven weeks in the spring and eight weeks in the fall more than 2,000 children come with the North Idaho and Spokane school outdoor education programs for public, Christian and home schools. These children participate in community building and teamwork, and learn about the natural environment, Bob said.

For information, call 208-667-3459 x 110, or email [info@lutherhaven.com](mailto:info@lutherhaven.com).

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2017 Summer Camping

# Camp life motivates campers to stretch faith lives and commitment

The Salvation Army's Camp Gifford, which opened in 1921 on Deer Lake, invites children and youth to opportunities to know they belong, know their lives matter and to experience adventures.

Scholarships make it possible for low-income children to attend based on a sliding scale, said Mark Morton, camp director.

This summer, he said that along with their traditional activities, the camp will have a small-animal farm with miniature horses, goats, sheep and chickens to teach children how to care for animals.

It is also planning to add seven tandem kayaks, six paddle boats and air rifles for target practice along with archery.

Camp Gifford offers five weeks of camp age-group programs and one week of music camp July 10 to 14.

Discovery Camp at the main



**Campers do a group game.** Photo courtesy of Camp Gifford Camp

camp serves 60 boys and 60 girls ages seven to 12.

The Teen Wilderness Camp for 12 boys and 12 girls ages 13 to 17 has cabins, bathrooms and a dining hall, but no electricity or running water. Campers swim at the lake, but otherwise are

secluded at a distance from the main camp. They also do a backpacking trip and canoe across the lake and back.

Campers come from Spokane, Eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana, and register through Salvation Army units in Spokane,

in Lewiston and Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and in Great Falls, Kalispel and Helena, Mont.

Each week, about 50 staff and volunteers lead the program.

"We are a Christian camp first and foremost, so we have morning devotions, Bible studies, songs about faith, evening devotions at campfires and in cabins at the end of the day, as well as opportunities to learn about God through relationships and camp activities," said Mark.

"The theme this year, 'Go Big,' is based on Mark 12:30, which says we are to 'love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength,'" he said.

Camp Gifford is open all year for conferences and retreats of corporations, churches, schools, colleges and parachurch groups.

It also hosts two Royal Family Kids Camps for children in foster

care—one the week before and one the week after the six weeks of summer camps.

For 10 years, Mark ran Redwood Glen Salvation Army camp near Santa Cruz, Calif., and worked seven years at the Salvation Army Kroc Center in Camden, N.J. He earned a bachelor's degree in English in 1988 at the University of California in Los Angeles and a master's in education there in 1989.

He taught high school for three years before he decided to enter ministry.

"I grew up in Salvation Army camps as a child and teen, and went on staff in college," said Mark, whose wife, Josephine, is program director for the summer camp.

For information, call 233-2511 or email mark.morton@usw.salvationarmy.org.

## Temple Beth Shalom youth join other Jewish youth at Jewish camp

Iris Bernstein, director of education at Temple Beth Shalom, said about 30 of the 50 children and youth involved at the temple go each summer to Camp Solomon Schechter near Olympia.

Children entering grades two to four go for one or two weeks. Those entering five to 10 go for three weeks and youth entering grade 11 participate in a five-week counselor-in training program.

Along with outdoor activities and sports, campers learn about Jewish life through worship, studies and everyday living in a Jewish environment. Meals are kosher.

"The biggest value I see as an educator is that they experience a



**Swimming is always a favorite.** Photo courtesy of Camp Solomon Schechter

full Jewish life and return with a stronger attachment to the Jewish community," Iris said.

They also build relationships with other Jewish children and youth from around the Northwest

as they spend time at a lake with friends, singing, hiking, biking and doing water sports.

"It's like heaven," Iris observed. Her three sons who are now adults built long-term relation-

ships at camp.

Iris added that through the year, there are youth group retreats and conferences at the camp.

For information, call 747-3304.

Zach Snyder, assistant director of Camp Solomon Schechter, said the camp has existed for more than 60 years with different experiences at different locations. It has been at the current property more than 30 years.

Four values the camp seeks to impart are trust, family, respect and repairing the world.

"Many values we practice at camp are not specific to the Jewish experience but are relevant to the human experience," Zach said.

Activities include a challenge

ropes course, a nature program, an arts department, sports such as tennis, soccer and basketball, and use of the lake with swimming, fishing, paddle boats, kayaks, canoes and now "corcls," which are circular kayaks.

"The goal is for campers to become leaders in their communities with values that create a better world," Zach said. "We want the next generation to have people who care enough to do things that make a difference."

Zach started as a camper in the third grade and is now on the full time staff.

For information, call 206-693-3043 or email info@campscshechter.org.

## N-Sid-Sen donates used mattresses to Family Promise of Spokane

The Pacific Northwest Conference of the United Church of Christ recently bought new mattresses for beds at both N-Sid-Sen on the east shore of Lake Coeur d'Alene and at Pilgrim Firs near Port Orchard. Over the last year, the conference raised \$75,000 for the mattresses.

Recently, N-Sid-Sen gave 70 used mattresses to Family Promise of Spokane and seeks another recipient, said Mark Boyd, managing director at N-Sid-Sen.

The two camps in the past have both offered traditional, summertime, one-week, age-group camps with volunteer directors and counselors. That is the approach again



**Volunteers load mattresses on truck for Family Promise.** Photo courtesy of N-Sid-Sen

this year on both sites, except that the senior high campers who come to Pilgrim Firs will be transported to N-Sid-Sen. In 2018, both the

senior high camp in July and junior high camp in August will be at N-Sid-Sen. Kids and intermediate camps will continue to be

offered at both sites.

The camps will transition to a model with Pilgrim Firs as a site for youth mission camps. Because summer breaks in Western Washington vary, it has been hard to set dates for traditional camps.

So Wade Zick, managing director of Pilgrim Firs, is contacting Kitsap County agencies addressing housing, the environment and other justice issues to secure projects for 2018. Congregations will bring youth and adults to do mission projects with Pilgrim Firs as the base camp. After doing

community service for part of the day, participants will return to Pilgrim Firs for afternoon and evening activities and reflection.

Both camps are encouraging congregations to come for multi-age retreats, aware that when children and youth form significant relationships with older people in a church, they tend to stay connected to the church. Connections happen when they are together to pray, play and just be together on retreats, said Mark.

For information, call 208-689-3489 or email mark@n-sid-sen.org.

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# Tibetan student appreciated learning about cultures, faiths at Whitworth

By Austriauna Brooks  
Whitworth intern

As Dawa Jiumei returns to Tibet after graduating in May from Whitworth University, he wants to continue learning about other cultures and plans to use his degree—in secondary education and in environmental and sustainability studies—to teach children and poor people.

At Whitworth, he gained insights into other cultures from his contacts with other international students, his work in Whitworth's Intercultural Center and planning the fall International Festival with the International Club.

Through the Intercultural Center, he helped orient international students to challenges at Whitworth.

He advocates for people to help each other. Whatever the challenges, especially cultural challenges, students face, he has tried to help teach others by sharing his experiences.

Dawa was born in a remote area in a nomadic community where he tended pastures and herded animals year-round until he was six years old.

His parents passed away from a serious illness when he was young, and he was put in an orphanage.

There, he studied from elementary school until he graduated from middle school.

Dawa gained self-determination and self-confidence with the help of teachers and mentors who were compassionate.

"As an orphan at an early age, I experienced many difficulties," he said.

It took time for him to develop a sense of confidence and see the



Dawa Jiumei played flute at Whitworth's International Festival.  
Photo by Sophie Aust

value of education.

"Support from many encouraging and loving people helped me overcome the academic challenges, as well as social and cultural difficulties," he said.

Dawa continued his studies at a technical college in Beijing where he studied Chinese culture and language.

He came to Spokane to continue his higher education, studying at Spokane Falls Community College for three years. He went to Whitworth in 2015 with the help of Lama Lakshey Zangbo, a psychology professor at Spokane Falls Community College.

Through his journeys, Dawa has also gained confidence by telling people at Whitworth about Tibet. He is eager and proud to teach people about his homeland.

"In Tibetan society, we have many opportunities for people to do positive things," he said.

"There's value in our culture not only for our native people but also

at a global level."

Dawa believes his culture encourages people to contribute to making society better.

Many Tibetan cultural influences come from Buddhism, he said. About 99 percent of Tibetans practice Buddhism.

"That faith helped me get on track with my life," he said. "I think that's what people need to find.

"We should engage with whatever faith resonates with us personally," he said. "People have different perspectives and mindsets, so there are different religions and traditions to fit with those perspectives and mindsets.

"If the whole community had just one perspective, we couldn't challenge our ideas or our minds," he said. "We need to have other perspectives so we can reflect. Some say, 'I haven't thought of that,' and that's because they have not engaged with others.

Although he is Buddhist, Dawa

has taken the opportunity at Whitworth to learn about other religions.

Dawa is happy that he was able to maintain his own faith at Whitworth. At the same time, he has appreciated the opportunity to have his first encounter with and to learn more about Christian values and traditions.

He has found people to be open-minded.

Dawa believes the United States' motto should be for people to live in harmony without discrimination or ethnocentrism.

"I learned that one person can have a strong faith in one religion, but in the community there can be a variety of religious faiths without those faiths being in conflict. We can live in harmony and find a common ground when we appreciate different perspectives," he said.

The annual International Festival, which is open to the public, he said, is a chance for students to share their cultures, values and traditions through performances, such as singing, dancing and reciting poetry. Dawa played a Tibetan flute.

"As international students, we come here and try to learn about a new culture," he said.

In the everyday life on campus, there are not always opportunities for these students to show their culture and who they are. The

festival is a time to share with students, faculty and the public and "to show how proud we are to be who we are," Dawa said, "and to show the diversity there is on campus."

Preparing for the International Festival also gives international students an opportunity to build community with each other.

Before coming to the United States, Dawa said that he was narrow minded and "pretty ethnocentric about Tibetan culture."

His encounters with the other international students at Whitworth allowed him to see different perspectives and appreciate cultural differences.

"I still think Tibetan culture is good but that does not mean other cultures are not good. International students are open minded. I like the sense of community at a global level that I have experienced here. I learned much from the other students."

Dawa wants to go back to the orphanage where he grew up to teach about the environment and sustainability, and to teach English as a second language. He also hopes to build professional development programs for teachers to make educational opportunities available to more Tibetan children.

For more information, email Dawa at [djiumei19@my.whitworth.edu](mailto:djiumei19@my.whitworth.edu).

## Project Hope changes its name to Youth Ops

Project Hope is changing its name to River City Youth OPS on its 10th anniversary. The Board of Directors decided that the name "Project Hope" is used by too many other organizations, which has led to confusion.

They chose the name to reflect the business and work opportunities they are creating for disadvantaged youth through programs for community engagement, job

training and education.

"As we're expanding what we do we need to unify our multiplying activities and brands under one name," said James Kashork, executive director. "New products include made-from-scratch Liege waffles, gourmet salts, and flavored olive oils and vinegars."

The program is expanding into new lines such as packaged foods.

They will change logos on crew

shirts, market signs, the website and promo materials, before the peak season.

Teens in Project Hope T-shirts have become a familiar sight around Spokane's West Central neighborhood, where they farm produce in vacant lots, sell it at farmer's market and grocers, and do lawn care.

For information, call 954-6992 or visit [youthops.org](http://youthops.org).

## Food bank needs greatest in summer months

June through September are hard months for food banks because reserves from giving in the holiday season are gone and fresh produce from harvest is not yet available, said Julie Delaney, director of community engagement for Northwest Harvest.

Donations do not come readily in the summer, but the need is up with children no longer at school to receive free and reduced breakfasts and lunches, she added.

"Even small donations of money or food make a difference," she said. "Just 67 cents can pro-

vide a meal for a family of three with Northwest Harvest food resources. A gift of \$5 provides 22 meals. Five pounds of donated food makes four meals."

For information, call 891-7012 or email [julied@northwestharvest.org](mailto:julied@northwestharvest.org).



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# Philanthropist, mountain climber uses foundation gifts to change lives

William (Bill) Fix is glad he can help change lives through Johnston-Fix Foundation gifts of \$300,000 each year—\$6 million in the last seven years—to more than 30 institutions and programs.

Recipients reflect commitments he and his late wife, Harriet, have had through their lives—their schools and those of their children, their church, the arts, youth programs and outdoor programs.

The philanthropist and mountaineer does not confine his life or mind to the two rooms where he now lives in The Ridge at the South Hill Rockwood Retirement Communities.

**Every morning** after breakfast, Bill, who is now 91, walks eight times around the roof of the seven-story tower overlooking Spokane and surrounding mountains. Recently he said he beat his time the previous day of 2.31, by completing the rounds in 2.30.9.

On his walls and in books out on tables are photographs of many of the 60 mountains he has climbed, hiked or skied over the years. One book is signed by Sir Edmund Hillary, the first to ascend Mt. Everest.

On occasional outings to a family lake cabin on Lake Coeur d'Alene, he still walks barefoot on the quarter-mile white sand beach and remembers waterskiing adventures.

**Bill's grade school years** in Seattle were at the John Muir School, where he began and gained appreciation for hiking, skiing and camping at Mount Rainier and elsewhere in the Cascades.

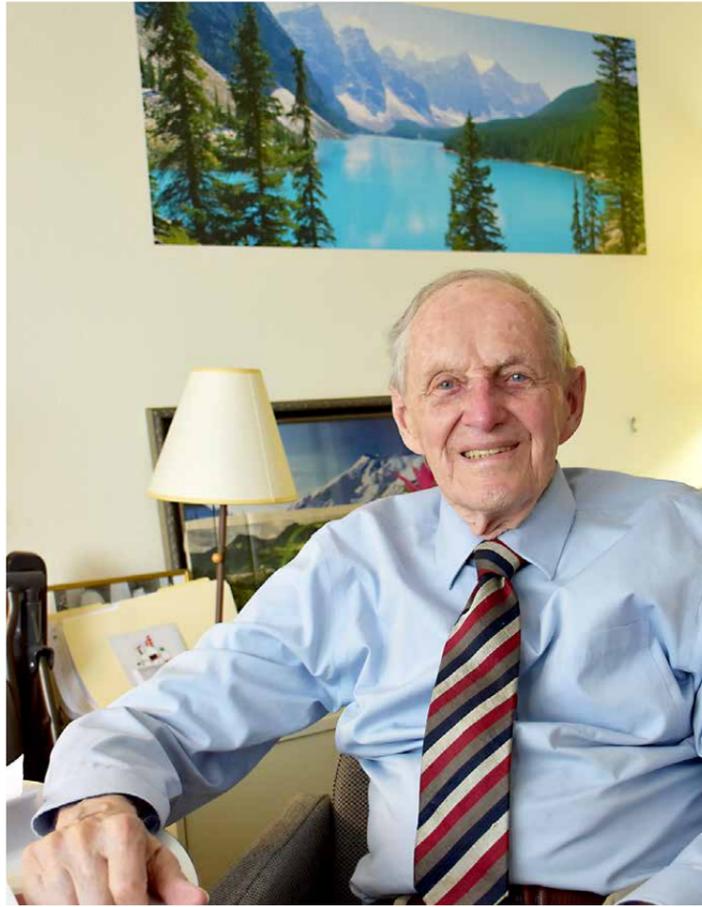
Bill quoted Muir: "Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves."

In 1944, he graduated from Lakeside, a boys' school in Seattle in a class of 32.

**Bill studied civil engineering** six semesters at the University of Washington and transferred in 1946 to Yale University in New Haven, Conn. He earned a scholarship to go there, but entered on the Navy's V-12 College Training Program, majoring in industrial engineering, which included studies on investments.

A classmate was former President George H.W. Bush. Bill added that his pianist son, Harold—one of his four children—was a classmate of Barack Obama at Occidental.

**In 1948, after Bill graduated** from Yale, he and four friends spent seven weeks on an expedition climbing 12 peaks in the



Bill Fix surrounds himself with mountains that inspire him.

Coastal Range in British Columbia. They arranged for a plane to drop food packages along the glacier.

Bill worked in Seattle with a steel and aluminum window company, climbing mountains and skiing weekends and vacations for two years.

**Not having served active duty**, he was drafted for Korea. He entered the Army Sept. 30, after he and Harriet were married on Sept. 9, 1950, at the Cathedral of St. John in Spokane, her hometown.

For two years as a corporal at Fort Ord, Calif., he taught recruits who came from the Punalu'u School in Honolulu how to protect themselves in chemical, biological and radiological warfare. Harriet and Bill lived in Monterey, where Harriet worked in publicity for the nearby Delmonte Golf Course.

**After he was discharged** in June 1952, they settled in Spokane. Bill worked at Columbia Electric, a wholesale company Harriet's father, Eric Johnston, owned.

Bill was a sales engineer contacting Spokane contractors for lighting and electrical fixtures. He also sold radios, small appliances and Columbia records to several local stores.

**After 20 years, he retired** and began to use his knack at investments, which he learned from his father. He worked two years with a brokerage company. Then he focused on endowments for large nonprofits, including Whitworth

University, the Cathedral of St. John, the Fairmount Cemetery Group and the Spokane Symphony.

Soon, he realized he could charge just two- to three-tenths of one percent, rather than the usual 1 to 1.5 percent brokerage-firm rate, and still do well when managing endowments worth tens of millions.

**Over 30 years**, he took Whitworth's \$1 million endowment for scholarships—when they had 1,200 students—to \$130 million, helping the university grow to 2,500 students.

Bill, who said church has been "a strong influence" in his life, took the Cathedral of St. John's \$1 million endowment over 20 years to \$12 million before turning it over to U.S. Banks and a church committee 12 years ago.

He also helped build multi-million endowments for Fairmount Cemetery Group and the Spokane Symphony.

**In addition, Bill used** his investment skills to build the family foundation for philanthropy. Harriet's father had formed the Johnston Foundation in 1948 to support arts and education. It eventually split between her and her sister, Elizabeth Hanson.

In 1988, Bill and Harriet renamed their foundation the Johnston-Fix Foundation. Bill went to classes for several years at the Salk Institute near San Diego to learn about philanthropy.

The Johnston-Fix Foundation,

which now has \$7.5 million, continues to grow even with giving away 5 percent a year.

Nine private higher and secondary education recipients of foundation grants include family alma maters or universities where Bill or Harriet served on boards: Lakeside, St. George's, Occidental College in Pasadena, McAlister College in Minnesota, Whitworth University, Gonzaga University, Whitman College, Smith College and Yale University. Each receives up to \$30,000 a year.

Other recipients include the Cathedral of St. John, the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, the YMCA and YWCA, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Dishman Hills Conservancy, Friends of Mt. Spokane the River Forum, the Spokane Symphony and Civic Theater.

**Bill recounted some** of his adventures as a mountaineer.

He started climbing in high school going weekends to Snoqualmie and other mountains in the Cascades. At Yale, he was head of the Mountaineering Club.

Some of the other mountains Bill has climbed include Washington's volcanoes, several North Cascades peaks, two of the Ten Peaks in British Columbia, and five visits to India and Nepal, where he hiked with Tenzing Norgay, who first climbed Everest with Sir Edmond Hillary.

He followed a 250-mile trail in Nepal, around Annapurna in an area with 14 peaks over 26,000 feet high. Fifteen years later, he did the trail in the opposite direction.

Bill "accidentally" did a solo climb in the Grand Tetons. He had

just started to hike up to a ridge but then went on to the top. He was wearing boy scout moccasins with quarter-inch rubber soles and used a big branch, instead of an ice axe. The sole fell off one moccasin as he glissaded down a snow chute.

"My feet were freezing, so I hopped onto rocks and wiggled my toes," he said. "At the bottom, the ranger asked why I didn't tell him I was going up. I hadn't intended to go. I just followed the snow gully and went the rest of the way up the 12,300-foot mountain," he said.

**"My last good adventure** was a 10-day tour around Mount Blanc, the highest peak in the Alps," said Bill who followed trails and stayed in huts crossing six passes and seven valleys. He went when he was 79 with a friend who was 67. They did it for \$400 each, rather than \$3,500 for a guided tour.

Harriet, who died in October 2015, climbed a few mountains with him, including in 1951 climbing the 14,494-foot Mt. Whitney, the highest peak in the lower 48 states. Often they hiked on Tower Mountain and trails around Spokane.

**Not only was he drawn** to mountain climbing for adventure, but also because of "the religious feeling" he had while climbing—even in the challenge of bad weather.

Bill experienced what Muir described as "nature's peace" in the accomplishment of reaching summits and looking out at the mountains, valleys and sky around him—and just in being in the mountains.

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## During the summer, faith community needs to remain alert, speak

Summer provides needed respite for some. We can step outside our day-to-day routines to refresh our lives outdoors in God's creation. We can take time to be with family, garden, exercise, pursue adventures, go to camps and find opportunities to serve our communities.

Time spent waterskiing, swimming, hiking, doing ropes, playing sports or climbing mountains—stretching muscles, taking risks and persevering can translate into insights for life, faith, mission and advocacy.

Retreating to reflect or risking to stretch ourselves is not about escaping from the reality of our need to be in solidarity with those who continue to face injustice. Flexing our minds, bodies and spirits empowers us to persevere in challenging unjust budgets and serving those affected by them.

Despite the usual talk of cutting waste or excess, national and state budgets still propose redistributing the economy's wealth so it bypasses "the least." Too many have to work several low paying jobs, with fewer full-time jobs with benefits. To justify excluding some from the economy, voices emerge to reinforce stereotypes of people

who struggle with unjust policies that keep them in poverty.

To "feed" the military, will we continue to redirect funds from programs for the poor, health care, environmental protection, education, civil rights protections and the general welfare? Will we divert funds from diplomacy and humanitarian aid that can reduce "need" for more killing machines?

To avoid sinking into a summer of silence, we must keep informed. We must not let reality-TV blitzes of distracting stories overload us and deflect us from what is happening to public policy.

We must be open for summer to be a time to listen to the still small voice, to be a time to renew our courage and commitment to keep sharing our voices on the issues that matter.

At a recent Faith Action Network of Washington "Spring Summit" in Spokane, participants shared what gives them hope. Their list included children and grandchildren, political push-back on policies, investigation of possible corruption, Pope Francis' wisdom, reflective conversations in congregations, a healing pastoral letter

from a church official, an increase in people taking responsibility, challenges to the Doctrine of Discovery that justified land grabs from indigenous people, divestment from fossil fuel and more socially responsible investment.

In a gesture of hope, several clergy taped up questions about health care on their representatives' door—reminiscent of the theologian Martin Luther tacking up 95 theses on a church door in Wittenberg and beginning The Reformation 500 years ago.

Statewide and nationally, there are opportunities to contact representatives who set budgets and policies that affect our lives.

In the summer, we may find more time to meet representatives and government leaders face-to-face, to make phone calls, to write letters and to sign email petitions. We each need to keep informed and to keep doing what we can to influence policies.

We can pray every day. We can rerun the political buzz language through our faith language and teachings.

Issues that continue to be on the agenda of the faith communities of the state are economic justice, tax reform, environmen-

tal justice, health care, human trafficking, criminal justice, and injustice to indigenous communities and people of color.

Also on the agenda for the faith community in the Northwest is celebrating the 1987 apology by Northwest religious leaders to indigenous communities by building personal relationships and relationships of solidarity.

When looking at a government budget proposal, Sojourners magazine suggests Christians ask, "What would Jesus cut?"

Anyone of any faith community can ask how cuts align with teachings of their own spiritual leaders.

Sojourners Editor Jim Wallis urges people of faith to ask that question in their congregations and workplaces, as well as asking their political leaders. May that question spur dialogue and discussion from multiple perspectives, so we can learn from each other and consider new options.

May our time away be time to renew our faith, our faith perspectives and our commitment to faithful action.

Mary Stamp  
Editor

## Loving neighbors includes being prepared to help in natural disasters

One way we can "love our neighbors as ourselves" during an emergency is to take some forethought, receive appropriate training, and make plans for how best to take care of our families, our congregations, and our sisters and brothers within the wider community.

The Inland Northwest Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (INWVOAD) recently met in Spokane and learned from Robin Cocking, deputy director of Whitman County Emergency Management, about how faith based organizations and houses of worship can be effective in disasters.

She has a presentation she would like to give to faith organizations on how they can assist their congregations and communities.

What might a church, synagogue or mosque do if someone walks in off the street during a disaster asking for help? That's why it would be helpful to have a disaster plan in place.

Most places of worship don't think about their potential to need such a plan.

Whitman County, where Robin serves, has the potential for wind damage, flooding and fire. Humans might cause damage. Recent history shows that someone might enter a place of worship and open fire with a gun. Industrial settings can develop leaks. The county can experience ice storms or biological disasters. Cyber-terror or nuclear accidents or attacks could cause massive power outages.

What is true in Whitman County is true

anywhere. Robin advises faith based organizations to contact the emergency management entities in their area and request training for a leadership team. The team would then create a plan for their congregation.

Plans involve setting up a protocol for checking on the neediest members of their congregations—the home-bound, those receiving Meals on Wheels or people requiring special medical needs. The plan might include checking on neighbors of the church or of the members.

They then would be able to call in information about needs to the emergency management team.

Perhaps the worship building is accessible to the disabled and has open space for housing those who cannot go home.

Perhaps someone has particular aptitude for working with abandoned pets.

Perhaps there are people within a congregation with skills needed during long-term recovery efforts, such as after wildfires or the recent flooding across Eastern Washington and North Idaho.

Robin stressed the importance of receiving disaster training. Emergency Management does not accept the assistance of people coming in off the street and offering to help. It prefers to work with those who are already trained to prevent chaos.

Robin's point is valid. We are all part of one human family so we need to be prepared to care for each other in emergencies and natural disasters.

Kaye Hult – contributing editor

Ecumenical News

## Sounding Board

Faith Leaders' Call

## World's faith leaders say more needed to save lives of people in famine

From World Council of Churches News  
at [www.oikoumene.org](http://www.oikoumene.org)

Not nearly enough is being done to save the lives of the 20 million people who face famine in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria. Among them are 1.4 million children, who are at imminent risk of death unless aid reaches them immediately.

**In this day and age, famine cannot be tolerated**, not just because every human being is valued in God's sight and has the right to eat but also because starvation singles out the weakest and most vulnerable from among us.

**It is the moral duty of wealthy nations** to do all they can to provide life-saving funding and assistance and to work to end the underlying conditions that drive starvation: conflict, poor governance and climate change.

**May 21 more than one billion Christians** were called to take part in a Global Day of Prayer to End Famine. We as signatories helped lead that global event because we believe that this crisis demands our prayers and that governments, society and people of faith must act.

**The current crisis is happening** against a backdrop of worsening hunger. The number of people needing food assistance has risen by 35 per cent in the last year, from 80 to 108 million people. This appalling statistic flies in the face of global commitments to end poverty and hunger by 2030 and suggests that while things are improving for the vast majority of the world, things

are worsening for the already worst off.

**Humanitarian organizations**—and our church members on the ground—are warning of catastrophe. In East Africa, hundreds of thousands of people are now on the move, fleeing starvation and conflict or displaced across borders into hardscrabble settlements. Uganda now hosts the world's largest refugee camp, Bidi Bidi, with more than 270,000 people.

**Every day thousands more** South Sudanese arrive in Uganda, among them hundreds of unaccompanied children whose parents have been lost or killed. Food aid is desperately short. In Somalia, hundreds of thousands have fled the dry lands where drought has destroyed whole herds of livestock and left villages with nothing to stay for. Aid workers report of mothers losing their children to hunger and thirst on the long trek to find food and water.

Cholera, diarrhea and other diseases are also killing children, their weakened bodies unable to cope with what otherwise is treatable. They and their families are dying silently in remote villages, on the march to find help, or trapped in conflict kill zones, where they are subject to bombings, kidnapping, rape and violence. Children are paying a particularly heavy price.

**The last time that the world heard of famine** was in 2011, when 260,000 Somalis died, half of them children. The situation is worse now. The UN says it has not seen a humanitarian crisis of this scale since 1945. Even though we know the trajectory of this

crisis, the response is far too slow. Why is it that we only respond when death is staring us in the face?

**This is why this crisis demands** inspirational leadership from the G7 heads of state. Their leadership is needed to drive action in three areas.

**First are commitments for the money** required to fund life-saving aid. These include, along with food assistance, the therapeutic treatment and supplements children need to bring them back from the brink, deployment of water trucks to provide clean drinking water, and health and sanitation interventions to halt the spread of deadly diseases. So far only \$1.6 billion of the \$4.9 billion needed has been received. The rest is needed now. Any commitments must be converted into disbursements.

**Second, commitment is needed** to the hard work of addressing the drivers of conflict and injustice. This means consistently engaging in the world's toughest and most dangerous places.

**Nations and international agencies** need to resolve to foster peace before conflicts break out; hold governments accountable for perpetrating human rights abuses and escalating, rather than de-escalating conflicts; partner with governments to build institutions, civil society and the rule of law; and fund programs that help the poor deal with climate change.

**The G7 must reject the ideas** of those who call for less intervention and for clawing aid money away from humanitarian

and development work. More, rather than less, is needed if the cancerous effects of injustice, displacement and isolation are to be averted.

**Finally, we pray that the G7 leaders** will inspire all governments to stand with the world's most vulnerable to bring about the same kind of improved prosperity that hundreds of millions of people have already experienced. The famine crisis we are now witnessing is the death rattle of extreme poverty. It requires the continued political will, engagement and funding of governments and their citizens to end it. Now is the time to save lives and get on with the job of eradicating this scourge.

**Signatories:**

John Nduna - General Secretary  
- ACT Alliance

Henry Cappello - Executive Director  
- Caritas in Veritate International

Rev. Martin Junge - General Secretary  
- Lutheran World Federation

General André Cox

- The Salvation Army

Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit - General Secretary  
- World Council of Churches

Bishop Efraim Tendero

- World Evangelical Alliance

Thabani Maphosa - Partnership Leader  
- World Vision International

Chris Derksen Hiebert - Director Public Policy  
- World Vision International,

Christopher Hoffman MPM - East  
Africa Region Humanitarian Director

- World Vision International

# Calendar of Events

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>June 1, 15</b> • <b>Peace and Justice Action Committee</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 a.m., pjals.org</p> <p>• <b>Dances of Universal Peace</b>, South Hill Unity Church, 2900 S. Bernard St., 7 to 9 p.m., 534-4650</p> <p><b>June 2</b> • <b>"Jugalbandi Concert,"</b> South Asia Cultural Association, Unity Spiritual Center, 2900 S. Bernard, 6 to 9 p.m., 467-5558, sacaspokane@gmail.com</p> <p><b>June 2-4</b> • <b>ArtFest of the Northwest Museum of Arts and Cultures</b>, Coeur d'Alene Park in Browne's Addition, Friday 3 to 7 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., 456-3931, artfest@northwestmuseum.org</p> <p><b>June 2-30</b> • <b>"A Visual Exploration of Anti-Semitism,"</b> art by Melanie Lieb, Saranac Arts Projects, 25 W. Main, www.zhibit.org/melanielieb</p> <p><b>June 3</b> • <b>Filipino Fashion Show</b> and Silangan Dancers, Shadle Library, 2111 W. Wellesley, 3 p.m., 444-5390</p> <p><b>June 4</b> • <b>"Sharing the Dharma Day,"</b> Sravasti Abbey, 692 Country Lane, Newport, 9:45 a.m. to 3 p.m., 447-5549, office.sravasti@gmail.com</p> <p><b>June 5-16</b> • <b>Habitat-Spokane's Blitz Build</b>, 300 E. J St., Deer Park, 534-2552, mgirardot@habitat-spokane.org</p> <p><b>June 6</b> • <b>Pride Peacekeeper Training</b>, "Love in the Face of Hate," 35 W. Main, 5:30-8 p.m., pjals.org</p> <p><b>June 6, 20</b> • <b>Showing up for Racial Justice</b>, 35 W. Main, 6:30 p.m., 838-7870</p> <p><b>June 9</b> • <b>"Stone Soup Ingredients for Esteem,"</b> PACE Talent Show, Spokane Falls Community College, 3410 W. Ft. Wright Dr., Bldg. 15, 279-6033, judy.mandeville@scc.spokane.edu</p> <p><b>June 9-2</b> • <b>"Trip to Bountiful,"</b> Stage Left, 108 W. 3rd., 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 838-9727, spokanestageleft.org</p> <p><b>June 10</b> • <b>26th Annual Pride Parade</b>, "May Pride Be with You," Downtown Spokane, noon to 1 p.m., Rainbow Festival, Riverfront Park, noon to 10 p.m., outspokane.com</p> <p><b>June 13</b> • <b>Unity in the Community Committee</b>, Emmanuel Family Life Center, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 5:30 p.m., nwunity.org</p> <p><b>June 14</b> • <b>"Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany</b>, Marthe Cohn, holocaust survivor, Chabad of Spokane, Spokane Convention Center, 334 W. Spokane Falls Blvd., 7 p.m., jewishspokane.com/marthechohn</p> <p><b>June 15</b> • <b>Senior Empowerment Summer Speaker Series</b>, Clare View Seniors Community Building, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 252-6512</p> <p><b>June 17</b> • <b>Morning Star Boys' Ranch</b> Open House, 4511 S. Glenrose Rd., noon to 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>June 20</b> • <b>Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus</b> Skylstad, "Is Our Pope Causing Confusion?" IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr Rd., 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>June 23</b> • <b>Benefit Concert</b> for Union Gospel Mission with Tuxedo Junction, Valley Assembly, 15618 E. Broadway, 7 p.m. 924-0466</p> <p><b>June 23-25</b> • <b>Weekend Forgiveness</b> Retreat for Men and Women, "Forgiving for Life: A Journey to Freedom," Charles Finck, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 6 p.m. Friday to noon Sunday, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>June 24</b> • <b>NAACP Spokane Spaghetti Feed</b> and Silent Auction, East Central Community Center, 500 S. Stone, 5 to 8 p.m., 209-2425</p> | <p><b>June 28</b> • <b>Spokane Police Accountability &amp; Reform Coalition</b>, 35 W. Main, 5:30 p.m., pjals.org</p> <p><b>June 29</b> • <b>"Militarism, Islamophobia, and the Trump-Bannon-Pence Vision,"</b> Joan Braune, lecturer in philosophy, Gonzaga University, 6 to 8 p.m., 838-7870</p> <p><b>July 10-17</b> • <b>Young Adults Explore Buddhism</b>, Sravasti Abbey, Newport, 447-5549, office.sravasti@gmail.com</p> <p><b>July 12</b> • <b>Silent Day of Prayer</b>, "True Growth in Prayer," Fr. Matthew Nicks, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224</p> <p><b>July 14-17</b> • <b>"Mission u,"</b> Central Washington University, 509-427-2738, amhutchinson13@gmail.com</p> <p><b>July 17-21</b> • <b>Icon-Writing Retreat/Workshop</b>, Fr. Damian Higgins, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>July 18-22</b> • <b>Whitworth Institute of Ministry</b>, "For Such a Time as This: Christian Discipleship in the 21st Century," Whitworth University, 777-3275, oce@whitworth.edu</p> <p><b>July 20</b> • <b>Senior Empowerment Summer Speaker Series</b>, Clare View Seniors Community Building, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 252-6512</p> <p><b>July 24</b> • <b>Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus</b> Skylstad, "The Language of Pope Francis" IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>July 25</b> • <b>Christmas in July Celebration</b> of Our Place Community Ministries' 30th anniversary, 1509 W. College, 4 to 7 p.m., ourplace@cet.com</p> <p><b>Aug 4-6</b> • <b>Weekend Women's Healing Retreat</b>, "Comfort and Healing for Hurting Hearts," Thea Loughery and Sara Compton, Immaculate Heart Retreat Center, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 6 p.m., Friday to noon Sunday, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>Aug 5</b> • <b>"8 Lakes Leg Aches" Bike Ride</b>, Lutheran Community Services Northwest benefit, 30,45 or 70-mile distances, top of Sunset Highway, 747-1224, cmckee@lcsnw.org</p> <p><b>Aug 14-21</b> • <b>Eight Day Ignation Retreat</b>, "Following Our Holy Desires, Fr. William Blazek, SJ, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>Aug 17</b> • <b>Senior Empowerment Summer Speaker Series</b>, Clare View Seniors Community Building, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 252-6512</p> <p><b>Aug 19</b> • <b>Unity in the Community</b>, "Diversity Is Our Strength," Riverfront Park, Unity Parade 9 a.m. through downtown Spokane, Cultural Village and Vendors 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 599-6669, nwunity@icloud.com</p> <p><b>Aug 23</b> • <b>Day of Prayer</b>, "Spiritual Cardio: Healthy Soul, Healthy Body," Fr. Jeff Core, IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>Aug 25-27</b> • <b>Gathering at the Falls Powwow</b>, Riverfront Park, 25th at 7 p.m., 26th at 1 and 7 p.m., 27th, Family Fun Day and Youth Powwow, 509-362-2178, gatheringatthefalls@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Aug 29</b> • <b>Barbecue with Bishop Emeritus</b> Skylstad, "Where Is the Community?" IHRC, 6910 S. Ben Burr, 5:30 to 7:45 p.m., 448-1224, ihrc.net</p> <p><b>Aug 30-Sep 4</b> • <b>Pig Out</b>, Riverfront Park, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., 921-5579</p> <p><b>Sept 6</b> • <b>Fig Tree distribution</b>, St. Mark's Lutheran, 316 E. 24th, 9 a.m., 535-1813 (may be Aug. 30)</p> <p><b>Sept 7</b> • <b>The Fig Tree Board</b>, 631 S. Richard Allen Ct., 1 to 3 p.m., 535-1813</p> |
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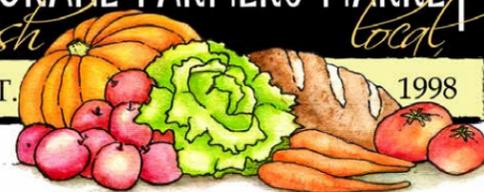
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# Community rallies yet again to graffiti in solidarity with Salish School

About 200 people gathered to express solidarity with the Salish School of Spokane on May 6, after graffiti was scrawled on a wall inside its pre-school building.

"We stand together to say we will not tolerate hatred of races," said LaRae Wiley, director of the school. "We are united for justice, truth and love for our children and future generations."

Several speakers offered reflections.

Spokane Tribe elder Pat Moses said, "When we gather, we are of one heart and mind. It's good medicine for us all. When I heard, my heart was heavy for our children, because we teach them to do good. We pray for those who have done this bad thing and for teachers to be strong."

Twa-le Abrahamson of the Spokane Tribe said that bad things can be transformed to good things.

"Once we were ashamed to be Indians in Spokane, but we are proud of who we are and proud of our language, knowing our culture will be passed down," she said.

Ben Stuckart, president of the Spokane City Council, said he spoke a few months ago at the



Crowd gathers to hear speakers, songs, prayers for healing and hope.

Martin Luther King Jr. Family Outreach Center and at the Community Building when they experienced hate vandalism.

He said that the community needs to act every day not only to stop racism and hate, but also to challenge inequities in the health and criminal justice systems.

Paulette Jordan, whose father is Colville and mother is Coeur d'Alene, said she celebrates that she was able to be elected to the

Idaho House of Representatives in North Idaho, where she had grown up seeing swastikas.

"Challenges can make us stronger and make us want to love," she said. "With the community's support, the Salish School will survive and thrive. We are rooted in the land and not going anywhere."

Albert Andrews Redstar, whose heritage is in both the Palouse and Nez Perce tribes on the Colville Confederated Reservation, up-

lifted the importance of songs his mother sang to him as a child.

"We need to remember the songs to connect with our people, because there will come a day we are to transmit them to our children and grandchildren," he said of the importance of learning the Salish language. "We are of one heart today. When we mingle, we create a stronger feeling of community for everyone in the school. May we who gather resolve to

continue to learn what we need to do to survive as a society."

Buzz Gutierrez, an elder with the Spokane Tribe, told of growing up in Spokane, but spending weekends on the reservation.

Born in 1947, he learned he is from a long line of people, his mother Sally Moses born in 1911, her father Ben Moses born in 1881, his father Joseph Moses born in 1858 and his father Salusto Moses born in 1825.

"The Creator put us here and we are not going anywhere," he said. "We did not cross the land bridge, originate in Africa or come out of the water. We came from here," he said. "My grandfather camped at the Shadle water tower site."

"We were not born with hatred or racism, but to trust and love, and to take care of each other. We can all heal," he said. "We know who we are. The only race is the human race."

LaRae promised that the school will continue to do what it does to create a beautiful space for the children.

For information, call 325-2018 or email [larae@salishschoolofspokane.org](mailto:larae@salishschoolofspokane.org).

# Eastern Washington Idaho Synod elects woman pastor as next bishop

The Rev. Kristen Kuempel, pastor of First Lutheran Church in Kennewick, was called on May 20 by the 2017 Synod Assembly to serve a six-year term as the next bishop of the Eastern Washington Idaho Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

She is the first woman elected as a bishop in this synod and is among three women bishops in the six synods in Region I, which includes Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Alaska.

Kristen starts Sept. 1, after the term of Bishop Martin Wells, who has served 18 years, ends on Aug. 31, and he returns to the title, "Pastor." Her installation will be on Saturday, Sept. 16.

With Kristen's election, there will be four women bishops and regional church executives in the area. They are Bishop Gretchen Rehberg of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, the Rev. Sheryl Kinder-Pyle, executive minister of the Presbytery of the Inland Northwest, and the Rev. Sandy Messick, the Christian Church Disciples of Christ's Northwest Regional Minister.

Other leaders include the Rev. Gregg Sealey, Pacific Northwest Annual Conference United Methodist Inland District Superintendent, and Bishop Thomas Daley of the Catholic Diocese of Spokane.

Kristen, who was ordained in 2002, served as a member at-large on the EWAID Synod Council, on the Lutheran Ministries Strategic Planning Task Force and on its Program Task Force. She has



The Rev. Kristen Kuempel, Bishop Elect of the Lutheran Synod.

also been involved with Lutheran Community Services.

"As bishop, I would seek to

help the synod find hope in a future life as repairers and restorers," Kristen said, responding to a

question all candidates answered.

In Kennewick, she has been engaged with an interfaith community roundtable that addresses issues of homelessness and mental health needs among area teens and young people.

The ELCA is one of the largest

Christian denominations in the United States, with about 4 million members in nearly 10,000 congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is also one of the largest in the Inland Northwest.

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