

# The Mustard Seed

Volume XXIX, Issue 9

September 2011

## Sermon of Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Mark Hanson

*This is the sermon given by Bishop Hanson to open the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.*

Grace to you and peace in Jesus' name. Amen.

I have a question, so please take out your voting machine. Oh, you obeyed the rules and left them in the plenary hall. Okay, so all of you—advisors and visitors, too—take out your *imaginary* voting machines.

Here is the question: "Like Mary, are we as a church ready to be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit?"

- Press 1 for Yes
- Press 2 for No
- Press 3 for "Moved? I just got here!"
- Press 4 for "I am totally confused, Bishop."

Vote now. Voting is closed. Let's see the results. My screen says: "No results at this time. They will be posted Friday before adjournment."

Are we ready, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, for the Holy Spirit to move us as the Spirit move Mary? To know the answer we first must ask, "Are we ready to begin where Mary began when she responded to God's interrupting, God's disrupting word of promise by asking, 'How can this be?'"

When was your life last so interrupted, so disrupted by God's grace that all you could say was, "How can this be?" Or has your life become so well-ordered, routines so set, relationships so secure, ministries so predictable that you honestly cannot remember the last time you joined with Mary in her pondering and her wondering,

"How can this be?"

Perhaps it is just the opposite for you. Maybe your life has been in such turmoil—the economy so volatile, relationships so unstable, giving to your congregation so variable that nothing surprises you, nothing leaves you asking, "How can this be?" Back to the question. Are we ready for the Holy Spirit to move us as the Spirit moved Mary? Are we ready to be moved from a "How can this be?" church to a "Let it be to us according to your Word" church?

To know the answer, we must ask whether we as a church stand with Mary. Is our response to God's absolutely interrupting, disrupting, dislocating, relocating, amazing grace Mary's response of awe and wonder? Or has God's disrupting word of promise become so familiar, so predictable, so domesticated by us that it leaves us neither perplexed nor pondering? Just try to imagine what the angel Gabriel's announcement was like for Mary. "Greetings favored one! The Lord is with you!"

Mary had to have wondered, "With me? The Lord has found favor with me? Why? I have done nothing worthy of drawing God's attention. The Lord is with me? How can that possibly be?"

Oh, but Gabriel was not done. "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son and his name will be Jesus." And he kept going... "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over

the house of Jacob forever, and of his Kingdom there will be no end." "How can this be? Me, pregnant? I am a virgin. My child shall be called 'Son of the Most High' . . . the name reserved only for the son of Caesar. How is it possible that I can be both in a favored place, a favored relationship with God and yet—with this news that Gabriel brings me—I will be outside my community's moral boundaries in a place of disfavor? How can this be?"

Have you ever been there? Are you standing with Mary today? Does God's word of promise spoken to you not fit with how the community—yes, let us be honest, how the community of faith—regards or disregards you? Do you hear the church's commitment to being freed in Christ to serve the poor, but deep within you wonder what it is going to be like and how they will respond when you are honest with your fellow church members that you are one who is living in poverty, home facing foreclosure, and unemployed for 18 months or longer?

Are there those who deserve to hear God's disrupting, inviting word of grace, but they are having trouble getting within earshot of hearing it because they have been made to feel so unacceptable, so peripheral to our communities of faith? Do we talk so warmly about welcoming the stranger, the sojourner, but we really do not want to know about the one—the immigrant who lives in fear among us, lacking documentation?

What is it that you carry deep inside? What awareness about who you are or what you have done in

## The First (of many) Notes from Pastor Wes

It was Thursday evening, September 1st. The whole day had been spent in the chaos of movers emptying our house. They had finished at 5pm and I spent a couple hours tidying and saying goodbye to rooms which had seen family life for 16 years: Christmas with kids waiting at the top of the stairs, “Is it time yet?”; Pancake Saturday mornings, warm welcomes, and more. At 7pm I finally bundled myself into the car and took off, somewhat sad, very excited.

The five hour trip went quickly. Before I knew it I was in dark, quiet Colfax and there was the sign for Pullman at 12:30am. As I came over the hill and saw the lights there were two simple words, “I’m home.” (Ok... three words for you Grammar Hammers out there.) Only one full day here but it feels great: Meeting people (and Marty) at the Saturday Market, running into folks before and during the game (Go Cougs!). Thank you so much for welcoming Linda and me, and the rest of the family, with open and welcoming hospitality.

I’m home. Peace and JOY!

## Here’s to New Beginnings!

Mary Lauver, Council President

Wow, it’s been a whirlwind of activity and change at Trinity the last few months! What a lot of excitement! On July 24<sup>th</sup>, we called our new pastor, Pastor Wes Howell. All of us are excited to start new ministries together, and he officially starts Sept. 1. We thought it would be a good idea for him to take a few weeks to get settled in his new church and new community, so he will not be preaching until Sept. 18, Rally Sunday. Pastor Pettenger will preside on Sept. 4 and Pastor Nick will preside on Sept. 11. On Aug. 28, we said a fond farewell to our interim, Pastor Tom Inch, with a potluck and a cake and a nice blessing at the end of our worship service. We give thanks for his time with us these last 15 months.

So where do we go from here? A great question, and one we will be answering along with Pastor Wes in these months to come. Already he and his wife Linda have had many new ideas of things we can do, such as offer hotdogs and drinks to those who park in our parking lot for Cougar football games, extending them hospitality. Gunnar Sorem and Rachel Nelson were part of the call committee and really enjoyed sharing meals with other members of the committee, meeting new

people in their homes. So they would like to organize dinners for 8 this fall, matching folks who might not know each other very well, also including Pastor Wes and Linda so we can get to know them and they can get to know us. Isn’t that a great idea? It seems that there is an endless supply of good ideas, such as the Big Awesome Yard Sale to raise money to help pay Pastor Wes’ moving expenses. I am thrilled to inform you that we have raised the money needed to pay the movers. Thanks SO much for your gen-



### Thank You!

A quick “Thank You” to everyone who has helped out and checked in on me in the office during our interim period. There were many times when non-office jobs fell my direction—thank you to those who helped by taking those things off my hands, listened to my concerns or understood when things were not done perfectly or quickly.

Remember that we’re not done yet,

## Service of Prayer and Remembrance on 9/11

St. James’ Episcopal (just down the hill from TLC) will have an evening prayer service at 5:30pm September 11:

Evensong — The Church’s ritual of prayer at the close of the day is the structure for our remembrance of the events of September 11, 2001. All are welcome.



erous gifts of time, money, stuff for the yard sale, and your prayers. Many assured me that the congregation would step forward and I slept well having faith that it would be so. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.

As Pastor Wes said in a Facebook post as he was leaving Bellevue: “all endings are new beginnings!” Here’s to new beginnings, led by the most generous spirit of God. Thanks be to God!

folks! Lots of hard work and prayer have gotten us here and some more will be needed as we transition to this next phase. The good news is we will have joy and anticipation to carry us through!

So thanks in advance for your continued patience and forgiveness and for your willingness to help—this next chapter is going to be exciting, I think, and I’m sure you’ll want to be involved!

**TLC Office Hours**  
**Tues-Fri**  
**9 am—1 pm**

## Message from the EWAI Synod Bishop, Martin Wells

*The Rhododendron and the Ponderosa*

Something about these days begs reflection. Vacation rest brings relief and also memory.

I wrote last year at this time from the Kenai River in Alaska, remembering the generational reach of family, remembering the Windsock Reach of the river which still carries ashes of mom and dad. Tonight, after a memorial for a mid-twenties soul so full of life and so full of Fatal despair; in the same week to visit a beloved aunt, now in hospice; a brother with cancer and no insurance; and now another insult to Life, a diagnosis of a new breast cancer in a winsome and trusted colleague:

The Ponderosa: A 200 foot progenitor of trees on the South Hill of Spokane; the diagnosis is a festering canker 30 feet above the front lawn; an old wound; a wound which still weeps and labors to repair itself, the dogged persistence of Life! To cut it down would be a loss for Life; to leave it up may be a threat to life.

In the back, closer to my feet, the Rhododendron: A magnificent plant, crushed mightily just two winters ago by falling ice and wood; Broken, awkward, but now glistening in the slant light of already late-summer, showing Life for next spring in modest buds. Amazing. It is being healed.

We traverse between life and Life, the failures of life and the hope of new Life. This is where we minister; between life on the one hand so miserable and so impossible, and Life; on the other hand, so Sure, so confident, Promised! Rhododendron buds and Resurrection!

The Song from the funeral is still and always: "I know that My Redeemer Lives." If Jesus lives and calls me to his new Life, then the future unfolds without Final Fear.

We enter a new fall, a time between life and Life, trying to make room to remember the lessons of rest, trying not to be overtaken by the carne, mere life, remembering the life where God was, is and is to come. This life is where we are summoned us to Be, to work, to do our Good News calling, this carne life; life plus promise equals Life!

The ponderosa needs a community's reflection before any rash steps. We will do what we can do. The rhododendron needs fertilizer, humus, more carne, more investment in Promise!

So there's work to be done and we're the leaders. Here we go!



# Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## Faith Action Network

FAN, the Faith Action Network, merges the common work of the Lutheran Public Policy Office of Washington and the Washington Association of Churches. In this workshop, FAN offers the effective experience of these two groups in advocating with the state legislature, and this workshop on the state legislative process brings together tools, experience, and an opportunity to connect with others in advocating for the poor in the legislative process,

We will begin by looking at the state budget process, examining the highlights of the biennial budget passed in May. Following that introduction we will hear about the impact of cuts on the poorest of Washington citizens. We will also talk with legislators about how they made decisions throughout the budget process. Finally, we will discuss how, by entering into dialogue in gracious space, we can work together to seek justice and promote the common good. Dr. Dale Soden of Whitworth University will moderate as we explore our common values and the ways they can guide us into decisions that foster the well-being of all.

Gracious space has been described as "a spirit and a setting in which the stranger is welcome, people learn in public and difficult conflicts can be resolved. It is an intentional space marked by curiosity, openness and hospitality that is co-created by the group to help them to do the work (including the most difficult work) in their midst." [Bill Grace, Sharing the Rock]

You are cordially invited to attend. A light lunch will be provided. Suggested donations is \$10, but all are welcome regardless of donation.

**Saturday, September 24, 2011  
8:30 am to 1 pm**

**Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
1832 W. Dean, Spokane**



# Sundays at Trinity Lutheran Church

## Lectionary for September

### September 4

*time after Pentecost*

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 18:15-20

### September 11

*time after Pentecost*

Genesis 50:15-21

Psalms 103:[1-7] 8-13

Romans 14:1-12

Matthew 18:21-35

### September 18

*time after Pentecost*

Jonah 3:10-4:11

Psalms 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

### September 25

*time after Pentecost*

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms 25:1-9

Philippians 2:1-13

Matthew 21:23-32

## NAMI meets at TLC

The fourth Sunday of every month, TLC will be the meeting place for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) from 12:30-4:30. For more information on this association: [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org)

## Sunday School for All Ages Begins Sept 18, 9:15am

This month marks the start of another year of Christian Education at TLC. Classes are offered for all ages. Ages two through fifth grade will be using the SPARK! curriculum from Augsburg Fortress. The Junior High class will again be using the *Hear We Stand* confirmation curriculum during the Sunday School hour and the High School class will be using materials from various sources. Adults will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall each week and will study a variety of topics. Look here each month for more details on curriculum, classes and other education opportunities.

### 2010-11 Sunday School Teachers

Preschool:	Megan Brannan
Grade School:	Linda Dillard Andreas Gross
Grade School Closing:	Marilyn Burch
Confirmation:	Noel Collier Collette Dice Julie Pomerenk
High School:	Dan Dolan
Adult Education:	Pastor Wes

## Rally Sunday and WELCOME Potluck Sept. 18

September 18 is the date for our annual Rally Sunday Potluck Picnic AND it is also the first Sunday that Pastor Wes will be presiding and preaching! Please bring a main dish AND a side or salad or dessert to share, drinks are provided.

during worship bibles will be given to 3 year olds, and 3rd and 6th graders, and teachers will be blessed.



## Semi-Annual Meeting and Lunch September 25

After worship we will all gather for a sandwich and salad lunch, provided by council, in the Fellowship Hall. Afterwards we will move to the sanctuary for the 2011 Semi-annual Meeting.

Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate will be for sale after worship September 4. Thank you for supporting this project and Coffee Hour!



**Sunday Schedule:** ✱ 10:30am Worship w/ Holy Communion

\*starting September 18: 9:15am Education Hour

# TLC Youth/Family Events and Other Things to Do

Questions, Comments or Ideas? Contact our Youth & Family Ministries Chair, Lisa Swanson

## Parking Lot Fundraisers for Cougar

### Home Football Games

Check the tri-fold board for when we need volunteers (adult and youth) to help with our Football parking Fundraisers. Parking starts 2 hours before kick-off and the money collected goes towards Youth & Family activities (this year, we are raising money for our trip to New Orleans for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. Please tell anyone you know who goes to football games that they can park at TLC and donate to a good cause! GO COUGS!

**Sept.  
3 & 10**  
**October  
15**  
**Nov.  
12 & 19**

## Youth & Family Committee Meeting

### 8:30 am at TLC

**Sept  
18**

Planning for the next year is still underway so if you have ideas or input, please see a committee member or come to this meeting!



Lutherhaven is more than just summer camp for kids! There are year-round programs for all ages and you will find them at both Camp Lutherhaven on lake Coeur d'Alene and Shoshone Base Camp near Kellog, ID.

For more information about the following programs, visit their website:

[www.lutherhaven.com](http://www.lutherhaven.com)

### Golden Agers' Day Out

at Shoshone Base Camp with the North Idaho Backcountry Horsemen! October 5

### Mushrooms, Mountains, Miners & Missions

at Shoshone adult "Hostel" October 7-9

### Cut, Crop, Craft & Quilt Weekend

October 7-9

### Serve on Saturday

for Junior & Senior High Youth October 14-15

### Our Storied Life

A one day retreat for "seniors:" senior adults + senior high youth from the same congregation! November 5

## Youth and Family Committee

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Dave Schneider                               | HS pointman                   |
| Deb Nelson                                   | MS pointwoman                 |
| Desiree Dolan                                | Inter-generational pointwoman |
| Jill Elbracht                                | Pre/Grade school pointwoman   |
| Lisa Swanson                                 | Chair                         |
| Kate Schneider, Rachel Nelson & Drew Swanson | Youth Reps                    |

## SUNDAY SCHOOL is just around the corner!

### Rally Sunday is September 18—

Classes begin that day; Teacher Installation during worship;

All Church Potluck follows worship!

### Classes for ages 2-adult

\*\*We will be using the Augsburg Fortress lectionary curriculum called "Spark" for ages 2 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

\*\*6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders will be using the "Here We Stand" Confirmation curriculum.

\*\*High school students different resources throughout the year

\*\*Adults will be studying a variety of topics!

Speak with Megan Brannan, Collette Dice, Sherree Komp or Beth Vorderstrasse if you are interested in helping with or attending!



### Remember the Food Banks



The food banks are always in need of: peanut butter, jelly, rice, pasta, canned or frozen meat, tomato products, beans, canned fruit and vegetables, pancake mix and syrup. We also like to help our families with toilet paper, paper towels, laundry soap, dish soap, toothpaste, diapers of all sizes, personnel hygiene products and baby food. Donate today!

To the Ladies of Trinity-

*We appreciate so very much the luncheon that you provided today after Dad's memorial service. The food and fellowship we wonderful; to have an opportunity to share with others and have others share memories of Dad. The food and homemade dessert were delicious also.*

-Greta Swanson, Karl Swanson and families

*Thank You*



A Community. A Resource.

A Community for LGBT People living a Christian Life. A Resource for those who are searching. Please visit [www.with-luv.net](http://www.with-luv.net) for more information and share this website !

## HARVEST



FOR THE NEEDY!

### September Birthdays

- |                     |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Susan Bohm        | 21 Miranda Brewer |
| 2 Marty Waananen    | Julie Hermanson   |
| 9 Tom Fryxell       | 22 Cheryl Hill    |
| 10 Bill Bruehl      | 25 Becky Bitter   |
| 12 Kevin Beebe      | 27 Philip Gross   |
| 13 Peter Smith      | 28 Jean Iverson   |
| 20 Katrina Phillips | 30 Robyn Hammond  |

### September Baptismal Birthdays

- |                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 7 Evan Swanson              | 26 Aaron Grahn |
| 21 Camryn Petternger-Willey |                |

### September Anniversaries

- |                                |
|--------------------------------|
| 17 Jim & Anne Haugen—45 years! |
| 23 Eric & Kerri Hill—11 years! |

### Whitman County Chapter of Thrivent

**Mobile Food Event this Month!**  
Our local Thrivent chapter and 2nd Harvest Food Bank are sponsoring a FREE FOOD giveaway!

**FREE FOOD!**  
**Fresh Produce and Bread!**

All who need food are welcome—please spread the word to those in need  
**Tuesday Sept. 20 11am-1pm**  
Volunteers are needed at 10am  
**Trinity Lutheran Church**



## Council Meeting Highlights August 16, 2011

**Present:** Brandon & Marilyn Burch, Mary Lauver, Julie Pomerenk, Lisa Swanson, Eric Philips, and Kate Biernacki. **Guest:** Megan Brannan. **Not Present:** Annette Pettenger, Ken Myklebust, Dan Dolan, and Bill Rammelsberg.

**Prayer/Devotions:** Prayer.

**Discussion/Action Items:** July Meeting Minutes: The minutes were moved and accepted.

Pastor Wes Howell's first Sunday will be September 18, 2011. Since he and his wife, Linda, are already familiar with the area, instead of putting information in the welcome basket we propose a basket of gift ideas: restaurant certificates, coffee shops, & hiking trails.

Pastor Inch's Send-off is planned for August 28, 2011 after church. Megan & Gabe Brannan will make pulled pork, Mary will bring a cake, the rest of the church can bring side dishes. Cards are also welcome for Pastor Inch.

The council will choose the next guiding principle for the coming year. The two themes for discussion are Following Jesus & Doing Justice. The council will pray about it for the next month & decide with Pastor Wes.

Finance & Budget report that Trinity is \$3,000 in the black for the month of July with a deficit of \$15,000 for the year to date. There is also around \$3,000 for the moving fund to cover the expenses for bringing Pastor Wes to Pullman. Bill Rammelsberg confirmed that there is enough money in the Bank to cover the moving expenses for the Howells. Council Members need to get information regarding next year's budget to Ken Myklebust as soon as possible.

Hansen House was appraised today, the realtor will report on the value in one week. Vadim & Galina Jitkov, Ken Myklebust, & Mary Lauver will make a presentation to the church at the semi-annual meeting. Vadim & Galina, who have been working on fixing up the house, have expressed interest in purchasing the house.

Changes have been recommended to the Endowment Committee to make use of fund. These possible changes will be presented at the semi-annual meeting.

**Next Meeting:** September 20

Submitted by Kate Biernacki-Felver



## MATURE LUTHERANS

Bring a dish to share while you catch-up with other TLCers. The Potluck and Conversation will start at **Noon on September 9th** in

### July Financial Update

Offerings		To-Date Balance	
July	Year-to-Date	Income	\$119,667
\$21,822	\$119,335	Expenses	<u>134,770</u>
		Overall	-\$15,102



Members, Congregations, Synods and organizations of the ELCA's Region 1 are coming together in a brand new, historically unique way. A new social networking site call Soul Café is in its infancy—you are invited to help it grow.

Communication across and within the six synods of Region 1 is the primary focus of the Soul Café. Every member of every congregation is encouraged to sign up and join the conversation. Special groups can be formed by any member on any relevant subject. But it doesn't end there. Anyone can join. Anyone can search for information on evens happenings and documents posted by individuals and organizations which join the Soul Café. Come and browse and see for yourself. Join the Soul Café [www.soulcafe.org](http://www.soulcafe.org) (adapted from MT Synod Newsletter)



This Year's CROPWALK for Hunger will take place October 9





# Opportunities to Serve at Trinity



## September Servant Team

### September 4

Flowers	Kevin & Jen Ess
Coffee Fellowship	Grimes & Holmes
Ushers	Kerry & Lisa Swanson Family
Reader	Swanson

### September 11

Flowers	Bill & Arline Bruehl
Coffee Fellowship	Kevin & Jen Ess
Ushers	Ed & Doddy Michalson
Reader	Nancy Beebe

### September 18

Flowers	Lou & Arlene Grimes
Coffee Fellowship	Rally Sunday Potluck
Ushers	Phil Gross & Andreas Gross
Reader	Robyn Hammond

### September 25

Flowers	Vorderstrasse/Phillips
Coffee Fellowship	Annual Meeting Lunch
Ushers	Phil Gross & Andreas Gross
Reader	Vicki Gross

### THANK YOU to the August/February Team:

Eric Phillips & Beth Vorderstrasse Family (September Leader), Chris Bartalamay, Anke & Deiter Burger, John & Collette Dice Family, Kevin & Jenn Ess, Tammy Fletcher, Lou & Arlene Grimes, Phil & Vicki & Andreas Gross Family, Bob & Ruth Holmes, Helen Nick, Dirk & Joanna Schulze-Makuch Family, Ed & Doddy Michalson, Kerry & Lisa Swanson Family, Marty & Elizabeth Waananen

### UP NEXT, the October/April Team:

**No Team Leader** Teresa Brewer, Bill & Arline Bruehl, Craig & Linda Dillard, Jeff & Jill Elbracht, Carl & Christine Engle, Tim Freson, Paul Klavano, David & Ruth Nice, Garnette & Miranda Roberts Family, Della Ruddy, Lois Strange, Grace Urdal, Chris & Mike Sodorff

## Lawn Team Schedule:

Sept 4	Swanson Family
Sept 11	Gary Hyde
Sept 18	Sam Sorem
Sept 25	Dan Dolan

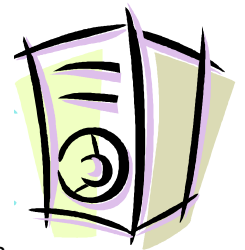
If you are unable to have the sidewalks cleared by your day, please contact someone else on the team.



## Sound Team Schedule:

Sept 4	Aaron Grahn
Sept 11	Aaron Grahn
Sept 18	Becky Bitter
Sept 25	Chris Bartalamay

If you would like to be a part of the Sound Team, see Cheryl Greenstreet. Training is available!



## Acolyte Schedule:

Sept 4	Simon	Acolyte Training for all 3rd-5th graders will be next month; next year's schedule will be available.
Sept 11	Peter	
Sept 18	Marshall	
Sept 25	Katrina	



## Altar Guild Schedule:

Sept 4	Crookston/Herdering
Sept 11	Bohm/Pettenger
Sept 18	Cross/Weathermon
Sept 25	Hammond/Hill

## Cantor Schedule

Sept 4	Mary Lauver
Sept 11	
Sept 18	Mary Lauver
Sept 25	Josef Felver
October 2	Karen Weathermon
October 9	Nancy Beebe

**LAST CHANCE FOR SERVANT TEAM CHANGES!** If you would like to be assigned to a different team, please contact the church office. Also, The months of August and October need a team leader!! If you could be that person, please let Megan know!

# September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Noon Football Parking
4 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship after worship LWR Coffee, Tea sales	5 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30pm Monday Quilters	6	7	8 Noon Mature Lutherans Potluck	9	10 Noon Football Parking
11 :00am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 6:30pm Budget & Finance Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 8:30am Y&F Meets 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship after worship Rally Sunday Picnic	19 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30pm Monday Quilters	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22	23	24
25 9:00am Choir Rehearsal 9:15am Sunday School 10:30am Worship after worship Lunch & Semi- Annual Meeting	26 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30pm Monday Quilters	27 7:00pm Book Discussion: <i>Bookseller of Kabul</i>	28	29	30	

For the most up-to-date calendar go to  
[www.trinitypullman.org/calendar/](http://www.trinitypullman.org/calendar/)



### Prayer Requests

**Those in the military:** Jud

**Those struggling with cancer:** Jim, Grace, Manny, David, Jeff, Len, Pat, David, Michael

**Those struggling with other illnesses, ailments or situations:** Grace, Bert, Etta, Grace, Norm, Al, Lucille, Paul and Virginia

**Praise and Thanksgiving** as we begin sharing our mission and ministry at TLC with Pastor Wes.

*Please note that full names and more details are listed in the church bulletin.*

## LIVING LUTHERAN

*A daily blend of stories, culture and community*

Check out the ELCA's new on line community:

[www.livinglutheran.com](http://www.livinglutheran.com)

What's Your Story? Tell us how you and your congregation are doing God's work with your hands.

E-mail us at [livinglutheran@elca.org](mailto:livinglutheran@elca.org)

### Support Fair Trade

By purchasing coffee, tea or chocolate here at TLC you are helping farmers build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. By supporting Fair Trade, we make choices in line with our religious beliefs and affirm human dignity by promoting:

- \* FAIR WAGES
- \* CHILDREN'S RIGHTS
- \* WOMEN'S RIGHTS
- \* THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE
- \* ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS
- \* INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

When employment is scarce or wages are too low, children suffer the most. They may have to work

long hours in fields or factories to help support the family rather than attend school. Families without reliable income can't provide sufficient and nutritious food or access basic health care, both of which negatively affect their children's health and development.

Other reasons to buy from TLC

- \*great prices (2.75 chocolate bars - 3.95 at co-op)
- \*organic coffee, tea and chocolate so convenient
- \*supports coffee hour

See Cheryl Greenstreet if you would like more information or have questions.



Please submit items for the October Mustard Seed by **Sept 20** Thanks!

### TLC Leaders & Contacts

#### Church Staff

Parish Pastor

Rev. Wesley H. Howell  
[pastorwes@trinitypullman.org](mailto:pastorwes@trinitypullman.org)

Organist/Pianist

Anne Secor  
[secor.anne@gmail.com](mailto:secor.anne@gmail.com)

Choir Director

Dr. Michael Murphy  
[michaelm@uidaho.edu](mailto:michaelm@uidaho.edu)

Office Manager

Megan Brannan  
[tlc@trinitypullman.org](mailto:tlc@trinitypullman.org)

#### Congregation Council

President

Mary Lauver

Vice-President/Christian Responsibility

Julie Pomerenk

Secretary

Kate Biernacki

Treasurer

Rill Rammelsberg

Financial Secretary

Brandon & Marilyn Burch

Christian Education

vacant

Evangelism

Annette Pettenger

Finance and Budget

Ken Myklebust

Property

Dan Dolan

Worship and Music

Eric Phillips

Women's Ministry

vacant

Youth and Family

Lisa Swanson

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
509.332.1985

[www.trinitypullman.org](http://www.trinitypullman.org)  
[tlc@trinitypullman.org](mailto:tlc@trinitypullman.org)

### Trinity Lutheran Church *where we are:*

**Called:** People of every nationality, language, education, age, ability, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, marital status and income.

**Gathered:** *To worship, learn and nurture.*

**Sent:** *All people, servants together, out into the world as brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*As your heart beats within you, you are welcome!*

We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation as recognized by Lutherans Concerned/North America.



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the past? What fear of the future? What struggle diminishes your sense of self worth and makes you feel less than whole as a person?

Friends, God's gracious word of promise disrupts all such fears and feelings that have you trapped. God says to you today, "You are not less than human. In Christ you are a new creation. I do not hold your sins against you anymore. You are not peripheral. I have taken you in my merciful arms. In Christ, you are reconciled to me and to those from whom you feel such deep alienation."

"Do not be afraid." This is God's gift of grace given to you for Jesus' sake. "How can this be?" It really is okay to be there with Mary, perplexed and pondering over the awe and the wonder of God's disrupting grace given to you for Jesus' sake.

"How can this be?" was more than Mary's response to Gabriel's greeting and announcement of her pregnancy. "How can this be?" became the refrain that became the response to the public ministry of Mary's child. As people saw Jesus extend the embrace of God's reign to outcasts and sinners, as Jesus embraced the despised and the diseased, as Jesus boldly healed on the Sabbath and engaged a Samaritan women in a public conversation about living water, as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead and rankled religious authorities, his critics cried out, "How can this be?"

Finally Jesus caused such disruption with God's gracious word of promise that the cry, "How can this be?" turned into shouts of "This must not be. Crucify him! Crucify him!" Even the angel's announcement on Easter morning, "He is not here. He is risen" left Jesus' followers fearful and bewildered, asking, "How can this be? How can it be that not even death has the final word with us?"

But it is tempting for us to stay there, is it not? It is tempting for us as the ELCA to be content as a "How can this be" church, a community that finds its comfort zone among the ponderers. Skepticism becomes our first response when someone tells us of God's disrupting, interrupting grace in their life. Suspicion becomes is our first posture toward our neighbor.

So are we ready for the Holy Spirit to move us with Mary? I believe that, as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are being moved by the power of the Holy Spirit to sing Mary's song of God's disrupting, dislocating, relocating power.

Oh, yes, I believe the Holy Spirit is moving us to sing Mary's Magnificat not only in the security of our

sanctuaries, but also in the public square. It will take the Spirit's power to embolden us to sing of God scattering the proud in the thoughts of their hearts and bringing down the powerful from their thrones.

In the midst of the gridlock over the debt ceiling and debt reduction debate, I went to Washington, D.C., to join other religious leaders in singing Mary's song about God's promise to fill the hungry with good things. But, I can tell you, the refrains of Mary's song were not resounding throughout those halls of power. There seemed to be more willingness to dismantle programs than to draw a circle of protection around those programs that serve the hungry, the homeless, the most vulnerable in our land and around the world.

Friends, you know and I know that religious leaders singing Mary's song are not packing people into sports stadiums for so-called religious rallies. In a consumer-oriented, competitive, what-has-God-done-for-me- lately? religious marketplace, we are not going to hear much about God dismantling structures that marginalize and exclude people in poverty or those whose race or gender or citizenship or sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities or health make them unwanted, unnoticed.

But that is Mary's song, and it is Mary's song that the Holy Spirit will give you the courage and voice to sing. It is Mary's song of God bringing the despised and the marginalized, the outcast and the downcast, the defeated and the denied, and even the dead into a new place. The place where God is building the new creation—the new community in Christ.

When we have been disrupted by God's grace, when we have been dislocated, when we have been knocked off balance by God's word of judgment and left wondering, "How can this be?" the Holy Spirit moves us. The Holy Spirit relocates us into God's abundant mercy, into a community of faith that with Mary believes "Nothing will be impossible with God."

Oh yes, this is who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—a community freed in Christ to serve. So let this assembly unfold. Come, Holy Spirit. Come with your power, Holy Spirit. Move us as you moved Mary. Move us to sing, to live Mary's song. Move us to faith. Move us to a living, daring confidence in God's grace. Move us to respond with Mary, "Here am I—here we are. Let it be to me—let it be to us, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, according to your word."

So, like Mary, are we ready to be moved by the power of the Holy Spirit? Don't forget—by adjournment Friday, we will have given our answer. Amen.