



Montana Synod Assembly June 5, 2010 Summary I I

Recognition of LPA's Graduates

- Jim Carlson, Bethel Great Falls
- Robin Daniels, First English Great Falls
- Traci Gibson, First Lutheran Wolf Point
- Susan Hedahl, First English Great Falls
- Gloria Lannen, Trinity Choteau
- Kathy Long, American Lutheran Chinook
- Virginia Rotering, Faith Hamilton
- Steve Smith, Bethel Great Falls
- Bud Veiz, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd Billings

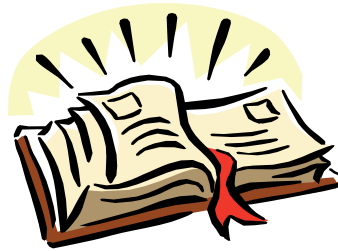
Congratulations!



Morning Prayer, with testimony given by Eric Bueling

- Do more listening than speaking
- Have more questions than answers
- Be God's reaction to the world action
- Change your plans frequently
- Live in the suffering of humanilty and relish the hope we have in Christ
- Love, pour out the love that God pours in. Be a colander not a bowl. There is such abundance in God's love for you that your colander will always be full.

Friday Evening Worship collection was \$1959 to go to LWR Haiti.



Bible Study, Given by Rev. Mark Gravrock

What if? God has a backward way of teaching. How does God demonstrate this, God leads us to engage with the world than welcomes us back to ask, "But what if..." Case of Abraham, Moses, the Syro-phoenecian woman. The question is who is teaching whom in these scriptures? God teaches each of these by having them teach God. In the case of Job the question is will human beings serve God freely or only for the goodies. We know that Job's suffering is undeserved. The issue for Job, "why am I suffering" is part of a moral calculus of if good things happen to you, you must have been faithful and bad things happen to you then. ... For Job, who did nothing wrong the question was why me? God responds with "I am God and you are not". God called Job to radical faithfulness by having Job teach God of radical faithfulness.

Key Note Speaker Rev. Dr. Jessicah Duckworth Session I

Faith Formation: A life long pursuit. What is faith? We, as Lutherans, say that we believe that we cannot believe with out the word of God. Formation occurs with relationship practices, narratives and the norms such as Sunday school, Confirmation, Bible study and Adult forums. Faith is the work of the Holy Spirit and formation is the work of the community. Barriers to life long formation can be fear: fear of failure, rejection, public speaking, criticism, what others think of us. So much of these fears relate to knowing, or not knowing. The desire to know everything and in reality, not knowing anything. These fears are always present, just below the surface. Yet we have a common confession that we can only see dimly. The theology of the cross is simultaneously hidden and revealed. In faith formation we gather at the foot of the cross where we anguish for God and God anguishes for us.

Credentials Report as of 11:15

June 5

Clergy Voting Members 115
Lay Voting Members 170
Visitors 73

Key Note Speaker Rev. Dr. Jessicah Duckworth Session II

Faith is a gift. With that understanding, we must learn with all our heart and soul and mind and body. We use practice as a lens for which we see ourselves.

The ELCA "Call to Discipleship" tells us to :

- Pray
- Study
- Worship
- Invite
- Encourage
- Serve
- Give

These are practices of faith.

Learning with our bodies. We must remember that faith is a gift not works. Our life is shaped at the foot of the cross not by what we do or have. Practices are daily dying and rising. Free from sin; free for service in love. Practices provided the soil for our faith practices. We must keep the central practices of our faith central. Our practices shape our identity and facilitate participation. When we practice over and over we become competent and our identity becomes one with the practice. An example would be the more we practice worship it becomes part of us and we begin to own it. In any practice, there needs to be trust since it is our very identity, our sense of belonging that we share with others. That is why there is a physical reaction, grief, when things change because our identity is being changed.

Talking about "it" doesn't lead to much. Practicing "it" leads to very much. Practice develops over time and time develops practice. Meaning arises out of practice. One can't help but reflect on practice in the midst of practicing.

Practicing Faith through prayer. Jesus teaches us to pray by giving us the Lord's Prayer. Yet for families, prayer is a hard thing to talk about around the dinner table. We can easily talk about the price of gas, the cost of a vacation but we have a difficult time talking about prayer. Yet when we do talk about prayer, we can have "Ah Ha" moments such as, why do we pray that prayer before every worship? The more we practice the prayer, the more it belongs to us.

Practices are tradition bearing. Tradition for tradition sake is no fun. But tradition that are alive and meaningful are exciting. Practice tells the story-my story, our story, a story and The story.

Practicing the faith develops competence, therefore we must teach the value of practice. Learning is not learning from talk but to talk. Practice makes it ours.

Spirit of Hope Award was given to Pastor Barb Westhoff and Pastor Chris Flohr. Congratulations!



Recognition of Anniversaries of Ordination

- 5th Anniversary
Rev. Collette E. Paul, Renton WA
- 10th Anniversary
Rev. William R. Dohle Jr., Columbus
Rev. Patricia C. Callaghan, Sunburst
Rev. Christine J. Card, Hardin
- 15th Anniversary
Rev. Maryann Morgenstern, Billings
Rev. Tim Christensen, Great Falls
- 20th Anniversary
Rev. Tim Trippel, Worland WY
Rev. Lawrence Stappler, Kalispell
- 25th Anniversary
Rev. Jerry Olson, Helena
Rev. Aprille Jordan, Missoula
- 30th Anniversary
Rev. Paul Seastrand, Lewistown
Rev. Mitchell Jones Jr., Cody, WY
- 35th Anniversary
Rev. Martin Dreyer
Rev. Dave Peters
Rev. Peter Ramseth, Lakeside
Rev. Joe Haugestren, Kalispell
- 40th Anniversary
Rev. Gray Cockrell, Kalispell
Rev. Michael Aune, Berkeley, CA
Rev. William Spencer, Powell WY
Rev. Lawrence Vinson, Cody WY
Rev. Richard Widerholdt, Polson
- 45th Anniversary
Rev. John Akre, Billings
Rev. Ronald Paulson, Helena
- 50th Anniversary
Rev. Ralph Holmlund, Hamilton
Rev. Raymond Johnson II, Cody WY
- 55th Anniversary
Rev. Herbert Strom, Bozeman
- 60th Anniversary
Rev. Everett Tande, Missoula
- 65th Anniversary
Rev. Olaf Borge, Great Falls
Rev. Irvin Gronneberg, Bozeman

What's Happening Next

Tonight at 7:30

Jeni Fleming Concert — Babcock Theater

Tomorrow

Wellness Walk 6:30

Luther Seminary/PLTS Breakfast — Petroleum Club
22nd Floor

Morning Prayer 8:30

Plenary III 9:00-11:00

Closing Worship at American Lutheran Church —
Bishop Elaine Stanovsky, UMC Preaching

