

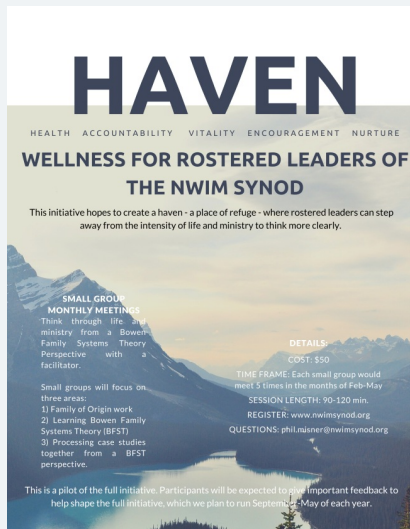


NWIM SYNOD NEWS

*Our mission:
Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to
live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.*

January 20, 2021

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PHIL MISNER



Dear people of the Northwest Intermountain Synod,

The root of the word “synod” in Greek is a combination of the prefix “sun,” which means “together,” and “hodos,” which is often translated as “way.” A literal definition could be those on the way together. Now, I don’t bring this up to give you all a language lesson. I am starting with this because it provides a good summary to how I approach my work as Assistant to the Bishop of the Northwest Intermountain Synod. How should we be on the way together? How do I accompany folks on this way? How do I make the easier...or harder? When do I point the way? Which way is it? How are we on the way? How are we? How are you?

Lately—especially with all that is going on in our world today, it has been those last two questions that have captured my imagination and energy. How are folks doing? How could the NWIM Synod create space for leaders to be as well as possible? Those questions led to many conversations. Those conversations have led to the formation of a framework in hopes of creating such a space. We are calling this framework HAVEN – Wellness for Rostered Leaders of the NWIM Synod.

Now HAVEN is more than the last name of a beloved pastor in our Synod. Our hope is that the initiative creates for our Rostered Leaders what its name means—a place of safe harbor; refuge. In that refuge, leaders can step away from the intensity of life and ministry to think more expansively and less reactively.

The framework has two components. One part consists of small groups of rostered leaders meeting monthly over Zoom with a facilitator to learn about and process life through a Bowen Family Systems Theory lens. The second part of the framework consists of larger plenary sessions with a panel or keynote speaker for learning, conversation, and growth.

Before the full HAVEN initiative is launched (we plan to have it run from Sept-May), we are starting a pilot. This pilot will only contain of small group part of the framework. Each small group will meet 4-5 times over the course of the spring and

will provide valuable learnings to help shape HAVEN going forward. The cost of the pilot for participants is only \$50, and the pilot is open to all rostered leaders of the NWIM Synod. More details can be found in the e-news, and you can always reach out to me if you have any questions.

I'm finding it difficult to convey how excited I am about HAVEN. Know that I am excited 😊. Also please know that I am grateful to be on the way with each of you.

God's peace be yours,
Pastor Phil Misner

[Download Poster](#)

Registration coming soon!

GLOBAL MISSION WORLD HUNGER ADVOCATES

Blessings to you as we navigate through these unusual times in the world and the Church! As we look forward to a new year with Lent on the Horizon, your NWIM World Hunger team has some news about how we can approach achieving a just world where all are fed.

Every 18 Months, the ELCA hosts a World Hunger Leadership Gathering. The next one is scheduled January 20-23, 2021. This one is virtual so all who are interested are invited to attend. To register, go to this site:

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger/Leadership-Gathering>

The theme for this gathering comes from John 6:1-14, *And All Were Satisfied*. We hope you are able to register and attend!

The Leadership Gathering brings together the national network of ELCA World Hunger leaders, congregations, and ministry partners for a time of networking, idea sharing, and planning for our shared work.

This year the NWIM World Hunger team has set three goals.

1. We would like to expand our team membership. If you are interested in working toward a just world where all are fed, please contact me at ebergman001@luthersem.edu. Especially if you are located in Idaho, Wyoming, or Oregon where membership on our team is conspicuous by the absence of team members from those states. Please prayerfully consider joining the NWIM World Hunger team!
2. 40 Days of Giving. We set as a goal to increase NWIM Synod wide giving to \$175,000 this year. ELCA World Hunger runs out of funds before we meet all the food insecurity needs. This expanded level of giving would increase NWIM ELCA World Hunger donations from \$172,000 last year and \$142,000 the year before. One idea to add a little bit of fun is to hand out M&M tubes the Sunday or week before Lent to your members. Then ask the congregation members to live it up by eating the M&Ms on Shrove Tuesday. Then during Lent, fill the tubes with quarters, dollars, or even checks. Then donate the contents of the M&M tube to ELCA World Hunger through your Church offerings. We pray this novelty may

- help remind us that there are poor and vulnerable ones among us who would benefit from our generosity
3. The third goal is to distribute ELCA World Hunger videos to all NWIM Synod congregations to use in their yearly programming to show the great works that ELCA World Hunger is doing world-wide to work toward a just world where all are fed.

Please find the videos at the following links:

- [Rick Steves: Why Support ELCA World Hunger](#). As you can see this first video is Rick Steves talking about the work that ELCA World Hunger is doing.
- [ELCA World Hunger promotional video](#). This second video shows where ELCA is working worldwide to achieve a world where all are fed.
- And there are many more videos at ELCA World Hunger to use to promote ELCA World Hunger in your congregations. Please follow the link below to see more videos. [ELCA World Hunger playlist](#).

Good Gifts Catalog

ELCA World Hunger has a *Good Gifts Catalog* that provides the opportunity to serve God's people by purchasing gifts that go to households in the US and around the world who benefit from these additions to their family.

Although we often think of the Good Gifts Catalog during Advent and Christmas, yet the Good Gifts Catalog is always an effective way to provide gifts for loved ones and also to provide needed animals and other items for our sisters and brothers around the world.

You can go online at <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> or call at 800-638-3522 to order gifts in the name of those you love.

Thank you for considering these requests and resources. God's Peace be with you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

[All Events](#)

January 20-23

2021 ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering - Virtual

The ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering brings together the national network of ELCA World Hunger leaders, congregations, and ministry partners every 18 months for a time of networking, idea sharing, and planning for our shared work. You can learn more about the 2021 ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in the [schedule](#).

To register, visit bit.ly/2021WHLG and [email us](#) with questions. See you there!

January 21

NWIM Synod Leaders Check In

Lay and rostered leaders are invited to a Zoom meeting at 9:30am PST/10:30am MST to check in with one another during these pandemic days. Time will be spent dwelling in the Word with one another and reflecting together on what it is to be the church during this time... and how we imagine the Holy Spirit is moving among us.

January 23

Synod Council Meeting beginning at 9am

February 4

Round Table Topics

Lay and rostered leaders are invited to a Zoom meeting at

9:30am PST/10:30am MST. Hear a brief overview/introduction by a Synod staff member or others, followed by discussion and sharing knowledge from all leaders in the synod.

February 18

NWIM Synod Leaders Check In

Lay and rostered leaders are invited to a Zoom meeting at 9:30am PST/10:30am MST to check in with one another during these pandemic days. Time will be spent dwelling in the Word with one another and reflecting together on what it is to be the church during this time... and how we imagine the Holy Spirit is moving among us.

April 24

Northwest Intermountain Synod Assembly

SAVE THE DATE! This will be a digital event.

MORE WAYS TO ENGAGE

REMINDER

REPORTS AND INFORMATION NEEDED



Links to the following forms and reports are listed on our website at nwimsynod.org/resource-docs.

- Parochial/Congregation Form A and C
- 2021 Mission Intent Form
- Rostered Minister Report
- Congregation Information Form

2021 VIRTUAL EASTERN WASHINGTON LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Join us online for the 2021 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference 'Beyond Words: Doing Justice'

The conference will be held on Zoom from 8:50 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 30. The conference, co-sponsored by The Fig Tree, Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington, the Faith Action Network, Earth Ministries and the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, informs people of faith on issues coming in the upcoming session of the Washington State Legislature and ways to be involved.

Keynote speaker Walter Kendricks, pastor of Morning Star Baptist Church in Spokane, will share insights on the theme "Beyond Words: Doing Justice." **Four panelists**, moderated by Gen Heywood, pastor of Veradale United Church of Christ, are **Kiantha Duncan**, president of the Spokane NAACP; **Phil Misner**, assistant to the Northwest Intermountain Synod bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; **Chalo Martinez**, a Catholic deacon whose career was as a probation/parole officer, and **Margo Hill**, an attorney, leader in Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and EWU associate professor in urban planning.

Participants may attend two workshops, also on Zoom and recorded. The sessions are on issues related to the environment, budget and revenue, policing, racism and public health, housing and immigration.

A "Legislative Briefing" on the status of 2021 legislation proposals will be led by Paul Benz of FAN, Jessica Zimmerle of Earth Ministry and Donna Christensen of the Washington State Catholic Conference.

Participants need to REGISTER IN ADVANCE to receive the link.

Those interested in registering may send a donation of \$20, or \$15 each for group of 5+, or rsvp for scholarship with their email to
The Fig Tree, 1323 S. Perry St., Spokane, WA 99202.

OR

RSVP ONLINE at by clicking **HERE**.

For information, call 509-535-1813, email event@thefigtree.org.

[Website](#)

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