



Northwest Intermountain Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

From Pastor Phil

Dear people across the Northwest Intermountain Synod,

Synod Assembly is less than 2 weeks away! From April 28-30, 250 people from across the NWIM Synod will gather bega kwa bega, that is shoulder to shoulder, with one another and guests from near and far.

Please continue to pray for the voting members, all the people standing for election to the variety of positions, for our guests, for the hotel and conference staff, and for the Holy Spirit's guidance as we discern important decisions in Assembly together.



As I type, voting members are receiving an email from Election Runner, our secure and simply online voting platform, so that each voting member can practice with the platform before coming to Pasco. (Voting members, here is your reminder to check your inbox or SPAM folder for the email from 2023 For more information about the 2023 NWIM Synod Assembly simply [click here](#).

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for being bega kwa bega – on the way, shoulder to shoulder together. And thanks be to God for the love and grace, for the support and guidance showered upon us!

Pastor Phil Misner

Featured

Sacred Grounds Series for Spring



"Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity.

"The 11-part series is built around a powerful online curriculum of documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories."

In partnership with the Diocese, Pr. Kimmy Meinecke will be offering another round of these sessions beginning Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10:00am - noon. The sessions will all be held via Zoom, so folks from around the area can

participate without having to worry about driving distances. There will be 11 sessions in all, and the dates are:

- April 22
- May 6 and 20
- June 3 and 24
- July 8 and 22
- August 5 and 19
- September 2 and 16

To register (free), please go to the [Episcopal Diocese of Spokane webpage](#). You do NOT need to be Episcopalian to participate! Deadline to register is April 20th.



Worship Service Resources for Earth Day Sunday (April 23, 2023)

Spring! The temperature in Spokane recently hit 50 degrees for the first time in 129 days since last fall. The sun is higher in the sky. The soil is warmer. It's the time of year when animals are born, and we look forward to the first harvest of early season vegetables and the colorful blooms of fruit trees. Spring is the season of new life here in the Northern Hemisphere, and we Lutherans celebrate the Easter gift of the new creation we become through Christ.

Since 1970 spring is also the time when the U.S. celebrates Earth Day. The associated Sunday is an opportunity for us to give thanks for God's creation (the source of all we have!) and to remember our God-given vocation to care for it. Lutherans Restoring Creation offers a free virtual worship for congregations who want to incorporate creation care into their worship on Sunday April 23rd. This year's homily is given by [Rev. Dr. Guy Erwin](#), who is president of United Lutheran Seminary and an enrolled member of the Osage Nation.

The Earth Day virtual worship has options for congregations to integrate it into their Sunday worship in ways that fit their context. It includes Greeting, Word, and Sending portions of the liturgy. Readings are from the Revised Common Lectionary for the day. Congregations may choose to use just the homily, portions of the liturgy integrated into their own worship service, or the entire virtual worship from beginning to end. Bulletin materials also are provided. Last year's Earth Day worship is [on YouTube](#) and gives an idea of what to expect. The materials for this year's worship will be available for download starting April 9th to all who [register online](#).

Lutherans Restoring Creation is a non-profit organization promoting creation care within the ELCA and cultivating a community of dedicated stewards of earth

and neighbor. The annual Earth Day virtual worship service is one of many resources they offer. Their [commentary series](#) brings an eco-theological hermeneutic to each Sunday's lectionary readings. The Lutherans Restoring Creation [website](#) has tools for congregations who want to incorporate creation care into their faith practices. For more information about Lutherans Restoring Creation or questions about creation care practices in general, email Deaconess Katrina Martich at contact@katrinamartich.com

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