



MONTANA SYNOD

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The Season of Epiphany, 2011

Dear Montana Synod Congregation Members,

Greetings from the 130 other congregations of the Montana Synod as you prepare for your Annual Meeting! With our 130 congregations, five social ministries, camps, campus ministries, continuing education (NRIT), Lay Pastoral Associates, companion synods in both Bolivia and South Africa, Women of the ELCA, Lutheran Men in Mission and more, we provide vibrant ministry across Montana and Northern Wyoming. And we do that because we are stronger together than we are apart.

Thank you for being part of this church that feeds the hungry, that visits the imprisoned, that nurtures children, that teaches the Bible, that starts new congregations, that works ecumenically. Thank you for being part of this church that preaches and teaches and worships in gatherings large and small, that reaches out to neighbors near and far, in our communities and across the globe. We can do that because we are stronger together than we are apart.

Because we work together in the Montana Synod, we are able to envision starting a new congregation in the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge. A Task Force is working hard to iron out details. The success of the project hinges on congregations of the Montana Synod (including yours) volunteering to take a Sunday once a year in the prison. Can you imagine your congregation doing that? Mission opportunities abound!

Because we work together in the Montana Synod, we have the ministry of Lutheran Social Services, providing adoption and birth family counseling services, as well as disaster response coordination. We work together ecumenically with the Montana Association of Churches, and have full communion relationships with six other denominations with whom we can share ministers and find new ways to serve rural and urban communities.

Thank you for your faithful response to God's love that makes all of this possible.

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another."

Yours in Christ

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Our Mission:

"Marked by the cross of Christ forever, abundantly blessed, we faithfully serve God and neighbor."