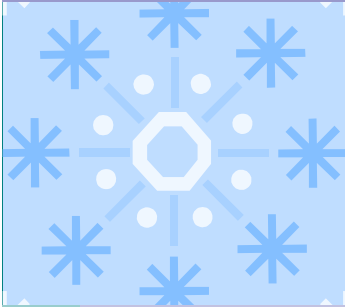


January 15, 2012



MONTANA SYNOD, ELCA

Montana Synod Newsletter

Words from the Bishop—“We will all be changed by the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ” (I Cor. 15: 51-58)

January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Beginning with the Confession of Peter, and concluding with the Conversion of Paul, the Week of Prayer is celebrated throughout the world. (Churches in the southern hemisphere often celebrate on Pentecost instead.) Many communities in our territory use this week as a time to do ecumenical pulpit exchanges and community ecumenical services, as a witness to our unity in Christ.

As ELCA Lutherans we are ecumenical. We seek out relationships with other Christians. We have full communion agreements, including altar and pulpit fellowship, with the Presbyterian Church, the United Church of Christ, the Reformed Church in America, the Episcopal Church, the Moravian Church and the United Method-

ists. In our synod we live out those relationships with joint congregations, shared pastors, and other forms of cooperation locally. In addition, the ELCA has a recent agreement of mutual respect and affirmation with the AME Zion Church, an historically African American Church, and long-standing dialogues with the Orthodox Churches and with the Roman Catholic Church. In February I will be attending a two-day meeting at the Vatican, along with Presiding Bishop Hanson, to promote Christian unity.

Do all Christians agree on all issues? Certainly not. But we who believe that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, we who believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, we

who believe in the Triune God—we cannot afford not to proclaim the Good News to the world in conjunction with our sisters and brothers who call themselves Christians. We cannot afford to present a divided, quarrelsome face to the world so longing for something better.

Anyone who has been to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem can attest to the scandal of a Christianity that competes rather than cooperates. More than half a dozen religious groups claim pieces of the church that sits on top of where Jesus' body was to have been laid. There is even a group that claims the roof. So rancorous is the relationship among the building's occupants that a Muslim man has been hired to lock and unlock the door

each day. And, no, Lutherans are not among those fighting for a piece of the real estate, but not because we are any more virtuous or spiritual. It's just that the pie had already been divided before the Protestant Reformation. The scandal of division in Jerusalem serves as a potent reminder to us all—“there but by the grace of God go we.”

I commend your ecumenical celebrations this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and throughout the year. And I commend your ongoing prayers and work towards Christian unity. We will have opportunity to dig deeper into this topic at our Synod Assembly and Theological Con-

ference June 1-3 in Billings. Our keynote speaker is Kathryn Lohre, new President of the National Council of Churches, and an ELCA staff person for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations. I look forward to seeing you there.

A final personal note: In December I enjoyed a minisabbatical—the first month of three away from the office. I was able to spend some time with my sister tending to our mother's home and estate, and then Turner and I were able to spend some time in Germany (Berlin and Wittenberg) and Greece with our children. I am grateful to all of

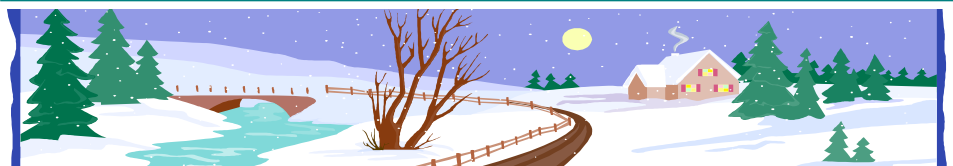
you who encouraged me and kept us in prayer (and welcomed us back!), and to our staff (Susan Hedahl, Susan Smith, Pr. John Allen, Pr. Dave Peters and Pr. Walt Kirkegaard) who kept things going in my absence.

In Christ,

Jessica Crist, Bishop

***See p. 4(Announcements and Links) for links to resources for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

Also see a letter from Bishop Crist and a packet of information on Abolition Sundays [here](#)



News Notes



Call Accepted

Doug Peterson, to Jocko Valley, Arlee, 1/1/12

Brad Ulgenes, from First, Havre, to St. John's, Helena, 1/17/12

Interim

Joe Wahlin, to First, Plains 1/1/12

Joel Westby, to LCGS, Billings, contract extended

Ron Martin-Dent, from Interim, Messiah, Billings, to Interim, Faith, Lander, WY

Val Metropoulos, Interim, First English, Great Falls, contract extended

Retired

Betty Mawbey, from Nathanael,

Volmer, to Casitas Del Rio, 1217 W. Bell, Glendive, MT 59330, (406)377-1918, prb@midrivers.com

Transfer

Jim Locke, from First, Circle, to Our Savior's, Rock Valley, Iowa, 1/31/12

Cal Oraw, from Zion, Fairview, to Senior Pastor, St. John's, Dickenson, ND, 12/11/11

Congregations in Transition

Key = V – Vacancy, I – Interim Assigned, S – Served by Semi-nary Intern, L - Served by LPA or SAM, C-Call Process Active (Interviewing Candidates)

~~~~~  
Billings, Good Shepherd, V I  
Billings, Messiah, V I  
Bozeman, Hope, V I Lead  
Broadus, V SAM (pending)  
Circle, V  
Columbus, V  
Fairview, V I  
Frenchtown, Valley of Christ, V I  
Great Falls, First English, V, I  
Hardin, First, V SAM  
Missoula, Prince of Peace, V  
Kalispell, Bethlehem, V I  
Plains, V I



## Talk About Being Generous . . . Bible Scavenger Hunt

Fellow Over-worked and Well-loved Pastors and Youth Directors,

Do you have a work-hangover from the holidays? When someone mentions "planning" something do you automatically look for the nearest hiding place? Do your hands shake when you don't have any coffee to drink? Well, the Mission Table has one last texting gift for you that can (partially) alleviate these symptoms!

Our final texting program is a self-contained and youth-tested Biblical [scavenger hunt](#) for your confirmation and/or

### *Three Easy Steps!*

youth groups!

Break the kids up into teams... make them do it on their own... it doesn't matter! The activity encourages those ever-

important Bible skills and discusses why Christians are generous people at the same time. And, most importantly, it represents 30-45 minutes of activity that you don't have to plan!

So, have another cup of coffee (or tea) and take a nap. Because, we have your confirmation lesson plan or youth group activity for this week (or next, any time during January!) figured out!

The Montana Synod Mission Table

## Lilly Endowment Announces 2012 National Clergy Renewal Program

**Lilly Endowment**, an Indianapolis-based, private philanthropic foundation, seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing an opportunity for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for drinking again from God's life-giving waters, for regain-

ing enthusiasm and creativity for ministry.

In the 2012 National Clergy Renewal Program, the Endowment anticipates awarding as many as 150 grants of up to \$50,000 each directly to Christian congregations for the support of a renewal program for their pastor. Up to \$15,000 of the grant may be used for congregational expenses associated with the re-

newal program.

**Deadline for submission of proposals is May 11, 2012.** Notification of grant awards will be made in September 2012.

More at: <http://www.clergyrenewal.org/>



## Synod Youth News

### REGISTER NOW FOR THE SYNOD SKI RETREAT



Join us in Bozeman over the weekend of February 26-28 for a High School Ski retreat! For only \$99 a person you will enjoy 2 nights lodging at Hope Lutheran Church, a full day of skiing, music, speakers, a pool party, games, new friends, and much more! For more

information about this event please contact Paul Goodman, Director of youth and family ministry at Hope Lutheran Church at

[Paul.goodman@hopebozeman.com](mailto:Paul.goodman@hopebozeman.com)

**The brochure is on the**

### Montana Synod Website

at <http://montanasynod.org/newsletters/1211/mtsynodskiretreat2012.pdf>



### SAVE THE DATE APRIL 20-22 SYNODWIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL GATHERING

Join us at Camp on the Boulder for a weekend of learning, music, service and

fun! This retreat is a confirmation retreat and is open to all current confirmation students and their friends! Check your mail for more information.

### YOUTH MINISTRY TRAINING EVENTS

Coming to a city near you! Paul Goodman, ELCA Youth Gathering Coach and Director of youth and family ministry at Hope Lutheran in Bozeman will be making the rounds this spring to provide training events for your clusters. He will be contacting cluster deans in the near future to set up 3-5 hour training events in your area! Please make plans to attend these important events.

Paul Goodman

[Paul.Goodman@hopebozeman.com](mailto:Paul.Goodman@hopebozeman.com)

## Lens to the Natural World, a book by Rev. Kenneth H. Olson

“This book challenges the divide between faith and science. Refusing simplistic answers to complex questions, Ken Olson eloquently walks the reader along a path through philosophy, science, theology, and history. While fluent in the language of contemporary scientific discovery, Olson reminds us of the truly educated gentleman-naturalist, whose grasp of biology, astronomy, paleontology, literature, philosophy, and theology presents a

well-rounded and delightfully readable book.” These words, by Bishop Jessica Crist, introduce a new book written by the Montana Synod’s very own Rev. Ken Olson.

*Reflections on Dinosaurs,  
Galaxies, and God*

A flyer with a description of the book, and ordering instructions from the publisher may be found [here](#)



Lens to the Natural World  
REFLECTIONS ON DINOSAURS, GALAXIES, AND GOD

Kenneth H. Olson  
Foreword by John R. Hoptner

## Still time to Help Our Saviour's, Rocky Boy Challenge Grant.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Rocky Boy's Agency, recently received a \$5,000 “Lutheran Community Economic Outreach Bridge Grant” from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation, based on its mission, financial stability, effectiveness in addressing basic needs such as food, clothing or shelter, use of volunteers and creativity.

Our Saviour's was one of 81 Lutheran organizations and congregations selected to receive funding as part of the final

phase of this pilot program. Organizations receiving the grant were also eligible to participate in an **additional \$10,000 challenge grant in which funds raised by the organization would be matched by the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation dollar for dollar.**

“What a wonderful opportunity this is for our congregation to increase our outreach in the community through making our Rummage Sale Room a healthier and

safer place,” said Pastor Linda Webster of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. “We appreciate all that Thrivent provides, but today we are especially thankful for the Economic Bridge Grant!”

**For each dollar donated between Nov. 1, 2011 and Jan. 31, 2012, the foundation will supplement dollar for dollar up to \$10,000.** You may designate this in your regular synod benevolence to “Matching funds - Thrivent EOB Grant.”

## Announcements, Links and Miscellaneous

☀ See the **NRIT** Newsletter [here](#) for information on the always popular Midwinter Theological Conference, in addition to upcoming events this spring and summer.



☀ Resources for a **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** January 18 – 25, 2012. For more information and worship resources from the World Council of Churches [here](#). More resources at the Graymoor Ecumenical and Interreligious Institute [here](#)

☀ Last fall the world received the happy news that Leymah Gbowe, a life-long Liberian Lutheran, had won the Nobel Peace Prize. At the same time,

Bette McCrandall was honored by ELCA global mission for 30 years of service as a missionary in Liberia. Find out why she is nicknamed "the Mother Teresa of the ELCA". This [bulletin insert](#) also directs members of your congregation to websites that provide more information about supporting our missionaries around the world. (Cindy Larsen, Montana Synod mission interpreter)

☀ **Webinars for Rural Churches and Communities** Circle-M is offering webinars for leaders in rural churches and communities whose members might have to face crisis (e.g. weather-related, economic down-turns, accidents, crimes, etc). Four 2-hour sessions can be accessed by participants using lap-top computers and conference call equipment.

**Dates and Times:** Sat. afternoons – Jan 28, Feb 4, Feb 18, March 3. **Registration Deadline:** Jan 19, 2012. for details see [www.circle-m.ca](http://www.circle-m.ca). Joyce Sasse (403)627-5659)

☀ From Harold Spilde, Montana Synod Treasurer: I would like to take this opportunity to thank the congregations who have supported the mission of the Montana Synod and the larger church. Our 11 and 1/2 month financial report: Income: \$906,680.35 Expenses: \$852,214.05 Our budgeted income was \$954,500, so we are at nearly 95% income. Thank you again for your faithful support.

☀ And, on a slightly smaller financial matter, thank you to those of you

who dropped the change from your pockets or purses into the World Hunger Giving Boxes at the Synod Office. We recently sent a \$60 check to ELCA World Hunger from the change in those boxes.

☀ Pastor Alvina Olstead was a member of the Rural Ministry team which met the last couple of years, spearheaded by Pr. Arden Barden. One of the suggestions was a bibliography of books that address rural ministry. Alvina put that together and you can find it [here](#).

☀ **Youth in Mission** is accepting applications for its upcoming *Serv-*

*ing Christ in the World* 2012 program. [www.lstc.edu/yim](http://www.lstc.edu/yim). Kristin Johnson, YIM Program, LSTC



☀ Luther Seminary and PLTS invite you to use this year's **Lenten Devotional, "Water Marks,"** in your congregation or send copies to your family and friends. Devotionals are \$15 per 25. To place an order for multiple copies, call 651-641-3440, toll free at 800-541-4187, or email [bookstore@luthersem.edu](mailto:bookstore@luthersem.edu). Please place your order for Lenten Devotionals by Jan. 20, 2012. Sign up to receive the devotionals via email at

[www.luthersem.edu/lent](http://www.luthersem.edu/lent). This year, we're also teaming with Augsburg Fortress, which provides extended versions of the devotionals found in "Water Marks," as well as additional study tools, in a larger book. Visit the Augsburg Fortress [website](#) to order this extended version of "Water Marks"

☀ 31st **Annual Rural Ministry Conference**. March 4 - 6, 2012

**Early Bird Registration Ends Feb. 6th!** Where leaders in rural communities and congregations gather to gain insight and inspiration, to network and neighbor that our ministries might be empowered.

## Beyond the ELW: Exploring Music and Projection

**Presenters: Julie Long and Michele McGuirl**

Have you been using the ELW for a few years? Are you unfamiliar with the ELW and are interested in exploring this resource and others? It's a great time to share ideas, explore the ELW further and see companion resources that have been published.

Are you using projection in worship and want to share ideas and experiences?

Have you been thinking about it and don't know where or how to start? Many are discovering and are challenged by the use of image projection to lead songs and enhance sermon and worship themes. Come and share your experiences and learn how to effectively use technology in worship.

Join us in Butte at Gloria Dei Lutheran on Saturday Feb. 11 from 10-3 registration begins at 9:30). Hosted by Butte pastors Adam Barnhart, Tim Christensen and Sandy Van Zyl, is for all interested clergy

and lay people involved in worship and music. Much of our music is shared in many worship books across denominational lines so invite your ecumenical neighbors.

Cost is \$15.00 and includes lunch. Contact Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Butte (406-723-9182) and let them know how many are coming so lunch. CEU available through NRIT. Questions? Contact Julie Long ([elcamom@hotmail.com](mailto:elcamom@hotmail.com)) or 529-3869. Julie Long and Michele McGuirl

## News from Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

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Registration is open for the 2012 Summer at FLBC! Contact the Camp Office for your own brochure of programs or register online, [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net), [office@flbc.net](mailto:office@flbc.net), 406-752-6602.

Share the gift of Camp this summer and receive a \$50 credit! Receive a \$50 Camp credit when you bring a friend to Camp who has never been to FLBC before. Contact the Camp to receive your credit.

Applications for summer staff positions are available at [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)!



Sign up today for the Youth Group Ski Retreat, January 20-

22, 2012. This retreat is a great opportunity for fellowship with other junior and senior high youth groups. The Camp will provide all meals, and evening activities including games, worship, bonfire, and more. Contact Aaron Ells, 406-844-3201, [Aaron@flbc.net](mailto:Aaron@flbc.net)

Mark your calendars for the **Renew Retreat** for those who minister to youth and families. Pastors, parents, youth ministers and volunteers are invited to hear Dr. Andrew Root, noted professor, speaker and author, share about youth ministry in three sessions titled: "Relationships Unfiltered."

March 1-3, 2012

Co-sponsored by NRIT and FLBC Retreat begins March 1 with 6:30 supper and ends before lunch on March 3. \$160 for room/board and tuition. To register contact Brooke Ells.

Brooke Ells  
Program Director  
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp  
406-844-3201  
[www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)  
[Brooke@flbc.net](mailto:Brooke@flbc.net)



## Was your Congregation Insured by Charity First? Read this. . .

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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT  
(TIME SENSITIVE -RESPONSE  
NEEDED)

INSURANCE BROKERAGE ANTI-  
TRUST LITIGATION - CLASS AC-  
TION SETTLEMENT

**TO:** All Eligible ELCA Congregations and Synods having held liability and/or property insurance coverage through Charity First for the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005, or any portion thereof

**FROM:** ELCA – Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary

The ELCA was awarded a net amount of \$57,648.97 in settlement of a class-action suit involving Charity First, former ad-

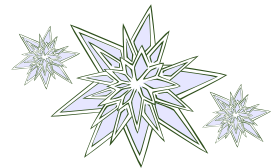
ministrators of the ELCA-endorsed synodical and congregational insurance program during the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005.

In accordance with action of the ELCA Church Council, the ELCA Office of the Treasurer and Office of the Secretary are to distribute settlement proceeds to eligible congregations and synods. Eligible congregations and synods are defined as those holding liability and/or property insurance coverage through Charity First during the period August 26, 1994 through September 1, 2005, or any portion thereof.

Each eligible congregation and synod must complete the attached Claim Form

in order to receive a portion of the proceeds. Please submit the completed, signed Claim Form to the ELCA – Office of the Treasurer via U.S. mail or e-mail on or before **February 20, 2012**. Claim Forms postmarked or sent electronically after February 20, 2012 will be ineligible for the distribution. If you have any questions you may contact the ELCA Office of the Treasurer at 773-380-2892 or via e-mail at [otinfo@elca.org](mailto:otinfo@elca.org)

**THIS ANNOUNCEMENT AND A  
DOWNLOADABLE CLAIM FORM  
ARE AVAILABLE [here](#)**



## Hetzel Foundation has Grant Money Available

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The **Hetzel Foundation** is looking for qualified agencies to share its grant monies with. **The Foundation** can provide funding for new project seed money, program development, consultation/analysis, strategic planning, pilot programs, or staff development that keep

with a **clear mission-oriented purpose**. Agencies, institutions, and ministries which **serve the elderly and youth in the Montana Synod of the ELCA** can apply for these monies by contacting Kerry at 406 656-1969 or via e-mail @ [christikonsec@aol.com](mailto:christikonsec@aol.com) by **March 1,**

**2012.**

*The William and Blanche Hetzel Foundation, Inc.*

**P. O. Box 22276 Billings, MT 50104-2276**

## Bullying People with a Disability

Who would ever bully a person with a disability? Unfortunately, from personal experience, I can tell you it happens. Our family includes a 16-year-old daughter with autism and attention deficit disorder, a 19-year-old son with Tourette's syndrome, reactive attachment, obesity, and post traumatic stress disorder; and an older adult with a disability. Our children have experienced being bullied in many ways by both individuals and groups.

Mental Health America describes two types of bullying: Direct" (more obvious) and Indirect" (harder to identify and harder to stop). Direct bullying includes: pushing, shoving, hitting, kicking, tripping, destroying belongings, name-calling and teasing. Indirect bullying is leaving someone out of a group, spread-

ing rumors and cyber-bullying. As a person with Tourette's our son was often teased and called names inside the school and more often on the playground about his weight and 'tics' (vocal, physical spasms of head, feet, hands), which led him to tic even more severely, sometimes 20-40 times a minute. Our daughter was also teased about her lack of focus and poor social skills, and in response retreated deeper into her own little world of make believe to find comfort, a characteristic of many persons with autism. Teasing and name calling are hard enough to experience, but even more painful is being left out of a group. While most kids are friendly to one another in the school environment, friendships (other than with another person with a disability) typically stop outside the

school doors. It's tough enough to eat lunch isolated in the cafeteria, but to almost never be invited to a party or social gathering outside of school is disheartening for the kids and makes me angry as a parent! Fortunately our local school now has a zero tolerance for bullying addressing "direct bullying" but is not as proactive against indirect bullying.

So, who would ever bully a person with a disability? Certainly no one in church! God's people don't hit, kick, tease or name call or engage in other direct bullying behaviors, but indirect bullying does occur in congregations by well meaning adult brothers and sisters in Christ. Our family has experienced being asked to sit in the back of the church because our children's ticking and hyperactivity were

too disruptive. I felt like Rosa Parks! In another congregation the people with disabilities all sat together and persons without a disability rarely sat near them. Much of the indirect bullying stems from a lack of awareness and understanding of the myriad of disabilities and engaging persons with disabilities. I am very proud of our Montana Synod for passing an anti-bullying resolution in 2011 and Bishop Crist for putting together an active leadership group to address, educate, prevent

bullying and advocate for those who are bullied. In addition, our ELCA has written a "Message on Human Disabilities" calling us to be a welcoming and inclusive church for all God's people available. Check it out on line at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

Thank you for the opportunity to share my personal story with you. By the way, I am the other adult in our family with a disability. You can read about my disa-

bility and journey integrated in a 2011 sermon on "The Parable of the Talents". ([See here](#)).

Kim L. Wilker, Pastor Messiah Lutheran Church Red Lodge MT



## Ethics Training

What: Ethics Training

When: February 24-25 (Fri-Sat)

Where: First Baptist Church, Billings

Time: 3pm Fri. through 4pm on Saturday.

Cost: \$55, includes dinner, lunch, refreshments and all materials.

The training is geared for both clergy and lay people. A brochure that can be printed and mailed or sent electronically with full details and registration info will be ready around Jan 9<sup>th</sup>.

The general topics to be covered will be:

- Sexual misconduct and establishing boundaries (with a systems approach

based on the book [Clergy Sexual Misconduct](#) by John Thorburn and Rob Baker), including a presentation on the need for good self-care to help keep boundaries in place.

- Financial integrity for personal and church funds
- Reducing the risk of child abuse (which satisfies insurance companies' request/requirement for training for youth/children's workers)
- Electronic ethics/boundaries

For more information and registration, go to [www.abcnw.org](http://www.abcnw.org) or call (208)773-2733

Patti Duckworth

Associate Executive Minister, ABC of the Northwest

**Note: ELCA clergy, Youth Leaders, LPAs: If you need to take a Boundaries Class, this would qualify.**

**The Montana Synod will be offering a Boundaries Class just prior to the Pastoral Conference at Chico on April 10, 2012.**

# Freedom in Christ Prison Congregation Project



Happy New Year to everyone! 2012 is shaping up to be an exciting year for Freedom in Christ! The Call Committee continued to interview candidates in December and hopefully we will soon have a new pastor. Please join us in prayer as the Call Committee continues their work in finding our new pastor!

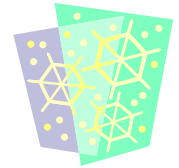
Thank you for all your support during 2011. We certainly experienced much *grace in unexpected places* last year! Your donations and prayers are helping to lay the foundation for the new congregation at Montana State Prison. We are a little behind in our time line of meeting our goals, but we know that God is in charge and leading the way. The new congregation will be stronger with the "just right" pastor at the helm.

Upcoming is a synod-wide fund raiser. We are currently working out the details and hopefully will have more news to share by the end of the month. We will need an army of volunteers throughout the Synod to help us with this endeavor. If you may be interested in helping, please contact Bea Rosenleaf, Project Administrator at [freedominchrist2011@live.com](mailto:freedominchrist2011@live.com) or call her at 560-4993.

Due to the nature of prison congregations, it takes outside congregations and individuals to support these ministries. You have been there for us in the past few years and we hope you will continue to be with us in the future. We need not only financial support, but lots of prayers. You are so appreciated!

Remember, we do have a website (hopefully it will be more active in the coming months), and you can make donations through Pay Pal on the website. It's quick and convenient! You can find our website at: <http://www.ficprisonministry.com>.

Bea Rosenelaf  
Project Administrator



## Free Webinars

The Lutheran Community Foundation is sponsoring some free Webinars as part of their Ending Family Violence Initiative.

Some topics include:

- How to Reduce the Risk of Child Abuse in the Church
- Stop Teen Violence Before it Starts
- Domestic Violence 101 for Christian

Clergy

- What to do if a Registered Sex Offender Comes to Church

A complete list of topics with their summaries may be found [here](#).

All of the seminars are free and open to anyone - just register online at: <http://www.faitrustinstitute.org/training/upcoming-webinars>

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who might be interested.

**Katharine English**

Office of the Secretary, ELCA  
Phone: 800/638-3522 ext. 2813 or 773/380-2813; Fax: 773/380-2977

[Katharine.English@elca.org](mailto:Katharine.English@elca.org)  
[ELCA.org](http://ELCA.org)

## Meet Your Synod Council Member

Cindy Larsen,  
Montana Synod Mission Interpreter

Here is the first is an occasional series on the men and women who represent you as part of the Montana Synod Council. How is faith lived out in the lives of these leaders of our synod?

First up is Cheryl Muncy of Chester who represents the Golden Triangle Cluster of the Montana Synod. She has always been active in local church activities and in the Montana Synod. In the '90's she was a leader in the Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) for many years. Cheryl now is a Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) and is the Synodically Authorized Minister for the new Sanctuary of

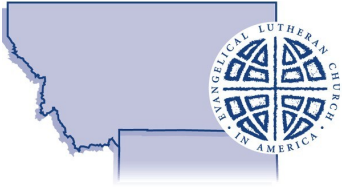
Hope Ministry in Chester.

Cheryl has also been active in her town. She has been the office manager of Chester's grocery store for thirty six years. She has been in charge of the senior high graduation party for four years.

Music is one of her passions. Not only has she helped with the music program in the schools but she has sung as the one woman in the Hi-Line Men's Chorus + One Good Woman. Cheryl has worked to raise money for Hi-Line Women Against Breast Cancer, involving a golf tournament and a "pink

tea", where she hosted a table honoring survivors. She also lives out her faith by working actively in the VFW, helping veterans in her area. This only describes a portion of what Cheryl does in the many facets of her life. Somehow she still has time to read, paint, and swim.

Thank you, Cheryl, for your service, not only to the Montana Synod and Sanctuary of Hope, but also to the needs of your Chester community.



**MONTANA SYNOD, ELCA**

2415 13 Ave So.  
Great Falls, MT 59405

Phone: 406-453-1461

Fax: 406-761-4632

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

**www.montanasynod.org**



## Calendar

### January, 2012

13 Newsletter posted to website  
16 Martin Luther King Holiday  
30-2/1 NRIT Midwinter-Essex  
31 Intents from Congregations due

### February, 2012

5 Newsletter Deadline  
15 Newsletter to website  
15 Parochials due  
16 Lutheran Insert Articles Due  
20 Presidents' Day Holiday  
22 Ash Wednesday  
23 -25 Synod Council, Great Falls  
29 Reports to the Bishop due

### March, 2012

Montana Synod in The Lutheran—Insert  
1-3 NRIT -FLBC Youth & Fam. Min. Retreat  
5 Newsletter Deadline  
11 Daylight Savings begins  
15 Corporation Reports due to Secretary of State  
15 Newsletter to website



+ **The Montana Synod Newsletter is published on the 15th of each month. Articles are due in the synod office by the 5th. E-mail your story ideas to Susan Hedahl, Newsletter Editor, at [shedahl@montanasynod.org](mailto:shedahl@montanasynod.org).**

+ **Please use any part of this newsletter in your congregational announcements, bulletins, and/or newsletters. Consider forwarding the newsletter to your council members and others.**

### Montana Synod, ELCA

Rev. Jessica Crist, Bishop

Rev. John Allen, Associate to the Bishop

Rev. Dave Peters, Associate to the Bishop, Director for Evangelical Mission

Susan Hedahl, Executive Assistant  
Communications, Assembly, Roster, Financial

Susan Smith, Administrative Assistant  
Mobility, Candidacy, LPA Programs