



# Montana Synod, ELCA

Volume 2010, Issue 3

March 15, 2010



## Words from the Bishop— Cape Orange Diocese

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In early February, 2010, a small group from the Montana Synod visited our Companion Church, the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Southern Africa. Although we were there representing the Montana Synod, each of us paid our own way. This was the first official visit from our Synod since 2007 when Bishop Omland and a much larger group travelled to South Africa and met with Bishop Mervyn Assur. The Cape Orange Diocese has had a change in lead-

ership, just as the Montana Synod has, and we were delighted to meet with the new Bishop, William Bowles. Many Montana Synod folks who have gone to South Africa on previous visits enjoyed meeting with Bill Bowles. Now that he is Bishop, we hope to invite him to visit us in the Montana Synod in the future.

Our group included Pastor Peggy Paul Leuzinger (Synod Secretary, co-Pastor of Rivers of Faith Lutheran Parish, and member of the 2007 delegation), Pastor David

Peters (Director for Evangelical Mission and former missionary to Indonesia), Deborah Peters (who spent her high school years at an integrated church in Johannesburg in the Apartheid years), and my husband and daughter, Turner and Rhiannon Graybill (retired attorney and doctoral student).

In our 2 weeks we covered over 2000 miles, driving from Capetown to Johannesburg, by way of the Kalahari desert. For Dave and me, it was not atypical of the

drives we normally make. (OK, we don't normally see zebras and baboons.) The Cape Orange Diocese is even larger than the Montana Synod, with an even broader range of topography and climate. From the ocean-influenced lushness of Capetown, to the mountains to the relatively empty spaces of the Karoo and the Kalahari, the Diocese demonstrates great diversity.

ELCSA, a member church of the Lutheran World Federation, is a church of Blacks and

Coloureds. Although Apartheid is officially over in South Africa, there are still many divisions (just like in our country.) During the Apartheid years the churches were (with very few exceptions—one of which Deb Peters can tell you about) segregated. Even the Lutherans were segregated. The white churches were the more affluent churches, and the more strategically placed churches. With massive displacement of black and coloured people to the townships and the homelands (modeled after

US Indian Reservations), the black and coloured churches were far more marginal, both economically and geographically. With the end of Apartheid, the hoped-for reconciliation of the churches did not happen. And so there are still unofficial but very obviously white churches and black/coloured churches in South Africa. Our partnership is with the primarily black and coloured church in South Africa, just as it is with the indigenous church in Bolivia.



# News Notes

## Call Accepted

Brenda Satrum from Enumclaw, WA to Faith, Hamilton 4/1/10

## Death

Grace Tande, 2/14/10, spouse of Ev Tande, retired

## Interim

Don Gordineer, to Cut Bank, 3/10/10

## Congregations leaving the ELCA

Peerless Lutheran, 1/17/10

Scobey Lutheran, 1/24/10

Calvary Lutheran, Kalispell, 1/24/10

Pondera Valley Lutheran, 1/31/10

Golden West Lutheran, 1/31/10

Peace Lutheran, Belgrade, 2/21/10

## On Leave from Call

Sarah Meckler, from Atonement, Mis-

soula, 3/1/10

John Rohwer, from White Sulphur Springs, 3/1/10

Ellen Skatrud-Mickelson, from Peace, Billings, 3/1/10

Paul Skatrud-Mickelson, from Peace, Billings, 3/1/10

## Congregations in Transition

Key = V - Vacancy, I - Served by Interim, S - Served by Seminary Intern

Arlee, V I

Bigfork, V I

Big Sandy, V

Billings, King of Glory, V

Cody, WY, Trinity, V I

Cut Bank, St. Paul's, V I

Fairfield Parish, V I

Great Falls, Redeemer, V, I

Helena, Our Redeemer's Senior V, I

Missoula, Atonement, Senior V I

Plentywood, V I

Sidney, Pella, Associate V I

Whitefish, Christ, Associate, V I



# Words from the Bishop (continued from p. 1)

The challenge with companion synod visits is always to move beyond the encounter of the moment to something more sustainable over time and miles. While each of us enjoyed the people we met, the churches and ministries we visited, the families we stayed with, the enduring witness of the church in South Africa, we knew that we were not there simply for our personal enrichment, but to strengthen relationships between our two churches. "Accompaniment" is a pretty simple concept, but it is a very different way to do church-to-church relationships than the previous model of sending money and sending missionaries. Accompaniment involves sitting down together, sharing our strengths and our weaknesses, and praying for one another. It is based on the premise that each party brings gifts and needs to the relationship.

We sat down with Bishop Bowles and the Diocesan Secretary Pastor Manong, and discussed ways

to sustain our relationship between visits. One concrete proposal that we agreed upon was to designate the first Sunday in October (often celebrated in our country as World Communion Sunday) as Montana Synod-Cape Orange Diocese Sunday, with prayers and sermons exchanged. We are also looking at finding ways to expand upon the successful model of Young Adults in Global Mission and find ways to do direct exchanges across our two church bodies. The Diocese is looking for ways to pull together a diocese-wide youth meeting in October of 2010, and would really like any financial help we can help generate. We discussed other ways of being in partnership, including using social networking to allow more immediate and less formal contact, particularly with the younger generation.

The next group from our Synod to visit South Africa will be from Wolf Point. The group of 13 teens and 4 adults led by Pastor Greg and Christine Holler-

Dinsmore will be visiting this summer. The group, which was featured in the Fort Peck Tribal newsletter, will be the first group to visit South Africa from a Montana Synod Indian Reservation.

There is a group in our Synod working on global mission issues throughout the year. Headed by Pastor Paul and Kay Hanson, the group oversees companion synod relationships, missionary sponsorship, Young Adults in Global Mission, and other global mission opportunities. This Summer, August 6-7, in cooperation with the ELCA Global Mission desk, we will be sponsoring a "Glocal (yes, glocal) Formation Event" in Billings. Watch for details, and put it on your calendar.

Bishop Jessica Crist

## Who are we?

*Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. (John 6:35)*

*Who are we?*

*I am a rancher. I am a tinkerer. I am a school secretary. I am a wood-worker. I am a farmer. I am a gardener. I am a fly fisherman. I am a quilter. I am a potter. I am a pastor. I am a painter. I am a ham radio operator. I am a computer technician. I am a poet. I am a musician. I am a cook. I am an organist. I am blessed with wonderful gifts given to me by the Creator....What we do for a living is only one aspect of vocational well being. Vocational well-being (one of the segments of spiritual well-being)*

is using all of our God-given gifts. So, who are we? Sometime this month let us all take just 20 seconds to produce as many "I am" statements as we can and then give thanks to God for these precious gifts. May we discern how we are called to use these gifts and how we can nurture both aspects of our vocational well-being so that we may offer our gifts with joyful hearts.

Finally, last month I told about the beginning of my journey to this Wellness position and promised to share the keys that helped me make the changes which are taking me on a road to wellness. The answer in four words is: "low fat diet" and

"exercise." These four powerful words have led to a 90 lb change in my anatomy and to a personal best (so far) 13 minute mile! April's Wellness topic: Celiac Sprue and Gluten Intolerance. Striving to Live Well in Christ, Elaine Ryan

(This article was inspired by "That you may be well. A conversation about living well," a publication of the ELCA Board of Pensions.)

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## Montana State Prison Congregation Task Force

*NIV Colossians 4:2-4 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. And pray for us, too, that God may open a door for our message, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it clearly, as I should.*

Paul understood what it was to be a prisoner, literally. Paul proclaimed the mystery of Christ even in chains, as a prisoner. On our Lenten journey this is my prayer as well: That God may open a door for our message/ministry, so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, and proclaim it clearly, as we should. Prayer, fasting and the giving of alms are Lenten disciplines to help us focus on Jesus' call for us in mission. We engage our Lenten journey praying for this ministry

to God's people in the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge. Consider fasting, so we may understand deprivation. The men at Deer Lodge are fasting as well - they are deprived of the proclaimed Word of God. Know what it is to be deprived of something that is so nourishing and essential to our well being. The proclaimed Word of God is no less nourishing and essential to us. Give your alms to support this ministry. We give our alms to those who are in need. The men of the Montana State Prison in Deer Lodge are in need. If we are to open the door for the proclamation of the Gospel, we need your support for those who are in need may hear and experience the Good News of Jesus Christ. We are called to ministry; we are called to open the door of the message of Jesus

Christ and proclaim it clearly to the men in the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge. Paul understood this need personally, while in chains, as a prisoner. The chains and stone walls did not confine Paul's message of the mystery of Christ. The stone walls and iron bars cannot keep us from entering in and sharing God's love to those who are hungry to hear it. During Lent, be in solidarity with our brothers in Christ by fasting; support our ministry and mission to God's people at the Montana State Prison at Deer Lodge with your prayers and with your alms.

Rev. Robert Leaverton, Pastor  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Absarokee, Montana

## "Ecumenical Rebuild"

This spring, Lutheran Disaster Response joins nine other denominations in the second-ever Church World Service "Ecumenical Rebuild" project. This year's project will take place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa from April 12 through May 21. In the interest of having a mix of volunteers from each participating church, we are limited to a certain

number of volunteers per week, and slots will be filled on a first-come, first-serve basis. If you have a group from your congregation interested in participating, be sure to contact Pastor Mike Stadie, with Lutheran Services in Iowa, as soon as possible.

[The flyer](#) will help you promote the

project, and also includes contact information for Pastor Stadie  
Lutheran Disaster Response  
Bringing Help and Hope...  
Phone: 773-380-2748  
Fax: 773-380-2493  
Visit us on the Web at [www.LDR.org](http://www.LDR.org)  
Are you on Facebook? Join the cause.

## Announcements & Attachments

→ [Stories of Faith in Action](#)—Living the Difference in Palestine Bulletin Insert

→ SAVE THE DATE: October 8-9, 2010 in Helena. **GROWING IN GOD'S FIELD III.** Our theme this year is GOD'S STORY - GOING VIRAL\* (\*viral is an internet term for a story going everywhere at once). Start planning and planting now for your participation in this synod-wide event emphasizing education and evangelism. Details will be available at the time of the synod assembly.

→ I am pleased to inform you that we are sending \$8,000.00 to IELB in Bolivia for the two Lutheran schools that the Montana Synod is helping with scholarships. It is \$4,000.00 for each school, El Alto and Faith and Hope in Santa Cruz.

Thanks for all the help from churches and individuals. A special thanks to Julie Long and the

Atonement Lutheran Choir who made a CD "Sounds of Faith" and received \$10.00 in donations per CD for Bolivian Scholarships. They made 200 CDs. Praise the Lord for all that He does through His people to be a Blessing to others. Bob Nilssen

→ **A SHOUT OUT FOR EASTER GREETINGS**

You and your congregation are invited to make and send Easter greetings to ELCA missionaries, troops and other service personnel. Learn how at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand/post/ot-g-easter-25022010/>

→ [Glocal Mission Gathering](#)—a poster for the August event in Billings is on our newsletter website page. Click here to download, print and post!

→ [It's about Mission](#) bulletin insert, by Pr. Dave Peters, Director for Evangelical Mission, Montana Synod - ELCA

→ Emmaus Campus Ministry is offering a continuing education float trip on the Blackfoot River this summer. It is open to all rostered people, church staff as well as spouses and partners. Co-sponsored by NRIT and good for 20 CE hours. I will be leading this trip with a former graduate student, Peter Metcalf, who spends his summers as a river guide and wrote his theses on ecological and spiritual restoration. We will take up to 9 riders. Please call me if you have any questions or want to sign up. Pr. John Lund, 396-4974 [See more here.](#)

→ See a report by the Northwest [Parish Nurse Ministries here.](#)



## Upcoming Events at Luther Seminary

[Hein-Fry Lectures - April 22, 2010. Dr. David Rhoads](#) Professor of New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. **"Hearing the Word: Teaching the Bible in the Parish and Beyond"**

All Luther lectures are recorded. They can be live or archived at [www.luthersem.edu/lectures](http://www.luthersem.edu/lectures).

[Enter the Bible](#)

Here you'll find a wealth of re-

sources to help you grow in your faith, add depth to your Bible studies and truly discover the people, places and events of the Bible. Think of Enter the Bible as your guide, a helpful reference tool to accompany you in your reading of the Bible.

[WorkingPreacher.org](http://WorkingPreacher.org)

**WorkingPreacher.org** is a FREE resource for working preachers, providing **exegetical material** geared to the **weekly lectionary**

and resources and insight regarding the **craft of preaching.**

[Stewardship for the 21st Century](#)

Filled with a wealth of stewardship resources, including a weekly newsletter.

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# Book of Faith

Rev. Mark Gravrock

I recently returned from a national gathering of Book of Faith Synod Advocates from all over the ELCA, and I return with batteries recharged.

Most crucially, I return with my vision renewed for Book of Faith. It has been tricky to hang on to this vision, because it's slippery: Book of Faith is not a new Bible study program – and yet there are all these new Augsburg Fortress materials. Book of Faith is an “initiative,” a drive in the ELCA to renew our grounding in scripture. But aren't we already grounded in scripture? Aren't we already in the Word on a regular basis? Yes and no: In many places throughout the church, congregations and their pastors and leaders have been faithfully dwelling in God's word for generations. Wherever this is true, Book of Faith says ‘thank you,’ and seeks to encourage us all to keep growing in this faithfulness. In other places, Lutherans over the last decades have become increasingly Bible-illiterate, and many don't have the first clue about how to enter

the Bible. Wherever this is true, Book of Faith seeks to offer tools and encouragement to help us all to learn to enter scripture.

We have entered a new era in our culture where lots of folks **do not read at all**. It's not that they cannot read, but rather that they have left print media behind in favor of visual and audio materials. How do we bring non-print folks into God's Word? [In the medieval era, it was stained glass!]

Even in places where Lutherans do dwell in the Word regularly, we have often been deeply influenced by dominant American piety and its approaches to scripture, and our handle on classic Lutheran understandings of the Bible is shaky. Wherever this is true, Book of Faith seeks to re-ground us in solid Lutheran approaches.

Mark Wilhelm, a national leader for Book of Faith, addressed us at the gathering. Here is the gist of his central message: *Two generations ago, Lutherans in this country had become heavily*

*Americanized in their understanding of the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. This was in the day when many Lutheran churches had communion only four times a year! So two generations ago, several voices began – as voices, not as a program – to work slowly and steadily to re-ground us in our understanding of the means of grace. By our day, most Lutherans in America are far more focused on baptism and the Supper than was the case back then, and we treasure the sacraments as genuine channels for the living presence of Christ among us. Today the same thing needs to happen for our focus on the Word. Most of us do a pretty good job of understanding the proclamation of the Word – in preaching, for example – as vehicle for Christ's presence. We need to regain a sense also of reading and conversing around the Bible as vehicle for Christ's presence. For Lutherans, the Bible is not first of all a rule book or instruction manual, nor is it first a theological source-book; for Lutherans, the*

*Bible is means of grace, a place where we can count on encountering the real presence of the living Christ.* [That wasn't a quote, just my own rendition of his message.] This is the vision of Book of Faith.

Another gift of the gathering was the sharing of resources from all around the church. Folks from almost every synod brought ideas that they've tried, or resources they've come across. I hope to share a few of these with you in coming newsletters, and as I revamp the Book of Faith page on the synod website (this month, I hope?). To start with, let me mention three resources:

**Leader Training:** Augsburg Fortress has put out an excellent Leader-Training DVD, entitled (imaginatively) “Foundational Training DVD.” This walks a person through, step-by-step, how to create a Bible-conversation group, whom to invite, how to invite, how to develop and maintain trust, how to facilitate dialogue, how to choose group leaders, and how to evoke balanced sharing. Very good stuff. They've now followed it up with a second DVD, “Guiding the Conversation,” with the same resource person; I haven't seen

this one yet, but assume it's of the same high caliber.

**Dwelling in the Word:** Two synod advocates, one from California and one from Minnesota, shared a simple formula for “Dwelling in the Word Moments,” six-minute scripture vignettes that one can use in all sorts of group meetings. The formula has three parts to use in a small group: (1) Read the scripture passage aloud (2 minutes). (2) Share “What does this mean?” thoughts, ideas stimulated perhaps by one of the four approaches in “Opening the Book of Faith” – devotional, historical, literary, or Lutheran theological (2 minutes). (3). Share thoughts on “What does this passage say to me today?” (2 minutes).

**No-Prep Bible Study:** Diane Shallue of LACE (Lutheran Association of Christian Educators) led us in a “No-Prep Bible Study Method.” I'll share the full text with you, as soon as I figure out how to create PDFs, but here's the gist: Using a mutual invitation process (which assures that everyone has an opportunity to speak if they wish, and no one dominates), the leader leads the group through four movements of read-

ing and conversation: (1) Read the passage slowly, inviting people to listen for a word, phrase, or image that speaks to them (as in *Lectio Divina*); *each gets to share* (only the word, phrase, or image) or pass. (2) Read it a second time, inviting people to respond to one open-ended content question about the passage. (It's important that the question not be a “right-answer” sort of question, but instead an investigating sort of question.) (3) Read it a third time, inviting people to respond to the question, “How does God invite you to change, and what does God invite you to do through this passage?” (4) Pray around the circle – aloud or silently – for the person next to you.

I'll have more to share about resources, but let me invite you as well: What has been working for you – either of the Augsburg Fortress materials or of other ideas and resources? What can you share with the rest of us to help us continue to grow in the Word? Please write me (1073 Victory Lane, Kalispell, 59901), email me ([amhrang@gmail.com](mailto:amhrang@gmail.com)) or phone me (406-471-9583) and let me know your victories and frustrations.

## RURAL MINISTRY TEAM HOLDS SECOND RETREAT

On February 4-5-6, the Rural Ministry Leadership Team held their second retreat at the Canyon Haven Retreat Center. The seven repeat members and three new participants continued the development of the role and purpose of the Team in the Montana Synod. Since the first retreat focused on the “rural” of Rural Ministry, this second gathering focused on the “ministry” of Rural Ministry. A group definition of ministry was written to draw the group together in an understanding of what is meant overall by ministry if they are to provide leadership for Rural Ministry.

There was also discussion of the

group’s Core Values in light of taking on this mission of leadership. Dave Young, Community Resources Specialist from Montana State University Extension, helped to complete the process of identifying their group Core Values, and then leading them in writing their Mission Statement: *As a part of a ministry of the Montana Synod-ELCA, the mission of the Rural Ministry Leadership Team is to provide support, encouragement, and resources to Rural Faith Communities toward the enrichment of their mission and ministry of the Gospel.* The group went on to discuss some short term and long term goals.

The Team is evolving as it shapes directions and connects with the mission and structure of the Synod. On February 26, I reported to the Mission and Outreach Committee, and the group is awaiting word as to how the Synod views the team in light of the work of the Synod. Rev. Dave Peters, the ELCA’s Director for Evangelism and Mission for the Montana Synod is the staff liaison between the relative components of the Churchwide and Synod ministry. Presently, there seven clergy and ten lay persons have committed to being involved in the Team.

Pr. Arden Barden

## NRIT

### Pastoral Leadership

Led by Paul Bentley, a former pastor who is now Program Director for the Leadership Program at MSU’s Extended University. Bentley has created a Pastoral Leadership program focusing on tools not often taught in seminary but imperative to healthy leadership within churches. Among other topics, Bentley will focus on: Leading ministry teams, Solving problems using congregational intelli-

gence, and Managing church-related conflict.

Thursday, April 22 at 1pm through Friday April 23 at 12pm. Participants will stay at the Ursuline Centre in Great Falls.

### Cultural Competency Training for the Northwest

A two-day ecumenical workshop that assists in building skills to effectively communicate with a diversity of peo-

ple to initiate and deepen relationships across cultural, ethnic and racial difference.

Led by Pastor Greg Holler-Dinsmore and others. May 6-7 at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Jenny Kunka, Director  
NRIT  
[www.nrit.org](http://www.nrit.org)

## It Should be on Your To-Do List too



As of March 1, 2010, 79 of you have taken the Health Risk Assessment (HRA) through the Board of Pensions website. That leaves only 42 more of you to take it by the deadline—April 30th—in order for the congregations and the synod itself to save \$26,066 this year in health insurance premiums. We are in 4th place out of all the synods in the ELCA, so let’s get going—TAKE IT

NOW.

Thank you to those who have already done their part to help us reach the 65% participation necessary for all of us to earn the 2% discount on ELCA health contributions this year.

ELCA-primary plan members and spouses: Complete the assessment by April 30 to take stock of your

health, put \$150 in your personal wellness account, and get us all that much closer to earning the discount.

Take the assessment at [www.elcaforwellness.org](http://www.elcaforwellness.org). Find instructions for how to register and take the assessment in *Understand my benefits* at [www.elcabop.org](http://www.elcabop.org).

## ANOTHER Social Statement?

As I have traveled the Synod since August, I have heard again and again, "Why do we have to have social statements?" I hear it from bewildered parishioners who think that the church should stay out of politics. I hear it from beleaguered pastors who want to lift up all the good that the church is doing and are feeling distracted by the unprecedented attention that our church seems to be paying to our most recent social statement. "Why do we have to have social statements?" comes to me from all sides. And the answer, of course, is that we are a church committed to scripture and to our Christian tradition. And we are a church that believes that God has something to say about the pressing social issues of our day, even the ones that are not addressed in the Bible. We are a church that believes that God has given us resources to address the

issues that affect our neighbors, and that the Christian community is the proper venue for addressing complex social issues.

From time to time when I am in a congregation and hear the criticism of the existence of ELCA Social Statements, I ask whether anybody can name any of the other 9 social statements that the ELCA has adopted. It usually gets pretty quiet then, except for the rare congregation where they have decided to do a study of all ten.

Social statements in the ELCA are not top-down declarations of doctrine. Rather they are thoroughly-researched, field-tested, debated, re-written documents that have their genesis in the churchwide assembly, and are adopted (or rejected) 6 years later at a churchwide assembly, by 2/3 of the voting

members. They are not a litmus test of who is a good Lutheran and who is not. They are not the opinions of the Presiding Bishop. They are the product of a task force, appointed for its breadth and depth, vetted in hearings and written responses, and finally presented to the assembly. (Montana Synod members have served on various Task Forces on Social Statements. Bishop Rich Omland was part of the Health and Health Care team. Helen Waller served on the Economic Justice team. And Pastor Steve Rice works with the Criminal Justice statement, due in 2013.)

So it was with the social statement on Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust. Proposed in 2003, it went through many versions. Resource materials were produced and distributed several times along the way. A draft was released in Feb-

ruary 2008, and hearings were held in both Billings and Missoula in April 2008. Then in March 2009, the final version was released. Synod Assemblies debated it and advised on it. But the decision was the Churchwide Assembly's. And the Churchwide Assembly adopted it.

But in the meantime, three more social statements are in the works. The next one, due to be voted on in 2011 is the Social Statement on Genetics. The first draft of the statement will be released on March 18. It will be available online, and it will also be mailed to congregations. We are working with the Task Force to schedule a hearing in Great Falls some time later this spring. People will have until October 15 to submit written comments on the draft. Many people in the Montana Synod seem to

have been taken off guard by the Social Statement on Human Sexuality. Every place I visited, I reminded people that Social Statements are a part of what we are as the ELCA, and it is worthwhile keeping abreast of the upcoming issues. Genetics is next.

And why should the church be concerned about genetics? Genetics is one of the fastest growing scientific fields, and it affects all of us. Jesus never had to deal with stem cell research, with the ethics of genetically modified organisms, with the patenting of life, with beginning of life and end of life issues. But we do. And as the church we bring together people and resources who can help us do our best thinking and praying about difficult and divisive issues that affect our neighbors.

The worth of a social statement is not whether it is adopted unanimously. It is whether it gets us, the people of the church, into productive dialogue with one another, dialogue that is respectful and gracious and is a model for the rest of society. Christians do not have to agree with one another on all things. But it is not too much to ask that we be an example of how to engage faithfully and respectfully with our sisters and brothers in the faith. Only then will our witness have meaning to the broader society.

So join the conversation on genetics. Read the draft. Come to the hearing. Send in your comments. Stay engaged. Stay positive. Stay concerned on behalf of your neighbor.

Bishop Jessica Crist

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**[www.montanasynod.org](http://www.montanasynod.org)**

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

## Calendar

March, 2010

Montana Synod Newsletter

### March, 2010

20 FLBC Mother/Daughter Tea  
20 Spring begins!

### April, 2010

4 Easter  
5 Newsletter deadline  
6-9 Pastoral Conference, Chico  
16-18 LPA Great Falls & Epping, ND  
16-18 Jr. High Retreat  
22-23 NRIT Leadership

### May, 2010

Montana Synod Insert in The Lutheran  
5 Newsletter deadline  
6-7 NRIT Cultural Competency, FLBC  
17-19 Transitions, FLBC  
31 Memorial Day

### June, 2010

4-6 Assembly and Theological Conference,  
Crowne Plaza, Billings  
5 Newsletter deadline

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

+ **You are welcome to copy and use any part of this newsletter in your congregational announcements, bulletins, and/or newsletters. Consider forwarding it to your council members and other interested members.**

+ **If you received the newsletter by USPS, you have either requested it in that format, or we don't have your e-mail. If you would prefer to receive it by e-mail, send us your e-mail address and we will send it to you next month in that format. (Send your e-mail address to [shedahl@montanasynod.org](mailto:shedahl@montanasynod.org))**

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<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html?promoid=BNORM>**