



Montana Synod, ELCA

Volume 2010, Issue 12

December 15, 2010

Words From the Bishop—“Do not be afraid!”



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Again and again the angels tell the mortals, “Do not be afraid.” Gabriel appears before Zechariah to tell him that his ancient barren wife will bear a son. But before he can get out the good news, he has to reassure the old man, “Do not be afraid.” And then Gabriel goes to young Mary, to tell her that she will bear the Son of God. But before he can get out the good news, he has to reassure the young

woman, “Do not be afraid.”

As Joseph learns of his wife-to-be’s pregnancy, knowing it is not his child, he plans to divorce her, but is stopped by an angel who says, “Do not be afraid.” When the shepherds were visited by the heavenly host on the night of Jesus’ birth, the first thing that the angels said to them was, “Do not be afraid.”

In medicine the word is, “First, do no

harm.” For people of faith the first word is, “First, do not be afraid.” We are surrounded daily with reasons to be afraid—the economy, personal health and relationship issues, wars and rumors of wars, global warming, loss of moral compass. Regardless of where you are on the political spectrum, you can find something to fear. But the message of the angels is something else. “Do not fear.” And that message is for us today as

much as it was for Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds.

As Christians, we are bearers of the Good News—to our children, to our neighbors, to our communities. And the Good News this Christmas season is:

“Do not be afraid!” God is with us. God is with us in our sufferings and in our joys. God is with us in our struggles and our confusion. God is with us in our difficult decision-making, and in our failures.

God is with us.
Emmanuel!

Bishop Jessica Crist



News Notes

Call accepted

Lorin Sanden, from Hope, Bozeman, to Shepherd of the Valley, Townsend, 11/7/10

Installation

Lorin Sanden, Shepherd of the Valley, Townsend, 12/5/10, by Rev. Wayne Olsen

Carin Bjorn von Letzendorf, St. Paul, Cut Bank, 11/14/10, by Bishop Jessica Crist

Interim

Don Melchert, to Jocko Valley, Arlee, 12/1/10.

Tim Spring, to Hope, Bozeman, 11/7/10

Marriage

Rick Green, Joliet, to Mary Burleson 10/16/10 in LaCrosse, WI

Congregations in Transition

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

Arlee, V, I
Big Sandy, V, I
Billings, King of Glory, V I C
Billings, Peace, V I
Bozeman, Hope, V I, Senior
Broadus, V
Butte, Gold Hill, V I C
Cody, WY, Trinity, V I C
Fairfield Parish, V I
Galata Parish, V

Hardin, First, V
Havre, Messiah, V
Helena, Our Redeemer's Senior V, I C
Kalispell, Bethlehem, V, I
Laurel, V I
Missoula, Atonement, V I
White Sulphur Springs, V C



2010 Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation!” Isaiah 52:7

When Jesus was born, angelic messengers broke the still calm of a Judean night to sing joyously and proclaim, “This very day in David’s city a Savior is born for you — God’s Promised One, your Lord.” Glad tidings of great joy! Common shepherds were the first and heartiest heralds of the promised Savior’s arrival then, and today the joy in Jesus’ birth fills every corner of this season.

Admittedly sometimes in modern America the commercial

clatter and cultural clutter of the season seem to overtake the angels’ song and the shepherds’ joyous news. But such a majestic message of God’s salvation cannot be silenced. Some loudly lament that the world will not listen to the Gospel message, but in this season so many beckon. “Christians, sing with us. Bring your songs of Christmas, of Jesus.” A few may shush you, just as there were those who would later attempt to silence Jesus and his message of God’s remarkable, revolutionary mercy, even to the point of crucifixion.

If so, then that is all the more reason to enter into the commotion and clutter, to let go of your inhibitions, to join the angels in singing and the shepherds in exulting with unashamed joy: Je-

sus, the Savior is born!

“Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy.”
“See, your salvation comes.” Isaiah 52:8; 62:11

Mark S. Hanson

Presiding Bishop

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

NRIT News

Look ahead for the upcoming 2011 courses:

Midwinter Theological Conference: Fostering Foundation Christian Practices in Congregations with Dr. Samuel Torvend – Feb 14-16 at the Izaak Walton Inn in Essex. Look for a brochure in the mail after Christmas or the brochure online at www.nrit.org

Pastoral Leadership with Paul Bentley Jan 31 from 9am-4pm at the Kathy Lillis Memorial Chapel on the campus of St. John's Billings. Register by filling out the form on the brochure or online at www.nrit.org

Not Just US: Being the Church in a Global Communion led by Dr. Karen Bloomquist, former staff at the Lutheran World Federation. March 1st at Salem Lutheran in Spokane, March 2nd at Our Savior's in Bonner, and March 3rd at First English in Great Falls.

Transitions : Closing Well...Starting Strong led by Pr. Jean Larson and Daniel Kemmis – Originally designed by the Alban Institute, this retreat is strongly encouraged for those new to their ministry setting or preparing to change ministry settings.

May 9-11 at Cane Ridge West Camp in Lincoln, MT



www.nrit.org to register
or email j.kunka@nrit.org

*Let me know of any continuing education opportunities you'd like to offer within the Synod. NRIT can, at times, collaborate in bringing speakers to your area.

Jenny Kunka, Director

NRIT

Health and Wellness

Elaine Ryan, Wellness Coordinator

Wishing You Blessings and Time to Invest in Wellness Activities this Advent

Amid the blessings and busyness of this time of year, prepare to set aside precious time for matters of health and wellness as well as time for lots of prayer. Why invest time in wellness? "...because healthy leaders really do enhance lives." It says so, right there on the BOP website!

Check out the "Go Challenge" on the ELCA Board of Pensions website: www.elcabop.org (with your cursor on the *Live Well* section on the menu bar, click "Wellness resources" on the drop-down menu. From there you will find the "Go! Challenge" under *Campaigns* on the left side of the page). The "Go! Challenge" is "a whole-person health activity designed for individuals, spouses, con-

gregations." This 4 week program is a wellness tool founded upon the Wholeness Wheel and tracking sheets and guidance are available on the website. There is also a "Go! Challenge for Children" focusing on children from age 4 – 12.

Blessings, good nutrition, time for exercise as well as adequate rest for your mind, body and spirit both now and in the New Year.

Lutherhostel 2011 in Carefree, Arizona

Week One: March 6-11
"The Promise of Sabbath & Jubilee"
Exploring the Scriptures Together with Diane Jacobson

Week Two: March 13-18
"Interruptions that Shape Our Lives"
with Herb Chilstrom, former ELCA Bishop and his wife, Corinne Chilstrom, pastor and author.

Both Weeks:
Music & Worship by Tom Witt & Mary Preus!

Cost: \$625 p/person per week
Registration Cost: \$300 p/person must be paid upon registration. Both Weeks: \$1050 p/person - a savings of \$200! Registration Cost: \$550 p/person Must be

paid upon registration
Note for those attending both weeks who desire to stay on campus: we offer a special lodging rate of: \$85 p/night double occupancy (\$42.50 p/person p/night) or \$65 p/night for a single. Meals, if available, can be purchased as well. Click [here](#) to register for this event.

Announcements & Attachments

- This month's bulletin insert "**Volunteering in China as the Hands and Feet of Jesus**" gives an example of one of many short-term service opportunities available through ELCA Global Mission. ELCA members can work in nearly 50 countries around the globe as teachers, medical personnel, musicians and more. Visit www.elca.org/globalserve/search to see what kinds of openings are available for less than a one-year commitment.

Cindy Larsen, Montana Synod Mission Interpreter
cdlarsen@3rivers.net

- We have approximately 70 green hymnals to be given away. Contact Twila Pyette, St. Paul Lutheran, Cut Bank

- **New IRS Mileage Rates - Effective January 1, 2011**, the standard mileage rate for use of vehicle will be \$.51 per mile for businesses, \$.165 per mile for medical or moving purposes, and \$.14 in service of charitable organizations.

- **The Yearbook is coming!** Your 2011 Montana Synod Yearbook and Directory will be in the mail at the end of the month. Watch for it—and please let us know of any errors or omissions.

- **The Wyoming Association of Churches (WAC)** has a new web site. Please check it out: www.wyomingassociationofchurches.org Our very own Tim Trippel serves as President of the Board of Directors of WAC.

- **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Not everyone feels like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas. See a Blue Christmas liturgy [here](#).

- The Chester group wanting to stay in the ELCA have received 9 copies of the ELW. They are hoping for 20-25 copies. Please send your ELW's to the Synod Office (2415 13th Ave. So., Great Falls, MT 59405-5105) or consider a contribution towards the purchase of copies (\$23 each). You might want to include a written inscription to your brothers and sisters in

Chester who seek to live out our mission together: God's work. Our hands.

- **Energy Share of Montana** is a statewide, private nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Montanans overcome energy emergencies and move towards self-reliance. This can include help with heating bills and furnace repair or replacement. See the Bulletin insert on the Newsletter webpage.

- From LPA Susan Leaverton, Absarokee: "Just wanted to thank you for including the info on the LCF sponsored February training workshop in San Francisco in the last newsletter. ***I always read it carefully!*** (Ed. Note: yay!) I corresponded with Susan Hayes, applied, and was accepted to attend! She is aware that I am the only congregational member who is

available to attend. Do you know of any other folks in our synod who will be going?

Post workshop I will be very glad to share info and materials with anyone who is interested in this topic of concern.

Please convey to Bishop Jessica that I am very pleased and honored to be attending this workshop as a representative of our synod.

- A Special Offering of the Lay Ministry Institute: "**Nuts and Bolts of Administrative Leadership**", January 7-8, 2011, First Presbyterian Church in Bozeman, 26 W Babcock St. Flyer found [here](#).
- 2010 Lutheran World Federation [Christmas Message](#) From LWF President Bishop Munib A. Younan

- Find the 2010 **Christmas Message from Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson** [here](#)

- **Wyoming pastors rescue stranded Wisconsin dog.** WORLAND, Wyo. — Pastors Tim Trippel and Guy Helms try to get together once a week to go rock climbing. But Trippel's rule is simple, if it is below 40 degrees, they stay home. [View Full Story](#)



Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy (FRLC)

The Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy will gather in Las Vegas, Nevada, for their annual retreat, February 21-25, 2011. Lutheran clergy, who are currently active in recovery from alcoholism or addictions, or who are interested in being in recovery are welcome to attend.

The retreat is offered as a continuing education opportunity and will feature daily devotions, 12-step recovery meetings, and informal workshops on addiction as well as opportunities for fellowship, worship and outings. This is the 20th year of existence for the FRLC, a non-profit, non-affiliated Lutheran

organization that was formed in 1991 and has been meeting in retreat annual since inception.

Currently the fellowship includes more than 200 Lutheran pastors nationwide currently active in recovery from alcoholism and addiction. The Fellowship offers recovery support to pastors through publications, resources, website, a support network, and annual retreats. To learn more about this organization go to www.FRLC.org.

Cost for the retreat is \$400 single occupancy and \$350 double, including ground transportation, deluxe rooms, programming, meals, and a

Las Vegas show. Las Vegas was selected as a location this year for the warm winter climate and because of great flight prices and accommodations in a tough economy.

To register for the retreat follow the links at www.FRLC.org. For more information about the retreat please contact Pastor Ed Treat at Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minnesota, at 952-884-2364, Ext. 16, or cell phone 651-356-1073.

THINK AHEAD

THINK ANNUAL MEETING—Consider adding Missionary Sponsorship to your congregation's budget. Web site: www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship

For example, our missionaries in Bolivia, Justin & Kari Eller. See their excellent web sites at: <http://karieller.weebly.com> or <http://thepilgrimpastor.blogspot.com>

THINK EPIPHANY—a traditional time for the Church to think about the GLOBAL dimensions of the Gospel mes-

sage (starting with the Magi, of course)

THINK GLOBAL MISSION SUNDAY— FEBRUARY 20

Possibilities:

1. Introduce your congregation to our Companion Synods in Bolivia and South Africa (there will be ideas in the January, 2011, newsletter.)
2. Receive a special Global Mission offering, which would be used, for example, for youth ministry in our South Africa companions, or for scholarships in our Bolivia

companions.

3. Have a "handy person" in the congregation make "global" offering plates (cut a globe at the equator, mount it to a base; a tangible reminder of our global faith relationships).

4. Begin including "prayers around the world" in your weekly "Prayers of Intercession" at worship.

Email us to be added to our emailing list: paulandkay@hanson.org

THINK GLOBALLY!!

Grants Available for Ministry with Elderly and Youth

Montana Synod ministries that provide services to elderly or youth are eligible to apply for grants from the Hetzel Foundation.

When Blanche and William Hetzel died, they left their central Montana ranch to the church, with the instruction that the proceeds be used for ministry with the elderly

and with youth.

The Foundation that manages the assets and distributes the grants is a ministry of the Montana Synod. Grants applications are due in March.

For more information about eligibility and criteria, contact Christikon-Sec@aol.com.



Mission Table—Volunteering

Volunteering. If you hang around a church long enough, you know you will likely get “volunteered” for something. There are always abundant options for ways to be busy within a church family. The same is true whether it is your local church or our synod. And, whether it is a truly voluntary action or not, any individual can get plugged-in at any moment.

At the end of this past summer, I went looking to be plugged in at the synod level. And, I went looking in a specific place. I had an idea of where I wanted to volunteer. Out of the abundance of opportunities available to a young pastor, I wanted to be a part of the Mission Table. And, thankfully, our synod

and the Mission Table agreed to have me.

Why the Mission Table? Well, we could insert here a bad 80’s rock song reference about it “having legs.” But, the heart of why I wanted to be a part of the Mission Table is because it embodies the core of who we are as Christians. It all goes back to volunteering... not at the local or synod level this time... but on the “God” level. In our baptisms, we have been “volunteered” to be God’s people. God has nominated/elected us to take part in God’s “organization” and we have some significant roles to fill. We have been made the metaphorical hands, feet, eyes, ears, mouths, knees, el-

bows, and whatever of God’s movement in the world. More than just bodies in a building, we are the volunteered actors of God’s grace and love.

This is what I have been volunteered for in my baptism and it is what you have been volunteered for as well. For me, volunteering for the Mission Table is a way of keeping that baptismal calling alive. And, it is a way for me to help others do the same! In mission, we get serious about being busy for God’s family. Sure, that may require a bit of volunteering... but that is the very reason we have been re-born.

Pastor Adam Barnhart

The Mission Table is responsible for developing the mission outreach and mission support strategy for our synod. The Table’s thirteen members focus on the possibilities for new ministries, the work of renewal in existing congregations, and stewardship programs and resources.

If you have any questions or ideas for the Mission Table please contact Pr. Dave Peters dpeters@montanasynod.org



How Montana Earned the 2% Discount

How did a synod with a small staff (4) and a large territory (the size of France) get enough people to fill out the Health Risk Assessment and get the 2% discount three years in a row?

We just kept it in front of people. We published articles in newsletters. We sent out e-mails. We talked with lay people — council presidents and treasurers — about the benefits of encouraging the pastors to do the HRA. We talked with the Synod council.

We had a variety of voices with the same message — the Bishop, the Executive Assistant, the Director of Evangelical Mission, the volunteer wellness coordinator, the Deans, peer pressure from those who had done it.

We created a culture in which filling out the HRA was normal and expected. We addressed privacy concerns, and we had a consistent message that not to fill out the form was short-sighted and wasteful. The pro-social thing to do is to be a part

of the group who save us all money.

The Montana Synod has achieved the target percentage of participation for three years in a row. We expect it of ourselves, and enjoy the financial benefits, the health benefits and the congratulations we receive.

Bishop Jessica Crist

Take the 2011 Health Risk Assessment beginning January 1, 2011 [here](#)

Lutheran Music Program Reaches Milestone: Celebrates 30 Years of Training Young Musicians for the Church

Lutheran Music Program will reach a milestone in 2011 when it presents the 30th annual Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM) from June 26 to July 24 on the campus of Luther College in Decorah, Iowa.

LSM fosters musical excellence in a caring community for high school band, orchestra, choir, piano, and pipe organ students of all faith backgrounds. More than 160 high school students from across the country will attend the four-week residential training and performance program. Open to students of all faiths, but centered in Lutheran music and liturgical traditions, LSM encourages students to use music as a catalyst for

the exploration of personal faith and creativity. Once selected through an application and audition process, LSM students engage in a comprehensive and diverse program that includes individual instrument lessons; chamber ensembles; jazz and early music ensembles; musicianship classes; orchestra, choir, and/or band; electives ranging from church music history to handbell choir and conducting; and a culminating Festival of performances.

Commitment to Access

This unique program is committed to making LSM accessible to all interested, qualified students. In 2010, more than 80% of students received some form of fee reduction including

need-based financial assistance, merit-based scholarships, match and transportation grants, and early enrollment discounts. Students are accepted on a rolling basis, so interested youth are encouraged to apply online soon.

For more information on Lutheran Music Program, the 30th annual Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival, or the Young Musicians Partnership, visit

www.lutheransummermusic.org or contact the organization's national offices in Minneapolis at 888-635-6583 or lsm@lutheransummermusic.org.

MAC Day at the Legislature

Dear Friends in Christ,

This month, I am writing to let you know about an opportunity for civic engagement. On January 17-18, 2011, the Montana Association of Churches (MAC) is having its annual Day at the Legislature in Helena. This event provides an avenue for Christian churches and people of faith to voice their hopes and concerns to legislators.

This year, MAC is focusing its efforts on the abolition of the death penalty through a partnership with the Montana Abolition Coalition, an umbrella group which advocates for ending the death penalty in our state. While this initiative is the main focus for MAC in this legislative session, Day at the Legislature provides an opportunity to engage with legislators about other issues as well. The current schedule for Day at the Legislature is as follows:

January 17, 2011

Legislator's Reception: a time to mingle in a casual atmosphere with legislators who belong to MAC member churches. Time and place TBA.

January 18, 2011

9:00 AM: Citizen Lobbying Workshop led by Heather Hass, Abolition Coalition and Jim Brown, MAC Lobbyist. Old Livestock Building, 1310 E. Lockey Ave.

9:45 AM: Meet with your legislator

11:45 AM: Lunch with Legislators in the Rotunda of the Capitol

Welcome by MAC President, Rev. Dan Krebill

Presentation of MAC 2011 Legislative Focus

A Time to Honor the Families of Victims of Violent Crimes

12:45-6:30 PM: Alternate time to meet with legislators

6:30 PM: Ecumenical Evening Prayer at St. Paul's United Methodist Church

Cost is for travel and dinner only. Lunch and the workshop are free of charge. For more information or to register, contact Pr. Kendra Wilde at Our Redeemer's Lutheran, 406-442-7842 or by e-mail at kendraw@ourredeemerlives.org.

Please consider attending this important event. As Lutheran Christians, we are called to be citizens and to participate in government, advocating for the least of these, our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Blessings,
Sylvia Bull
Ecumenical Intern

FREEDOM IN CHRIST PROJECT



“Returning citizens” is the term used by the pastor of a prison congregation in Michigan to refer to the ex-offenders who had served their time and had been released. More than just a politically correct way of describing them, that title offers a hopeful future. These people not only have been punished for their crimes (and hopefully made restitution), they have benefited from opportunities in prison to better themselves.

Some of them have furthered their education and may have even obtained an advanced degree. Others have learned new skills and look

forward to joining a productive workforce.

Then there are those who have enjoyed being members of a prison congregation. They have experienced the warm and accepting love of Christ as it is shared in a welcoming community of faith. They have enjoyed the opportunity to serve in meaningful ways: as greeters, ushers, song and prayer leaders, readers of scripture, communion assistants, and hosts. They learn responsibility, accountability, leadership, and hospitality. They can take part in regular Bible study with their pastor; and they can rely

on their pastor for consolation and spiritual guidance. Furthermore they have weekly contact with fellow Christians from the outside sponsoring congregations who worship with them and visit with them over a cup of coffee following the service. Discipleship is fostered. Friendships develop. Recovery happens. Integrity is restored. Relationships are healed. Attitudes are changed. Lives are transformed!

These “returning citizens” then have faith communities that will welcome them when they are released. Congregations, who serve as sponsors, get involved in prison

ministry and gradually overcome their fears. They are inspired in the process of supporting these brothers and sisters and witnessing their transformation. I have met two returning citizens in recent years. One serves as a member of the Prison Congregations of America board of directors. She served 6 ½ years in prison for killing her abusive husband (who had tried to drown her). She is remarried and is gainfully employed. Her participation in a Lutheran congregation at a South Dakota prison provided her with a loving community and a

meaningful opportunity to serve Christ. She is now a valuable asset to the board of directors.

A former member of the PCA board is also a returning citizen. He works as an engineer and is an avid and generous supporter of the PCA ministry. Listening to these two tell their stories is truly inspirational. It is heart-warming to know how they were encouraged and supported during their incarceration and after their release. It’s also a joy to see them helping others now.

Ninety-five percent of those incarcerated in the U.S. will be released. Prison congregations and sponsoring congregations can provide the spiritual nurturing and support that they need to succeed in their re-entry. It’s exciting to think that a new congregation will be established in 2011 at Montana State Prison! We continue to welcome your prayers and financial support. Please visit our new website: <http://ficprisonministry.com>.

Rev. Greg Karlsgodt, Task Force Member

Coming up in future issues of The Lutheran

- January cover story: We keep our favorite Bible verses by giving them away.

- Interview with Robert D. Putnam, who will put a Lutheran focus on his recent book *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites*

Us.

- One congregation dies ... another is born.

- Theology of the cross and the vulnerability of God, written from a Pakistani Christian’s view.

- Radio ministry in India.

- Report from the November ELCA Church Council meeting.

A Faith Response to Immigration:

it begins with....

**Saturday, January 8
10 am - 4 pm
First Presbyterian Church
220 West 22nd St
Cheyenne, Wyoming**

Sponsored by Wyoming Association of Churches

www.wyomingassociationofchurches.org

Registration Fee at the door
\$15.00 (includes lunch)

Living in a migratory world in which many people move across borders to

escape poverty, hunger, injustice and violence, YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN A WORKSHOP striving to face the spiritual, moral and economic challenges immigration poses in the U.S. and Wyoming.

Attached is a downloadable pdf copy of the workshop poster and a registration form. The poster and registration forms may be printed for display (PRINT ON 11 X 17 PAPER FOR DISPLAY AND EASY READING) and/or distributed by email.

To join the workshop, download the attached registration form and complete the form, AFTER COMPLETING THE FORM click Submit Form to return it or

print and fax to 307.362.3530. For questions, contact Rev. Steve Mitchell 307-362-3530 or stevmitch2002@yahoo.com

THANK YOU from the Peace and Justice Team of the Wyoming Association of Churches. Find out more about WAC at www.wyomingassociationofchurches.org

WAC is an ecumenical ministry of nine faith communions who seek to faithfully serve God and work together for the well being of the people of Wyoming.

Abundance! 2011 Lutheran Staff Association Conference

Lutheran Staff Association, or LSA, exists to provide strength and encouragement to the lay ministry community. Our annual conference gives these workers in God's kingdom opportunity to gather for education, peer support, recreation and networking. Some are from small churches, isolated and without much contact with other church workers. Others work on large

staffs in metropolitan congregations, but still seek the company of others who are engaged in similar tasks and ministries.

Registration for the 2011 Conference is found here: <http://www.lutheranstaffnw.org/index.htm>

If you click on "Downloadable Infor-

mation" you will find the 2010 newsletter.

Cannon Beach, Oregon
March 6-9 2011

Cannon Beach Christian Conference Center
Cost \$285

From our Friends in South Africa

Dear friends in Christ, Greetings from Bonaero Park, South Africa. (I am attending) the 17th ELCSA General Assembly meeting under the theme "Jesus, the Bread from Heaven." Bishop MM Dithale of the Western Diocese was elected Presiding Bishop of the ELCSA. Bishop NP Phaswana of

the Central Diocese will be his deputy until 2012 which is a general election year for the church. Then a presiding bishop will be elected for a 6 year term. I will be bringing a greeting on behalf of the ELCA and keep you updated as the meeting progresses.

Keep well and God bless.

Yours faithfully,
Rev. Dr. Philip Knutson
ELCA Global Mission
Regional Program Assistant - Southern Africa

2415 13th Avenue South
Great Falls, Montana 59405

Phone: 406-453-1461
Fax: 406-761-4632
Email: mtsynod@montanasynod.org



www.montanasynod.org

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

Calendar

December, 2010

15 Newsletter sent
23, 24 Christmas Holiday
31 New Year's Holiday

January, 2011

3 New Year's Day Holiday
5 Newsletter deadline
15 Newsletter sent
15 Spirit of Hope nominations due
17 Martin Luther King Holiday
21-23 Youth Group Ski Retreat, FLBC
21-23 PLU Board of Regents meet
28-29 Faith in the Oil Patch, Lethbridge
31 NRIT Pastoral Leadership, Billings
31 Outreach Applications due

February, 2011

5 Newsletter deadline
13 PLU Sunday
15 Newsletter sent
14-16 Midwinter Theological Conf, NRIT
20 Companion Synod Sunday

December, 2010

Montana Synod Newsletter

+ 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.

+ 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