



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements February 13, 2023



40 Days of Wilderness Wonder

“Forty Days of Wilderness Wonder”

is a daily devotional to accompany you through the liturgical church season of Lent which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Daily devotions are provided for each day except for Sundays, which are not counted in the “40 days”. Sundays are always considered the day of resurrection. Each “day” is dated for additional reference.

“Forty Days of Wilderness Wonder” is a collaborative project with original devotionals by clergy and members of Montana ELCA churches in Missoula, Bonner, Frenchtown, Hamilton, Sunburst, Glendive, Great Falls, Broadus, Livingston and Columbus. Special “Thank You” to Pastor Molly Sasser-Goehner for her support and guidance.

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[Click here to download the devotional](#)

Utilize text support: It's brave and smart to seek help if you're living with stress, depression, anxiety, or mental health struggles – but accessing an in-person counselor isn't always easy or even possible. That's one reason the ELCA-Primary health plan EAP benefit has expanded to include Talkspace, digital confidential online counseling with licensed therapists via text, video, or audio. [Read more on myPortico.](#)

Retirement on the horizon? Increase your confidence and peace of mind by learning more about developing a withdrawal strategy, utilize Social Security, plan for health care costs, and more. Watch the recordings of the Retirement Readiness workshops whenever it works for you. [Learn more, or sign up to participate, on myPortico](#)

Getting started on your taxes early? The Richard R. Hammar Clergy Tax Guide and the Federal Reporting Guide for Churches are both [available on myPortico](#) at no cost to you.

Develop an 'I can do this' mindset: Deep breaths, time with loved ones, a good night's sleep ... what are your best practices for keeping yourself centered and healthy? If you're looking to expand your toolbox, and you have ELCA-Primary health benefits, check out [Learn to Live's](#) new course focusing on building resilience. Take the initial assessment and then enroll in the self-guided program at no out-of-pocket cost to you.

Here are the links (above) if you'd like to embed them yourself:

EAP/Talkspace: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/health-benefits/employee-assistance-program>

Retirement Readiness webinars: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/retirement-center/retirement-readiness-series>

Tax Reporting Resources: <https://myportico.porticobenefits.org/retirement-center/tax-planning-resources>

Learn to Live: <https://learntolive.com/program>

Montana Synod Mission Partner, Intermountain, offers FREE Lenten resources!

Lent is a time in which the themes of worship connect well with Intermountain's trauma-informed ministry. Chaplain Sami has prepared a Lenten family worship piece and Rev. Dr. Chris Haughee has prepared a number of weekly bulletin inserts that highlight themes from the Lenten lectionary and are drawn from his first-of-its-kind Trauma-Informed Lenten daily devotional book, Traumatic Triumph. Other resources are available in the links below. Intermountain hopes you find these materials helpful in your preparation for the coming season.



Don't care to download everything today? The blog (intermountainministry.org) will focus on one of the lectionary passages for each week of Lent, posting one week ahead for you to have time to integrate them into bulletins, e-newsletters, social media posts, and more.

[LINK](#) to Chaplain Sami's Family Devotions for Lent

[LINK](#) to [ASH WEDNESDAY](#) bulletin insert

[Link](#) to [Calls to Worship](#) and [Communion Liturgy for Lent](#)

[LINK](#) to [WEEK ONE](#) in Lent – Bulletin insert

Make sure you bookmark intermountainministry.org for this season of Lent for more helpful materials. Those that want to highlight the ministry of Intermountain at some point in Lent may wish to share with their people the opportunity to make an Easter memorial or tribute gift. That information can be shared as a bulletin insert, too, available [Here](#).

Statement of Intent Forms

"Apologies to you who have tried to fill in the Statement of Intent form. It has come to my attention that it is not formatted properly. [Here is a corrected form](#). Please use this to indicate the Mission Support that your congregation has approved at your Annual Meeting. Please send it to me: ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org by Feb. 28th. Thank you so much. Your indication of intentions from your congregation helps the Synod Council and leaders to gauge and adjust the budget for 2023 and 2024.

Thank you for the support from your congregation for the sake of the work we join in together as the Synod and the ELCA.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger,
Director for Evangelical Mission
in the Montana Synod



WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER
2023

WE INVITE YOU TO SHARE YOUR MISSION SUPPORT PLAN FOR 2023.
As you discuss your Mission Support commitment for the coming year, please consider how your offerings reflect your calling and build up the body of Christ. As a church together, we can have a greater impact in your community and beyond, sharing God's abundant grace with others.
To learn more about how God is changing lives through the ELCA, visit Living.Lutheran.org/lofa.

Instructions: Use the columns below to indicate your congregation's current level of Mission Support and your 2023 Mission Support plan. When you have completed this information, please return this form to your synod office.

Name of congregation _____
Congregation ID number _____
Address _____
City, State, ZIP code _____
Submitted by _____ Date _____
Phone _____ Email _____

	2022 ACTUAL	2023 PROJECTED	PERCENT CHANGE
Regular offerings received from members	\$	\$	%
Mission Support budgeted for sharing with the synod and churchwide ministries	\$	\$	%
Percentage of Mission Support (Mission Support divided by weekly offerings)	%	%	%

*Percent supports the portion of regular offerings that your congregation shares for social and churchwide ministries for God's mission beyond the local congregation.
For specific information about the ELCA churchwide budget, visit ELCA.org/missionandhumanity



The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

TRADITIONAL MEDICINES FOR YOUR HEALING JOURNEY



SPEAKER:

Dr. Rosalyn LaPier
BLACKFEET/ METIS
ETHNOBOTANIST

FREE ONLINE EVENT

FEBRUARY 15

**11AM PT/ 12PM MT/
1PM CT/ 2PM ET**



Greetings NABS Members and Allies,
Indian boarding schools disrupted traditional knowledge systems and many of our relatives' connections to their medicines.
NABS invites you to join us for a virtual healing event—"Traditional Medicines For Your Healing Journey"—where Dr. Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfoot/Métis) will share how we can incorporate traditional medicines back into our daily lives.

[Register Here](#)



NRIT Digital Classes Available for Streaming:

As you begin a new year with your council, you may find this digital class helpful. It was taught by our MT Synod Treasurer, Dave Scholten this past January, 2023.

Church Budgets 101

Course Highlights:

Financial statement basics – How to read. What to look for.

Mechanics & controls – Protecting the pastor, staff, volunteers. Avoiding scandal and suspicion.

Presentation and communication – Celebration of God's gifts. Abundance vs. scarcity.

Access this free resource for council training - recorded a few years ago but still applicable: **Serving on the Congregations Council**

Scroll down to the bottom of the [NRIT homepage](#) to find this digital class.



The Fourth Fall Sojourn Holden Village Sept. 24 - Oct. 1, 2023

Holden Village is a
Lutheran retreat center

nestled in a beautiful Cascade Mountain valley of Washington State. After the busy summer schedule, fall is quieter and a beautiful time to visit.

While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythms for each day according to your interests. Teaching sessions and opportunities for creative engagement will be bountiful. You are encouraged to take time for rest and recreation - hiking, fly-fishing, weaving, other crafts, and a host of other activities.

- Please let Darius Larsen know ASAP if you or others may be interested or have questions at dariuslarsen@msn.com.
- To discover more about Holden Village, go to www.holdenvillage.org/visit.

[Click here to download the full pamphlet](#) to learn about the speakers!

February, 2023 *Information for our MT Synod Partners*

We are currently **recruiting staff** for the upcoming season. If you know someone who



would be a good fit, direct them to christikon.org/employment for more information and application materials.

Family Adult opportunities can be found at our website. Watch for updated topics and speakers. Register at: <https://christikon.org/registration-adult-family/>

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on **Sunday, April 30th**. Do you know of an item, service or getaway that would be a great auction item? Please contact the office! Watch for further updates on our website.

This past year had its numerous challenges and opportunities for meaningful ministry, and we are thankful for the opportunity. Our plans for the 2023 season are going forward and we are excited to welcome you to Christikon this summer! Watch for updates on our website.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Couples Retreat, Feb 24-26 at FLBC! There is still time to register! Come for fun and renewal!

FLBC is hiring for summer and year round staff! Associate Director, and Community staff/retreat Coordinator! Contact Margie@flbc.net for more information or go to www.flbc.net



Mark your calendar for Celebrating 80 years of FLBC!! June 30-July 2nd will include story telling and sharing with Rev Gary Cockrell and Brad Abbott. Saturday night, July 1, will include a free bbq, concert with Just Move (formerly AGAPE), and alumni staff led campfire worship. Bring your tent and camp out in the big field. FREE for alumni staff and alumni board!

Thank you for your prayers and care for outdoor ministry!

Synod Staff:

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[Click here to be taken to the newsletter archive](#)



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