



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements February 20, 2023

**The Synod office is closed
today in observance of
President's Day**

**Chico Pastoral
Conference
Registration now
open!**

The Pastoral Leader Conference at Chico will be April 11-14 (Tuesday - Friday).

To reserve a room contact Chicodirectly and state you want a room with the "Pastor's Conference."

If you have any questions about registration feel free to contact Marlow Carrels at mcarrels@gmail.com.



[Click here to register](#)

**"Forty Days of
Wilderness Wonder"**

is a daily devotional to
accompany you through the
liturgical church season of Lent



40 Days of Wilderness Wonder

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.

Photos used by permission from the authors and permissions from Lana Smith, Mike Williams, Halcyon Bjornstad, Christine Emerson, Nancy Marks, Jackee Randall, Doug Ullrich and Holli Humber. Scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) unless otherwise indicated. Hymn texts are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), reprinted by permission under OneLicense.net A-704375. Print copies made possible from a Thrivent Action Team Grant (Thanks, Tana Lambert from Immanuel) and Missoula Copy Center.

[Click here to download the devotional](#)

HB391: Require Local User Fees on Exempt Property

Montana Legislature HB391 would require local user fees on certain exempt property. The bill is similar to repeated past attempts by the Montana Legislature to levy fees or taxes on nonprofits. In this case both cities and counties would be **mandated** to assess user fees on certain tax-exempt organizations, including churches, museums, and affordable housing. [Read the bill text](#) to learn more, including if you are on the list of nonprofit types that would be assessed.

This is an example of how church and state intersect and why a conversation among us as members of the body of Christ matters in the real world. So please take part in the [Study for the Church, State and Civic Engagement Social Statement](#) to explore how the religious and government spheres may intersect.

Sermon Manuscripts Will Be Available to Use in Congregations Who Do Not Have a Called Pastor

As a pilot project in the Lenten and Easter seasons, several pastors (including rostered Synod Staff) have agreed to provide a Sermon Manuscript for each of the Sundays in Lent and Easter. The Sermon manuscript is a gift to the LPAs and worship leaders/leaders in congregations who serve in the places where there is no pastor. Please follow the link to find the sermon each week and use it as it is needed. This is one more way in which the Montana Synod leaders are providing resources to strengthen us. The Manuscripts will be found on the Synod's website and the

Manuscript for the upcoming Sunday will be posted by 12 noon on Saturdays. (Maybe before, but at least by 12 noon on Saturdays for the upcoming Sunday. The Sermons will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary.)

LPAs, please feel free to use this resource made possible by the generosity of the pastors in the Synod if it is needed. Pastors, if you would like to be added to the list to provide a Manuscript, please contact me. (It is good order to credit who wrote the sermon and where they serve.)

We are stronger together as the Montana Synod and this is one way that all of us can be a part of equipping one another for the ministry of the Gospel.

Please contact me if you have questions about this in general or contact Colter at cmccarty@montanasynod.org about any technical aspect of this.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod
ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org
406 451 8461 Cell

ST. JOHN'S UNITED C.A.R.E.S. OPEN HOUSE

YOU'RE INVITED TO COME EAT LUNCH, MEET
OUR TEAM, AND HEAR MORE ABOUT C.A.R.E.S.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2ND

12pm-1pm

~~Sutton~~ Commons
502 N 30th Street

Lunch will be Provided
RSVP to: jrettig@stjohnsunitd.org
By February 28th



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.

REVIVE REUNITE REJOICE

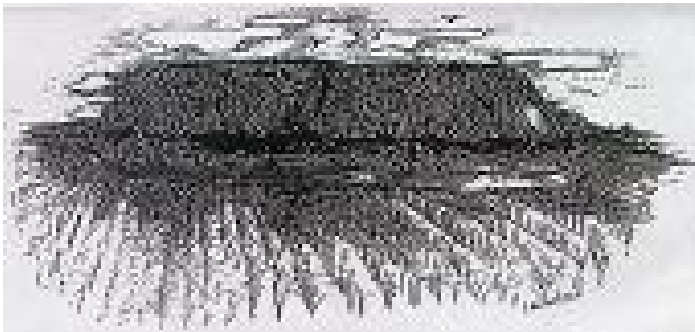
WESTERN STATES YOUTH GATHERING 2023
JULY 4-9, 2023

WSYG & WYLE Registration Price Increase on March 6!

Has your group registered for the Western States Youth Gathering (WSYG) and/or the Western States Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (WYLE)? If not, we strongly encourage you to register today to secure a lower registration price, as prices are increasing on March 6th!

If you have any questions about Western States, you are always welcome to email info@spselca.org.

[Register here](#)



Hetzel Grant Applications now open!

The applications are [available to download here](#). Please read carefully as we have made some changes.

Summer camp!

Youth week
long registration first
discount of \$100 per
session will end March 1st,
at 11:59pm!! 2nd

discount of \$50 will end April 1st at 11:59pm Sign up today! Some weeks are filling up!

Staff are needed.. apply soon, and get your contract back and signed with all your paperwork done by March 31st, and receive an extra week of pay for staying all summer!! 18 year old's and UP...(no maximum age limit!!) Apply today!!!



Volunteer and Pastor "applications" for a week this summer are open! Go to our web site, or call us, and we will mail you the sign up procedure!

Chaplin's are needed for 2-3 weeks at a time, to be at camp during the week and over the weekends for our public/community worship each Sunday at 11am. Contact Margie@flbc.net for the job description. Retired clergy and rostered leaders...this job is calling you!!!

Mark your calendars:

May 26-29- FREE fun family work and play weekend
June 9-11-Women's Retreat with speaker Rev Dr. Meggan Manlove
June 30-July 2-Family and Friends weekend with Special Saturday eve, FREE picnic, and Concert with JUST MOVE (formally AGAPE) Celebrating FLBC's 80 years of ministry.

THANKS For your prayers for the safety and spiritual growth for all!



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.

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



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