



Montana Synod  
**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
Equipping for Ministry

## Montana Synod Weekly Announcements August 14, 2023



Give now for wildfire relief

Multiple wildfires have broken out on the Hawaiian island of Maui. Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. Thousands of people are under evacuation orders, some moving to other Hawaiian islands. Wildfires have also affected the Big Island of Hawaii, and the islands remain vulnerable to more fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

Gifts given to Lutheran Disaster Response equip us to respond to this, and other disasters, whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts given specifically to "U.S. Wildfires" will be restricted to, and used in full (100%) for those affected by wildfires.

[Click here to donate](#)

Brought to you by the MT Synod Racial Justice Task Force:

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

# Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonialism to Strengthen Ministry

5 Wednesday Mornings On Zoom\*  
**September 6th - October 4th**  
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Part 1 costs: \*\*

- Clergy Members: **\$125**
- LPAs: **\$50**
- Lay Members (up to 4 per congregation): **\$25**

\*Attending all 5 sessions is highly encouraged to aid in group participation and discussion. Sessions will not be recorded. If it's necessary to miss more than one session, we suggest waiting to register until the next series offering.

\*\*Part 2 will have a separate registration (dates TBD).


**For more information and to register:**  
Visit the NRIT webpage at [montanasynod.org/nrit](http://montanasynod.org/nrit)  
Questions? Email us at [rjtfmtsynod@gmail.com](mailto:rjtfmtsynod@gmail.com)



## Please join us for Wrestling with Colonization

Friends and colleagues in the Montana Synod: As members of the Montana Synod Racial Justice Task Force, we want to invite you to join us for the 5-week workshop called Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonization to Strengthen Ministry, coming on Wednesday mornings starting Sept. 6th. Our team of indigenous and settler leaders have been carefully building these sessions for the past 6 months based on our collective education, experiences, and wisdom rooted in the Montana landscape and beyond. We have found the information and conversations in these sessions to be essential for settler identifying people and institutions who wish to build relationships, trust and allyship with tribal leaders and indigenous people in our state. Our hope is your congregation will consider sending 2-5 people from your leadership to this workshop as a way to seed the work in your place. **If you have questions about the workshop material or format call John at 406-396-4974.** We hope to see you in September!

**The Wrestling Teaching Team:** **Francine D. Spang-Willis**, is of Cheyenne, Pawnee, and settler descent. She is an oral historian, educator, strategist, researcher, and content curator based in Bozeman, Montana. As the owner of Appearing Flying Woman Consulting, she collaborates with diverse organizations, communities, and individuals to create and implement community-centered and multispecies oral history projects and curricula. Francine earned an Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree from Columbia University. She also has a Native American Studies Master of Arts degree from Montana State University. **Raimund Combs** is of Tsimshian First Nations and German descent. He is a veteran of two military services and two federal law enforcement agencies, totaling 28 years service to the United States. He recently graduated with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Environmental and Native American Studies, and has been working as an educator in Missoula the past 4 years. **Rev. John Lund, ELCA**, is of Finnish and Sicilian descent and serves as pastor at University Congregational Church, UCC in Missoula. In Missoula John has served as a connecting point between the campus community, congregations, and non-profits. He has organized and/or led numerous workshops, book studies, lectures, community action events and community celebrations.



Wondering how to lead in challenging times?  
Leading without hope?  
Hoping something will change?  
Changing without a plan?

[www.rmselfca.org/excellence-in-leadership](http://www.rmselfca.org/excellence-in-leadership)

*Excellence in*  
**LEADERSHIP**  
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

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**Registration is Open for the  
2023-2024 Basic Training in Transitions (BTT) Course  
Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association  
(LuTMA)**

**For all Pastors who sense a call to serve as  
Intentional Interim Ministers  
to help congregations through pastoral transitions.**

2023-2024 BTT Course  
Phase 1: 12 virtual 90 minutes classes on Thursdays.  
Begin Oct 5, 2023 with an introduction to Google Classroom.  
Phase 2: 1 week residential April 8-12, 2024  
(Location to be determined.)

**For more information and registration:**

Visit the LuTMA website

[Link to the LuTMA Website](#)

(Go to tab: Education - Basic Training)

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## Enhancing Worship with Art: Music, Design, Visual Elements and Themes

Led by Pr. Julie Long

-**September 9th**, 10:00am to 3:30pm at [New Hope Lutheran in Great Falls](#)

-**September 23rd**, 10:00am to 3:30pm at [Zion Lutheran in Glendive](#)

-**October 7<sup>th</sup>**, 10:00am to 3:30pm at [Northridge Lutheran in Kalispell](#)

**Cost: \$25**

All are welcome to come, learn and share ideas for music, liturgy and enhancing church spaces to emphasize worship and sermon themes. This workshop will involve singing a variety of songs and liturgies from “Evangelical Lutheran Worship”, “All Creation Sings” as well as from other resources and composers. In addition to music, ideas will be presented using our senses to enhance worship spaces to highlight seasonal and sermon themes included in the Revised Common Lectionary and Narrative Lectionary. Led by retired pastor Julie Long.



Join us at  
**ELEA Innovative  
Leadership Summit:  
Developing the  
Leader Within**  
October 27-29, 2023

[Register](#)

ELEA Innovative Leadership Summit is intense training for leaders of ELCA Schools and Learning Centers who are interested in building a network for themselves, developing new skills and innovative strategies, and re-inspiring passion for your mission. *We encourage Pastors*

**ELEA INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:**  
DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN  
AN INSPIRING LEADERSHIP EVENT

MEET THE SPEAKERS

 JENNIFER SKIBBA Personell	 CODY COTTON Impact	 JANELLE HOOPER Faith	 CHRIS COMELLA Diversity
 MICHAEL ROTTMAN Energy	 CHERYL COLLINS Equity	 DON GILLINGHAM Strategy	

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023 | CHICAGO, IL | [WWW.ELCASCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.ELCASCHOOLS.ORG)

and Administrators to attend together and will offer ways to connect if that is not possible. [View our program guide \(draft\)](#)

#### **Date/Time**

Our program will begin on October 27th at 1:00 pm. There will be an early-bird welcome on October 26th for those arriving early. Our program will conclude on October 29th by Noon. Please schedule travel accordingly.

#### **Fees/Admission**

This event is offered at a rate of \$375/person. This fee covers a multitude of engaging workshop offerings, Saturday Lunch, and breaks as well as resources, panelist time, and much more. Room rates have been secured at \$119. Once participants are registered we will share the attendee list in case you would like to share a room.

## **Save the date: ELCA Fund for Leaders Day of Giving is two weeks away!**

On Aug. 16 we celebrate the birth of ELCA Fund for Leaders (FFL) with a Day of Giving. For over 25 years FFL has been providing scholarships for talented and passionate seminary students. FFL Day of Giving allows us to honor past scholarship recipients and provide emerging leaders with a path to seminary. This year, all gifts to FFL will be matched, dollar for dollar, until we reach \$20,000. To make this day a success, we need your help! Here are a few ways you can participate:

- Make a gift — You will double your impact on the lives of emerging leaders and the future of our church.
- Spread the word on social media — Share what ELCA Fund for Leaders means to you with #FFLDayOfGiving. Follow the ELCA on Facebook and Instagram for stories from current FFL scholars and alums.
- Encourage your community to learn about Fund for Leaders — Throughout August, lift up the ministry of FFL in prayers, announcements and newsletters. Find more information and resources at [ELCA.org/FundForLeaders](http://ELCA.org/FundForLeaders).

Freeing our future pastors and deacons from the burden of student debt remains one of the most important tasks before us as a church. Thank you for supporting our future leaders!

In Christ,

Rev. Marissa H. Krey

Director, ELCA Fund for Leaders

Fund for Leaders Class of 2005

# **Montana Synodical Women's Organization Summer Newsletter**

# Women of the ELCA

## MT Synodical Women's Organization President's Message

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit  
for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12:7 NSRV

Those of you who read my "President's Message" regularly may have noticed that I am often inspired by the daily devotions from "Christ in Our Home." The daily reading for June 6 was from chapter 12 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, in which he lists the "variety of gifts" which come from the "same Spirit." 1 Corinthians 12:4 NSRV.

Those of you who are getting the Newsletter for the Montana and Northern Wyoming Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) for the first time were likely persuaded to give us your email address to get a chance to win one of the baskets we displayed at the Synod Assembly. Those baskets provide a wonderful example of the SWO board members using their spiritual gifts. At our January Board Meeting, one of the Board Members suggested preparing a basket for a drawing. (I confess that I can't remember for sure who had the idea – but we all thought it was a great way to get the word out about the Women of the ELCA). Each board member brought various items and we ended up with so many that we had enough for two baskets! Those with a gift for decorating put the baskets together and those with a gift for marketing encouraged folks to sign up for the drawing.



Rebekah French, MT SWO President



Our lucky winners were Loni Whitford Taylor (Region 1 Representative on the Churchwide Council and member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Reservation) and Donna Putney (Pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Powell, Wyoming). Both of these women generously share their spiritual gifts with their congregations and communities and with the wider church. Loni was featured in the June 2022 edition of "Living Lutheran" and her article can be found at <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/06/51206/>. If you would like to know more about Pastor Putney, you should check out Hope Lutheran's website at <https://hopelutheranpowell.org>.

It is not too late to register for the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix. I have reluctantly decided that I cannot attend the triennial as I have another commitment. I pre-registered for the event when I attended the 2017 Triennial Gathering and will donate my registration to anyone who is interested in attending the 2023 Triennial. We also have funds available to help with your travel and lodging expenses. If you are interested, please contact me at [frenchrjbison1979@gmail.com](mailto:frenchrjbison1979@gmail.com) as soon as possible. If you want more information about the Triennial, check out the web page at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>.

So far I know of only five women from the Montana/Northern Wyoming SWO attending the Triennial. If you have already made plans to attend, let me know and I will pass your contact information along to the other members of the Montana Delegation.

Blessings and safe travels this summer.

Rebekah French, SWO President

## FLBC Updates Outreach Program beginning October 2023 through April 2024!

FLBC year-round staff would love to come to your congregation, to assist and or lead youth and family programs. We will come, "once in a while", or once per month.! We can also come to your congregation to lead a youth lock in, church council retreat, women's event, etc.

Please contact [Amanda@flbc.net](mailto:Amanda@flbc.net), and sign up today!



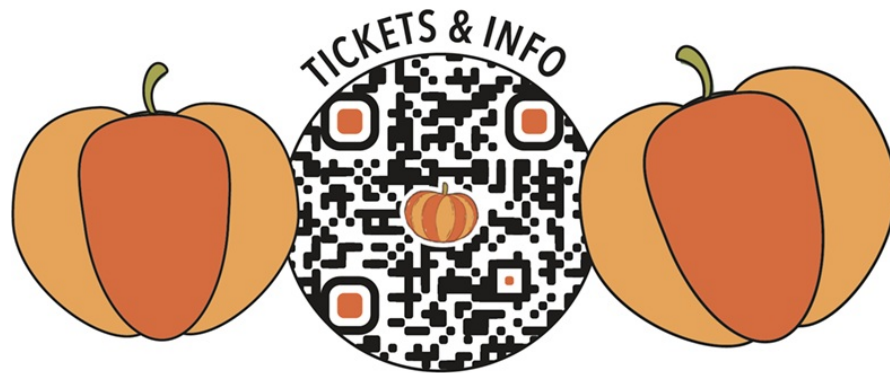
Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand up paddle boarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, and much more! Come to help us with some work projects or join us for a weekend of relaxation, or both! Either way, there will be fun, worship, and more for all. September 1-4, 2023

**CLICK FOR MORE INFO & TO REGISTER**  
**IT'S ALMOST HARVEST FESTIVAL TIME!**

Join us October 14th, buy your tickets today, for a fun night, with great food!!  
Can't come? Join us for our on-line auction beginning October 1st. Help ensure no

one will miss going to camp, because of financial reasons, by donating and or buying something at the auction.

AND remember... congregations... our annual meeting and installation of Pastors Grant and Amanda Applehans, are also on October 14th at 2:30pm. All are invited to stay over Saturday night after the festival. No charge.



**Sept 1-4-** Labor day family and work retreat, with Pastor Abigail Cress-Orellano serving as Adult Bible study and worship leader.

**Oct 14th-** Annual meeting,( including worship and installation of Pastors Grant and Amanda Applehans as Co-Associate Directors.) followed by the Harvest Festival. Tickets on sale now for the dinner and event Saturday, to raise money for camperships. Donations needed!! Contact [Events@flbc.net](mailto:Events@flbc.net) with your questions

**Oct 20-22-** Grief retreat, with expert leaders! Pastor Keith Weatherford will serve as the retreat pastor.

**Oct 29-31** (Sunday-Tuesday) -"The Bible in 24 hours" Adult retreat for lay and pastors. With Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Trinity seminary.

The FLBC Outreach program is taking reservations for a one a month event at your church, October-April! A great outreach ministry for your church. Contact our office! Camp travels everywhere!!



## Christikon Clips

**August 2023**

*Information for our Congregations*

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 72<sup>nd</sup> season. We hosted over 500 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at-risk youth. We have retreats schedule through mid-October.

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and your generous donations. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

**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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