



# Montana Synod Weekly Announcements August 21, 2023

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](https://montanasynod.org/nrit)  
Questions? Email us at [rjtfmtnsynod@gmail.com](mailto:rjtfmtnsynod@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 Colonialism 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 settlers 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.

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

# CREATED

TO  
the table

BE

MYLE  
Young  
Adult  
Gathering

If your congregation is planning on sending youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, please attend a zoom meeting on Tuesday, September 12 at 7 pm. This zoom will be a time for you to ask questions about registration (which opens on Sept. 15), to find out who else is going from the Montana Synod and to talk about traveling together to the gathering.

If you wish to attend the zoom, please contact Pastor Brenda in the Synod office ([bfrelsi@montanasynod.org](mailto:bfrelsi@montanasynod.org)) for an invitation to the zoom.

For additional information about the Youth Gathering [click here!](#)

**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)

**IMA-ELCA Webinar on  
Transition Consulting  
Monday, September 18,  
2023  
1:00 - 3:00 pm EDT**

*Co-sponsored by the Interim  
Ministry Association (ELCA)  
and the  
Center for Congregational Health.*

Transition Consultants:

Who are They  
and How Does a Church Leader  
Become One?

LuTMA friends/colleagues are  
welcome to join this **free** 2 hour  
event.  
The Zoom link will be sent to all  
registrants within 24 hours of the  
event.

For more information and  
registration go to:

**<https://brushfire.com/healthychurch/transitionconsulting/559223>**

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



## Future Church: God's Love Made Real

We become church together by listening to and learning from one another – will you help?

By filling out a new survey, you can assist the ELCA churchwide organization in learning more about our church, what is strong and what needs to grow, so it can better serve our congregations and the world. Your responses will guide us toward a world experiencing the difference that God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Visit [lovemadereal.elca.org](http://lovemadereal.elca.org) to take the survey and share your views on



ONE BODY  
ONE SPIRIT  
ONE HOPE

THIRTEENTH ASSEMBLY  
THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION  
2023 - KRAKÓW, POLAND

## The 13th Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation

Members from across the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), including from the ELCA, will gather Sept. 13-19 in Krakow, Poland, for the LWF's 13th Assembly, under the theme "One Body, One Spirit, One Hope." A [study guide](#) covering the assembly themes is available for free download, along with an [introductory guide](#) to Poland and the host church, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland. Congregations are encouraged to use these resources to explore the themes in contextual ways.

the church and the world today. Your participation will help us move together as the Spirit leads us. [Learn more.](#)

Follow along before and during the assembly at [2023.lwfassembly.org](https://2023.lwfassembly.org) and across LWF and ELCA social media platforms.



## Montana Rural Ministry: Hope and Possibility

**Believing that the future of rural ministry is ecumenical and also knowing that there are hopeful possibilities for rural ministry in Montana, we'd like to invite both pastors and lay people to this ecumenical gathering as a time to ask questions and envision the future.** Designed for both rostered leaders and lay people, with a special invitation to lay leaders from congregations considering working together with other nearby congregations. This is an ecumenical event!

**Led by Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen** *Director of the Center for Theology and Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Mark is also the Chair of the Rural Ministry Network of the United States and Canada and the International Rural Churches Association.*

1pm Wednesday, Oct. 11 through noon Thursday, Oct 12  
St. John's Lutheran, Great Falls

Only \$25 and supper Wednesday night is provided. Participants need to find their own lodging for Wednesday evening.

# FAITH OVER FEAR

## Welcoming Our Muslim Neighbors

# BOZEMAN MONTANA

**October 5, 2023**

A training for people of faith to be allies to our Muslim Neighbors, and others in our communities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT:  
[MontanaSynod.org/nrit.html](https://MontanaSynod.org/nrit.html)

During this training you will:

- Build stronger local multi-religious networks
- Improve skills and confidence to speak against anti-Muslim/anti-other rhetoric & discrimination
- Increase community discussions to effectively counter anti-Muslim & other discrimination

Participants are eligible for 6 CEUs through NRIT



**SHOULDER TO SHOULDER**  
Standing with American Muslims. Advancing American Ideals.



**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**



September 10  
2023

## Worship Resources for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday

If you are still planning for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday (Sept. 10), resources are available. Newly crafted liturgical texts and considerations for preaching help make connections between the lectionary texts and the theme "God's work. Our hands."

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 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.

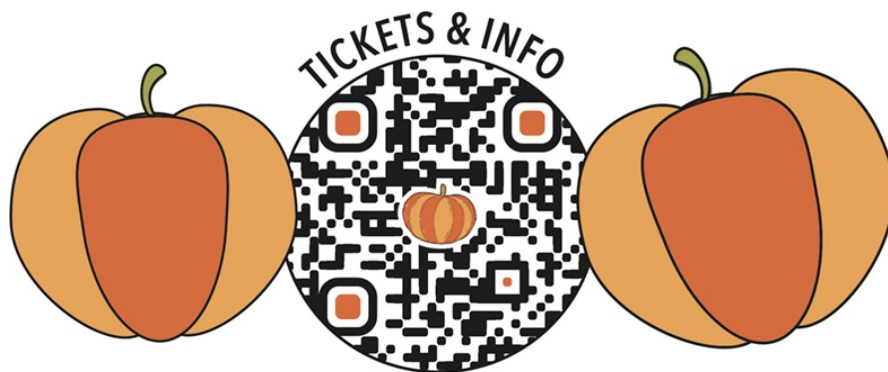


**ELEA INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:**  
DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN  
AN INSPIRING LEADERSHIP EVENT

**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



**Harvest Festival and Auction at FLBC**

**Buy your tickets now** for the Semi Annual Fall Harvest Fest and Auction, Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, benefitting Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. A single ticket is \$50 or you can get a whole table (8 tickets) for \$350. This event helps make camp a reality for every single

kid or family by offsetting the cost per camper.

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

**Confirmation!** FLBC has had some requests for an on-line confirmation class, with 3-4 retreats at FLBC during the year. The class would/could be for students across the synod who Would zoom together for class, and then gather for retreats, and or a week of summer confirmation camp. Would any of you Pastors/LPS's/lay leaders be interested in this for your student(s)?? Would you be willing to help teach? What curriculum would be the most helpful for your congregation? Please contact Associate Director Pastor Amanda Applehans. [Amanda@flbc.net](mailto:Amanda@flbc.net)



**Grief Retreat:** October 20-23, with professional counselor and Pastor Keith. For those adults coping with the loss of a friend, or family member. Registration deadline Oct 6th.

**The Bible in 24 hours**, October 29-31, (Sunday-Tuesday) Come enjoy FLBC in the fall. Relax, hike, sip some wine, and enjoy learning more about the Bible with Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Biblical Studie professor a Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH.

**Young Adults!** Plan now to attend the young adult retreat, Dec 27-29 at FLBC. Ski, play, enjoy the new sauna, with a dip in the lake! Join Baird Linke, and the FLBC staff who will lead the sessions, on the theme: "Spiritual Wilderness" \$100 per person; 18-35 year olds. Registration deadline Dec. 13th.

**THANK YOU....**for all our amazing 57 summer staff, over 50 volunteers, and over 1200 campers who made the summer of 2023 extra special. THANKS be to God

For questions and more details, or if you would like the schedule of these retreats: call FLBC at 406-752-6602. (leave a voice message, as many of our staff work remotely) or email [Registraion@flbc.net](mailto:Registraion@flbc.net).



## 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.**

**CHRISTIKON • 1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102  
406 656-1969 • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)**

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