



News of the Week February 1, 2023

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Pastor Trina Johnsten, Lead Pastor at Our Redeemer's in Helena, has been admitted to St. Peter's Hospital as medical staff attempt to address long-term symptoms, including recurring fevers and inconclusive lab results.

Prayers for wisdom for the medical team and her swift return to full health.



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

American Lutheran Church, Harlowton
First American Lutheran Church, Hardin

Western Iowa Synod

Words from the Synod: NRIT Serving the Montana Synod for 45 Years

In the mid 1970s a number of education centers were created for ALC Lutheran clergy. Some were placed in colleges or other institutions and others, like the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, were free standing.

Marc Kolden became the first director of NRIT in 1978 and he was also the teacher,

giving instruction in systematic theology and ethics among other areas. By 1980, Marc had recruited Peter Sethre, Jim Aageson and Tom Lee, all pastors in Montana, to help in providing courses for pastors.

When Kolden returned to Luther Seminary, Eldon Olson was hired, again as director/instructor. Olson also recruited area pastors to teach, along with some college and seminary professors.

When the ELCA was formed, Tom Lee became interim director during the time of transition. He kept NRIT going as the newly formed Montana Synod determined how to offer continuing education. Ultimately, the Montana Synod decided to continue NRIT, acknowledging the ministry as important to the work of pastors and churches.

Jessica Crist was hired as part-time director and served for twice as long as any of her predecessors. She served as director of NRIT until she was elected as bishop in 2007. Crist guided NRIT into a new model in which both area teachers, as well as faculty from around the country, came to provide education on a diversity of topics. The ministry flourished under her leadership.

When Jessica Crist was elected as bishop, Laurie Jungling served as interim director from 2007-2008. Jungling was hired as faculty at Augustana College after that year and Jenny Kunka became NRIT Director. She still serves in that position.

Throughout NRIT's 45 years, the ministry has continually adapted as it responds to a changing church and to new challenges and joys of doing ministry in the world.

NRIT offerings now include laity, LPAs and rostered leaders. The ministry also welcomes students to learn via digital classes, Zoom offerings, in-person one-day courses and retreats.

(History was taken from "NRIT, Some Anniversary Reflections" written by Thomas R. Lee)



Upcoming Stewardship Webinar

Have you ever wondered why people are generous in the ways they are? Curious to explore how you can tap into giving motivations to encourage generosity? In this increasingly post-pandemic world, rostered and congregational leaders might well explore some of the nuances of giver motivation with the upcoming webinar "Practical Stewardship Tips," which is free and open to all. Presenters will be Rev. Timothy Brown, Director of Congregational Stewardship for the ELCA and Rev. Meredith McNabb with the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving. Mark your calendar!

Practical Stewardship Tips
Wednesday, Feb. 1
6 p.m. Central

Join from computer or mobile: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/86372108860?pwd=NXpScVRWS1ZORXUyU3NIREpqcEg5UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 7210 8860
Password: 938447

The Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

Statement of Intent time!

Now that most annual meetings are concluded please remember to fill out the Statement of Intent form found below! These are an important part of our ministry support planning and Synod stewardship. The completed forms can be either emailed to [DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger](#) or sent to the Synod office: 1221 24th St S Great Falls, MT 59405

[Click here to download the Statement of Intent form](#)

Save the date for Chico!

Dearest Colleagues,

Put it on your calendars! We are planning to have the Pastoral Leader Conference at Chico this year from April 11-14 (Tuesday - Friday).

Registration will be opened up around Ash Wednesday. To reserve a room contact Chico [directly](#) and state you want a room with the "Pastor's Conference." Be on the lookout for more information coming through the Synod News.

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

Chico Planning Board



Installation Invitation

You are invited to the Service of Holy Communion and Installation on Sunday, February 12th at 2:00 PM, as the people of St. John's Lutheran Church in Helena welcome their new pastor, Rev. Keith Weatherford. Special guest preacher will be Bishop Dr. Laurie Jungling, Bishop of the Montana Synod with Rev. Brenda Frelsi, Associate to the Bishop of the Montana Synod, officiating.

All are invited to worship in person. The service will also be livestreamed via our Facebook page. Clergy who attend are invited to process. The color of the day will be green. There will be a potluck reception following the service.



Save the date for the Montana Synod

Assembly! We will meet in Great Falls at the Heritage Inn starting Friday morning, June 2

and ending Saturday, late afternoon.

[Click here to give to the Montana Synod](#)

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