



## News of the Week February 15, 2023

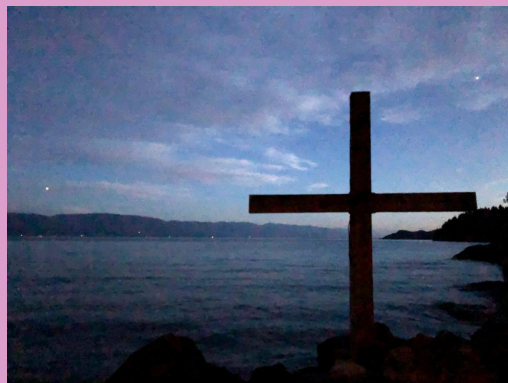
# Prayers of the Week

**Please remember in your prayers  
this week:**

Prayers of celebration for the installation of Pastor Keith Weatherford, newly called pastor at St. John's Lutheran church in Helena, MT.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer  
Calendar:**

Big Timber Lutheran Church, Big  
Timber



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## Words from the Bishop: Vision, Calling, Values



[Download the "Vision, Calling, Values" document here](#)







The feet of those leaders present who walked with Pastor Keith Weatherford at his installation!

How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news,  
who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.  
*Isaiah 52:7*

## LPA License Requests

Please send all license requests to our new office manager, Ms. Lori Jara, who began in this position on Monday, February 6.

You can reach her at the Synod office number or this new email address:  
[office@montanasynod.org](mailto:office@montanasynod.org)

[Click here to download the most current version of the LPA Licensing Guidelines](#)



**NAYANAKAX TATTURUVV UNJTA!**  
**(WE HAVE SEEN THE LORD!)**

## News from Aaron Decker, ELCA Missionary in Bolivia

### What is the Church?

When Raymundo cut his finger off at work and ended up in the hospital, it was just icing on the cake. The whole holiday season had been a disaster. They lost several farm animals to disease, crops were failing without rain, and now he couldn't go to his second job, in construction, for months while he healed. He lay in bed in one of the two rooms of his mud-brick home, wondering why God was so cruel.

God, of course, is not. We all tend to blame God when things go wrong, but God promises instead to walk with us. We will have to face

So one Sunday late in January, Ark of God Lutheran worshiped not at their building, but in Raymundo's front yard. Plastic chairs and table were enough as the they came together to support their friends **in** Christ.

The congregation had called the central church offices, asking for someone to join them. Three of us came. A national church council member drove. I gave my first Spanish sermon without a manuscript. The Church's Secretary of Mission blessed the family and with water and prayer. What a gift to be the sign of *your* presence for them that day.

What is the church? Among other things, we are the presence of Christ in the world. We show people that they are not alone; God, and God's people, is here on the journey with them. With all of us.

*It is because of you that I am not alone in my ministry. Thank you!*

**Prayer Request:** For Bolivia's economic challenges and for those without work throughout the world.

### 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](mailto:mcarrels@gmail.com).

Chico Planning Board



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### Synod Staff:

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