



## News of the Week March 1, 2023

# Prayers of the Week

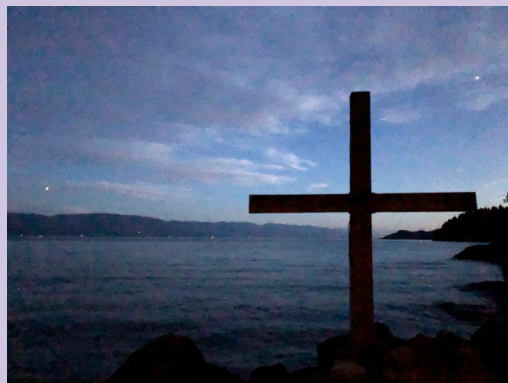
**Please remember in your prayers  
this week:**

For retired Pastor Harold Everson and family as they mourn the death of his wife, Dorthy. Funeral to be held next week at American Lutheran, Billings.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer  
Calendar:**

Peace Lutheran Church, Greybull, WY  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Cody, WY  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Columbia Falls

Allegheny Synod



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**The annual Assembly of the Montana  
Synod of the ELCA will be held June 2-3,  
2023 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls,  
Montana**

Rev. Doris Tollefson, MT Synod Secretary,  
March 1, 2023

This year the assembly will be in Great Falls and is a Business Meeting. The theme is "Equipping for Generosity." Our Churchwide representative is the Rev. Barb Lund.

The deadline for both nominations and resolutions is April 15, 2023. More information to come on this process.

All registration information and materials will be sent via e-mail to rostered leaders and congregations and will also be posted on the synod's website.

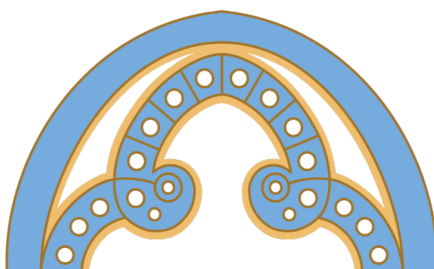
Check the weekly e-news or our website, [www.montanasynod.org](http://www.montanasynod.org) for more information and deadlines.

## Words from the Synod: Montana Jewish Project

*An update from Rebecca Stanfel, Director, Montana Jewish Project*

All of us at the Montana Jewish Project are thrilled to have bought back Montana's first synagogue — Helena's historic (1891)

Temple Emanu-El—on August 25. We couldn't have done this without the support we received from so many across Montana, including from Bishop Jungling and many ELCA churches.



**MONTANA  
JEWISH  
PROJECT**  
לדור ודור

As exciting as it is to return this building to Jewish ownership for the first time since 1934, our work at the Montana Jewish Project (MJP) is just getting started. Education and outreach are key to our mission, especially during these challenging times of rising antisemitism and hate. We sent 50 free curriculum boxes to 4th grade public school and religious education teachers across Montana, using Hanukkah and Montana history as a jumping off point for class discussions about acceptance.

We're hosting events both for the broader community (like our open Hanukkah party) and just for Helena's Jewish community. We're also working to improve Jewish life around the state by collaborating with other Montana Jewish communities. For instance, we are bringing together Rabbis and congregation leaders to address security issues and help find funding for solutions.

We're expanding our lending library and are eager to develop our historical exhibit on the history of Jewish life in Montana. We're also committed to preserving and maintaining historic Temple Emanu-El. We will be putting on a new roof this summer.

Thank you all again for helping make our dream come true, and we look forward to joining with you in the future to work together and learn together.

-Rebecca

### Coming Events Hosted by the Montana Jewish Project:

To commemorate *Yom HaShoah*, which memorializes the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust, MJP will facilitate an online discussion about strategies to push back against antisemitism and hate of all kinds. We will be sending out the specific date and time, the guest speakers, and links for how to join this important discussion in our next newsletter and on social media.

On Sunday, May 21, MJP is honored to co-host a historic tour led by historian Ellen Baumler of the beautiful Jewish cemetery in Helena with the Montana Historical Society (provide link) and the Home of Peace Jewish cemetery board. More details will follow, as



we get closer to the tour. Much of the history of early Montana is in this peaceful and sacred space.

At MJP, we will also be hosting the Montana opening of the Smithsonian exhibition, *Sounds of Religion*. This unique exhibit explores how rituals and gatherings of religious communities create a complex soundtrack of religions in America that teach how people behave, how they're different, and what they have in common. We are honored that co-creator Isaac Weiner, a religious studies professor at Ohio State University, will join us online to talk about this project that he's been working on since 2014. Again, stay tuned for more details.

**Sign up for the MJP newsletter at:**

[MontanaJewishProject](#) | [Email Sign Up](#)

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## **Chico Pastoral Conference Registration now open!**

### **Our Speaker: Dr. Kirsi Stjerna**

Kirsi Stjerna, a native of Finland, is a Lutheran theologian engaged (in her own words) in "critical and compassionate" examination of the relevance of Luther's freedom theology for the contemporary world.

In addition to serving full-time at PLTS, Stjerna teaches at the Core Doctoral Faculty at Graduate Theological Union, both in Theology and Ethics department, and in Historical and Cultural Studies of Religion department Ethics (Chair, 2022-2023). Until summer 2022, she served as the Chair of the Local Committee for the 14th International Congress for Luther Research, hosted at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, CA, in August 2022, where she also led a seminar on "Luther and Religion" with Christopher Ocker (GTU).



Stjerna's book *Women and the Reformation* (Wiley 2008) broke new ground by bringing women's theological voices to the conversation. Her newest book *Women Reformers of the Early Modern Europe: Profiles, Texts, and Contexts* (Fortress/Media 1517, 2022) features original and cutting edge work of over 30 international scholars and is designed as both a teaching and reference tool. It is this material that she will address in her sessions at Chico.

*Dr. Stjerna will have three sessions in the schedule. The other three speaker sessions will involve presentations from our synod Changing Climate Taskforce and the Racial Justice Taskforce.*

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](mailto:mcarrels@gmail.com).

[Click here to register](#)

# 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 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 equip us for the ministry of the Gospel.

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.)

Worship leaders: please feel free to use this resource made possible by the generosity of the pastors in the Synod if it is needed.

(It is good order to credit who wrote the sermon and where they serve.)

Pastors: if you would like to be added to the list to provide a Manuscript, please contact me.

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](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org) about any technical aspect of this.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod  
[ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)  
406 451 8461 Cell

## Parochial update and reminder

The deadline has been extended to March 15th due to several issues that have been encountered during submission. If you have issues submitting form A or C, try the following:

- Submitting the form on a different computer
- Clearing the cache on your browser
- Using another browser

Any further questions can be directed to Colter in the synod office:  
[cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

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

### **Synod Staff:**

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