



News of the Week March 8, 2023

Prayers of the Week

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

For Pastor Tammy Bull (New Hope,
Great Falls) and her family as they
mourn the death of her mother, Cathy
Hubert.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer
Calendar:**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
Kalispell
Northridge Lutheran Church, Kalispell
Christ Lutheran Church, Libby

Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
Caribbean Synod



Words from the Bishop: Conference of Bishops





“Fully Lutheran and fully Native”

ELCA Indigenous Leaders Gathering draws participants from across the country

The first morning of the ELCA Indigenous Leaders Gathering began with a blessing. Some 40 attendees stood in a circle in the courtyard of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in San Diego, ready to begin a day of sharing and growing with one another. They included representatives from nine [Indigenous ministries](#) across the ELCA and students from multiple [ELCA colleges and universities](#). Several came from North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota; Shannon Klescewski (Inupiaq) journeyed all the way from Nome, Alaska, where she serves on her synod council. The gathering, held Dec. 8-11, 2022, gave them all the chance to stand under a blue sky, free from mittens and heavy coats.

[“Fully Lutheran and fully Native” - Living Lutheran](#)

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. [Click here](#) to download the Nominations Form. [Click here](#) to download the Guidelines for Consideration of Resolutions.

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 for more information and deadlines.

Looking for more Reports to the Bishop!

If you are an actively called rostered leader and have not yet turned in your 2022 Report to the Bishop please do so now! [Click here](#) to be taken to the report page, thank you!

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.

[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 about any technical aspect of this.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod
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

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

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