



News of the Week March 29, 2023

Prayers of the Week

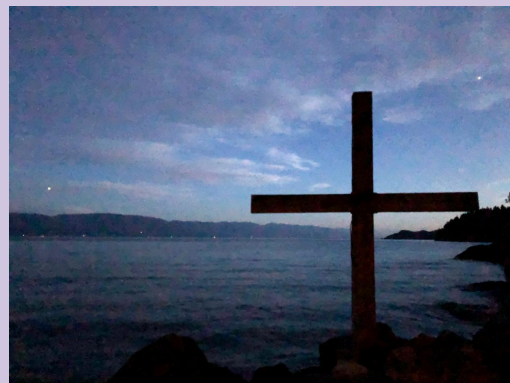
**Please remember in your prayers
this week:**

For Pastor Kendra Wilde as she recovers
from surgery.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer
Calendar:**

Trinity Lutheran Church, Hot Springs

Delaware-Maryland Synod



Words from the Bishop: A Letter of Support for the Jewish Community

'As we enter into these Holy Days of the Christian faith, we begin with Maundy Thursday, the day we remember Jesus' last meal with his disciples. During this meal, he again stated the command that God has given since the time of Moses: the command to love one another as God has love us. (Jn 13:34)

Jesus and his followers celebrated this meal as part of the Jewish Celebration of Passover when every year the Jewish people remember how God liberated them from slavery in ancient Egypt. (Ex 12) In this meal and in so many other ways, the Jewish and Christian faith traditions are intertwined. We share a common ancestor in Abraham and Sarah, share a common heritage in the Hebrew Scriptures, worship the one God who created heaven and earth, and recognize the humanity of all as created in the image of God. We are siblings, children of the same God,



and care-givers to the same world...

... We know that throughout its history, the Christian church and its members have done deep harm to the Jewish people and their communities. Anti-Judaism and, later, antisemitism have been prevalent in the words and actions of Christians. This mistreatment is seen especially in Martin Luther's horrific diatribes and violent recommendations against the Jews in his later writings, in the silence of the Christian church (including Lutherans) during the Holocaust and its aftermath, and in too much overt and subtle bigoted behavior by Christians everywhere including here in Montana and N. Wyoming.

Sadly, this anti-Semitism is rising again in our polarized society through acts of violence and prejudice toward Jews and their communities. People who claim to follow Jesus are causing needless suffering and fear among our Jewish neighbors and their families with hate speech and prejudice, for instance seen the recent experience of a neighborhood in Great Falls throughout which anti-Semitic tracts were spread. Perhaps this has happened in your community as well.

Such behavior by Christians is wrong and contrary to the gospel of God's love for the whole world as well as God's command to love the neighbor -- *all* of our neighbors including our Jewish siblings. As witnesses to the good news of new life in and through Jesus Christ, Christians are called to seek peace, justice and the well-being of all God's children. We are called to work for the common good in our communities alongside people of other faiths and religions. We are called to confront bigotry directed against those who worship and believe differently, "playing an active role in dispelling fear...and standing with those who are targets of fear, discrimination, hatred and violence." ([Declaration of Interreligious Commitment, 2019](#))

And we are called to repent of our previous behaviors and the actions of our ancestors by returning to the Lord our God so that we can better build healthy and supportive relationships with our Jewish neighbors. We are called to learn through respectful conversation, dialogue, growth in friendship and cooperation with people of other faiths, including the Jewish community and people.

During this time of learning, building relationships and cooperation in serving our community, creation and world, let us seek mutual understanding, discovering not only factual knowledge about the commonalities and differences of our respective traditions but finding beauty in another religious tradition as well as our own. For in seeing how our Jewish neighbors love and cherish their own tradition, we as Christians may renew our love and understanding of our own faith and tradition.'

(written by Bp Laurie Jungling, April 14, 2022)

Update, March 29, 2023: Antisemitism continues to grow in our country, state and communities, up 86% from last year according to one source. So please consider again how we can follow our call to love our neighbor and support the Jewish community during this holy season. While the Montana Jewish Project was able to purchase Temple Emanu-El last summer, our Jewish siblings still need our support in a variety of ways including respect, justice, loving-kindness, standing against hate, and/or financial if you feel so called to support their work. For more information, go to <https://www.montanajewishproject.com>

2023 Assembly Information

Registrations are now open!

A few things to remember before registering:

- Have all information needed to register beforehand including Name, email, physical address, and any meal requirements for each person registering.
- Carefully read all options available before registering, make sure to select the appropriate option for your registration.
- An individual email is required for each person.
- If prompted for a country code at the address portion of the registration, enter the number 1.
- All payments are online only.

- There will be **NO in person registration** at the assembly. All voting members **Must** be registered before the registration cut off date of May 11th.
- There is **no need** to print the tickets generated by Tithely. You will receive your registration packet in person at the assembly.

Click here to register for the 2023 Montana Synod Assembly!

After you register make sure that you have a room reserved at the **Heritage Inn** in Great Falls and ask for our discounted room rate for the Montana Synod Assembly.

If you would like to register for a display table, submit a video or annual report, or help sponsor part of the assembly **download the form here!**

Any questions about registration can be directed to: cmccarty@montanasynod.org.

Check the weekly e-news or our website, www.montanasynod.org for more information and deadlines.

Assembly Nominations

Dick Deschamps, the current VP of the Montana Synod ELCA, is not planning to run again for that position. We are in the process of searching for 2 people to put on the ballot at the 2023 Synod Assembly in June. If you or anyone you know has the leadership skills to fill that position, please contact Pastor Brenda in the synod office at bfrelsi@montanasynod.org

If you would like to nominate a person for either the Synod Council, the Committee on Discipline or the Consultation Committee, **Click here** to download the Nominations Form.

Assembly Resolutions

Click here to download the resolutions form

The goal of a resolution is to inform and educate people so that they are inspired to act and approve the resolution. Every resolution should:

- Address only one issue.
- Call the Synod Assembly to action on something it can influence.
- Address concerns relevant to the Synod.
- Propose an action or a solution to a problem.
- Be based on sufficient background and analysis. You should be able to back it up.
- Provide enough background to give someone with sufficient knowledge of the subject to make an intelligent and informed decision.

The deadline for both nominations and resolutions is April 15, 2023. **Click here** to download the Guidelines for Consideration of Resolutions.

Looking for Assembly help

We are looking for worship leader volunteers during the Montana Synod Assembly this year in Great Falls.

Positions include:

Musicians

Readers

Ushers

Communion Leader

If you are interested please contact the Synod office: office@montanasynod.org

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.

If you are on the Retired Roster or an LPA please click the links below in order to submit your report to the Bishop. Thank you for your ministry in whatever form it takes!

[Retired Pastor](#)

[Lay Pastoral Associate](#)

Chico Pastoral Conference Registration now open!

A note from Registrar Pr. Marlow Carrels:

Hello friends, **registration for Chico will close on March 31st**. Also, scholarships are available if needed, please contact Marlow Carrels directly for those at mcarrels@gmail.com.

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."

[Click here to register](#)

Sermon Manuscripts Will Be Available to Use in Congregations Who Do Not Have a Called Pastor

Look for a special Passion/Palm Sunday offering next week!

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.)

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

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