



News of the Week May 10, 2023

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For pastor Cheryl Muncy (Joplin) and her family as they mourn the death of her cousin.

For our sister synod to the north, Synod of Alberta and the Territories, as they experience devastating wildfires so early in the season.



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Butte
Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church, Butte

Indiana-Kentucky Synod

Montana Synod Comings and Goings

Montana Synod New Calls:

Pastor Barb Haugerud

I grew up in Lakewood, CO, a suburb of Denver. I am a graduate of St. Olaf College and of Luther Seminary. I have been married to my husband Cliff since 1996.

I was ordained in 1994. All of my previous calls have been in North Dakota: as Associate Pastor of a 2-point parish consisting of Christ Lutheran Church in Minot



and Rose Valley Lutheran Church in Des Lacs; as Lead Pastor of a 6-point parish consisting of English Lutheran in Maxbass, Dovre Lutheran in Newburg, Trinity Lutheran in Souris, Lesje Lutheran in rural Souris, Trinity Lutheran in Westhope, and the Westhope Home in Westhope; and as Pastor of a 2-point parish consisting of Bethany Lutheran in Rugby and Wolford Lutheran in Wolford. I am currently called by the Montana Synod Council to serve as Interim/Contract Pastor of Pella Lutheran in Sidney. A congregational meeting has been called for May 21 for the purpose of the congregation voting to extend me a regular call as Senior Pastor.

My hobbies include playing piano; walking; doing jigsaw puzzles; reading biographies and auto-biographies; biblical archaeology; worship, music, and the arts; and researching and writing Bible studies and Lenten worship series and studies.



Pastor Seth Ramage

Pastor Seth Ramage has been serving Peace Lutheran in Billings since May 2022. After graduating in the 153rd (and final!! Before the merger, anyway...) class of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, Seth served as a dispersed intern at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Spokane, Washington. After that year, Seth was called to serve in bivocational ministry in Chewelah, Washington, as a half-time pastor at St. Paul, and as a part-time chaplain to the Providence Medical System in Stevens County Washington. Between the end of that call and the beginning of ministry at Peace, Seth served as an interim pastor at

Our Savior Lutheran Church in Pinehurst, Idaho.

Seth and his wife, Katrina, have been married since 2015 and have two children- Ariella (3 yrs) and Nathanael (11 mos). As a family, they enjoy walking to the neighborhood park to swing on the swings and play fetch with their dogs. They are embarking on a new gardening adventure this summer and are excited to eat fresh produce this fall.

Pastor Keith Weatherford

Pastor Keith is the pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Helena. Bio to come later.



Montana Synod Transitions:

Marlow Carrels accepted a call as pastor for Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry.
Brenda Frelsi accepted a call to be the new Associate to the Bishop for the MT Synod.
Chris Flohr accepted a call outside of the MT Synod.
Carol Seilhymer accepted a call at Northridge Lutheran in Kalispell.
Audrey Rydbom accepted a call at Zion Lutheran in Lewistown.
Stephanie White accepted a call outside of the MT Synod.

Montana Synod Retirements:

Thank you to these pastors who have retired in the past year. We are grateful for your ministry and years of service to the Montana Synod.

2023 Assembly Information

Registration Extended to Friday, May 12

[Click here for more information on the Synod assembly](#)

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!](#)

Reminder

A recording of the Synod assembly worship service with the Trinity Sunday texts will be available on Saturday, June 3 on the Montana Synod website. There will also be a manuscript available to download.

If you are a voting member look for an email early next week with information on what you need to do before coming to the assembly including where to find information and pre-assembly online opportunities!

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.

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

FLBC is excited to welcome our new Co-Associate Directors; Rev Grant and Rev Amanda Applehans.

Grant and Amanda, will begin their new role, May 15th and will work in areas of operations, marketing, financial development, and programing, (with overseeing the FLBC Retreat ministry, including groups that bring their own retreats, and FLBC sponsored retreats and events.)

Rev. Amanda Applehans has been a pastor of the ELCA since 2009, and has served many congregations in Illinois, Montana, and Minnesota before coming to FLBC. Pastor Amanda is a fan of all things story-related, including writing, reading, movies, and especially scripture. Amanda was on the curriculum writing team for the 2024 Lutheran Outdoor Ministries curriculum, which will be used at FLBC next summer. She is a wife to Grant, a mom to Sam, and above all a beloved child of God.



Rev Grant Applehans has served several congregations, as a missionary and as a DEM. Grant is a musician, educator, and pastor of the ELCA. He has a passion for engaging his own creativity and the creativity of others as a way to connect with ourselves and the Creator of the universe. Rooted in relationship with Jesus and the good news of God’s unrelenting love and care for all that God has made, Grant seeks to engage God’s creation, sharing the love and care that he has received. Having had the opportunity to study and serve around the globe, Grant strives to help “circulate the blood in the body of Christ” fostering connections with our brothers and sisters around the world, and across the street - connections which draw us out of our assumptions, ruts, and bunkers, and into the greater beauty, possibilities, and adventure that God is opening before us all.

Grant and Amanda have one son, Sam, age 6, who keeps us all entertained at camp!

“We are excited to be joining the FLBC staff in a more permanent way! Our family has spent much of the past few years on site, first as volunteers, then as summer staff and working with retreats. Camp has become a part of our family just as we have become a part of the camp community. The hospitality and welcome that we have received has been a blessing to us, and we look forward to extending that blessing to all those who enter this holy space.”

Pastor Grant and Pastor Amanda

Grant and Amanda will be installed at the FLBC annual meeting, by Bishop Laurie Jungling, Saturday, October 14th, 2023, 2:30pm. Come join the celebration, and stay for the Harvest Festival Dinner and auction!!

Constitutional Review Committee

On behalf of the Montana Synod Constitutional Review Committee I would like to remind congregations that if they haven’t already, they should update their constitutions to include the changes made by the 2022 Churchwide Assembly. These may be found on the ELCA.org website. We recommend downloading the Model Constitution for Congregations, the August 2022 version.

Before undertaking this task, you need to contact me at ronmartindent@yahoo.com and we will assign a committee member to work with you. This will help make this go easier and, hopefully, quicker for all involved.

Thanks!

Pastor Ron Martin-Dent

LPA Gathering

Our LPA Gathering will take place starting the evening of June 3rd in Great Falls. We will gather at the Heritage Inn for a banquet dinner on Saturday evening, have a time to honor our longest serving LPAs, hear from Bishop Laurie, worship together and enjoy fellowship. The Gathering will end on Sunday, June 4th by noon so you can grab some lunch and be on your way home. The cost is \$25 per person. Spouses are welcome at the same cost.

I am hoping that there are many LPAs who attend so we can encourage and support each other. Also, if you have a book that has proved helpful in your LPA journey, please bring it along and be prepared to share a bit about it so others might be able to order it and read it.

If you have any questions, contact me at bfrelsi@montanasynod.org

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

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