



News of the Week July 26, 2023

Prayers of the Week

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

**From the Montana Synod Prayer
Calendar:**

Grace Lutheran Church, Fairfield
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fairfield
Bethany Lutheran Church, Dutton

Northeastern Minnesota Synod



Stories from the Synod: Building Beds for Children in Wyoming

The website says, “All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. In Idaho and across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets and even floors.”

This was the idea that grabbed Dan and Nancy Frederick, two retirees who are members of Grace Lutheran Church in Worland, WY. The couple had watched a video about Sleep in Heavenly Peace and wanted to learn more about the organization that makes bunkbeds for children.



“We were both retired and thinking it was kind of nice,” Dan said. “I built a barn that had a woodshop and planned to putter in the woodshop.”

After going through chemotherapy and surgery for cancer, however, Dan wasn't feeling well and both he and Nancy were a bit down. One day, Dan watched the video about Sleep in Heavenly Peace and showed it to Nancy saying, “Maybe we could do something like that.

“It happened at just the right time. I needed to start thinking about other people rather than myself. This really made a difference for both of us,” Dan said. (It's now been over five years since Dan's surgery and he is completely recovered.)

After Dan finished a training, the couple opened a Sleep in Heavenly Peace chapter in Worland. Dan didn't necessarily think there would be a lot of need in the area but Nancy, a retired teacher, told him he might be surprised.



Their chapter covers the Big Horn Basin and also Lander and Hudson in Fremont County, a huge geographical area. And they have given away over one thousand beds so far.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace was born one Christmas when Luke Nicholson, bothered by his children's focus on presents, decided to teach his children about giving. He brought them to the garage and together, they built a bed for a local family. Then they wondered what to do with the leftover wood. Might another family need a bed?

After putting a post on Facebook, Luke was surprised not only by the need, but also by the number of people excited to help make beds. The organization grew, gaining chapters throughout Idaho and then reaching to other states.

The Fredericks have also found an abundance of volunteers. “Grace Lutheran was one of the initial groups that helped us get going,” Dan said. “Our first community build was at Grace Lutheran in the church parking lot and it was very disorganized, but they stuck with us.”

Grace Lutheran continues to provide volunteers and Pastor Tim Tripple is on the core team for Worland chapter. Trinity Lutheran in Cody hosts a build in their parking lot every year and Hope Lutheran in Powell has also been involved in builds. Additionally, Hope Lutheran provides quilts for the beds. At their last build, the Worland chapter had 57 community members volunteer, people from all churches and all walks of life.

The Worland Chapter of SHP has a core team that helps to organize a build and deliver the bunkbeds. “We have a really good team of twelve to fourteen people,” Dan said. “We call them our pros because, when we have a build or a delivery, we'll use them to teach other volunteers how to do things.”

Volunteers want to feel useful, so the pros make sure everyone has something to do. “You start with a pile of lumber and you end up with beds complete when you get done. People really like that,” Dan said. It's also a great volunteer opportunity for people who love to use power tools.

What really affects people who volunteer, Nancy said, is the delivery. “Once you do a delivery, it's pretty hard to stop. You get a different feeling. It feels so good to watch those kids experience, sometimes, their first bed ever. You see the kids react when they get this bed and it just warms your heart.”

“I love the community involvement,” Dan added. “Seeing all these people come together. What else do you see where a bunch of people get together on a Saturday for the sole purpose of helping a neighbor they don't even know?”

Dan Frederick is the regional support lead for SHP. To learn more, email him at dan.frederick@shpbeds.org



WANT TO BE A HEALTHIER LEADER?

- Deepen Emotional Capacity
- Understand Systems
- Build Self Awareness
- Reinvigorate your Spirituality
- Join a learning community

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Excellence in **LEADERSHIP**
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

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Rostered leaders, LPAs and lay leaders: Consider participating in Excellence in Leadership, a process of learning more about your own leadership and working to enhance and strengthen how you lead in your congregation.

Check out the Rocky Mountain Synod website and link for more information and to register for the upcoming fall cohort. (All the sessions are held via Zoom.)

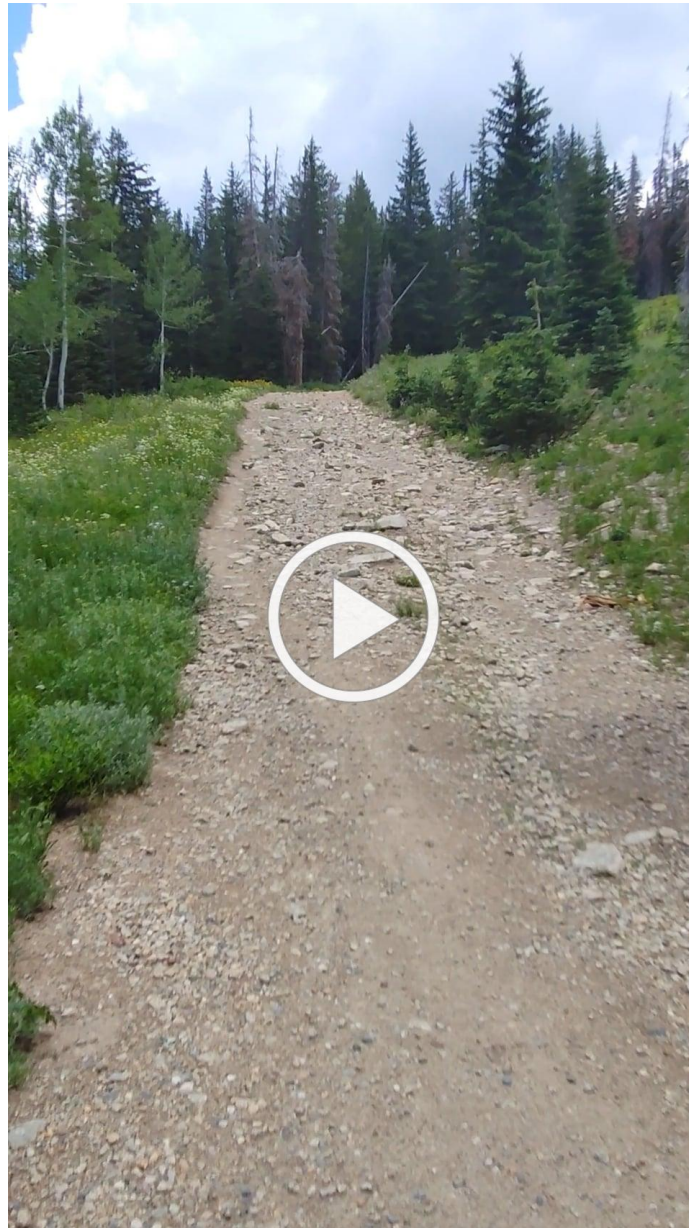
Contact DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger if you have any questions about EIL.



Effective Leadership?

Reminder: If you are emailing a synod staff member, make sure that you are sending it to the correct montanasynod.org email address. Sometimes alternate, personal addresses that you may have are checked infrequently and are not used for work purposes.

A message from Bishop Laurie, who is on vacation somewhere in the mountains



Summer Generosity/Stewardship Conversation on Wed. Aug. 2nd from 6 - 7:30 pm on Zoom

Join with others in the Synod for a time of learning together with DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger on the basics of generosity and stewardship. Topics to be covered include

challenges and opportunities to talk about money in congregations, and tools to equip one another to encourage and strengthen generosity in the congregation.

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83007382539?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83007382539?pwd=WXkxaHMzMfZESUpFcDh2WGhYRtYxZz09)

[pwd=WXkxaHMzMfZESUpFcDh2WGhYRtYxZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83007382539?pwd=WXkxaHMzMfZESUpFcDh2WGhYRtYxZz09)

Meeting ID: 830 0738 2539

Passcode: 923969

New resources up for congregational assessments and Holy Closures

[Click here](#) to go to the new page on the Montana Synod website for more information!

Sermon Manuscripts Available

Montana Synod leaders have been providing manuscripts for use in congregations through the Lent and Easter seasons. We are happy to announce that these manuscripts will be provided throughout the entire year! Thank you to the leaders in the Montana Synod who are providing these manuscripts every week. They can be found and downloaded on the [Montana Synod website here](#).

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

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