



## News of the Week August 16, 2023

# Prayers of the Week

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

For Pastor Jessie Obrecht (Bethel Lutheran, Great Falls) and her wife Jade Metzler as they mourn the sudden loss of their first child Kai, who was born prematurely and died several hours after his birth.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer  
Calendar:**

Northern Great Lakes Synod



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## Words from the Bishop: Wrestling with Colonization



Brought to you by the MT Synod Racial Justice Task Force:

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

## Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonialism to Strengthen Ministry

5 Wednesday Mornings On Zoom\*  
**September 6th - October 4th**  
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Part 1 costs: \*\*

- Clergy Members: \$125
- LPAs: \$50
- Lay Members (up to 4 per congregation): \$25

\*Attending all 5 sessions is highly encouraged to aid in group participation and discussion. Sessions will not be recorded. If it's necessary to miss more than one session, we suggest waiting to register until the next series offering.

\*\*Part 2 will have a separate registration (dates TBD).

**For more information and to register:**

Visit the NRIT webpage at [montanasynod.org/nrit](http://montanasynod.org/nrit)

Questions? Email us at [rjtfmtnsynod@gmail.com](mailto:rjtfmtnsynod@gmail.com)



### **Please join us for Wrestling with Colonization**

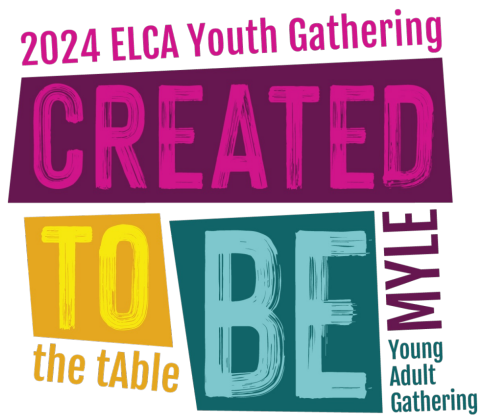
Friends and colleagues in the Montana Synod: As members of the Montana Synod Racial Justice Task Force, we want to invite you to join us for the 5-week workshop called Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonialism to Strengthen Ministry, coming on Wednesday mornings starting Sept. 6th. Our team of indigenous and settler leaders have been carefully building these sessions for the past 6 months based on our collective education, experiences, and wisdom rooted in the Montana landscape and beyond. We have found the information and conversations in these sessions to be essential for settler identifying people and institutions who wish to build relationships, trust and allyship with tribal leaders and indigenous people in our state. Our hope is your congregation will consider sending 2-5 people from your leadership to this workshop as a way to seed the work in your place. **If you have questions about the workshop**

material or format call John at 406-396-4974. We hope to see you in September!

**The Wrestling Teaching Team: Francine D. Spang-Willis**, is of Cheyenne, Pawnee, and settler descent. She is an oral historian, educator, strategist, researcher, and content curator based in Bozeman, Montana. As the owner of Appearing Flying Woman Consulting, she collaborates with diverse organizations, communities, and individuals to create and implement community-centered and multispecies oral history projects and curricula. Francine earned an Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree from Columbia University. She also has a Native American Studies Master of Arts degree from Montana State University. **Raimund Combs** is of Tsimshian First Nations and German descent. He is a veteran of two military services and two federal law enforcement agencies, totaling 28 years service to the United States. He recently graduated with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Environmental and Native American Studies, and has been working as an educator in Missoula the past 4 years. **Rev. John Lund, ELCA**, is of Finnish and Sicilian descent and serves as pastor at University Congregational Church, UCC in Missoula. In Missoula John has served as a connecting point between the campus community, congregations, and non-profits. He has organized and/or led numerous workshops, book studies, lectures, community action events and community celebrations.

[Click here to register](#)

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**September 15, the day when registrations begins for the 2024 Youth Gathering, is approaching quickly!**

As the Synod coordinator, my task is to see if you have any questions and also to make plans for any congregations that wish to travel to New Orleans together. With this in mind, I will host a zoom on Sept. 12 at 7 pm for one person in each congregation that is planning to take part. This will help me know who is planning to attend and also to give you some information regarding registration and the flow of the gathering. We can also choose a hotel for all of us so that the youth in our synod can be housed close together and actually get to know each other. [Please let me know](#) if you are able to attend the meeting and I will send you the link directly. I hope to see you on Sept. 12!

Blessings,  
Pastor Brenda

# Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Invites you to celebrate with us

The Installation of **Pastor Eric Finsand**  
as our newly Called Pastor

Sunday,  
August 27th  
at 4:00 p.m.

As part of the  
faith  
communities of  
Great Falls, we  
welcome your  
attendance—a

sign of the ministry we share in the Holy Spirit!  
Clergy are invited to vest with green stoles and  
participate in the service.



*1326 1st Ave. N., Great Falls, Montana*



Toward Right  
Relationship with  
Native Peoples

## News and Updates



**UPCOMING INDIGENOUS  
EVENTS – Make plans in your  
community**

**September 30, Orange Shirt Day**

Wear orange on Sept 30 and join events in your

community to commemorate the residential school experience and to witness and honor the healing journey of the survivors and their families. This annual commemoration began in Canada and is now widely observed in the U.S.

## **October 9, Indigenous Peoples Day**

*Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) and Northern Arapaho speakers Nelson White Eagle and Patrick Moss at 2019 event in Boulder, CO*



Start making plans today for Indigenous Peoples Day events in your community!

## **November: Native American Heritage Month**

Start making plans today for Native American Heritage Month in your community! Learn about this national commemoration [here](#) and [here](#).

## **The Indigenous Boarding Schools and Multigenerational Trauma**

**Tuesday, Sept 12, 8-9:30 pm EDT, 6-7:30 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)**

This slide presentation is offered by Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa). Jerilyn is co-director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a program of Friends Peace Teams. She is an attorney specializing in Indian law, and she currently serves on the supreme courts of San Ildefonso Pueblo and the Kiowa Nation. She is past president of the board of directors of the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)

## **Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**Saturday, Sept 9, 4-6 pm EDT, 2-4 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)**  
**Sunday, October 15, 4-6 pm EDT, 2-4 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)**

This interactive workshop is facilitated by a team of Native and non-Native presenters. It is appropriate for high school students and adults. Participants experience the story of the colonization of Turtle Island (the United States) through the voices of Indigenous leaders, Euro-American leaders, and Western historians. We share reflections through writing exercises and small and large group discussions.

Register for any of our upcoming **online** programs at [FriendsPeaceTeams.org/upcoming-events](https://FriendsPeaceTeams.org/upcoming-events)

# WANT TO BE A HEALTHIER LEADER?

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

**BECOME THE HEALTHY LEADER YOU WANT TO BE**

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

[WWW.RMSELCA.ORG/EXCELLENCE-IN-LEADERSHIP](http://WWW.RMSELCA.ORG/EXCELLENCE-IN-LEADERSHIP)

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?**



## **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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### **Synod Staff:**

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