



## News of the Week October 18, 2023

# Prayers of the Week

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

For the people of Israel and Palestine who are suffering from the ongoing violent atrocities happening in the region.

For all the YAGMs who were evacuated safely from the Holy Land.

### **From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Faith Lutheran Church, Reserve  
Plentywood Lutheran, Church Plentywood  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashua

Saint Paul Area Synod



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## Words from the Bishop: Pastor's Appreciation Month



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## YAGM Withdrawal

Oct. 14, 2023

In consultation with partners on the ground, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a very tough but prudent decision to evacuate YAGM personnel, including the 5 Young Adults in Global Mission from the Holy Land and the country coordinators. We are relieved to share that everyone is safe.

The images coming out of the news are heartbreaking and we extend our prayers to the Palestinian and Israeli people who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty. We are deeply troubled by the escalating conflict and the impact it has on civilians.

The ELCA has longstanding relationships with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation. For the last 30 years, the ELCA has had a presence of mission personnel, including a Young Adults in Global Mission program in Jerusalem and the West Bank. We did not take lightly the decision to evacuate our staff, and at the same time will always put their safety first.

We pray for peace and justice.

### **Director for Evangelical Mission - Montana Synod**

As we announced several weeks ago, Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger is retiring in mid-December. So it is now time to begin the search for a new Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod, ELCA. If you are interested in serving in the DEM position for the Montana Synod or know of someone who might be interested, please click [here](#) for the position announcement and application which is offered through the ELCA Churchwide Office (CWO). All applications must be done through the CWO so please do not contact the synod office to apply. Once applications have been received, then selected qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview.

If you have any questions about this position, please read through the job description first and then you may contact Bishop Laurie Jungling through her synod email address. ([ljungling@montanasynod.org](mailto:ljungling@montanasynod.org)) The application deadline is

[Click here to see the application and to apply](#)

## Montana and Northern Wyoming Synod Hunger Fund

At the September Synod Council meeting, a decision was made to establish a "Montana and Northern Wyoming Synod Hunger Fund". The purpose of this fund is to provide money to congregations and ministries in the Synod who are working to feed hungry people in our local communities. The reports from several of these ministries is that they have been seeing an increase in the numbers of people who are requesting food and assistance. The need is great in rural areas as well as in towns and cities across the Synod.

There are several congregations who are actively seeking to help feed the hungry and offer Gospel love. Could you and / or your congregation make a gift to this fund this fall and on a recurring basis? The Montana Synod has generously supported the work of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Can you help to feed people who are hungry here in our Synod, too?

A grant process is being established so that congregations and ministries can apply for funds. Thanks to the work of the Synod Council, seed money of about \$12,000 has been given to this fund. Be watching for information soon about how to apply for a grant from this fund.

As you give to the Montana/N. Wyoming Synod Hunger fund, please mark clearly on checks that it is for the Synod Hunger Fund. You may also give through [montanasynod.org](http://montanasynod.org) on the GIVE button via the dropdown link to the Synod Hunger Fund.

Thank you for your generous care for those in our communities who are in need!

[Montana Synod Hunger Fund Poster Download](#)

## 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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