



## News of the Week November 1, 2023

# Prayers of the Week

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

For Pastor Keith Weatherford and his family as they mourn the death of his father in law, Donald Fox.

For the victims of ongoing war across the world, including people of Israel and Gaza.

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

Froid Lutheran Church, Froid  
Fort Peck Lutheran Church, Fort Peck  
Zion Lutheran Church, Fairview

Slovak Zion Synod



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## Words from the Bishop: Let's Talk about Saints

Bishop Laurie is trying something a little different this week, click below to be taken to a podcast style Words from the Bishop!

[Click here to listen to this week's Words!](#)

9:56



# Montana Synod Comings and Goings

## Montana Synod: New Calls

### Amanda and Grant Applehans

FLBC is excited to welcome our new Co-Associate Directors; Rev Grant and Rev Amanda Applehans. Grant and Amanda, began their new role on May 15<sup>th</sup>, working 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!



### Rebekah Cochrane

Rebekah Cochrane (she/her) is the newly ordained and installed Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Missoula. Her areas of focus in this call are: digital ministry, community connection/engagement - particularly around Immanuel's commitment to supporting and affirming LGBTQ+ people and anti-racism. She is also the Mission Developer for Confluence, a creative and contemplative SAWC of the Montana Synod. Rebekah grew up in southcentral

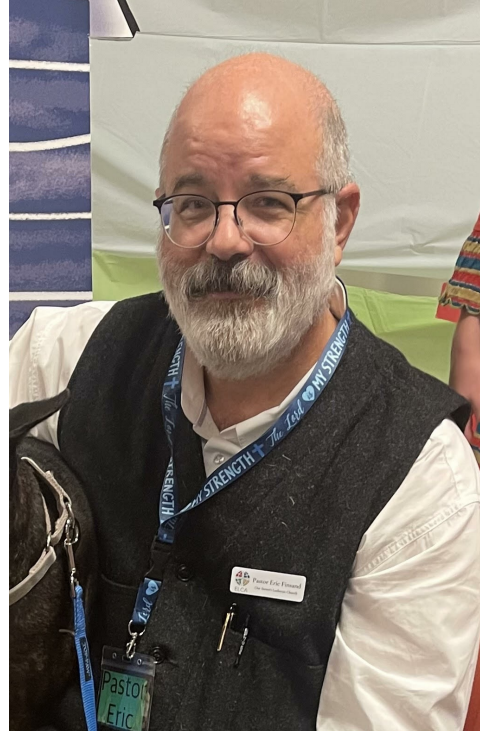
Pennsylvania, graduated with a BA from St. Olaf College and an M.Div from Luther Seminary. She lives with her wife, Maddy, and her one-year-old daughter, Talis, and loves to run, ski, knit, and drink good coffee!

### Eric Finsand

Pastor Eric's journey to Our Savior's in Great Falls has included a variety of settings. Raised in southern Arizona, Eric attended Azusa Pacific University in the Los Angeles area, graduating

with a B.A. in *Biblical Literature*. Following an initial three years of service with the ELCA in Japan, he attended Luther Northwestern Seminary in St. Paul—where he met his wife, Chris. Upon graduation, Eric and Chris were called to serve with the Lutheran Church in Japan, in the role of Campus Pastors of the Lutheran College and Seminary in Tokyo.

After a total of six years in Shizuoka and Tokyo, Eric and Chris returned to America. Eric served for five years at Garfield Lutheran Church, a fabulous community on the Minnesota border with South Dakota. Later, Eric and Chris were called to serve as Pastors at Chatfield Lutheran Church, a bedroom community of Rochester, Minnesota. In 2003, Pastor Eric returned to seminary, completing a *Doctor of Ministry in Homiletics* at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago while still in the parish. Beginning in 2009, Eric began serving as Pastor of Christ the Servant Lutheran, a great community of faith in Bellingham, WA. During 2022, he served as Interim Senior Pastor of Southwood Lutheran in Lincoln, NE.



Eric shares life in Great Falls with his wife Chris (on permanent Medical Leave from Call while managing *Chronic Myeloid Leukemia*,) and their oldest son Simon, and Walter the dog.



### **Ryan Chaddick**

Welcome Pastor Chaddick to Atonement Lutheran Church in Billings! (Pr. Chaddick's bio will be forthcoming in a future newsletter).

### **Transitions within the Synod**

Eric Huseth accepted a call to Emmaus Campus Ministry, University of Montana

Daniel Disch accepted a call to Hospice Chaplaincy in Missoula

John Lund accepted a call to University Congregational Church in Missoula.

Jayson Nicholson change of call to Hospice Chaplaincy in Northern Wyoming.

### **Montana Synod: Retirements**

A huge thank you to the following pastors. We are grateful for your ministry and years of service to the people of the Montana Synod.

Scott Hedegaard

Melanie Martin-Dent

**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 mid-November for a January 2024 start date.

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

## Montana Synod Zoom for Congregations Involved in Feeding Ministries

The Synod Hunger team would like to invite those from congregations who are involved in a feeding ministry to join in a Zoom conversation on Thurs. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 - 8:30. There are several congregations around the synod who host food pantries, serve meals or engage in other ministries to address the needs of people in our communities. Plan to attend (and encourage a team from your congregation to join with you) to hear about what others are doing, to be encouraged to collaborate and partner with others in your community to address needs and to join in conversation about other ways to respond to meet the needs in your area. The reality of hungry people in our Synod is deeply disturbing. The need is great! By joining together in conversation and collaboration, the Hunger Team hopes that you will be equipped to meet the needs of those in your area.

We will also be discussing the grant process that the Hunger Team is putting in place using funds from the Montana Synod Hunger Fund.

Here is link to register for the Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclce-vqTsiE9wF6lpiodXkDLT6sRDLude->

## 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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