



News of the Week November 15, 2023

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

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

For the attendees of the Montana Synod First Call Theological Education cohort gathered together at the Synod House this week. Prayers also for their travel home on Thursday.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

South Dakota Synod



Words from the Synod: 2023 National Youth Summit

Once a year, the ELCA holds a National Youth Summit. The purpose of this summit is to strengthen the leadership skills and abilities of youth that are leaders in their setting. Two youth and 1 adult from each synod are invited to attend. This year, the theme was “Called On the Way” and the focus was on Advocacy. This seemed like a surprising theme, and I wondered how this would apply to developing the leadership skills of those that attended.

The way in which the leaders of the summit talked of advocacy and dealt with the topics discussed helped the youth present to understand that advocacy has many options and sizes. They learned that any way they care for those who are in need or who are marginalized is advocacy. They came away with eyes better opened to see options around them and with language skills so that what might be controversial can be talked about in ways that allow themselves and others to live in a space of discomfort. They learned that it is OK to be uncomfortable with while still loving those they are helping, knowing we are all children of God.

The youth from Montana that attended were Morgan May of Our Redeemer Lutheran in Helena and Kian Ryan of Bethel Lutheran in Great Falls. Here is what they had to say afterwards:

Morgan: This year's Youth Summit was a huge opportunity and experience I will never forget. The people I met and the new friends I made are people I will always remember. Especially the other representative from the Montana Synod, Kian Ryan.

Kian: The experience was amazing, the games and singing well connected (me to) others. It was very welcoming and kind. I made friends in those three days, but it felt like I've known them forever. When we left for departure to home, it was a horrible dejection. I miss my new best friends like Morgan May who is part of the Montana Synod and changed my life forever. I'm so glad we met. We continue to stay connected with other friends. We were "Called On the Way."

It was an honor to spend 4 days with these 2 youth and with youth from all over the US as we learned together what it means to care in big and small ways for the needs we see around us. We are Church, Better Together!

Pastor Brenda



ELCA Task Force Study

Earlier this year, the ELCA Task Force on *Studies for Civic Life and Faith* released a study curriculum for use throughout the ELCA. This study is part of the process toward developing a social statement on topics related to our civic life and faith, including the church's relationship with government. Participants' feedback is key in helping the task force as it moves into the next phase of its work of drafting a social statement.

If you have not had a chance to do the study yet or submit responses, you may still do so until November 30. The link is still open and the study is still active. <https://elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy> It would be great if the task force could hear from some of our more rural and frontier areas in the Montana Synod!

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) The application deadline is mid-November for a January 2024 start date.

[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 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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