



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, March 9, 2016

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Prayers for March 13, 2016 Fifth Sunday in Lent

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Prayers for Pr. Valarie Putt and her husband, who was admitted to the hospital last week with medical complications.



Prayers for Pastor George Karres whose father passed away last night.

Prayers for Tom Blevins, Former bishop of the Pacific Northwest Synod who is in Hospice Care in Billings.

Prayers for Pastor Mark Peterson's Father in Hospice Care.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Immanuel Lutheran, Absarokee
St. James Lutheran, Columbus

Western North Dakota Synod

Words From the Bishop - Deepen faith and witness - Worship

"Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." (Psalm 100:2)

Worship is a faith practice. As Christians, we center our life in word and sacrament. Our constituting documents emphasize in the Statement of Purpose the centrality of worship:

"To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall: Worship God in proclamation of the Word and administration of the sacraments and through lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness and service." (C4.02.a)

The Augsburg Confession states: "It is also taught among us that the one holy Christian church will be and remain forever. This is the assembly of all believers among whom the Gospel is preached in its purity and the holy sacraments are administered according to the Gospel." (Article V)

Worship is central to a lived faith. Christianity is not a solo endeavor, and it is not an intellectual puzzle. We follow a crucified messiah, who lived among the crowds and gave his life for all. God could have chosen any number of ways to become known among us. By choosing the incarnation, the word made flesh, God chose to be fully embodied. By his baptism in the Jordan River, and by his giving us the bread and wine as his body and blood, Jesus set out for us an incarnational practice.

We do not live in our heads. We do not reject the body and prefer the spirit. We see them as inseparable. Worship is where they come together, where that together is solidified. It is a whole-body experience. The introduction to the Evangelical Lutheran Worship book states: "The Holy Spirit gathers the people of God around Jesus Christ present in the word of God and the sacraments, so that the Spirit may in turn send them into the world to continue the ingathering mission of God's reign." (p.6)

Worship is about relationship-relationship with God, relationship with one another. While deep thinking is always important, it does not take the place of worship. While contemplation of nature is uplifting and inspiring, it does not take the place of worship. While serving the neighbor is crucial, it does not take the place of worship. Included in the baptismal charges is: "bring them to the word of God and the holy supper." The actions of worship are not outdated rituals. They are expressions of relationship, using some ancient and some modern forms.

We worship in many ways-traditional and contemporary, abbreviated and long, casual and formal, but we never worship alone. Worship is a communal faith practice. In the second creation story (Genesis 2), God creates Adam and then comments, "It is not good for the man to be alone." From the beginning, God created community. One was insufficient. At least 2 were needed. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." (Matthew 18:20)

The ELW introduction connects worship with mission: "Through liturgy and song the people of God participate in that mission, for here God comes with good news to save. And through liturgy and song, God nourishes us for that mission and goes with us to bear the creative and redeeming Word of God, Jesus Christ, to the whole world." (p.8)

It comes down to this: "We are united in one common center: Jesus Christ proclaimed in Word and sacraments amidst participating assemblies of singing, serving, and praying people." (Use of the Means of Grace, p. 9, 4B)

"All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him." (Psalm 22: 27)

Jessica Crist, Bishop



A reminder: Please send in your Rostered Leader reports to the Bishop ASAP. We have had a great response so



What's new with the Synod Council?

Synod Council member Alex Tooley and Associate to the Bishop Jason Asselstine present fleece blankets made at the youth snow retreat to Intermountain Children's Director Jim Fitzgerald and Adam Jesperson.









ELCA Advocacy: Join us in conversation, prayer and action this election season!

This election season, we are called to conversation and prayer around our role as U.S. residents and as people of faith in ensuring our election systems promote dignity and respect for all.



We are also called to act by speaking out as advocates and engaging in local efforts to guarantee the right to vote to all citizens.

[Click Here to learn about ELCAvotes and how you can participate!](#)

Travel to Germany with the Montana Synod

[Click Here](#) for information about a Montana Synod trip to Germany to visit Reformation sites in May of 2017. Join Bishop Crist and others from around the Synod on this trip to Wittenberg.



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's 95 Theses *(1517-2017)*

May 9-18, 2017

Travel to Germany

The Montana Synod is offering a chance to tour Germany to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of Martin Luther's Nailing of the 95 Theses to the doors of the All Saints Church in Wittenberg.

Christikon Clip

March, 2016

Information for our Congregations



Bus Attendants needed for 2016 — Contact Kerry in the church office if you are able to provide this much needed service to your campers! See contact info below.

Don't miss out on the Early Registration Discount for youth campers:
Register by March 15 and save \$25 in any youth session. If you don't have the camp brochure mailed to you, pick one up at the church, or register online.

Join the fun: Camper Roundup at the Audubon Conservation Center.
Everyone is invited to the Christikon Camper Roundup at the Audubon Center on Sunday, **March 13th** from 2-4 p.m. The event is especially designed for kids completing grades 4-12 and their families. Enjoy games, music, crafts, drawings, treats, and register for camp.
Early bird registration discounts will be applied for campers who sign up that day.

Christikon is an extension your congregation's ministry

Bring a friend to camp with you for half price. Bring a friend who has never been a Christikon youth camper before. You pay the regular camp fee (or the discounted fee if you register before March 15); your friend comes at half the regular cost.

Adults and families: Check out the special focus for each of the family/adult weekends next summer at Christikon: work projects, faith formation, and Bible study will be woven together with worship, meal fellowship, re-creation, folk dancing, and much more. Family/adult brochures are available at churches in early March, or check out camping for adults and families online.

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ—
exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Bolivian Textiles

by Susan Leaverton



Textiles and fibers surround us constantly as an integral part of life. Our synod women's group of ten intrepid travelers immersed ourselves in Bolivian culture last August, visually feasting on sights that truly exemplify the connections of fabric to daily life for many women of this vibrant country. Clothing and textile arts of Bolivia excel in color, pattern and craftsmanship. Exotic llama and alpaca fibers are the norm for clothing construction.

Chico Registrations



[Attached](#) please find all of the information you need for the MT Synod Pastors Conference at Chico Hot Springs Resort. I'm sorry for any confusion about this. These documents have been posted on the Synod's website home page since Ash Wednesday. As I am on sabbatical right now, I neglected to follow-up and make sure these documents were e-mailed or mailed directly to each pastor from the Synod office (we know how hard they work and get overloaded!). I hope you all have found what you needed on the [Synod website](#) and are racing to get that discount for early registration. Lowell and Kathy are waiting for your registration form!

We will not be bringing copies of the schedule to the Conference to hand out, so bring your own hard copy or have it on your hand-held device. There will be copies posted for people to see.

Also, concerning our "book table" this year. If you will be bringing some to "share," bring them in a container of some sort (box, boxes, shoe boxes, brown bags, etc.) that is *labeled* with your name. That way it will be easier for you to identify your left-over books so that you can take them home with you!

Lenten blessings,

Linda Webster

[Click Here to go to the download page on montanasynod.org](#)

The Luther 5

Luther and Islam

Luther and Islam; Luther had a lot to say about Islam and none of it was good. Luther believed God can use all things to fulfill his will on earth. Many others during Luther's time believed this too. So as the Ottoman Empire, whose religion was Islam, conquered vast swaths of Eastern Europe and was camped outside the walls of Vienna, Luther believed it was a sign from God.

God was telling his believers that they were being punished for falling away from him, for their pageantry,

their indulgences, their unbelief in him but in traditions and rituals that led one to focus on themselves not God. The ultimate punishment was for these "believers" to be conquered and subjected to the unbelieving Muslims of the Ottoman Empire. Luther believed that even agents of the devil could be used by God to fulfill his purpose. This particular idea was a holdover from medieval theological thought.

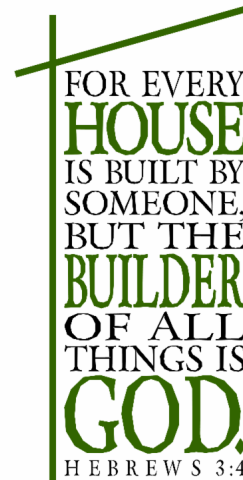
It is often said that Luther, and the reform movement he helped expand, would not have been able to take seed and grow if it were not for the Holy Roman Emperor's need to have the German princes' military might on his side to fight the Ottomans. To learn more about Luther and Islam and the history of this intriguing and current topic, click on the link to the newsbrief below.

[Click here for the full brief](#)

Synod House

February this year has an extra day - and that happens to be a Monday. For most of us, it is a work day. Consider contributing your income from that ONE day to the Synod House Campaign as a thank offering for the goodness that comes new to us every day.

What better way for us to approach those benchmarks of the Montana Synod as we faithfully serve God and our neighbor. To God be the glory.



Parish Papers Are Up

Make sure to check the [Montana Synod](#) Congregational Resources page for the March and April editions of the Parish Papers

Previous news and notes:

Report from Wittenberg - Tonya Eza

Tonight as part of the seminar I'm attending in Wittenberg, Germany, the provost of the Church in Central Germany (Evangelische Kirche in Mitteldeutschland) came to speak with us about the situation of the church and plans for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in Wittenberg next year. What he had to say about the situation of the church struck me as highly relevant to the situation of the mainline Protestant churches in the U.S.A., and I wanted to share some of his thoughts from his talk this evening.

Wittenberg was in the former German Democratic Republic (Communist East Germany) and now they are dealing with a society that is 3 or 4 generations unchurched. The provost said that people here "have forgotten that they have forgotten about God". But, there is great interest in the church and its activities. While this is a good sign, people do not want to become members of the church. This may have something to do with the church tax that members are required to pay, but it also reminded me of our "spiritual, but not religious" group in the U.S.A., or those who are "done" with church: they are interested in God and spirituality, but they don't want anything to do with membership in the institutional church.

The provost then addressed the question, "How do we communicate the significance of the Reformation to people who fall in this group?" Interestingly enough, the first thing he started with was a stewardship question. He suggested that in a society that is obsessed with accumulation, we should make the claim that all things, including ourselves, really belong to God. He asked the question, "What does justification (a very theological, church-y word) mean in a society that values accomplishment?" and then responded, "We should ask what it means to receive grace from a neighbor and to be a gracious neighbor." He asked the question, "What does it mean to be a beloved child of God?" and responded by talking about when there's a gap between the rich and the poor, we need to make the claim that all people are valued, no matter their status. Finally, he asked, "What does it mean to be a Lutheran church 500 years after the Reformation?" and in response talked about how, when people try to enter a Protestant church in Germany, most of the time the doors are locked if it's not regular office or tourist hours. He said that they had made the decision that beginning next year, all church doors must be open to

symbolize the church being open to society coming in.

He had much more to say that I don't have the space to write about right now. But I felt that these were important questions with good responses that we, too, can be thinking about as we approach the 500th year of the Reformation next year. His responses are some ways we can make what Luther and the other Reformers taught in the 16th century relevant to people in the 21st century. If you would like to hear more about my experience in Wittenberg, please plan on participating in the workshop I will be leading at the Synod Assembly in June.

*Rev. Tonya Eza,
Chair of the Reformation
500 Task Force*



[Click Here for more information](#)

25 JULY - 12 AUGUST 2016

BUILDING AN INTERFAITH COMMUNITY



Building an Interfaith Community- Summer Course 2016

The Ecumenical Institute at Bossey organizes once again the summer course on "Building an Interfaith Community" (now CAS in Interreligious Studies) meant to bring together young people from Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities for three weeks. This year the theme of the course is **People and Faith on the Move: Migration in Judaism, Christianity and Islam** and its residential component runs from 25 July - 12 August 2016.

Intended to contribute to the issues of religious pluralism and intercultural acceptance in a society based on migration and globalization, the CAS in Interreligious Studies aims at an international audience of young people (age between 20 and 35 years) interested in or are already engaged in inter-religious dialogue. These may be religious leaders, students, lay persons and professionals with a suitable level of religious literacy and/or experience in the field of interreligious dialogue and engagement, especially among the three Abrahamic religions. For details go to the link:

<http://institute.oikoumene.org/en/study-at-bossey/study-courses/certificate-of-advanced-studies-cas-in-interreligious-studies>

APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT BY 18 MARCH 2016

To Bossey_Admissions@wcc-coe.org

Part of the World Council of Churches and attached to the University of Geneva



**ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
at CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY**

Congratulations on Grants Received!

Five entities in the Montana Synod were recently awarded domestic hunger grants from the ELCA. Zion Lutheran in Glendive received a grant for their Loaves and Fishes program. Family Promise of Great Falls received a grant, as did FISH of Great Falls. Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp received a development grant for "Growing Food and Kids." And the Poverello Center in Missoula received a grant for their Food Insecurity Program. These grants are all made possible by ELCA World Hunger funds.

A Mission Venture Capital Fund grant recently went to First English in Billings and Pastor Stacey Siebrasse to develop an older youth program in conjunction with Friendship House. The program also received a grant from Wheat Ridge. Mission Venture Capital Fund grants come from a fund in the Montana Synod designed to fund creative new ministry ideas. The campaign for the Synod House is tithed to the MVCF.

The Montana Synod also provides Wellness Grants, with funds provided by Portico as a response to our Synod's good response on the health assessment. While many grants support individuals' wellness, St. John's Lutheran Ministries in Billings and Pastor Elisabeth Daniels received a grant to provide massages to residents.

In April the Hetzel Foundation Board will award grants to ministry projects focused on the elderly and/or youth.

You can see, there are ways to fund ministry beyond the congregation! Thanks to all who make this possible.

Looking for Information

We have started looking at a different system for our hearing impaired members in worship. Currently we have four earpieces that people really don't like because they are uncomfortable, don't fit in their ears, or don't work with hearing aids. And four isn't really enough.

We just started looking at a hearing loop. Are there any Montana congregations who have installed one of those that we could talk with? Or do you know of any other options that might work better for our people?

Thanks,

Will Johnson
Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church
Glendive, MT

wjohnson002@luthersem.edu
406-377-3369

Have You Taken Your Health Assessment?

The start of a new year reminds Portico health plan members and spouses to take their health assessments by logging into their [My Portico](#) accounts. Completion of the assessment earns you \$150 in wellness dollars, with the opportunity to earn \$250 more in follow up activities. Taking the assessment also helps the synod reach its 65% participation goal, saving your congregation 1% in health contributions. [Take yours today!](#)

Money Leadership: Your Life with Money

Money - how do we view and use it in our lives? What is the relationship between money and our Christian faith? Do we feel comfortable in our dealings with money, or does the topic make us nervous?

Money Leadership: Your Life with Money - is a six-week SELECT online learning course that will help us examine the attitudes and behaviors we have about money as Christians - and to become more comfortable and confident in thinking about and discussing this. Pastor George Karres, Director for Evangelical Mission of the Montana Synod, will be the facilitator.

Who should take this course? Pastors, as stewardship leaders in their congregations, will especially benefit from this - but LPAs, congregation treasurers, stewardship committee members, or anyone who would like to grow in their understanding of how Christians are called to view and use money in their lives are also encouraged to participate as well!

The course will be from April 10 - May 21, 2016 (with a pre-course Orientation online or phone meeting on April 7). The registration cost is \$175, but a \$100 rebate will be given to participants upon completion of the course - making the total cost only \$75. Rostered leaders will also receive 18 continuing education credit hours from NRIT. Registration is limited to 12 persons.

For further information, click [HERE](#) or contact George Karres at 406-453-1461 or by email at gkarres@montanasynod.org.



Comprehensive Ministry Review

How is your congregation doing? Is it thriving and are its members filled with a sense of enthusiasm for doing God's work? Or is it just "going through the motions" as things seem to stay the same or decline?

Perhaps your congregation could benefit from a "Check-up" called a **Comprehensive Ministry Review**. This is a process offered by the Montana Synod that examines a congregation's health and ministry from a number of different perspectives - such as its pastor; lay leaders; looking at and listening to the community where it is located and serves; its facilities; history and trends, etc.

This process - led by a "Synod Review Team" consisting of the Director for Evangelical Mission and other MT Synod leaders - can help a congregation to gain new insights and also a renewed understanding of its purpose and mission for the context where it is located.

To learn more about the **Comprehensive Ministry Review** process and discern whether this might perhaps be for your congregation, contact Pastor George Karres - Director for Evangelical Mission - at 406-453-1461 or by email at gkarres@montanasynod.org.



Post Easter Spiritual Wellbeing Retreat

April 11 - 14

Pastor Dick & Naomi Bruesehoff

Pastors, worship directors, those who lead groups and outreach, etc ... this is your time to celebrate Easter! Pastor Dick & Naomi Bruesehoff will lead you into a time of quiet, renewal, wellness and celebration. For all the hours you give during the Lent/Easter season and all year long, this is your time to renew and re-charge! **Register Now!**

Exploring Transitions: Life's Detours and Roadblocks

April 25-27

Led by Tammy Devine & Tom Morgan, with worship/music by Michael Larson
Detour ahead. Road closed. Throughout life's journey, we encounter unexpected turns in direction: Illness, loss of loved ones, change of work and opportunity. A loss of direction is disorienting. Together, we will explore this time of transition.

This is part of the Transitions Series: for those who are either nearing or currently living in their 3rd Chapter of Life. It is one of a 4-parts series of retreats to explore personal life callings, passions, meaning, and purpose. Each workshop stands alone, so you can join in at any time.

[More details, costs and registration page](#)

Health Coverage Tax information

This year, for the first time, you'll need to report health coverage when you file your federal income tax return, or potentially pay a financial penalty (unless you had Medicare as your primary coverage). This new requirement is part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA); you may have heard it called the "individual mandate."

Portico is here to help. We're mailing you a tax form that serves as proof of health coverage. Here's what to do:

- Watch the mail for Internal Revenue Service Form 1095-B, Health Coverage. It shows the months that you and any covered family members had ELCA-Primary health benefits in 2015.
- **Keep Form 1095-B for your records. You don't need to submit it with your 2015 tax return.**
- **Check a box on your 2015 tax return to indicate you had coverage.**

If you have any questions, call Portico at 800.352.2876. They are there to help you navigate an ever-changing health care landscape, so you can stay focused on your ministry. 800.352.2876

Andrea Arey

Regional Representative Regions 1 & 2 | Customer Outreach

Portico Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

New LPA Class - Fall 2016

2016-2018 Lay Pastoral Associate Class Nominations

Now is the time to consider lifting up individuals with the gifts and skills for the Montana Synod Lay Pastoral Associate program (LPA). The next class will begin in October 2016, but now is the time to be educating those in the congregation about the LPA program, and seeking their commitment.

The congregational meeting is a good opportunity to nominate and support those in your congregation who have the desire and skills to serve as an LPA in the Montana Synod. At this annual meeting the congregation can pray for and, with the guidance of the pastor, recommend individuals to the Bishop for approval.

For more information, go to the [Montana Synod website](#) or call Pr. Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop.

Interested in becoming an LPA?

1. Talk to your church pastor. Talk about what it means to fill in for him or her and the traits it takes to provide pastoral leadership (albeit, temporary).
2. If your church does not have a pastor, feel free to contact our office. We'll put you in touch with someone who can shed some light on the role of an LPA.
3. **Have your church pastor contact Bishop Crist or Rev. Jason Asselstine, Assoc. to the Bishop via email or phone call. This contact and conversation will be your pastor's recommendation for your participation in the MT Synod LPA program.**

After approval from the Bishop (to enter the program), please ensure you have the following items to our Synod office at least 3 weeks prior to the class start date (our staff admin person will send you the paperwork to begin the process):

1. Completed biographical, information sheet.
2. Initiation of a required background check
3. First year's payment of \$200 via check made out to "MT Synod" with "LPA training program" in the check's memo section. This can also be brought with you to the 1st group retreat.

Still have questions? Call our Synod office at 406-453-1461



KOGUDUS RETREAT AT ROCKY BOY'S April 14-16, 2016

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and the Bear Paw Cluster extend an invitation to the members and friends of the Montana Synod to take part in a "Lament & Laughter" retreat on the Rocky Boy's Reservation.

We will gather at Our Saviour's Thursday at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and getting acquainted. This Kogudus Renewal Ministry retreat features small group Bible study, creative worship, singing, joke telling, and personal sharing.

[Click here](#) for more information and the registration form

Women's Spring Retreat

April 22-24, 2016
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

SAVE THE DATE! Plan now to attend the WOMEN'S WOMEN'S RETREAT. Motivating speaker, Fun, Fellowship, Service projects, Music, Great food (no cooking!).... Bring your friends, daughters, mothers, granddaughters (14 and up) along for a fun, restful, spirit-filled weekend on beautiful Flathead Lake. Check out www.Impluchurch.org/womensretreat for more details, to get on our mailing list and to register! Hope to see you there. Sponsored by the Five Valleys Women and Great Divide Clusters.



NRIT News:

The following events require pre-registration:

SCHOLARSHIPS

We know that some churches are not able to provide the recommended amount of continuing education assistance and what is offered doesn't always go far enough. At the same time, we strongly believe in the importance of continuing education for our synod and we support the ELCA expectation of 50 hours of continuing education credits a year.

- Scholarships are now available to cover half the cost of NRIT events.
- Apply online or by leaving a message for Jenny at 406-453-1461.

*NRIT is grateful for financial gifts in support of this scholarship fund. Designate by writing "Jessica Crist Scholarship Fund" in the memo line.

The Luther 500

The Reformation 500 Task Force is looking for people to serve with our group. The only requirement is an interest in Reformation history and how the church is continually reforming. Many of our meetings are held via Google Hangouts so that very little lengthy travel is necessary, also helping to fulfill the first benchmark of the Montana Synod, "Meet the future boldly." If you would like to join our fun group, please contact Rev. Tonya Eza.

Help Plant a Tree in Wittenberg

"Even if I knew that the world were to collapse tomorrow, I would still plant my apple tree today."
(attributed to Martin Luther)

In anticipation of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Lutheran World Federation is sponsoring "500 years of reformation-500 trees for Wittenberg." The Montana Synod has been asked to participate by donating a tree. A representative of our reformation task force, Tonya Eza, will be present for the planting of the Montana Synod tree.

You are invited to participate by helping to raise the \$500. that the tree will cost. You could:

- Dedicate a Lenten offering.
- Do a special appeal on Earth Day, April 20.
- Use it as a Sunday School, youth group, Bible Study group project.
- Do a special offering.

Send checks to Montana Synod with "Wittenberg tree" in the memo line.

In conjunction with the Montana Synod's third strategic benchmark, "Deepen faith and witness," the 2016 Synod Assembly and Theological Conference theme will be the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Yes, it's a year early, but this is part of how we meet the future boldly, so that when 2017 comes along, we will all be prepared! In conjunction with the Synod Assembly, the Reformation 500 Task Force is sponsoring a Reformation stole and banner contest. We invite the member congregations of the Montana Synod to bring original stoles and/or banners with them to the Synod Assembly in June. Following are the rules that we ask you to follow:

If you are making a stole:

- Stoles must be able to be worn while presiding over worship, and should be able to withstand 10 worship services (feel free to experiment with materials!).
- Stoles should be between 3" and 6" wide at the shoulder, and between 48" and 54" long.
 - o Be sure also to consider weight of stole and range of motion for the pastor in your design.

Stoles need to be appropriate for a liturgically red service

- o Red doesn't need to be the only color in the stole, but it should play a prominent role in the color palette of the stole.
- The stole should be your own original design - it is fine to use established patterns (provided they are not copy-written) as long as they are put together in your own way.

If you are submitting a banner:

- Banners should be appropriate for display in a worship context
 - o The size of the banner should be able to fit comfortably within the dimensions of your sanctuary.

- Banners should be of an original design. You may use established patterns (provided they are not copy-written) as long as they are put together in your own way.

Please bring the stoles and banners with you to the Synod Assembly, and they will be displayed in a place where everyone can see. Assembly attendees will vote on their favorites.

Questions? Please contact Rev. Tonya Eza, chair of the Reformation 500 Task Force, or any of the other members of the group.

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Retreats, Events, and Updates:

For additional information about these great upcoming retreats and events, check out our website at www.flbc.net! Also, watch for our

2016 Summer Brochure around Christmas! Be sure to register

early for your first choice of weeks and programs!



March 13: Outdoor Ministry Sunday

Celebrate camp on Sunday, March 13th at your congregation (or pick a Sunday that works for you)! [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!

March 18-19: Middle School Retreat

A one-night overnight retreat to bring your youth group to camp, filled with fun, games, Bible study, craziness, and an introduction to our 2016 summer theme, "Living Like Jesus." [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!

March 18-20: Cross Country Ski Retreat

Whether you are brand new to cross country skiing or an expert, this retreat is for you!

Participants must be 13 years of age or older. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!

Rev. Nathan Clements, Associate Director
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
603 S Main St
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 890-5104 (cell)

Upcoming Events, etc.

February

26-27 Synod Council Meeting



Please put these important dates on your calendar:

2016 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference: June 2-5, 2016, Holiday Inn Grand, Billings

2016 Bishop's Convocation, October 14, 2016, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Helena, Montana
2016 First Call Theological Education: November 7-9, 2016, Great Falls

2017 Montana Synod Assembly: June 1-4, 2017, Best Western Heritage Inn, Great Falls

2017 First Call Theological Education: November 6-8, 2017, Great Falls

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 Find upcoming issues of **The Parish Paper** [here](#)

To see what's coming up on the Montana Synod Calendar, go [here](#)

To download or view our Clergy Roster, Congregational and LPA Directories, find them [here](#)

Roster Transitions are updated mid-month and may be found [here](#)

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## Amazon Smile

Shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3514273> in support of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.



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*This e-letter is intended to convey information from synod staff, ministries and congregations, and we reserve the right to edit all submissions. All items must be received by the Monday before publication on Wednesday. Send submissions to [Colter McCarty](#).*

## Contact Information

phone: (406) 453-1461  
[www.montanasynod.org](http://www.montanasynod.org)

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