



**Montana Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## News of the Week, April 27, 2016

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### Prayers for May 1, 2016 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Pr. Char Schmiedeskamp, undergoing radiation.

The Caribbean Synod, struggling for justice in Puerto Rico

For the Missoula interfaith community, as they celebrate with neighbors "Celebrate Islam Week."



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

Faith Lutheran, Ronan

William and Blanche Hetzel Foundation

Nebraska Synod

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# Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness - Community

*"How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!" (Psalm 133:1)*

Community is a faith practice. We were not created to be solitary beings. Christianity is not a solo sport. In the second creation story, in Genesis 2, God immediately saw that it was no good to have one human being all alone. Partnership was the beginning of community.

When Dietrich Bonhoeffer started an underground seminary in Nazi Germany, he wrote a guide for life in community. Life Together is his exploration of community under dire conditions. He writes:

"Christianity means community through Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ." He goes on: "It means, first, that a Christian needs others because of Jesus Christ. It means, second that a Christian comes to others only through Jesus Christ."



In the United States we have a long history of individualism. Thomas Jefferson remarked, "I am a sect myself." And Thomas Paine declared, "My mind is my church." George Rupp, in his book *Commitment and Community*, challenges the "unchecked individualism" of Paine and Jefferson, saying: "A religious dimension of the culture that is available directly to individuals displaces religious institutions. Here, as elsewhere in our society, individualism threatens to run amok." He continues: "For those of us who are their members, religious communities provide symbiotic universes: rituals, injunctions, images, and ideas through which we interpret and in turn share our experience."

It may be more efficient to pray to God alone. It may be more relaxing to do it on your own time table. It may be more comfortable not to be surrounded by people who may make demands on you, who are different from you, who disagree with you. But we need each other. The body of Christ is made up of interconnected people.

Bonhoeffer remembers the scattered Israelites. And he references his own situation of being separated from the larger body of Christ in their little seminary in hiding. He writes: "The physical presence of other Christians is a source of incomparable joy and strength to the believer."

Jesus told his followers that "where 2 or 3 are gathered in my name, I am there with them." That's what it takes. Gathering. Together. In Christ's name.

We live in a flashy world, a competitive world, a world hungering for entertainment and new distractions. Sometimes we think we must make our churches that way, "so people will come." God does not require us to be flashy when we're not. God gives us the gift of community and tells us to use it, to lose our selves in it. Community is not about numbers and it is not about innovation. It is about the hard work of being together, of being drawn together by something larger than ourselves, and for a purpose deeper than our imagination.

We've all heard people complain that they don't "get anything" from coming to church. But that's not the point, is it? We come together for the sake of coming together. Community is created when we come together, is it blessed by God. And that is enough. We don't come together to "get something." We come together to be transformed by each other through the risen Christ.

The 9th century hymn writer captures it well:

Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there.

We are gathered by the one love of Christ Jesus;  
Let us lift our voices to God and be joyful.  
In holy wonder let us love the living God,  
And may our hearts ever be one in faithful love.

Since we are all one in the Lord, as we gather,  
Let us be watchful that no strife still divide us.  
Contention, envy, ill will, spirit-may these all cease;  
With us, abiding in our midst, is Christ our God.

Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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## Grace Gathering

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have four fantastic days planned for the 2016 Grace Gathering and hope you will be able to take part.



The Grace Gathering will bring people together from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as the concurrent event to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

In addition to experiential learning, worship and presentations from special guests, a unique feature of the Grace Gathering will be the variety of workshops offered to participants to help prepare for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

There will be many special guests including Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee, who will deliver a keynote address.

Grace Gathering registrants will also have an exclusive opportunity to participate in online continuing education through Wartburg Seminary in the months following the Gathering.

Reserve your spot today by going to [ELCA.org/GraceGathering](http://ELCA.org/GraceGathering).

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## Congratulations to the newly ordained!

This past week our companions in the Cape Orange Diocese received two new pastors into ministry. Congratulations to Sandra Vorster and Gertjie De Vries Bock!



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## Job Openings in Sidney

### **Financial/Membership Secretary**

Part time position (20 Hours) where the person will recruit, schedule and coordinate volunteer ministries within the congregation; record and keeping financial membership, and activities information up to date. This person will also serve as office support and do cross training with the administrative assistant.

### **Youth and Family Ministries Assistant**

In this position you can work up to 30 hours per week. Contact and build relationships with youth and their parents. Help develop, coordinate and oversee Pella's programs with children and youth. Coordinate with the Pastor Confirmation, education and youth programs. Work with office staff, committee personnel, council and volunteers. Coordinate the planning and scheduling of activities such as retreats, fund raising projects and meetings. Assist in recruiting Wednesday Bible School, Confirmation, LYO, and Vacation Bible School staff, selection of curriculum, planning and preparation of programs.

For information about these positions, please contact the Pella Lutheran Church, Pastor Judy Wozniak, at (406) 433-3350 or email [pella@pellachurch.net](mailto:pella@pellachurch.net).

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## Lutheran Disaster Response

Dear friend in Christ,

One year ago today a powerful 7.8-magnitude earthquake rocked central Nepal. A second major earthquake struck just one month later with almost 400 aftershocks, causing continued waves of panic. More than 8,460 people were killed and almost half a million homes destroyed.

Lutheran Disaster Response has been and will continue to respond to the needs of our Nepal neighbors. Working with an extensive network of partners who are actively engaged in communities, we were able to respond rapidly after the earthquakes hit. One year later, we are still there rebuilding and restoring - empowering communities and meeting livelihood needs.

[The Nepal Earthquake: one year later resource](#) provides stories, images and more details into the work being carried out.

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## Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago Director of Admissions

As the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago lives into its Public Church curriculum, it is essential that our Director of Admissions reaches out to a new generation of visionary leaders. The Director of Admissions will lead the task of recruitment and admissions, chiefly (but not exclusively) for our first degree programs: the Master of Divinity and the two Master of Arts degrees. The Director will serve as a representative of LSTC through contacts with colleges, churches, synods, and other organizations. Because the Director will engage a broad range of prospective students, it is essential that s/he brings a high degree of intercultural competency. Full time position with ELCA benefits. For a full description please go to <http://www.lstc.edu/about/employment.php>

### Applicant Qualifications

LSTC is interested in strong and diverse candidates for this position. Women and/or persons from historically underrepresented cultural groups are especially encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should either hold a masters level degree in theology or otherwise demonstrate familiarity with the patterns of graduate theological education and the candidacy process of the ELCA. Membership in the ELCA is recommended but not required.

The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago forms visionary leaders to bear witness to the good news of Jesus Christ. Learn more about LSTC at [www.lstc.edu](http://www.lstc.edu).

### Application Process

Please submit a letter of interest expressing your reasons for applying, accompanied by a current resume of background and experience, including a list of references. E-mail your resume and letter of application to [employment@lstc.edu](mailto:employment@lstc.edu) or by mail to:

Office of Operations  
Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago  
1100 East 55th Street  
Chicago, IL 60615

Screening of applications begins immediately and will continue until the appropriate person has been hired, desired start date is July 1, 2016.



## National Workshop on Christian Unity

The Rev. Amanda Liggett and the Rev. Valerie Webster, Ecumenical & Interreligious Officers of the ELCA Synod and Episcopal Diocese of Montana, respectively, are having a rich and inspiring experience at the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Louisville, Kentucky. We look forward to sharing about our experiences when we return. Valerie

One of the desired outcomes for our conversations is strengthening all of our prison ministries by sharing information and encouraging members of our churches to get involved. Our core team is passionate about working with people affected by incarceration. As one of our volunteers recently said "I got involved to be of service to God and to others but I find that every time I go to the prison I am given more than I am able to give." You can experience this for yourself by:

**Praying for these ministries and the people involved in all aspects of the criminal justice system.**

**Attending worship services or Bible studies** at the Montana Women's Prison in Billings or at the Men's Prison in Deer Lodge.

**Being on a leadership team for retreats:** Homeward Bound (ecumenical Walk to Emmaus/Cursillo retreat) or Kogodus (Lutheran) retreats.

**Mentoring** a returning citizen who has paid their debt to society.

**Donating gently used casual or business wear** in Billings.

**Attending Healing Communities training** to develop a ministry to persons returning from or at risk of incarceration, and their families in your own church and community.

**Donating art work or quilted items for a fund raiser.** Freedom in Christ Prison ministry receives about a third of its support from the national ELCA and local Montana Synod with the rest coming from fundraisers and donations.

**Attending a Freedom in Christ fund raiser:**

Saturday, June 25 Dinner, silent auction and concert by the Johnny Cash tribute band C Steve Music at St Paul Lutheran Church in Missoula.

Sunday, October 9 Quilt auction via the internet at various locations in the state, including Billings, Great Falls, Sidney and more.

**To volunteer or contribute contact the following people:**

**Worship, Bible Study, retreats, mentoring or clothing donations in Billings:** Pastor Wendy Ochs at Evangelical United Methodist Church: 406-259-1897 or [pastorwendyochs@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwendyochs@gmail.com)

**Worship, Bible Study, retreats, mentoring in other areas:** Pastor Rob Nedbalek, Freedom in Christ Prison Ministries at 406-694-5267 or [ropastorrob@ficprisonministry.com](mailto:ropastorrob@ficprisonministry.com)

**Kogodus Retreat** Pr. Greg Karlsgodt, 406-544-1699 or [gk@kogodus.org](mailto:gk@kogodus.org)

**Donations or tickets for fundraisers:** Bea Rosenleaf, 406-560-4993 or [Bea@ficprisonministry.com](mailto:Bea@ficprisonministry.com)

**Healing Communities training:** Pr. Melanie Martin-Dent, 406-560-6371 or [mmartindent@yahoo.com](mailto:mmartindent@yahoo.com)

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## MAC on the Move!

From the beginning the Church has been a living organism communicating the Gospel through relationships. Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them" (Matthew 18:20), and Paul called this living embodiment, the Body of Christ (Romans 12:4-6). As Christians, simultaneously rooted in a particular faith community and a part of God's movement in history, our participation in Christ is multi-layered and multi-faceted.

To read more and subscribe to the MAC newsletter [click here!](#)



**WE ARE**

**Immanuel Lutheran**  
— COMMUNITIES —

**BREAKING  
GROUND**

Please join us for an  
**Expansion  
Celebration!**

Thursday, May 5th at 3pm  
Buffalo Hill Terrace  
40 Claremont Street, Kalispell

**Cinco de Mayo BBQ & Musical Entertainment**  
Immediately following the Groundbreaking Ceremony  
For more information, please call us at (406)752-9624



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## From the NRIT Advisory Committee

### Chance to win a certificate good for one free NRIT class!

We are looking for quotes describing the impact of NRIT on the synod and the importance of continuing education to your ministry.

Please send a brief statement to Jenny Kunka at [j.kunka@nrit.org](mailto:j.kunka@nrit.org). It can be about a specific class, about the benefit of having an organization like NRIT in our synod or about continuing education in general.

Jenny will take the names off the statements and send them on the NRIT Advisory Committee who will choose one entry to receive the gift of free registration to a class. Thank you for helping us lift up lifelong learning in our synod! Pr. Jason Asselstine, Pr. Martha McCreight, Pr. Grant Barnett Christenson, Ms. Karen Nave (LPA), Mr. Tracy Tobel (LPA), Bishop Jessica Crist, Ms. Jenny Kunka, Dir.



**NRIT is entering the world of digital education.** Our first digital offering is now available on our website. When you purchase the class, you will have access to it throughout 2016 so can offer the class as a multi-session adult study or watch it on your personal computer at your convenience.

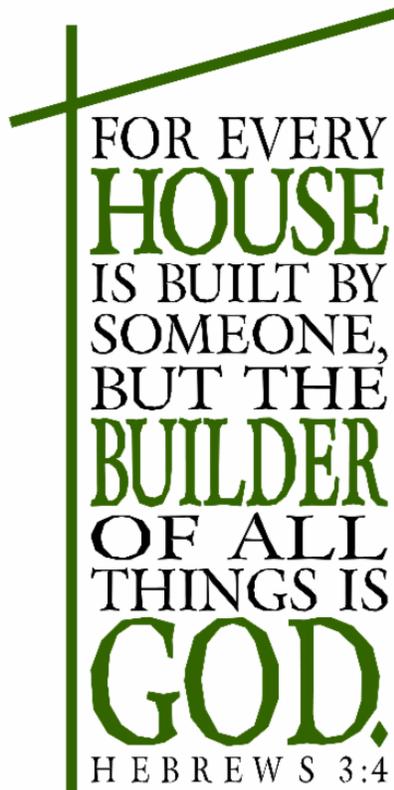
#### DIGITAL EDUCATION

#### **Learning Our Place: Wilderness and Wonder from a Biblical Perspective** with Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker

This course explores the book of Job and several biblical texts for insights about God, creation and humanity. What kind of world is this? What is our place in this world? How does the Bible speak of wilderness and wild creatures? What about "acts of God?"

To purchase the class, go the NRIT website. Under the logo, to the right side, click on NRIT Digital Education Store. Then click on "Learning Our Place..." You will need to pay online with a credit or debit card. After you have placed your order, you will be sent an email with all of the access information. Look for more offerings to come!

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## Previous news and notes:

### **Lutheran Seminary Award to St. John's "Community of the Cross"**

The Reverend Dr. James Nieman, President of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, recently announced that St. John's Lutheran Ministries has been selected as 2016 recipient of a prestigious award. Within a February 19th letter addressed to St. John's President and Chief Executive Officer, Kent Burgess, President Nieman wrote:

"It is my pleasure to inform you that the faculty of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) has voted to honor St. John's Lutheran Ministries with the Community of the Cross award . . . presented to a community, institution, congregation, or any collectively functioning Christian group whose activities manifest the invitation of our Lord to take up the cross and follow him, and whose services is directed to the world around it, both Christian and non-Christian, and whose satisfaction and honor clearly derive from the gospel."

President Nieman stated of this award, "It is the highest group honor our faculty can bestow, reflecting the respect and esteem with which they regard the recipient." In telling why LSTC faculty voted to confer this award to St. John's, he observed these reasons:

- \* Since its founding in 1963 by twenty-three Lutheran congregations of Montana, the work of St. John's now spans the entire state of Montana and offers a wide array of services to people without regard to religious preference, race, gender, age, diagnosis, or disability.
- \* Through its multiple campuses across the state, St. John's provides a full continuum of senior living care, and through its facilities in Billings, it shows a model of intergenerational engagement that includes both children and senior adults.
- \* St. John's has managed Lutheran Social Services of Montana, which has provided mental health counseling services, adoptive services, disaster response work, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee services.
- \* St. John's became the second organization within the United States to develop Green House Cottages, a model for long-term care designed to provide a home environment.
- \* Since 2003, St. John's in collaboration with local ELCA congregations, served as a learning context for a dozen seminary interns, half of whom were from LSTC.
- \* St. John's has been an active ecumenical partner as well as supportive of and welcoming to people from all faith traditions, including those who identify as non-religious.
- \* In these and many other ways, St. John's stands as a model of bearing the cross in daily life through being an exemplary social service ministry. All of this embodies LSTC's own commitment to prepare leaders for a public church.

President Nieman concluded, "Please accept my sincere congratulations on the selection of St. John's Lutheran Ministries for this year's Community of the Cross award."

Within reply, Kent Burgess wrote, "The honor of receiving the Community of the Cross award is deeply appreciated by the St.

John's community. Our sincere thanks to LSTC and the faculty for this award and for the recognition and encouragement it gives to our ministry across Montana and Northern Wyoming."

On Sunday, May 15, 2016, Kent will receive this award on behalf of St. John's during commencement exercises at LSTC.

Mara Flynn  
Graphic Designer  
St. John's Foundation  
406-655-5716

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## CHRISTIKON ANNUAL BENEFIT AUCTION

We are celebrating Christikon's 65th Anniversary! The Christikon Annual Benefit Auction "Quilts and a Whole Lot More" will take place on Sunday, April 24th at the Billings Depot located at 2310 Montana Ave. Doors will open at 4:00 p.m. and the cost for admission is only \$15.00 per adult. Hors d'oeuvres provided by Top Notch Catering and drinks will be available. Guests may bid on silent auction items and examine live auction items. The live auction, with auctioneer Rick Young, begins at 5:30 pm. A few of the live auction items include a raffle of a 2001 Sea Swirl boat with trailer, beautiful handmade quilts in assorted sizes, condo and condo/cabin packages at Big Sky and Red Lodge, artwork, a Minnesota Vikings game package, Big Horn Fishing Getaway and much more!



In the splendor of the Absaroka-Beartooth Mountains south of Big Timber, Christikon Bible Camp provides camping and backpacking opportunities to youth, families, and developmentally-disabled adults. Many of the proceeds from the Benefit Auction will help fund Christikon's Sojourners session, which is offered to at-risk youth free of charge. At-risk youth participating in Sojourners are those who may be experiencing significant challenges in their lives, including declining performance in school, emotional or behavioral problems, an absent parent, a family member who is imprisoned or on parole, or a family dealing with financial hardship.

Please join Christikon for this exciting evening. Tickets available at the door!

Boat raffle tickets available at the Christikon office!

More information about registering for the camp as a counselor or camper can be obtained through the website: [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org). Christikon is a not-for-profit organization, it may be considered for endowment gifts, bequests, and other planned gifts.

If you have a question or would like to contact us, please contact the office at 406-656-1969 or email us at [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org).

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## Out of the Darkness

by Cindy Bye  
Shepherd, MT



"I came out of the darkness and into the light." These were the words proclaimed by a woman at the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Boliviana (IELB) National Women's Leadership Conference at the Jessica Crist Retreat Center in August 2015. With passionate testimony, she revealed the joy and peace she received when she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. The movement of the Holy Spirit through the room was almost palpable, as she shared her life-changing story of coming to faith.

To read more, [click here](#).

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## Travel to Germany with Bishop Crist!

[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 With Bishop Crist**

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.

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### **Pilgrimage to Germany, Palestine, and Israel**

Pastor Paul Rowold of Polson will be leading a Pilgrimage to Germany, Palestine, and Israel from October 4-18. He has led numerous groups in the past, and emphasizes renewal of body and spirit, with significant contact with the Christian peoples in each country. Included in this trip are guided visits to the major Reformation sites (including Erfurt, Mansfield, Eisleben, Wittenberg, and Eisenach, with the Wartburg Castle) and the significant sites in the Holy Land. Visits to the homes of Christian families and worship in Bethlehem and Eisenach will highlight this Pilgrimage.

The 15 day experience departs from New York JFK and includes breakfasts and dinners at 4 star hotels each day. Cost is \$3225 per person (based on double occupancy). For detailed itinerary, contact Pastor Rowold at 406 883 5864 or paul.rowold@gmail.com

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### **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



NRIT News:

*The following events require pre-registration:*

**NRIT is entering the world of digital education. Our first digital offering is now available on our website. When you purchase the class, you will have access to it throughout 2016 so can offer the class as a multi-session adult study or watch it on your personal computer at your convenience.**

#### **DIGITAL EDUCATION**

##### **Learning Our Place: Wilderness and Wonder from a Biblical Perspective**

With Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker This course explores the book of Job and several biblical texts for insights about God, creation and humanity. What kind of world is this? What is our place in this world? How does the Bible speak of wilderness and wild creatures? What about "acts of God?"

To purchase the class, go the NRIT website. Under the logo, to the right side, click on NRIT Digital Education Store. Then click on "Learning Our Place..." You will need to pay online with a credit or debit card. After you have placed your order, you will be sent an email with all of the access information. Look for more offerings to come!

#### **COMING WORKSHOPS:**

**Spiritual But Not Religious: What Can We Learn From Them? How Can We Welcome Them?** Dr. Melinda Quivik

Friday, April 29th - St. John's Lutheran in Helena  
9:30am - 3:30pm

(5 credits) \$75 clergy/\$50 New to Ministry, retired, LPA/\$20 for nonrostered no CEUs

### **Leading Worship Matters: Shaping Faith**

Dr. Melinda Quivik

Thursday, April 27th - New Hope in Great Falls  
9:30am - 3:30 pm

(5 credits) \$75 clergy/\$50 New to Ministry, retired, LPA/\$20 for nonrostered no CEUs

To sign up, [www.nrit.org](http://www.nrit.org) and click on the NRIT logo near the upper right side of the Montana Synod page to see our offerings.

### **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.

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# The Luther 5

**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.**

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.

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## 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](http://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!*

### May 8: Mother's Day Brunch

Celebrate the special women in your life by joining us for a delightful brunch at camp. Four seatings are available, and reservations are required. Call (406) 752-6602 by May 2nd to make your reservation. Suggested donation is \$20 per person. Proceeds benefit the the FLBC campership fund and the CASA program of Flathead County, assisting young women in foster care. [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!

### May 27-30: Thrivent Memorial Day Family Work Retreat

Fun (and work!) for the whole family as we prepare our facilities for the summer camping season! This is a great time to introduce your children to camp and to meet our 2016 summer staff, who are eager to work, worship, and play with you! Call (406) 752-6602 to reserve your spot. This retreat is FREE in thankfulness for your assistance and funding from Thrivent Financial.

### June 3-5: Women's Retreat

Calling all women! Join us for worship, great food, relaxation, yoga, spa time, and sessions with Dr. Nancy Eldredge-Hess, who will lead us in the theme, "Unsung Heroines of the Bible." [CLICK HERE](#) for more information!

[Rev. Nathan Clements, Associate Director](#)

[Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp](#)

[603 S Main St](#)

[Kalispell, MT 59901](#)

[\(406\) 890-5104 \(cell\)](#)

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## Upcoming Events, etc.

### June

3-5 Montana Synod Assembly

**Please put these important dates on your calendar:**

**2016 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference:** June 3-5, 2016, Radisson Hotel 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)

Join Our Mailing List!