



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, May 4, 2016

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Prayers for May 8, 2016 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Dave Peters, his daughter Aria, and son-in-law Bill on the birth of his granddaughter Rita on Saturday.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Bethlehem Lutheran, Kalispell
Northridge Lutheran, Kalispell

Lutheran Social Services of Montana

St. John's Lutheran Ministries, Billings

Central States Synod
Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod



Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness - Stewardship

"The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein." (Psalm 24:1)

There is a village in Alaska that is falling into the sea. Actually there are many villages in Alaska that are falling into the sea. The Inupiat people, originally migratory, were forced to settle in "permanent" villages. It is these "permanent" villages that are falling into the sea. Once protected by sea ice, they are now eroding away. Climate change, of course, is the reason. Shishmaref is of particular interest because there is a Lutheran congregation there. At some point in the not-too-distant future, says Bishop Shelley Wickstrom, the homes of Shishmaref will be put on skids and dragged to a new location. But not the church. It is too big. If the people are to worship, they will need a new church.



Shishmaref, Alaska, is only one of many communities in the vanguard of what scientists predict will be 50 million to 200 million "climate refugees" by 2050. Because Shishmaref has Lutheran connections, our church will have a moral obligation to those villagers, those ELCA Lutherans. But what about Isle de Jean Charles in Louisiana? And thousands of other places. Climate change poses a huge global problem-it affects everyone.

The history of life on earth is rich and varied. The creation stories in Genesis give us a beautiful, poetic rendition of unfolding life on earth that is pleasing to God. The collapsing of the process into six days makes it manageable, comprehensible. Of course we know that the earth's evolution has been far more complex. We can assert this without any diminishment in our faith in God the creator.

Scientists looking at this history of living things see five mass extinctions in the last half billion years on earth. And more and more of them are convinced that we are on the verge of a sixth mass extinction. (See Pulitzer Prize winning *The Sixth Extinction*, by Elizabeth Kolbert.) So what's a Christian to do? Martin Luther is widely quoted as saying that even if he knew the world were to end tomorrow, he would still plant a pear tree today. (That quote has never actually been verified, though it is probably his most popular.)

Stewardship. It is a faith practice that involves far more than an annual fund drive for the congregation. Stewardship is our acknowledgement that everything we have and everything we are comes from God. Stewardship is returning to God, providing for our neighbor, working with our neighbor to care for the earth. It is not a massive global initiative, but a way of life, a faith practice for people who follow the Risen Christ.

Christians do not have a monopoly on stewardship, nor on care of the earth. And Christians, like others, have a moral obligation to engage in global initiatives to care for the earth. It's just that we are very clear about the why. We love because God first loved us.

Personal stewardship is an affirmation that we are not created unto ourselves, that we are a part of something larger, and that in response to God's love through Jesus Christ, we orient our lives in gratitude.

We pray to God for the earth. And we work with our neighbors for the earth, planting trees, recycling, lessening our carbon footprint. And we practice stewardship. Because we know that it is not ours to spoil, not ours to ignore, not ours to hoard. We care for the earth as a matter of stewardship for the present, and for the future.

We may not be able to prevent a certain species of bat from going extinct, nor a particular kind of frog. But as Christians we have a responsibility to care for the environment. It is a matter of stewardship. We were not given the earth to live in to use up all its resources and make it uninhabitable for the future. Farmers know that. Ranchers know that.

That's stewardship. A faith practice.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Cochamba and Futbol -Pastor Stacey Siebrasse

Visiting Cochabamba was one of the highlights on our trip to Bolivia. At least it was for me. The city parks and walkways are straight out of a storybook: lovers walk hand-in-hand, bushes are manicured to look like gumdrops, lights illuminate gushing water fountains, and flowers at the foot of leafy trees offer the kind of aromatic shade that entices readers to finish just one more chapter before going back to work. We saw a lot of cityscapes like these as we clicked

along in our bus that took us from our inner-city hotel to the neighborhood of Taquiña. The closer we got to our destination, however, the less frequent these parks became.

[Read More...](#)



Stoles and Banners!

Are you bringing a Reformation-themed stole and/or banner to the Synod Assembly in June? If so, we would like to have some information about your artwork to display on a card alongside your banner and/or stole. [Please fill out this form](#) and email it to tonya.eza@gmail.com. We're looking forward to seeing the creativity of the people in the Montana Synod!

ELCA Advocacy Alert!

The ELCA is committed to fighting childhood hunger. That commitment, rooted in the baptismal call to care for our neighbors in need, is why we as a church have advocated for a strong renewal of the [Child Nutrition Programs](#) that are critical to the health and wellbeing of children and families throughout our nation.

ELCA Advocacy opposes the recently-introduced U.S. House of Representatives "Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016, (H.R. 5003)," that rolls back many years of successes in feeding millions of hungry children. It substantially reduces access to school meal programs impacting some of our most food insecure communities.

Some of the worst provisions of this legislation would:

- Reduce the number of schools that are eligible to implement community eligibility (high poverty schools which provide free meals for all of their students).
- Raise barriers and more red tape to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.
- Roll back science-based nutrition standards for schools
- Create additional requirements for schools and low-income families, jeopardizing access to school meals for thousands of students.

Our nation's Child Nutrition programs include the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), which provides nutritious food, education, and access to health care for millions of low-income new mothers and infants; as well as the National School Lunch Program and the Summer Food Service Program, both of which guarantee that millions of low-income children have access to healthy food throughout the year.

Many of our nutrition partners agree, this legislation takes away access to healthy nutritious breakfasts and lunches they need to learn and grow.

Please urge your members of Congress to Oppose the Improving Child Nutrition and Education Act of 2016 (H.R. 5003) today at the [ELCA Action Center](#).

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.

LSS Sunday

In May we ask congregations of the Montana Synod to remember Lutheran Social Services. You could choose a Sunday to do a special offering, include LSS in your prayers, have an adult forum on the work of LSS. Watch for resources.



From the NRIT Advisory Committee

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



DIGITAL EDUCATION

Learning Our Place: Wilderness and Wonder from a Biblical Perspective

With Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker, professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary 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?" Cost of 12 months of access to the class is \$40

Syria in the Bible and in the Early Church: A Heritage at Risk

With Dr. Thomas Lee who served for many years as Lutheran campus pastor at the University of Montana, Missoula, where he also-as a faculty affiliate-taught biblical Hebrew and Aramaic in UM's Religious Studies Department. During the 1980s and into the 1990s he served on the staff of two archaeological projects in the Kingdom of Jordan and one in the Republic of Syria.

In recent months we've become aware as well of the tragic loss of Syria's rich cultural heritage at the hands of ISIS and by those who profit from the looting and sale of antiquities. This loss of antiquities and the humanitarian tragedy are not unrelated. As Dr. Amr al-Azm, a former official in the Syrian Ministry of Antiquities who now teaches Middle Eastern History and Archaeology at Shawnee State University in Ohio, reminds us: "A people without a history is a lost people . . . and history without people is meaningless." Not only the Syrians, but we too are deeply invested in Syria's history as evidenced by the bible and in the history of the early church. The loss of Syria's cultural heritage, then, is not only a tragedy for the Syrian people, but a tragedy for us as well.

In this NRIT presentation by Tom Lee, we will explore the importance of ancient Syria for the bible and the church and will attempt to convey some sense of the threat posed by the Syrian civil war to our common cultural heritage. The Cost of the class is \$25. After the percentage taken out by the online registration company, the remaining amount of each registration fee will be sent to the American Schools of Oriental Research for their "Syrian Heritage Initiative." ASOR's "Syrian Heritage Initiative" is committed to assist in whatever ways possible the preservation of antiquities under threat by the Syrian civil war.

To purchase these classes, go to www.nrit.org. Click on the NRIT logo on the upper left side of the page. This will bring you to the NRIT home page. Under the logo, to the right side, click on NRIT Digital Education Store. Then click on the class you would like to access. 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!

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. 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 chose one entry to receive the gift of free registration to a class.

FOR EVERY
HOUSE
IS BUILT BY
SOMEONE,
BUT THE
BUILDER
OF ALL
THINGS IS
GOD.
H E B R E W S 3:4

Previous news and notes:

Immanuel Lutheran
— COMMUNITIES —

WE ARE
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

KALISPELL - Immanuel Lutheran Communities will break ground on a \$45 million, multi-phase, five-year expansion at 3 p.m. May 5 at Buffalo Hill Terrace. All are welcome to attend the ceremony, followed by a festive Cinco de Mayo BBQ with musical entertainment provided by Cocinando.

The first phase of construction adds a new therapy gym and 32 guest suites for a total of 48 guest suites at The Retreat at Buffalo Hill, an award-winning center designed for short-term rehabilitation and post-acute care. The expansion will include accommodations for post-acute patients transitioning from hospital care before returning home.

The expansion at Buffalo Hill Terrace begins in July with construction of The Lodge, an assisted-living memory-support

neighborhood. The new Lodge will include 24 independent living units and continues Immanuel Lutheran's tradition of serving those with Alzheimer's and other related dementias - a need that is expected to nearly triple in the next 35 years. In 1976, Immanuel Lutheran Communities was one of the first organizations in the country to open a dedicated living environment for people with the Alzheimer's disease.

New construction will also feature a new entrance and Commons addition at Buffalo Hill Terrace, expected to be completed in the summer of 2017. The Commons will feature more dining spaces, a Wooden Nickel coffee bar and lounge, a fitness studio, and exercise room. A second phase of construction planned from 2017 through 2018 will add a new pool and hot tub, along with and an expansive auditorium.

The new Villas at Buffalo Hill - 36 independent-living apartments designed with new amenities for the Baby Boomer Generation- are expected to be completed in late 2018. Already, prospective residents have placed deposits on more than half of the future residences.

In the final phase of the expansion, the Immanuel Skilled Care Center will be renovated to add memory support and create small "neighborhoods" with private rooms. Each neighborhood will offer private rooms with a social space and dining facilities. The center also will add six specialized hospice suites.

"The Immanuel Skilled Care Center has been a comfortable home for many of our seniors from the Flathead Valley for 59 years," said Jason Cronk, CEO of Immanuel Lutheran Communities. "It is time to renew the Center into a modern design that allows residents to continue to live comfortably with the support and loving care Immanuel has provided for generations." "We look forward to the future changes at Immanuel Lutheran Communities, while honoring our past, with thoughtful design throughout."

MMW Architects of Missoula, has created the leading design and construction plans for the expansion, while CJMW Architecture of Winston-Salem, N.C. provided the campus master plan. Local firm Swank Enterprises is the general contractor and phase one financing is through BBVA Compass Bank.

Prison Ministry Partnership, April 2016

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

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

Kogodus Retreat Pr. Greg Karlsgodt, 406-544-1699 or gk@kogodus.org

Donations or tickets for fundraisers: Bea Rosenleaf, 406-560-4993 or Bea@ficprisonministry.com

Healing Communities training: Pr. Melanie Martin-Dent, 406-560-6371 or mmartindent@yahoo.com

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!](#)



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

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

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.

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

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 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.

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.

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!



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 \(cell\)](#)

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.montanasynd.org](http://www.montanasynd.org)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)



