



**Montana Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **News of the Week, May 11, 2016**

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### **Follow Us!**



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## **Prayers for May 15, 2016 Pentecost Sunday**

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For the United Methodist Church meeting in convention in Portland, Oregon

For the community of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Christ the King Lutheran Church and Pastor Susan Horton.

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

Christ Lutheran, Libby  
Our Savior's Lutheran, Columbia Falls

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Mission Area

Southwestern Texas Synod

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# Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness - We are Church

*"Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul." (Acts 4:32)*

As we move towards the Synod Assembly, I will be reflecting on the 4 emphases that Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has asked the ELCA to embrace. The first is *"We are church."* At first blush that may seem too obvious even to comment upon. But let's take a closer look. Because it is always risky to make assumptions.

Our Constitution's statement of purpose says:

*"The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."* So when we say, *"We are church,"* that is what we are claiming. Let's look at the parts of that statement.



First, *"a people created by God in Christ."* The church is *"a people."* Not a building. Not an individual. A people. Plural. *"created by God in Christ."* We affirm that we are not self-made, we are not the product of random forces of the universe. We are created by God in Christ. We assert this about ourselves. And we claim it for everyone. When we acknowledge that God has created us, we implicitly acknowledge that God has created everything. And God loves all that God has created. So when we describe ourselves as *"a people created by God in Christ,"* we are placing ourselves in context. Our context is the created world, beloved by God, redeemed by Christ.

Next, *"empowered by the Holy Spirit."* Our self-understanding as church is that the Holy Spirit empowers us. This coming Sunday is Pentecost, perhaps the most powerful biblical story about the Holy Spirit. We are Pentecost people, transformed by the Holy Spirit to do things we didn't know we knew how to do. We don't do these things on our own. We do them as a people. And we do them because the Holy Spirit fills us, sweeps us along, enters our lives and amazes us.

Then, *"called and sent to bear witness"* Being church is not static and it is far from passive. We are both *"called and sent."* Calling is not just for pastors, not just for church professionals. In baptism we are all called to be servants and disciples. And the calling is not just to speak to ourselves. Following Christ is contagious. So, in being *"called,"* we are *"sent."* We are sent *"to bear witness."* That means telling our story. Telling the story of God's love in Christ. Telling our own story. That's what *"called and sent to bear witness"* means.

Finally *"bear witness to God's creative, redeeming and sanctifying activity in the world."* The story that we tell is the story of what God is up to in the world. God is creating. God is redeeming. God is sanctifying. God makes something out of nothing. God transforms darkness into light, death into life. God makes the ordinary holy, and the holy ordinary.

*"The Church is a people created by God in Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."*

When we say *"We are church,"* that is what we are claiming.

Thanks be to God.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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## Calling all LPA's, those considering being an LPA, and Mentors

On Saturday June 4th join us for lunch and discussion about the Montana Synod LPA program. If you are and LPA come to share your experience with the class and the ways you have served this synod. If you are considering the program this would be a great opportunity to get more information and ask questions.

We will be meeting in the Rains room at the Montana Conference Center at 11:45 on Saturday June 4th

To RSVP for the lunch please email Colter McCarty ([cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)) by Friday May 27th

The cost of the lunch is \$5.00

Questions: call our office 453-1461 or email Colter or Rev. Jason Asselstine

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Dear friends in Christ,

Last year was an exciting time of growth and new beginnings for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Our first comprehensive campaign, Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA, reached \$80 million - or 40 percent - of our \$198 million, five-year goal, allowing important work to begin and the expansion of existing ministries. In the [2015 Campaign Report](#), you will get a glimpse of what gifts, including yours, have made possible so far.

As we enter the third year of this five-year effort, I invite you to continue giving of your time and talents for this amazing initiative. I encourage you to talk with your family, friends and congregation members regarding the effectiveness of our work. Together, we are bringing new life to the church here at home and around the world. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ,

The Rev. Ronald T. Gluskamp  
Director, The Campaign for the ELCA

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## FORUM ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION FOR THE REPUDIATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

One of the few but very important items of business to be considered by the 2016 Montana Synod Assembly is a [Resolution for the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery](#). This Resolution is recommended by the Montana Synod Council, and if adopted will be forwarded to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, which meets in August, for action.

The "Doctrine of Discovery" is a legal principle that colonizing European nations who "discovered" the "New World" could claim the land, and that its Native American inhabitants had no property rights of their own.

To help our Assembly Voting Members learn more about the "Doctrine of Discovery" and the proposed Resolution for our Synod and the ELCA to repudiate it, **we will have a special Forum on Friday, June 3, from 1:00 - 2:30 pm.** Ms. Prairie Rose Seminole, ELCA Program Director for American Indian and Alaska Native ministries, will be with us.

**Since this 1:00 pm Forum will be just before the official start of the Assembly, we encourage voting members and visitors to join us! We hope to see you there!**

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From Jim:

A World Council of Churches delegation led by the Moderator, Dr. Agnes Aboum, and the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Olave Fykse Tveit, has just completed a two week long Racial Justice Pilgrimage to the United States. The NCC assisted in the organizing of the pilgrimage and accompanied the WCC on their journey through Washington, DC, Charleston, SC, Ferguson, MO, and Chicago, IL.

Delegation members were deeply troubled by the pervasiveness and depth of racism in our

nation and the present climate of hostility to immigrants, Islamophobia, and racially charged rhetoric in the presidential campaign. I have little doubt their final report will be difficult for many Americans to read, but it is essential, at times, for Christian sisters and brothers from other parts of the world to hold a mirror to us. That is part of what it means to be connected through faith to believers throughout God's Creation.

[Read More...](#)

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## 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](mailto:tonya.eza@gmail.com). We're looking forward to seeing the creativity of the people in the Montana Synod!



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## The First Kogodus Retreat at Rocky Boy

A "Lament & Laughter" retreat was held on the Rocky Boy's Reservation hosted by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church and the Bear Paw Cluster April 14-16, 2016. Seven pastors and 11 laity took part in this event that focused on St. Paul's admonition to "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). Lamenting our losses with fellow Christians enables us to be supportive, draws us closer, and lightens our pain. Sharing our joys with sisters and brothers in Christ enhances the joy and deepens our fellowship. Actively listening to one another is a vital ministry in our life together as followers of Jesus Christ. We practiced that at this retreat and, consequently, experienced a special closeness as members of our Lord's family.

We also enjoyed listening to two elders representing the Chippewa Cree and Gros Ventre tribes. One gave us the historical background of the Rocky Boy reservation and some of the issues facing Indian country. The other introduced three dancers and the Blue Coats drum group who gave us a mini pow-wow. We were delighted to have such a warm welcome and opportunity to learn more about our Native friends.

This was the first time a Kogodus retreat was held at a Native American congregation. Hopefully there will be more to come! Kogodus is an Estonian word which means "Christian fellowship". This retreat ministry was born in Montana and became part of the Rocky Mountain District (now the Montana Synod) in 1974. Since then many retreats have been held throughout the U.S. and in numerous foreign countries.

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# The Luther 5

## Three Reformation Cities

Tom Lee and I have known each other since 1965 when we were both interns in southern California. We both went on to do graduate work after receiving our M.Div. degrees (then known as B.D.)

Tom is a scholar. I am a tactile learner. Mostly I learn by traveling. I have spent time in all of the "Three Reformation Cities" which Tom mentions. I have visited the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The original wooden doors were destroyed by fire and replaced by bronze which nails don't penetrate. I have visited Calvin's church in Geneva, a huge cathedral-like structure, austere gray stone and stripped of most of the Pre-Reformation Roman Catholic decoration. I found his grave in an out-of-the-way cemetery. At least I think it was his. It had a modest marble stone marked simply "JC."

But Constantinople??? A Reformation city? I've visited the absolutely awe-inspiring Hagia Sophia, built 532-537, the largest church in Christendom for 1,000 years; transformed into a mosque when the

Ottoman Empire took over and renamed the city Istanbul. Atatürk, father of modern Turkey changed it to a museum after World War I to keep the Muslims and Orthodox Christians from fighting over it, saving it from possible destruction.

But a Reformation city? Tom's Newsbrief opened a whole new perspective for me, indicating some of the connections between the Orthodox Church(es) and some in the Reformation tradition, both now and also back then. Thank God for scholars in our midst, like Tom Lee. [Read, and prepare to have your horizons expanded.](#)

Paul K. Hanson

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## 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.



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## 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](http://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](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.

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## **Christikon Clips**

**June, 2016**

It's not too late to register for camp this summer! Space remains in most youth sessions and in those for families and adults. You can register online at [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) or use the forms distributed with the youth and family/adult brochures in your congregation. Or call us at the camp office for further information.



**Christikon Director Installation: Pastor Mark Donald will be installed as the Christikon's director at the MT Synod Theological Conference on June 3rd at the evening service at the Radisson Hotel. Join us for worship!**

Christikon covers the full costs for each at-risk kid participating in Sojourners Camp. (We expect to have 24 this summer) We invite individuals, congregations and their auxiliaries to consider special giving for camp scholarships this summer.

Special guest speakers become part of the Christikon life this summer during sessions for adults and families. During Mountain Weekend 1 (July 8-10) we feature **James Darchuk**, Senior Pastor of King of Glory Billings. During the Continuing Education Retreat (August 1-4), we are joined by Lois Malcolm, professor of systematic theology at Luther Seminary and Tim Westermeyer, Senior Pastor of St. Philip the Deacon Lutheran Church in Plymouth, Minnesota. Come spend a few days of relaxation, learning, and faith growth with us. Mountain Weekend 2 (August 5-7), topic to be announced. Register now!

Check out our Spring Trailblazer on our website. Use the link below:  
Newsletter link: <http://christikon.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Spring-2016-Trailblazer.pdf>

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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

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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:

### **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...](#)

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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!](#)



## 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 dearly 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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## 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.

## 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 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!

### September 2-5: Labor Day Family Camp

Family, faith, and fellowship on Flathead Lake as summer comes to a close. What could be better? [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](#).*

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