



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, June 1, 2016

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Prayers for June 5, 2016 Third Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pastor Brad Ulgenes & his family on the death of his mother, Florence. The Funeral will be June 2, 11am at Lutheran church of the Good Shepherd, Billings



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

First Lutheran, Glasgow
First Lutheran, Wolf Point
Dodson Lutheran, Dodson
Valley View Lutheran Home, Glasgow

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness - We are Church for the Sake of the World

"God so loved the world." It is one of the most famous quotes in Scripture. You see it on bumper stickers. John 3: 16. You see it painted on people's bodies as they vie for TV coverage at sports events. "God so loved the world."

As it turns out, loving the world is not only God's job. It is ours, all of ours. It is why we are church. Because God so loved the world. We gather in Assembly this weekend to be church for the sake of the world. We will adopt a budget that reflects our understanding of being church for the sake of the world. We will hear from ministries that we support because we are church for the sake of the world-social ministries and prison ministry, colleges and ecumenical ministries-all for the sake of the world.



We will consider a resolution on the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, and moving towards more justice for Native Americans-because we are church for the sake of the world.

We will ordain a new pastor, install a camp director, recognize 30 new Lay Pastoral Associates, remembering always that it is not for ourselves, but because we are church for the sake of the world. We will recognize colleagues for years of service to church and world.

We will commemorate the anniversary of the Reformation, and the tremendous impact it has had on the world. We will look into our history, and we will imagine a reforming future because we are church for the sake of the world. We'll have lots of workshops on Reformation themes, including a look at how the Reformation is viewed in our companion synods of Bolivia and the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa. And we'll have workshops on other topics-like world hunger, like disaster preparedness, like working with young adults.

Bishop Eaton has asked us to embrace her 4 emphases, and we have done that the last 4 weeks.

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

She has also asked us as a church, as a synod, as congregations to be in conversation with one another about how we see the ELCA moving into the future. What will be most important? What can we let go? We'll spend some time on Saturday at the Assembly addressing those issues as well. And if you want to participate, but will not be at the Assembly, you can go to www.elca.org/future and weigh in on how we can be church, be Lutheran, be church together and be church for the sake of the world.

See you at the Assembly,

Jessica Crist, Bishop

Johnny Cash Concert, Dinner, Auction

Please Help!

Freedom in Christ is a key partner in bringing Healing Communities training to Montana. We would like to ask for your assistance in helping to promote our fundraiser on June 25. This fundraiser will help raise much needed funds to keep our ministry alive at Montana State Prison.

[To learn more, click here!](#)

[To download the bulletin insert click here.](#)

C. Steve Music presents



An evening with Johnny Cash





Healing Communities Training with Rev. Doug Walker

Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, in partnership with the Evangelical United Methodist Church is hosting Healing Communities Training in Billings, Montana.

WHEN:
MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2016
4:00PM - 8:00PM

WHERE:
EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
345 BROADWATER
BILLINGS, MONTANA

BRING YOUR SUPPER OR ORDER IT IN

Who Should Attend?

Volunteers connected with churches and organizations in Billings and the surrounding area who are willing to help their local community become a community of healing and hope for families of those incarcerated.

Primary Components of Healing Communities:

- * Stigma reduction & a welcoming, supportive atmosphere
- * Formal & informal support
- * Volunteering
- * Mentoring
- * Network of referrals
- * Advocacy & mobilization

To register go online at www.beliefandjustice.com/events.html
or contact Rev. Wendy Ochs at
office@actyourfaith.org or 406.259.1897

2nd ANNUAL NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

Wear Orange was inspired by friends of Hadiya Pendleton, a 15-year-old Chicago high school student killed by gunfire, who decided to honor her life by wearing orange - the color hunters wear in the woods to protect themselves and others. On June 2, 2015, what would have been Hadiya's 18th birthday, more than 200 organizations and influencers asked people nationwide to join them by wearing orange to honor her life, the lives of the more than 90 Americans killed by gun violence and the hundreds more who are injured every day. Last year the #WearOrange message reached more than 220 million people on June 2nd, this year we need your help to make Wear Orange bigger and louder.

All people of the Montana Synod are invited to wear orange on June 2, in remembrance of everyone who has been affected by gun violence. Events are happening in Missoula and Helena. For more information, contact Pr. Jean Larson, jeanklarson@gmail.com.

-Wear Orange and share your photo on Facebook or Twitter with #WearOrange

-Share why you wear orange. Go to wearorange.org and create a photo with "I #WearOrange for"

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!

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) 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

Prison Ministry Partnership

There are many opportunities for all to engage in this ministry in the next month! Please take a look and see if any connect with you.

Healing Communities Training: Your congregation can become a "station of hope" for those impacted by the criminal justice system in any way. Bring a team from your church to be trained by Rev. Doug Walker at Billings Evangelical United Methodist Church from 4-8 PM on Monday, June 20 (contact Wendy Ochs 406-690-2481 or register online at <http://www.beliefandjustice.com/events-1.html>) or schedule a training at your own church led by one of our Montana trainers by contacting Bea at bea@ficprisonministry.com

An Evening "with" Johnny Cash: Enjoy dinner featuring pasties as the main dish, a silent auction and a night of music with the Cash tribute band C Steve Music, with the proceeds benefitting Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry. This event will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Missoula, Saturday, June 25 beginning at 6 pm. Receive \$10 off by purchasing your tickets in advance at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/johnny-cash-tribute-concertdinner-silent-auction-tickets-24688156942> Print off this bulletin insert and share it with your church and friends: <http://www.ficprisonministry.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/ConcertBulletinInsert.pdf>

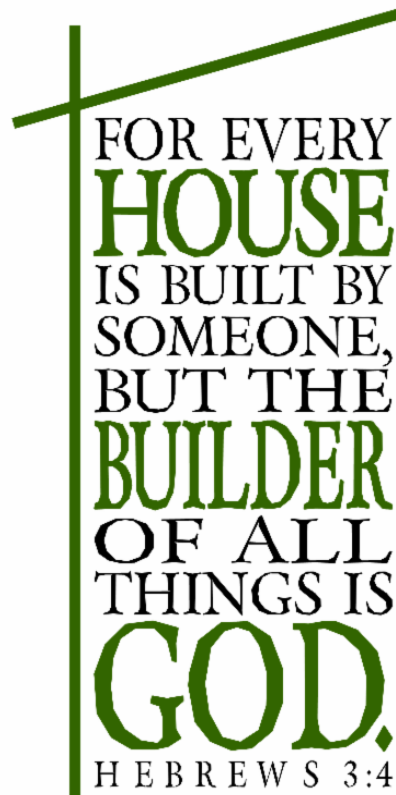
Donate Clothing or Household goods: Women coming out of Montana Women's Prison & Passages are in need of gently used casual-business wear. This includes pants, shirts, jackets, and flat shoes, especially in larger sizes (L-XL-XXL). Volunteers from various Billings churches are working with these women to help them find employments and safe housing. Nice-looking, clean clothing can go a long way in helping these women gain confidence and start a new life with a positive outlook. Please call or email Chris Hovis (208-6622 or chovis@bresnan.net) to pick up donations from your church.

Donate art, crafts or quilted goods: Freedom in Christ would welcome donations for the silent auction at the concert or for their quilt auction Sunday, October 9. Contact Bea at the address listed above.

Look for us at Assembly or Conference! Rev. David Burt, UMC Assistant to the Bishop, will join Pastors Rob Nedbalek and Melanie Martin-Dent for a workshop at the Lutheran Synod Assembly and Theological Conference at The Radisson Hotel Billings (formerly the Holiday Inn Grand), Billings, Montana on Saturday, June 4, 2016. All are welcome to listen to the speakers Saturday morning or just come for the workshop at 3:15 pm to learn more about

Healing Communities and our cooperative work. The schedule for the entire event is here: <http://www.montanasyndod.org/uploads/3/0/9/6/30961995/schedule.pdf>

Rev. Doug Walker, Healing Communities trainer, will be at the Missional Engagement event on Ministry on the Margins Thursday morning, June 16 at the Yellowstone Annual Conference meeting at St. Paul's United Methodist Church in Helena. He will be available for questions and conversations throughout the Conference, as will Pastor Rob Nedbalek of Freedom in Christ and our Billings friends. An offering will be received for Freedom In Christ/Healing Communities at the Conference. Information about the Conference is available here: <http://www.yacumc.org/annualconference2016>.



We've Put the Building on the Market and it is Under Contract

As we plan for a new Synod House, selling the current building to raise cash is essential. We have received an offer, and are waiting for the paperwork to come through.

Stay tuned for more information, AFTER the Assembly.

The Synod Staff (Bishop Jessica Crist, Pastor Jason Asselstine, Pastor George Karres, Susan Hedahl, Colter McCarty, Jenny Kunka)

Previous news and notes:

Message from Portico

PORTICO[®]

Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Great news! For the second year in a row, **every** eligible synod, seminary, and churchwide ministry met the participation goal and earned this year's 1% health contribution discount as a thank-you for encouraging its people to take the health assessment.

Watch your May bill!

- You'll see a credit for 1% of your January-May health contributions.
- Starting in June, you'll see a monthly 1% credit through the end of the year.

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 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.

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

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...](#)

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.



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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:

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!

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](#).*

## Contact Information

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

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