

## Montana Synod

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God's work. Our hands.

# News of the Week, August 10, 2016

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#### Follow Us!



## Prayers for August 14, 2016 Twelfth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Hope Lutheran, Anaconda

Indiana-Kentucky Synod



# Words From the Bishop -Churchwide action on the Doctrine of Discovery

The Montana Synod, and 16 other synods, sent memorials on the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery to the Churchwide Assembly. Montana Synod Vice President Tom Gossack spoke at the microphone during the debate, saying:

Home to over 12 native tribes, the Montana Synod recognizes the doctrine of discovery as an archaic justification for supplanting indigenous people from their historic native lands and strip them of their culture. The effect of this has been tragic and immeasurably contemptible for our native brothers and sisters, their culture and their homeland. Please join me by recognizing this



travesty and vote to apologize to the tribes and vote to repudiate the doctrine of discovery.

Bishop Jessica Crist was asked to pray before the Assembly voted: Creator God, who brought into being all that is, you made is all in your image - all of us. And you cherish your creation, in all its beauty and all its brokenness. We confess our complicity in the brokenness and we seek forgiveness and healing - healing with you, our creator, redeemer and sustainer, and healing with our neighbors. O God of justice and peace, guide us that we may do your will. Amen.

On August 9, the Churchwide Assembly voted to repudiate the doctrine of discovery by 97%.

Finally, the Churchwide Assembly is livestreamed. If you want to watch it, go to www.elca.org, or the front page of montanasynod.org

Blessings!

Jessica Crist, Bishop

## MAC Connect 2016: An Invitation to Social Justice in Montana

Did you know that the Montana Synod of the ELCA and many of her churches and people are members of the Montana Association of Churches? Did you know that through hands-on advocacy in the MT Legislature, including MAC Day at the Legislature, MAC members brought about:

- Protection of victims of sex trafficking (often children 12-17 year of age) and assistance in recovering their lives;
- A State ombudsman in the Dept. of Justice for families involved in legal proceedings;
- An Interim Sentencing Commission, on which Archdeacon Roxanne serves, that will examine sentencing and other aspects of the criminal justice system;
- A Certificate of Rehabilitation program after 3 years for ex-offenders (passed both chambers).

#### You are invited to MAC Connect 2016: Oct. 20-21

All are welcome to come to MAC's Thursday evening meetings and Friday workshop, October 20-21. We are especially eager to invite members of St. James' "Outreach" committee and those passionate about "Social Justice." Come be inspired. Learn about how you and St. James can join with Christians across the state to advocate on behalf of the least and the lost.

MAC Connect 2016 will occur in Butte, MT, starting the evening of Thursday, October 20 through Friday, October 21.Register at <u>www.macmt.org</u>

Join together with Christians across MT to make visible our unity in Jesus. We will pray for our state and our world's broken places. We will educate ourselves on how to lobby and advocate for justice and compassion.

The Rev. Valerie Webster, President of MAC 2016

#### God's Work, Our Hands

Dear sisters and brothers in ministry,

Thank you for considering participating in "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, Sept. 11. This dedicated day of service celebrates who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.



Faith • Unity • Justice • Compassion

Because the 2016 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday also marks the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States, we especially remember our first responders who serve our communities, helping keep us safe.

If you haven't done so already, please sign up your congregation for the day of service here. And if it's not possible for your congregation to participate on Sept. 11, please consider another day.

Need help planning? Find new resources such as a study guide designed for congregations to discuss what it means to serve with a joyful heart. You'll also find the 2016 version of the toolkit, bulletin inserts, posters and a new worship resource for your dedicated day of service. Watch this video to see how ELCA congregations in Montrose, Minn., shared the love of God with their neighbors in 2015.

We want to hear from you! Shortly after Sept. 11, please share stories about your congregation's participation. Send your stories and photos to LivingLutheran@elca.org so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

This dedicated day of service builds on the work ELCA congregations do every day, restoring and reconciling our communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world. I look forward to doing this work together on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday and every day.

God's peace,

Christina Jackson-Skelton Executive Director, Mission Advancement Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

#### Help and Prayer Need Continues

In early June a tornado hit the town of Baker, Montana, damaging and destroying homes and causing bodily injury. As the community was putting their lives back together, another storm hit again last week bringing severe winds and damaging hail. American Lutheran Church was damaged and will need windows and a new roof. Many more homes and vehicles were damaged in the second storm.

Right now the community of Baker needs your prayers for strength during recovery; prayers to help mend lives and emotions damaged in these storms. Please keep them in your prayers and if you have a minute, let Pastor Reba or Pastor Bruce know you are thinking of their community. They can be reached at <u>trinity1@midrivers.com</u> or at PO Box 786, Baker, MT 59313-0786.

Anyone wishing to send donations to the victims of this disaster may send a check to the Tornado Relief Fund, Montana Synod, 3125 5th Avenue South, Great Falls, MT 59405. 100% of your donations will reach the victims. Any funds received in excess of the needs of the Baker disaster will remain in the fund to assist with victims of future disasters.

#### Teaching Children about Martin Luther and the Reformation

The Rev. Amanda Applehans prepared a curriculum, Teaching Our Children about Martin Luther and the Reformation, for Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 6. It was presented at a workshop during the June MT Synod Assembly by Lorie Hughes, Region 1 Network Advocate for the Christian Education Network of the ELCA. The curriculum includes learning workshops for art, music, games, drama, publication, and movie. It also includes lists of valuable resources for this topic - books, movies/videos, Playmobil play set, etc. This curriculum can be used in many ways - lessons to choose from for one to six weeks of Sunday school or Wednesday ministry programs, rotation Sunday school, VBS, special emphasis during October 2017, or any way individual churches choose to use it. It could also be adapted for use as an intergenerational event. <u>Click here</u> to download the curriculum.

Pastor Amanda's email address is <u>astamp001@luthersem.edu</u>. She is very willing to accept questions and comments. She welcomes feedback and information on how the curriculum is used.

Lorie Hughes' email address is <u>glsmahughes@bresnan.net</u>. She welcomes questions and comments about the workshop. She is also happy to share information about the Christian

Education Network of the ELCA - www.faithfulteaching.org.

## ELCA Advocacy

In a July 15 letter addressed to Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, more than 90 national Christian leaders, joined by Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, and with the Circle of Protection, asked to meet with the candidates to discuss "plans for offering help and opportunity to hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.

"We are leaders of Christian communions, organizations and schools who care deeply about hunger and poverty, and we are praying for a president who shares that concern," the letter reads.

The leaders emphasized that steps toward ending hunger and poverty "will require action by all sectors of society and by all the nations of the world."



The Circle of Protection is a coalition of diverse Christian leaders that advocates for hungry and poor people in the United States and around the world.

#### Find the letter here

# Pre-Retirement Seminar coming in September!



We are delighted to host one of these events in our synod!

Northwest Washington Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America God's work. Our hands.

If you're over age 50 and within 15 years of retirement, a pre-retirement seminar is a great way to get planning off to a strong start or keep the momentum going. Hosted by Portico and a certified Ernst & Young financial planner, the seminar will answer the important questions you may have about retirement, including:

- How much money will I need when I retire?
- What health care options will I have in retirement?
- As I approach retirement, how can I manage my investment risks?
- How can money be distributed from my ELCA retirement account to create a steady stream of income in retirement?

This upcoming seminar will be held on Friday, September 23, 9am-6pm at:

Advent Lutheran Church - 4306 132nd St SE, Mill Creek, WA

Cost is \$35/person or \$70/couple. Breakfast and lunch are included!

PLEASE register online by August 23 HERE.

#### **Augsburg Fortress Book Promotion**

Get over 15 free books on the Reformation for your church!

Host a Reformation 500 Bookstore and introduce your congregation to engaging and affordable resources on the Reformation while growing your library!

Educate your church on the history of the Reformation, Martin Luther's writings, and their impact on Christianity today.

Sign your church up to host a Reformation 500 Bookstore- it's simple, educational, and FREE!

Hurry, the deadline to sign up is August 15th! <u>Click Here to learn more!</u>

A Way to Bring Congregations together and Raise Funds for Mission.

#### Greetings!

I am pleased to announce that the three ELCA churces of Helena raised a net \$2,748 from the Chili Cook-off in January, and \$9,445 from the Steak Fry. We are transferring funds to the Synod House campaign for \$8,169 and to FLBC for \$4,024 for the combined fundraisers. Part of these were transferred in January after the first fundraiser.

I am just ecstatic about the nearly \$12,200 raised through our joint congregational efforts and the hard work of hundreds of volunteers! God has led us to see the need to support these critical joint ministries, and blessed us with ministry, fellowship, love, and success as we worked hard together to make this happen. And while we met our goal to support these two ministries, we had the benefits of working together in faith as 3 congregations, and inspiring our members to work together on this effort.

I hope this is only the beginning of increased joint ministry, and in particular, would like to see these events become an annual part of our ministry, to raise funds for other ministries we share.

Many thanks for the leadership of our Pastors and ministry teams, of Joy, and of all the volunteers who made this happen! Please pass this email on to members of your teams that worked with you. Please also ensure your congregations are informed of these results.

Clayton Schenck

#### **Mission Support**

We want to thank the congregations who have given us an intent for mission support and who are keeping up. And we want to remind other congregations who are not keeping up with mission support that we plan our budget based on congregational statements of intent. If congregations do not follow through, all our ministries suffer.

We encourage "first fruits" giving. Even if your congregation is only receiving a percentage of what you anticipate, please remember your commitment to the wider church. If you receive less than you budgeted, you can still send on a portion.

Thank you,

The Montana Synod Officers

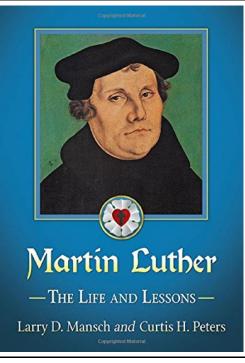
#### **Book Signing Opportunity**

Larry Mansch from Immanuel Lutheran in Missoula has a new book out now!

Martin Luther: The Life and Lessons was co-written with Dr. Curtis Peters, a Lutheran pastor and professor of religious philosophy. The reviews have been great so far! The book will be featured at the Montana Book Festival in Missoula on September 23rd and 24th.

Larry is available for book signings at Lutheran churches anywhere in Montana, and is happy to donate proceeds to the churches.

If you want more information please contact: <u>lkmansch@aol.com</u>



# The Luther 5 1 1 1

The Reformation 500 Task Force has received a gift from the North Carolina Synod. It is a link to

a new curriculum called, "Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Cross-Generational Study". Included with the curriculum is a very creative coloring book supplement. Please click on the links provided to access this wonderful curriculum, and get your congregation ready to commemorate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation next year!

#### Study Material

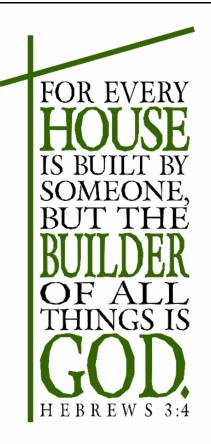
#### Coloring Book

#### August Newsbrief: Luther and the Anabaptists

As a teenager, I lived in southeastern Pennsylvania, near Lancaster, and saw the Amish people in that area. At the time, I thought they were quaint people in old-fashioned clothes, driving with buggies and horses, and that they made really good food, especially jams, jellies, and pies. I thought they were just local to Pennsylvania and did not realize until years later that they also lived in other places in the U.S. And then I found out that the Amish were part of a larger movement, also springing out of Reformation times, called the Anabaptists. It wasn't until I came to the Montana Synod that I discovered that there was a colony of Hutterites in the area, also part of the Anabaptist movement. This month's newsbrief, "Reformation Neighbors: Lutherans, Hutterites, Mennonites, and Amish", by Paul Seastrand, covers the basic history of the Anabaptist movement, how they divided into different groups, what the characteristics of each group are, and where they settled in North America. I invite you to take a look at the August newsbrief and use it as an introduction to these different groups of people and what they believe. They are much, much more than just their cooking and their horses and buggies!

-Rev. Tonya Eza

#### Download it here



The new address for the Synod Office is: 3125 5th Ave S Great Falls, MT 59405

# The Synod Office has a New Address!

# 3125 5th Ave S Great Falls, MT 59405

# Previous news and notes:

#### **Boundaries Training**

The Eastern Washington Idaho Synod is offering a Boundaries Workshop on August 18, from 9-3 at Central Lutheran Church, Spokane. Pastors Mark Nelson and Janine Goodrich, both experienced trainers through Faith/Trust Institute, will lead the session.

If you have not yet had boundaries training, or need a refresher, this is an opportunity.

To register, contact Cathy Steiner office@ewaidsynod.org.

#### **Greetings from South Africa**

Dear friends,

Greetings from Johannesburg, South Africa. We have just returned from 2 months in the US on Home Assignment. It was a fruitful time visiting sponsoring congregations and the opportunity to attend the Summer Missionary Conference in Chicago and see family and friends.

July is midwinter in Southern Africa. It is the dry season but following the failure of two consecutive rainy seasons the current El Niño-induced drought is the worst in 35 years. The severe drought conditions have already taken a serious toll on lives, livestock and livelihoods and the situation could deteriorate further if urgent assistance is not provided.

The devastating drought has affected an estimated 40 million people across region. More than 23 million are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

On July 26, 2016 the Southern African Development Community (SADC) declared a Regional Disaster and launched a Regional Appeal for Humanitarian and Recovery Support amounting to US\$2.4 billion.

The Appeal is a formal request to the international community to provide assistance to affected member states. Five member states, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Swaziland and Zimbabwe have already declared national drought emergencies. The Republic of South Africa has declared a drought emergency in 8 of the country's 9 provinces. Mozambique has declared a 90-day institutional red alert for some southern and central areas. (Responding to the Appeal, the United States has pledged US \$300 million, while the United Kingdom and the European Union pledged £72 million Pounds, and €60 million respectively, towards humanitarian assistance.) http://www.sadc.int/news-events/news/sadc-launches-u24-billion-appeal-assist-millions-hit-el-nino-induced-drought/

Already in May last year the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi led by Bishop Joseph Bvumbwe sent an emergency appeal to the ELCA for support to enable the Evangelical Lutheran Development Service (ELDS) to deliver assistance and support to 22,000 people (4,000 households) in Phalombe and Chikwawa districts with the focus on drought recovery and capacity building activities. ELCA Global Mission was able to send US\$50,000 in response to this urgent request.

See the recent related article in the Huffington Post written by Ryan P. Cumming Program Director for Hunger Education in the ELCA World Hunger office. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ryan-p-cumming/end-hunger-the-single-mos\_b\_11136672.html

Thank you for your participation in God's mission locally and globally. Thank you for your continuing prayers and support through the ELCA World Hunger and ELCA Global Church sponsorship programs.

Yours faithfully,

Philip Knutson

ELCA Global Mission Regional Representative - Southern Africa Johannesburg July 29, 2016 www.southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com

#### Available Retreats

Daring Walk-Finding Resilience & Authenticity in Serving and Leadership



For anyone who is connected to church ministry-volunteers, staff, assistants-all those who serve and lead in ministry.

#### **INFUSE Worship**

October 23 - 25 A retreat for worship pastors/worship leaders. A time of spiritual renewal, wholeness and developing a deeper understanding of what it means to live a lifestyle of worship.

#### Exploring Transitions:

Crossing Over

October 31 - November 2 For all those experiencing life transitions. A time of letting go, listening and trusting God's guidance when we face the unknown.

#### Click Here to Register

## Thinking about Tech

Now that our office is moved, the phones work, and all our computers talk to each other again (whew) I wanted to give a quick reminder to all congregations in the Montana Synod. I am available to travel to your congregation and consult with anyone interested in future tech needs, or current problems.

Lets schedule a trip if you need help with:

- Web design
- Software questions/training
- Computer trouble
- Social media strategies
- Office networking
- A/V worship needs

Give me a call at the Synod office: 453-1461 Email: <u>cmccarty@montanasynod.org</u>

#### Choir robes to donate

Lonsdale United Methodist Church in Sidney has choir robes to give away. There are three sets: one red, one blue, one green. They are willing to help get them to their new home.

If you are interested contact Melanie Martin-Dent: mmartindent@yahoo.com





# Travel to Germany with Bishop Crist **Time to Register!**

A Billings travel agent is organizing a Montana Synod trip to Reformation sites in Germany in May, 2017. Information was sent to every congregation, and it has been advertised in our news of the week. Although the trip is more than 9 months away, the agency needs some indication about the interest in the trip, which will be accompanied by Bishop Jessica Crist.

Please read the information below and contact Brian Mathis with questions and indications of interest.

<u>Click Here</u> 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

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# The <u>500th Anniversary</u> 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.

Parish Papers for July and August are up on the Website!



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.

#### Luther Lectures - Critical Encounters with Luther Chico Hot Springs with Rev. Dr. Kirsi Stjerna

In preparation for the 2017 Reformation anniversary year, we are exploring, who is our "essential Luther" and who is the "Luther for the future". We will reflect on most recent and important developments in Luther research as well as identify sources for our ministry and active Lutheran engagement with urgent concerns. We will be reading Vol 2 of The Annotated Luther (Fortress Press, 2015) in our re-focused and future-oriented encounter with

church. Monday and Tuesday, Sept. 26-27 \$85 clergy / \$70 new to ministry, retired, LPA

#### Gospel Road Show - Provoking the Gospel of Matthew Dr. Richard Swanson

From the genealogy to the resurrection, Matthew tells a unique story of the messiah. Matthew's story shares much with both Mark and Luke, but it is finally distinct and fascinating in its own right. In this course we will explore the story Matthew tells. We will look closely at key preaching texts, but we will examine these (and other) key texts in the context of Matthew's whole story. In particular, we will listen throughout the story for echoes of the Slaughter of the Innocents (which enters the story almost as soon as Jesus does). And, because biblical interpretation must always take place in, and for the sake of, the real world, we will listen also for the echoes of the cries of Rachel as she weeps for her children

in every century. In all of this, we will aim to discover the kinds of provocations that are useful to preachers who live with this old story for yet another year. Oct 24 in Havre - 9:30 - 3:30 Oct. 25 in Lewistown - 9:30 - 3:30

Oct. 26 in Billings - 9:30 - 3:30

\$75 clergy / \$50 new to ministry, LPA / \$20 retired clergy and lay persons

\*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.

Learning Our Place: Wilderness and Wonder from a Biblical Perspective.
Syria in the Bible and in the Early Church: A Heritage at Risk

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 purchasing, you will receive access information.

#### **Christikon Clips**

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for our last sessions of the season. We have hosted over 550 campers this season including Developmentally disabled adults, youth, families, and adults. We would welcome scholarship gifts as you are able for a wonderful group of new campers!

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational retreats scheduled this fall and there are still retreat times available to visit Christikon! Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.



We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to Christikon, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and financially. We are grateful.

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

# 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!



#### 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!

#### October 7-8: Delegate Retreat & Annual Meeting

Are you an FLBC delegate or ambassador for your congregation, excited to share the story of this ministry? Mark your calendar! This no cost Delegate Retreat will equip you to serve your congregation as the FLBC connection. On October 8th the retreat concludes with the Annual Meeting/Celebration!

#### November 11-13: Crazy About Quilting Retreat

New and experienced quilters alike are welcome at this great retreat! Gather your friends and go crazy with quilting this weekend! CLICK HERE for more information and to register.

#### December 2-4: Family Advent Retreat

You won't want to miss this retreat as we prepare for the coming of Jesus' birth! Give your family or friends the Christmas gift of this retreat by registering today! 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.

September 11 God's Work Our Hands 23-24 Synod Council

October 14-15 Bishop's Convocation

Please put these important dates on your calendar:

**2016 Bishop's Convocation**, October 14-15, 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

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



