



**Montana Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## News of the Week, August 17, 2016

### In this issue

[Words from the Bishop](#)

[Ordination](#)

[Campus Outreach](#)

[Pre-Retirement Seminar](#)

[Raising Funds for Mission](#)

[Bolivia Update!](#)

[Constitution Update](#)

[July Newsbrief: Luther and the Apocrypha](#)

[Synod House](#)

[Technology Opportunity](#)

[Assembly Key Actions](#)

[Boundries Training](#)

[Greetings from South Africa](#)

[Travel to Germany with Bishop Crist](#)

[NRIT News: Digital Education Update!](#)

[Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Amazon Smile](#)

### Follow Us!



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## Prayers for August 21, 2016 Fourteenth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pr. Ron Paulson (retired) on the death of his brother.

For Pr. Don Melchert (retired) for renewed health.

For the family of Pastor Tim Hauge, who died in an accident in Odessa, Washington. He previously served several ELCA congregations in Montana.

### From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

All Saints Lutheran, Clancy  
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran, Townsend

### **Campus Ministries:**

Montana State University (Intern Annie Langseth, Bozeman)  
University of Montana (Pr. John Lund, Missoula)

### **Colleges:**

Concordia College, Moorhead, MN  
Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA  
Northeastern Ohio Synod



# Words From the Bishop - Freed and Renewed in Christ

"Freed and Renewed in Christ: 500 Years of God's Grace in Action" was the theme of the 2016 Churchwide Assembly and Grace Gathering (a y'all come event for ELCA members who wanted to be part of the action in New Orleans.) We had ten voting members at the Assembly-Beverly Bell from Cody, Tammy Bull from Great Falls, Tom



Gossack from Great Falls, Rick Mikkelsen from Malta, Alicia Moe from Two Dot, Deb Oldfield from Great Falls, Ben Peterson from Missoula, Carly Tattoo from Wold Point, Brad Ulgenes from Helena, and Bishop Jessica Crist. In addition, Jon Bates from Billings, Fran Gossack from Great Falls and Jayson Nicholson from Frenchtown attended the Grace Gathering.

All who attended said it was a highlight of their church life. So much information about the wider church, such inspiring worship, such important issues to be debated-it was a wonderful opportunity to be church together. An ELCA news release about the Assembly's main actions is included with this week's News. I will highlight a few things.

**Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery:** At our Montana Synod Assembly we passed a memorial asking the Churchwide Assembly to repudiate the doctrine of discovery, as did 16 other synods. The doctrine of discovery originated as a papal bull declaring that any lands that were not populated by Christians were subject to being conquered. The doctrine, which was embedded into US law in the 19th century, continues to justify the treatment of indigenous people as less than fully human. The Assembly affirmed the repudiation overwhelmingly.

**Ecumenical Progress:** The Assembly had visitors from a number of Christian Churches, and greetings from both a rabbi and an imam, who expressed gratitude for Lutherans' interreligious commitments. There were 2 significant ecumenical happenings, as well. First was a long-awaited **Declaration on the Way**, an agreement among US Lutherans and Catholics on 32 items that once divided us but no longer do. After the Assembly affirmed the agreement, Presiding Bishop Eaton presented a gift to the Catholic co-chair of the group, Bishop Denis Madden. As he opened the gift and held up the chalice, he said that he eagerly awaits the day when we will drink from the same cup at communion.

The other ecumenical standout was the presence of a number of **Bishops from the AME Zion Church**. We are not in full communion with this denomination, but we are in the process of establishing cordial relations. The Presiding Bishop of the AMEZ, Bishop Battle, preached at one of the worship services, and a group of ELCA Bishops had lunch with the AMEZ Bishops present. During the lunch, when one of my table mates learned there were no AMEZ churches in the whole state of Montana, declared that I must be the "Auxiliary AMEZ Bishop" for Montana. And then, at the end of the lunch, Jesse Jackson dropped by on his way to speak with another part of the Assembly on issues of race and justice.

Each person at the Assembly had a different experience. One evening the Assembly divided up into hearings, and among the hearings attended by our voting members were: Declaration on the Way; Theological Education; On the Way Forward: Called Forward Together; The Campaign for the ELCA; AMMPARO; World Hunger: The Roster of Ministry of Word and Sacrament; Women and Justice. On another afternoon the participants were divided up into experiential learning groups which ranged from Human Trafficking to Anti-Racism to Peace to the Music and Food of New Orleans. I hope that you will invite these folks to your congregations or clusters and learn more about the Churchwide Assembly from them. There are also video clips on our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/montanasyndelca/>, and on [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org).

The Churchwide Assembly is a triennial event, with the next one taking place in 2019. Be thinking of people you would like to see attend, and watch for Nominating Committee announcements in 2018.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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## Megan Elizabeth Graves

Will be ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament on Thursday, August 25th.

7:00pm at Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Helena, MT

All ordained, consecrated, and commissioned ministers are invited to process. The color of the day is red.

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## ESTATE AND GIFT PLANNING WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 17, 2016

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

American Lutheran Church

5 Lewis Avenue

Billings, MT 59101

Over the course of our lives, we accumulate a lot of assets. But what happens when we die? You have probably heard the phrase, "You can't take it with you!" But we can make sure that our life's assets will be used in ways that witness to our Christian faith - by blessing the lives of those we love and also to bless ministries of the church and other charities and causes that we support. In addition, some people may be able to make some planned gifts now.

To help people learn more about this, the Montana Synod is offering an Estate and Gift Planning Workshop. Featured presenters will be:

**Pastor George Karres** - Director for Evangelical Mission, Montana Synod

**Dr. Marsha Goetting** - Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist,  
Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana

**Ms. Beth Adams** - ELCA Foundation Gift Planner

The cost is \$10, which will include lunch. To register, please email or call Pastor George Karres: gkarres@montanasynod.org: Phone 406-453-1461

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## MIF e-pistle for August 2016

Check out MIF's special investment rates

Want great interest earnings on your savings in a low-interest environment? Look to the Mission Investment Fund.

For a limited time, MIF is offering special rates on two popular Term Investments:

3.00% (APY\*)for the 2.10% (APY\*)for the  
6-year MIF Fixed-Rate Term Investment 4-year MIF Fixed-Rate Term Investment

MIF's rates are available for all new 4-year and 6-year MIF Fixed-Rate Term Investments (with a minimum investment of \$1,000) as well as the balances on maturing 4-year and 6-year MIF Fixed-Rate Term Investments.

These special rates will be in effect for a limited time, so act now!

Visit [mif.elca.org](http://mif.elca.org) for more information and to download an investment application.

For information on all MIF investments and ministry loans, contact MIF Customer Service at 877-886-3522 or your MIF Regional Manager, Dan Carlson at 773-682-2943 or [dan.carlson@elca.org](mailto:dan.carlson@elca.org).

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## Lutheran Campus Outreach

Dear Montana Synod Pastors and church leaders:

As we move into the fall startup of school, please keep our campus ministries in your thoughts and prayers. If you have students coming to the University of Montana or Montana State University, please send us names and any contact information you have. It would be great for you to introduce us to the student via email, Facebook, text or otherwise. If you have students going out of state to college please use the new national Lutheran Campus Ministry referral system.

Emmaus Campus Ministry, University of Montana: Pastor John Lund, [john.lund@mso.umt.edu](mailto:john.lund@mso.umt.edu), 406-396-4974

Lutheran Campus Ministry, Montana State University: Intern Pastor Annie Langseth, [annie@Lutherancats.org](mailto:annie@Lutherancats.org), 406-586-5572

To access the national campus ministry referral:

<http://lumin-networkreferral.org/student-referrals/>

Thank you for your partnership in ministry to our young adults!

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## Pre-Retirement Seminar coming in September!



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

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

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!

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## 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!

[Click Here to learn more!](#)

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

Greetings!

I am pleased to announce that the three ELCA churches 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

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## Roster Transitions Updated

Current roster transitions are now up on [www.montanasynd.org](http://www.montanasynd.org)

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## Walking together

Bolivia Missionary David Thorp - Pastoral Educator and Trainer of Leaders

I am discovering life in Bolivia 2016, is very different from life in Peru 1982!

Over the last six months I have been warmly embraced by the Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana. I come to serve, to walk together, at the invitation of the Iglesia Evangelical Luterana Boliviana (IELB-Evangelical Bolivian Lutheran Church) in a program of Pastoral and Leadership training.

[Read the entire newsletter here](#)

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## Constitution Updates

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly has passed a number of constitutional changes that affect the Churchwide Constitution, the Synod Constitution, and congregational constitutions. Many of these changes are required, so all congregations will need to adopt them into their constitutions. One of the changes is to replace "ordained minister" with "minister of word and sacrament" wherever it occurs in the constitutions. Another change is to replace "Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Minister and Deaconess" with "minister of word and service."

Our constitutional review team stands ready to assist you, and you can also go to [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org) to the Office of the Secretary. We are considering doing a workshop or webinar to assist congregations in reviewing their constitutions.

### New Overtime Laws go into Effect in December

New Labor Department regulations may have a significant effect on churches who employ workers below a certain

salary level. Employers (even non-profits) will need to pay overtime to employees who earn less than \$50,000 per year. We are in contact with the ELCA attorneys and our Synod attorney, and will be providing more information in the coming months.

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# The Luther 500



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](#)

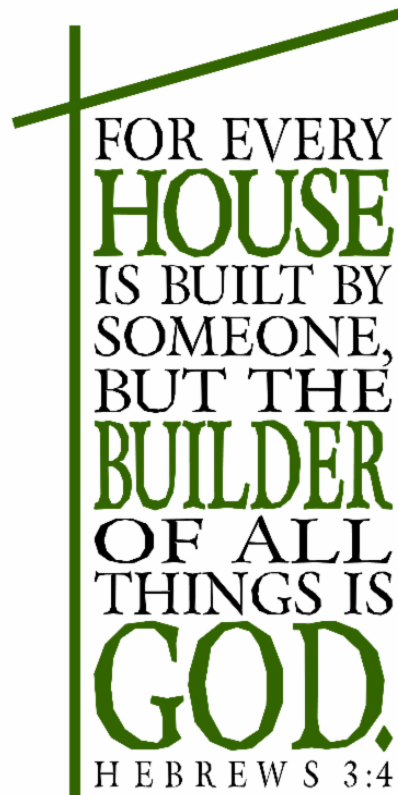
## **August Newsbrief: Luther and the Anabaptists**

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](#)**

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The new address for the Synod Office is:

**3125 5th Ave S  
Great Falls, MT 59405**

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## Technology Opportunity

Colter McCarty will be in the Billings area Friday, September 2nd. If you are in the area and would like a quick consultation session contact the Synod office: 453-1461  
Email: [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)



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**The Synod Office has a New Address!**

**3125 5th Ave S  
Great Falls, MT 59405**

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## Previous news and notes:

### ELCA Churchwide Assembly Key Actions



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

CHICAGO (Aug. 16, 2016) - Voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) approved a number of key actions during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in New Orleans Aug. 8-13. The assembly is the highest legislative authority of the church.  
The 945 voting members:

- Elected William B. Horne II of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Fla., vice president of the ELCA. Horne was installed during closing worship Aug. 13.
- Accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that state where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. The document also presents the differences that remain.
- Approved AMMPARO - the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. The ELCA developed this strategy based on commitments to uphold and guarantee the basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families; to address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit; to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; to engage as a church with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes; and to advocate for migrant children and their families.
- Approved the Ministry of Word and Service roster. Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, ELCA associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers will be a single, unified roster of Ministry of Word and Service. The accompanying constitutional amendments related to the roster were also considered and approved by the assembly.
- Approved the 2017-2019 budget proposal. The budget includes a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005 and a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24.8 million; a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220 and a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175 and a 2019 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; and authorizes the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.
- Approved various memorials - or proposals - from the ELCA's 65 synods. In addition to memorials considered "en bloc," the assembly separately approved the following: deepening relationships with historic Black churches; toward a responsible energy future; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; peace with justice in the Holy Land; justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment; African Descent Lutherans; call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; welcoming refugees; and supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.
- Elected members to serve on: Church Council, Portico Benefits Services, Mission Investment Fund, Augsburg Fortress, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline and Nominating Committee.
- Adopted amendments to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

Legislative updates are available at

[download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Legislative\\_Updates\\_for\\_the\\_2016\\_Churchwide\\_Assembly.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Legislative_Updates_for_the_2016_Churchwide_Assembly.pdf).

## Mural Painting

This is an invitation for you to come and join us at Lakeside Elementary on Thursday morning starting at 9:00am. We will be painting a mural in the library that has been wonderfully compiled by the librarian, Caitlin Amy, from three different designs submitted by students. This Mission Endowment project is being supported by Eidsvold, Sliters, the Elementary School and people from our community. We will begin painting at 9:00am, take a break for lunch (it is provided) and conclude around 3:00 or when we're close to being done/stopping. Come for the morning, the afternoon, lunch or what have you. The Daily Interlake will be coming to take pictures and this will be a great opportunity to help build faithful and responsible lives for a stronger community! Shoot me an email ([pastorandy2@charter.net](mailto:pastorandy2@charter.net)) if you can come, we could use a few more people on this exciting and wonderful project!

See you there!

In Peace,  
Pastor Andy

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## Book Signing Opportunity

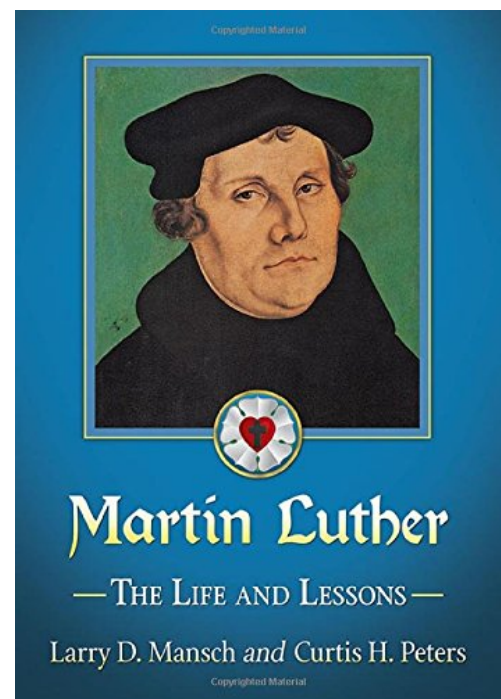
Larry Mansch from Immanuel Lutheran in Missoula has a new book out now!

*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: [lkmansch@aol.com](mailto:lkmansch@aol.com)





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## 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.

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](mailto: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

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## 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 [www.macmt.org](http://www.macmt.org)

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



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## **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](mailto:office@ewaidsynod.org).

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## **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 Byumbwe 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-most\\_b\\_11136672.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/ryan-p-cumming/end-hunger-the-single-most_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](http://www.southernafricanconnections.wordpress.com)

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## 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](#)



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## 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](mailto:mmartindent@yahoo.com)

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# Rockin' Mountain Flavor Fest

a kicked-up brew & barbecue fundraiser

|      |      |   |
|------|------|---|
| THU  | AUG  | Buffalo Hill                            |
| 6:30 | 25   | Terrace                                 |
| PM   | 2016 | 40 CLAREMONT ST.<br>KALISPELL, MT 59901 |



Tickets: \$60/guest  
or \$100/couple  
call (406) 752-9243  
or visit [www.ilcorp.org](http://www.ilcorp.org)



Immanuel Lutheran  
— COMMUNITIES —

[www.ilcorp.org](http://www.ilcorp.org) | (406) 752-9243 | 185 Crestline Avenue | Kalispell, MT 59901  
Immanuel Lutheran Communities is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit retirement community providing care for seniors. Tax ID: 81-0247706.  
The estimated fair market value for goods received in exchange for your donation is \$25 per ticket.

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## 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.

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

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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

## **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.

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

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 purchasing, you will receive access information.

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## **Christikon Clips**

**It's completed!** Our exceptional staff has gone home, the campers are preparing for school to start, and we begin the planning for 2017. It has been a blessed adventure!

**We hosted campers from Minnesota, South Dakota, Washington, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Montana.** Wonderful opportunity to connect with people from these out of state congregations and forge long lasting friendships and share the Christikon experience.

**Our special guest speakers,** Pastor Jim Darchuck, Professor Lois Malcolm and Pastor Tim Westermeyer lead our family adult sessions into great conversations about the life of faith in the day-to-day world, trusting in the Holy Spirit, and supporting our ministries with effective communication.

**Fall Retreats:** We have retreats scheduled into October with dates still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

**Thank you for your prayers for Christikon** this summer, for the summer staff as they transition back to "real life", and for all who have joined 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.



## 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!

### 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)

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## Upcoming Events, etc.

### September

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

### October

14 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

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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](#)



## 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

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