



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, August 24, 2016

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Follow Us!



Prayers for August 28, 2016 Fifteenth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Prayers for the Ordination of Megan Graves at Our Redeemers in Helena, August 25 at 7 PM. Called to serve in the Northeast Iowa Synod Office.

For those effected by flooding in Louisiana and Bolivia

For all in the path of, and responding to, wildfires all across the country.

All those impacted by the earthquake in Italy.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Hingham Lutheran, Hingham
Messiah Lutheran, Havre
Christ Lutheran, Big Sandy

Synod Chaplains:

Rev. Karl Guhn, Rev. Jan Whitman, Rev. Elisabeth Daniels, Rev. Joan Erickson (St. John's Lutheran Ministries, Billings)
Rev. Larry Stappeler (Immanuel Lutheran Corporation, Kalispell)
Rev. James Johnson (U.S. Navy)
Rev. Steven Nicolai (U.S. Air Force, Texas)
Rev. Steve Rice (Veteran Affairs, Miles City)

Northwestern Ohio Synod



Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness- Care for Creation

In 1993, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted its 4th Social Statement: "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope and Justice." Like all ELCA Social Statements, it is available at www.elca.org/socialstatements, as are interpretive materials. Much has happened in the last 2 decades in the area of the environment. There has been a dramatic increase in scientific documentation of climate change and other environmental impacts. Public opinion on environmental issues has intensified, as is evident in the frequency in which they are part of political debates. And there has been a great deal of moral discernment on environmental issues since 1993, both in the church and in the society at large.

Based on robust Lutheran theology, the social statement identifies "The Current Crisis" thus:

"The earth is a planet of beauty and abundance; the earth system is wonderfully intricate and incredibly complex. But today living creatures, and the air, soil and water that support them, face unprecedented threats. Many threats are global; most stem directly from human activity. Our current practices may so alter the living world that it will be unable to sustain life in the manner we know."

The social statement identifies two interconnected problems: excessive consumption by industrialized nations and the growth of human populations worldwide. It lists depletion of non-renewable resources, toxic emissions, erosion of topsoil, destruction of habitats, depletion of the ozone layer as some of the damage to the environment. No mention is made of rising oceans or of mass extinctions. Nor is desecration of lands and waters sacred to indigenous peoples mentioned.

The social statement spends a lot of time on what is sometimes seen as the conflict between the economy and the environment. In response it states: "Meeting the needs of today's generations for food, clothing, and shelter requires a sound environment." And it describes the power of hope: hope as gift, and hope in action.

Next is a discussion of justice:

"Caring, serving, keeping, loving, and living by wisdom-these translate into justice in political, economic, social and environmental relationships. Justice in these relationships means honoring the integrity of creation, and striving for fairness within the human family.

It is in hope of God's promised fulfillment that we hear the call to justice; it is in hope that we take action. When we act interdependently and in solidarity with creation, we do justice. We serve and keep the earth, trusting its bounty can be sufficient for all, and sustainable."

The social statement goes on to describe various ways that justice is lived out:

- + Justice through participation
- + Justice through solidarity
- + Justice through sufficiency
- + Justice through sustainability

The final section of the statement is a series of commitments of the church, including as individuals, as worshiping and learning communities, as a committed community, as a community of moral deliberation, and as advocate.

As an ELCA we have pursued the goal of advocacy in environmental issues. One of our full-time advocacy positions in Washington is dedicated to environmental issues, and there is a Bishops' Ready Bench also dedicated to it. Most of our social statements do not get the same kind of institutional commitment to follow through. Although the statement is 23 years old, much of it still applies. If anything, the crisis is even more real than it was 23 years ago.

In the section on moral deliberation, the statement promises:

"We will play a role in bringing together parties in conflict, not only members of this church but also members of society at large. This church's widespread presence and credibility provides us a unique opportunity to mediate, to resolve conflict, and to move toward consensus."

What a gift it would be if our congregations could be communities of moral deliberation in this fractious time, not only on the environment, but on any number of issues that face our communities. It would indeed be a treasure.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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.

Flooding in Bolivia



Dear Friends,

We received word from Pastor Presidente Emilio Aslla Flores of a devastating flood in Cobija, Bolivia. The request for a special offering comes from Pastor Presidente Emilio, the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia. The Montana Synod delegation that visited Bolivia in 2013 spent time in Cobija, which is on the Bolivian and Brazilian border separated by a river. It was this river that flooded and greatly damaged the Galilean Center in Cobija, which is a ministry outreach of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bolivia. This center



works with children who are often recruited to be drug carriers between Brazil and Bolivia.

The Montana Synod raised money a year ago at the Synod Assembly to help with a water system for a cattle ranch nearby that supports the Galilean Center.

If you would like to assist, please make out a check to Montana Synod and write in the memo area "Cobija Support." Your generosity will make a huge difference in reopening the Galilean Center and its outreach to at-risk children in Cobija. We thank Hope Lutheran in Bozeman who raised over \$1500. last Sunday, 2 days after the flood.

Here are the some of the pictures of the flood damage at the Center which has forced it to be temporarily closed. This ministry is making a difference in the lives of many children and I pray that we can help raise the funds required to reopen it.

We will continue to provide updates as we receive them.



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR THE LPA CLASS IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23. THIS OPPORTUNITY ONLY COMES AROUND EVERY TWO YEARS.

Intermountain News!

We have good news, friends - Intermountain recently received a \$100,000 matching gift to be used to renovate a cottage into Van Orsdel Commons, a chapel on campus for our residential program! We have 120 days to raise the matching funds in order to receive the entire grant. If we succeed, we will have all the funding necessary to start [the chapel project](#).



Are you wondering how adversity in childhood has impacted the community, your church, or your faith community? Looking for practical ideas for building resilience through faith-based approaches?

Please attend this first-of-its kind discussion at the Resilience Fall Summit. Rev. Chris Haughee, BA, MDiv., Intermountain Chaplain and Kimberly Konkel, Associate Director for Health, HHS Center for Faith-based & Neighborhood Partnerships, Washington D.C., will present "Building Resilience through Addressing ACEs in Your Faith Community." Please join them in this session, which will be both informative and will provide you with the tools to make a difference for struggling youth and families in your community.

For any ministry or faith-based group desiring to connect their ministry with the mission of building resilient communities, this event is a must.

[>>Click here to register today!](#)

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

Updates on Seminaries

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, recently merged into California Lutheran University, has just announced that it will be moving to downtown Berkeley, closer to the rest of the Graduate Theological Union, and will be selling the property on the top of Marin.

Luther Seminary is selling some unused property to a medical center for expansion, and to an ecumenical organization building senior housing.

Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia are in the midst of conversation about merger.

Please keep our seminaries and candidates in your prayers.

Free On-Line Course on Lutheran Vocation: Discernment and Calling in the Real World Starts August 29

Accompanying the Churchwide Assembly this year was a "Grace Gathering" for any and all. 500 Lutherans showed up in New Orleans for stimulating education, worship and workshops. There were voting members at the Assembly who wished they had been able to be at the Grace Gathering as well.

Now you can be part of the followup-whether you were at the Gathering or not, whether you are clergy or lay. Wartburg Seminary is offering a free online course, starting August 29. Signup details are below.

Wartburg Seminary is offering a free online course that builds on the Grace Gathering experience, but is also open to any interested person: [Lutheran Vocation: Discernment & Calling in the Real World](http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/learningforlife/learning-for-life-events/gracegathering/). Detailed information is available on the Wartburg Seminary website (<http://www.wartburgseminary.edu/learningforlife/learning-for-life-events/gracegathering/>)

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, 406-396-4974

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

To access the national campus ministry referral:

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

Worship Accompanist Needed!

Our Savior's Lutheran Church has an opening for a worship accompanist. We are looking for someone who has both piano and organ skills. If interested, please submit a letter of interest and a resume to Pastor Anna Merritt at Our Savior's Lutheran Church (1326 1st Ave N, Great Falls, MT 59401) by Sunday, August 28.

Questions? Call Ellen Forslund (761-1920).

Pre-Retirement Seminar coming in September!



Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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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!

[PLEASE register online by August 23 HERE.](#)

Greetings Rostered Leaders of the Montana Synod!

I realize this is peak summer season but I am really needing your input in a survey that will not take more than 5 minutes to complete. I am currently creating resources to be used as tools for clergy groups or individuals to use to move in positive directions in dealing with some of the common struggles of ministry.

I know the subjects that I coach pastors on most frequently but I would appreciate your help in prioritizing the subjects that you would most appreciate resources on. I sincerely thank you for the gift of your time in completing this short survey!

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/clergycoaching>

Blessings!

-Barbara Solsaa (Barbara@ClergyLifeCoaching.com)

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

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 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.

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

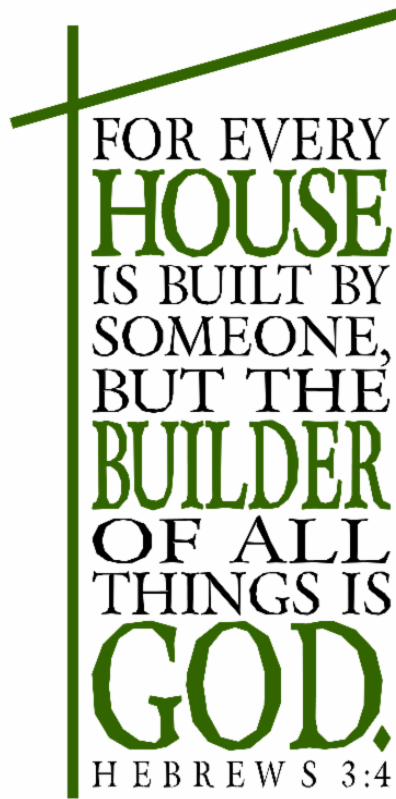
Parameters

Greetings from Zion in Lewistown,

We have been cleaning and found that we have an extra set of white paraments, altar, pulpit and lectern covers. We also have a flag with a red cross and blue and white background. If another church could use any of these items, please notify us and we will ship to them.

Thanks,

[If interested, please contact Lana Papp](#)



The new address for the Synod Office is:

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

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



The Synod Office has a New Address!

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

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.

Roster Transitions Updated

Current roster transitions are now up on www.montanasynd.org

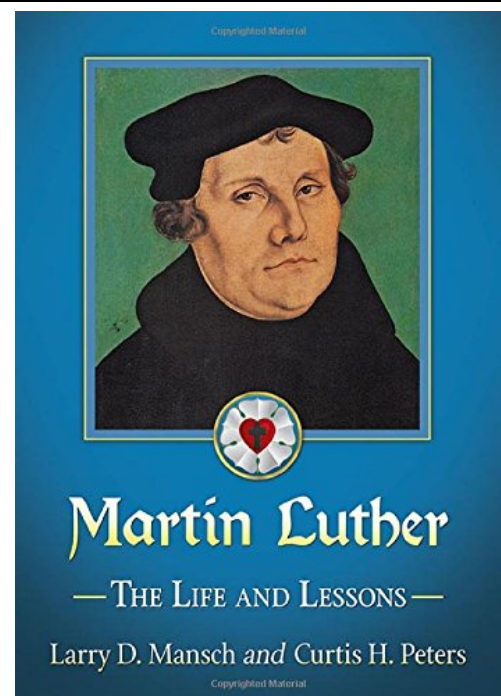
Book Signing Opportunity

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: lkmanisch@aol.com



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

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 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

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.



♥ Rockin' Mountain Flavor Fest

a kicked-up brew & barbecue fundraiser

THU

6:30

PM

AUG

25

2016

Buffalo Hill

Terrace

40 CLAREMONT ST.
KALISPELL, MT 59901



Tickets: \$60/guest
or \$100/couple

call (406) 752-9243
or visit www.ilcorp.org



Immanuel Lutheran
— COMMUNITIES —

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.

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.

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

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. 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.

The graphic is a promotional banner for Immanuel Lutheran Communities' Facebook page. It features a light brown, textured background. At the top, the text 'Immanuel Lutheran' is in green, with '— COMMUNITIES —' in smaller green text below it. In the center, 'LIKE US ON FACEBOOK' is written in large, bold, brown letters. Below this, a small Facebook 'f' logo is followed by the URL 'www.facebook.com/ImmanuelLutheranCommunities' in green. The middle section of the banner contains three photographs: on the left, several hands are clasped together in a supportive grip; in the center, a pair of hands holds a white ceramic cup with a green rim; on the right, a pair of hands is shown playing a piano keyboard. At the bottom, the text 'LIKE AND FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK. WE'RE A GREAT COMMUNITY. HELP MAKE IT STRONGER BY INVITING YOUR FRIENDS TO LIKE US TOO!' is written in brown, all-caps letters.

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.

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 Bishop's Convocation

Please put these important dates on your calendar:



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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