



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, August 31, 2016

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Follow Us!



Prayers for September 4, 2016 Sixteenth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For the family of Pastor Bud Holmlund, who passed away on August 21st.

For Kristi Bummer's mother, who is recovering from a fall.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

First English Lutheran, Bainville
Plentywood Lutheran
Trinity Lutheran, Culbertson

Seminaries:

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, CA
Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN
Southern Ohio Synod



Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness- Social Statement on Race and Culture

Note: This is the fifth in a series on the Social Statements adopted by the ELCA in Assembly. Previous reflections are available at www.montanasynd.org, archived.

In 1993, 5 years into the life of the ELCA, the Churchwide Assembly adopted a social statement "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity and Culture." (You can find the full statement printed at www.elca.org/socialstatements .) When the church came into being we had the hope of becoming a far more multicultural church than we had been previously-we even had the goal of being 10% people of color or language other than English in the first decade of the church's life. It

did not happen. The social statement is hauntingly relevant today.

It begins with stating the 8 commitments the ELCA made at its beginning, including the 10% goal, representational principles, a Commission for Multicultural Ministry; ethnic interest groups, culturally specific new starts, advocacy and inclusivity across the church. It goes on to say: "The source of this many-faceted crisis, however, is profoundly spiritual. We will rise to the crisis, not by making a longer list of commitments, but by persisting with repentant hearts."

Addressing racism, the statement says: "Racism-a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice-is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity. The resulting racial, ethnic, or cultural barriers deny the truth that all people are God's creatures and, therefore persons of dignity. Racism fractures and fragments both church and society." Addressing the church, the statement says:

"We expect our leadership to name the sin of racism and lead us in our repentance of it." And

"We expect our leadership to persevere in their challenge to us to be in mission and ministry in a multicultural society."

The statement goes on to describe ways for the church to do justice:

- + A time for public leadership
- + A time for public witness
- + A time for public deliberation
- + A time for advocacy

The statement suggests that racism is both a public and a private matter, both local and global, and urges the church to keep it at the top of our agenda.

In the 23 years since the statement was adopted some things have changed. But the underlying issues are still there, perhaps stronger than ever. High profile racially motivated violence has become a regular feature of our news. As a church we still struggle to respond.

A recent poll showed the ELCA to be the second least racially diverse church body in the United States. The challenge is there. Among the current ways that the ELCA is attempting to do justice is through the repudiation of the doctrine of discovery at the Churchwide Assembly, and standing with indigenous people seeking their rights. Another is the decision at the Churchwide to ask synods to provide regular anti-racism training. Presiding Bishop Eaton has hosted online conversations on race during the last year, and they are archived and available at www.elca.org. The Montana Synod will again start anti-racism training, with the expectation that it is as important for all leaders as boundaries training is.

"When we rebuild walls of hostility and live behind them-blaming others for the problem and looking to them for solutions-we ignore the role we ourselves play in the problem and also the solution. When we confront racism and move toward fairness and justice in society, all of us benefit."

"So the Church must cry out for justice, and thereby resist the cynicism fueled by visions that failed and dreams that died. The Church must insist on justice, and thereby refuse to blame victimized people for all their situations. The Church must insist on justice, and thereby assure participation of all people."

"We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with the whole Church, look forward to the time when people will come from east and west, north and south to eat in the reign of God. (Luke 13:29) For the Church catholic, diversity of cultures is both a given and a glimpse of the future."

May it be so.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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

Update on the Flood Damage to the Galilee Church and Children's Center in Cobija, Bolivia

A week and half ago a flood cause severe damage to the church an children's center in Cobija, a ministry of the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, our companion synod. The children's center ministers to at-risk children in this border city, where violence and drugs are rampant.



Dear Friends,

The first step of removing the damages has already been completed. The cost of the two walls that were totally destroyed will be \$10,000 and work has already been started to reconstruct them as their absence compromises the security of the property.

The church would be happy to accept gifts to defray this expense. The damage to the church was limited to the roof but they have been able to use it for worship.

-Mary Cambell

You can send your gifts to Montana Synod, with Cobija flooding on the memo line.

Constitution Memorandum

RE: Amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

[Attached](#) you will find the amendments to the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which were adopted by the 2016 Churchwide Assembly. None of these amendments are automatically effective upon receipt of this memo. Each congregation will need to adopt these changes in accordance with C16.04. of these amendments (in their current constitutions the reference would be C17.04.). I would encourage congregations to work with the appropriate people in your synod as they prepare these amendments for action by the congregational meeting.

If the amendments are to bring the congregation's constitution into conformity with the Model Constitution, there only needs to be one vote with a majority of the voting members present to approve. The amendments go into effect when adopted and do not need synod approval. If there is a change to any of the Model Constitution proposals, then C16.01. is the appropriate provision to follow in amending the congregation's constitution.

The primary changes in the document relate to the merging of the three lay rosters into a roster of Ministers of Word and Service. These provisions should be added even if the congregation does not currently have under call a person on one of the lay rosters. Chapter 20. would also be important for those congregations that are part of a parish agreement.

Please share these proposed amendments with the congregations of the synod. This would be a good time to work with

congregations to ensure that amendments from earlier assemblies are also incorporated into their constitutions. It is very important that congregations have Chapter 15. Discipline of Members and Adjudication, that was adopted by the 2013 Churchwide Assembly, in their constitutions. We have had difficulties with congregations using the process that was there prior to 2013. By removing the synod council's authority to hear appeals that existed under the old process, we have had a couple of unresolved conflicts continue in congregations. This could be avoided by adopting the 2013 amendments.

It is always important to have the congregation's governing documents current. The best time to do this work is after a churchwide assembly. It is not helpful to wait until an amendment is needed in the life of a congregation to consider voting on the amendment. Prior preparation in adopting the rules that govern our life together is important and helpful work. Thank you for your work with the congregations of this church.

Wm Chris Boerger
Secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Creation & Evolution: Dinosaurs, Galaxies and God



Presented by Ken Olson

September 25th - 3:00pm

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

1108 24th Street West

Billings, MT

Open to the public - All are Welcome!

Mac Connect

You are invited to MAC Connect 2016:

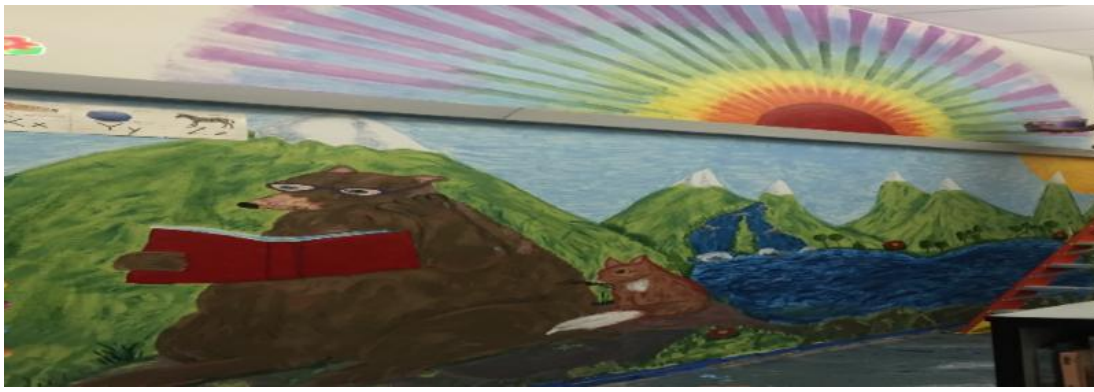
Oct. 20-21

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 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



New Mural in Lakeside



On Thursday August 18th, several members of Eidsvold gathered at Lakeside Elementary School to paint a mural in the library. More than just a painting however, this mural represents and celebrates Eidsvold's vision to be a builder of faithful and responsible lives for a stronger community.



The mural is a mountain lake scene with a bear reading a book to a fox and a rainbow of sunshine above. This design was drawn by three different students and strives to bring delight and wonder to this central part of our area elementary school. We give thanks to Sliters Hardware for their partnership in this event, for Caitlin Amy, the school librarian, for her collaboration and for all those who helped make the day possible. This mission endowment fund project wonderfully helps Eidsvold reach out into our community, seek and show Christ to those we encounter and witness to the never ending creative story of God's love revealed in our world. Wow, what a wonderful day!

In Peace,
Pastor Andy

RSVs to Donate

Hope Lutheran Church in Powell, Wyoming, has 20 copies of the Revised Standard Version (RSV) of the Bible that we would like to donate to someone who could use them. If you would like to be the new home for these Bibles, please contact Pastor Tonya Eza at 307-754-4040.

Sunday School in South Africa

As we prepare for the program year in the northern hemisphere with back-to-school, the start-up of confirmation, adult ed, youth events and Sunday School, our companion synod in the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa is holding a first-ever Diocesan Sunday School Rally for children aged 8-14. They expect over 300 children from across the Diocese. Pastor Sandra Vorster writes:

"As you are aware, most of these children come from previously disadvantaged communities and some of them without any hope of ever moving out of their little village/towns, The Church is offering them this opportunity to be part of the broader community. We herewith humbly request you to please sponsor our event by donating to the success of this Rally and to make it a memorable event for our children."

The Montana Synod will be making a contribution, and we invite you to join us. Checks can be made out to the Montana Synod, with the memo line reading: South Africa Sunday School.

Rostered Leaders and LPAs - Mark your Calendars for the Convocation!

Theme: Meet the Future Boldly: Taking a Hard Look at Sustainability

When: Friday, October 14, 9-4

Where: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Helena, MT

Who: Rostered Leaders and LPAs

Resource: Dr. Kenn Inskeep

Cost: \$10

Preregister: cmccarty@montanasynod.org by October 10

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!](#)

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!

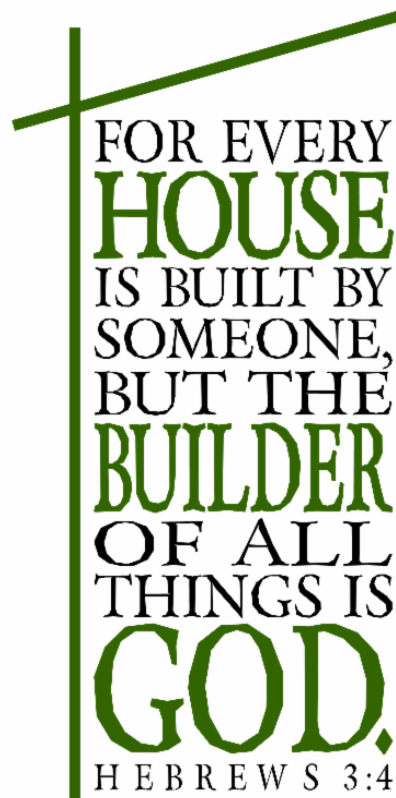
August Newsbrief: Luther and the Anabaptists

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](#)

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



The new address for the Synod Office is:

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

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:

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.

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.](#)

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.

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.

Book Signing Opportunity

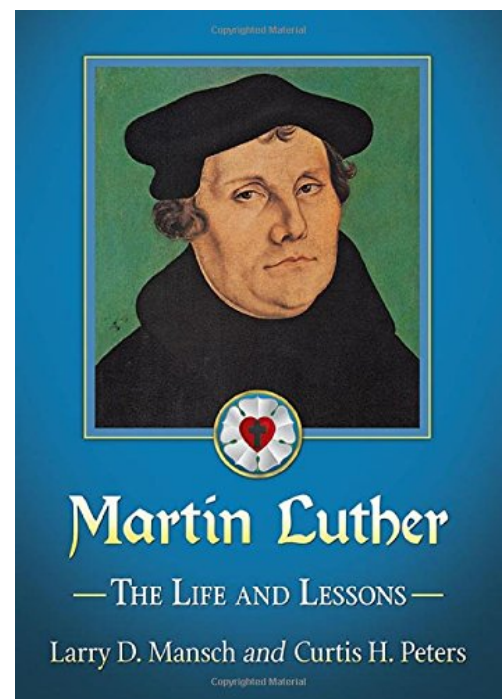
Larry Mansch from Immanuel Lutheran in Missoula has a new book out now!

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.

He will be signing at New Hope Lutheran Church in Great Falls on Sunday, September 11th, 4-6pm

If you want more information please contact: lkmansch@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.

California Lutheran Executive Skills for Clergy

(Also applies to full time Administrator positions)

January 9-13

This workshop explores leadership skills for the complex environment of congregational management. The class size is limited to 20.

[Click Here to Register](#)

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.



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.

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.



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

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