



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, September 7, 2016

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Prayers for September 11, 2016 Seventeenth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

The family of Susan Tobel (wife of SAM Tracy), who's sister unexpectedly passed away Tuesday morning.

For the family of LPA candidate Samuel Cornthwaite who on Monday, died due to medical complications while working in China.

For Jake Block (former VP of the Montana Synod) and family on the death of his wife, Jan. A memorial service will be held Oct. 22 in Polson.

Prayers for Thom Putt, husband of Pastor Valorie Putt, recovering from hospitalization.

Prayers for the protectors of the Land and water at the Standing Rock Sioux Reservation, and the Montana Synod participants, including Pr. Linda Webster and a van from Rocky Boy, Pr. Ron Martin-Dent, and Pr. Bear.



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- For Peace in God's World

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

In 1995, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the Social Statement, "For Peace in God's World." (If you are wondering when we went from short statements to long, this is it.). The statement was written after the Cold War and before 9/11. "At the end of a tumultuous and violent century, we share with people everywhere hope for a more peaceful and just world....As our world discards the mind-set of the Cold War and faces the new threats and opportunities of a changing time, we join with others in searching for what makes for peace." Indeed, in 2016, we are acutely aware of threats to and opportunities for peace.

The statement is not limited to a Christian take on foreign relations. It describes the Christian vocation of healing broken relationships on all levels-personal, family, church, community, national, global. Terming it a "Divine Calling," it outlines some of the ways that the Church can be a community of peacemakers:

- +In publicly gathering to proclaim and celebrate God's Gospel of peace
- +In living the oneness we have received
- +By equipping the faithful to act for peace in all their communities

Referring to Jesus as the ultimate incarnation of peace, the statement reminds us:

- +Jesus taught love for one's enemies
- +He reached out to oppressed, downtrodden and rejected people's
- +He prayed for his enemies while being rejected on the cross himself
- +God redeemed the world through Jesus' violent death (Romans 5:10)

The statement urges the church to be both a reconciling presence and a disturbing presence, denouncing beliefs and actions that:

- +Elevate any nation or people (including our own) to the role of God
- + Find ultimate security in weapons and warfare
- + Claim the right of one people, race or civilization to rule over others
- + Despair the possibility of peace

The statement reminds us that earthly peace is not the same as the promised peace of God's present and future eternal reign. As Christians we work and we pray for both. "Trust in God's promise of final peace freely given in Jesus Christ alone drives us to engage fully in the quest to build earthly peace." "Through the cross of Christ, God calls us to serve the needs of our neighbor, especially those groups and individuals who, suffer and are vulnerable." "Sharing a common humanity with all people, we are called to work for peace throughout the globe."

The last half of the statement is about the Christian responsibility to be engaged in the world, advocating and working for peace and justice. We are not a pacifist church. We do not refuse participation in the political order or in military service, and we do not automatically condemn all involvement in military engagement. The statement outlines "Just War" criteria, including: right intention, justifiable cause, legitimate authority, last resort, declaration of war aims, proportionality, and reasonable chance of success.

Twenty years later, there is much conversation among theologians as to whether there can be a "Just War" in an age of non-state terrorism, nuclear weapons and drones. The statement encourages Christians to stay engaged in conversation, prayer and advocacy.

And the statement urges Christians to work for a culture of peace, to strive for an economy with justice, and to move towards a politics of cooperation. Included in these are: respect for human rights; discouraging the glorification of violence; foreign aid; controlling the arms trade; NGOs working for peace; care for refugees and migrants.

In the final section the statement declares: "Living in a time when hate, injustice , war and suffering seem often to have the upper hand, we call on God to fulfill the divine promise of final peace."

To read the statement, go to www.elca.org/social-statements.

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



Montana Synod Pastors Featured in Luther Seminary's God Pause

This month, Montana Synod pastors who are graduates of Luther Seminary, are featured in September's God Talk daily devotions from Luther Seminary. [You can find the daily devotions here.](#)

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 most 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

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, Lunch Provided

Preregister: cmccarty@montanasynod.org by October 10



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.

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 5

September Newsbrief: the Lutheran World Federation

While the origins of Lutheranism as a confessional movement are identified with the reforming work of Martin Luther, the date sometimes given for the formation of Lutheranism as a separate church is the 1648 Peace of Westphalia which ended the bloody religious conflicts of the Thirty Years War in central Europe and gave legal coexistence to Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed Christians. A point of no return for the Lutheran Church had been reached which also kept alive the vision of both Lutheran and Christian unity under the gospel, a development which would bear much fruit with the formation of the Lutheran World Conference and its successor, the Lutheran World Federation.

Paul Hanson provides a compact and delightful sketch of these organizations and their achievements. What he does not tell you is how his own career in ministry intersected with the Lutheran World Federation. In July of 1962, while a student at Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, IL, Paul joined 5 other Lutherans for a Church Workers Exchange Program in West Berlin that was sponsored by LWF. "Our task," he said, "was to work with refugees who had escaped from East Berlin and East Germany and who were either 'stuck' in West Berlin or were having their applications processed so they could move to West Germany." Midway through that year, as a result of stipendiary concerns, Paul was serendipitously reassigned to Geneva, Switzerland to help produce short histories of Lutheran Churches in the world for the LWF Assembly in Helsinki, Finland, in the summer of 1963. Anyone who knows Paul will see the connection between this experience and his ongoing advocacy of ELCA global mission and Christian unity. Enjoy the read!

-Paul Seastrand

Download it here

Kairos Workshop

Please find an [attached](#) brochure on the upcoming Kairos Workshops that will be held Oct. 17- Oct 20th at various locations throughout Montana. This workshop is titled,

**Israel/Palistine: Beyond the Headlines.
Digging Deep for Justice & Peace in the Holy Land**

Please download the brochure for more info and registration information.

Mac Connect

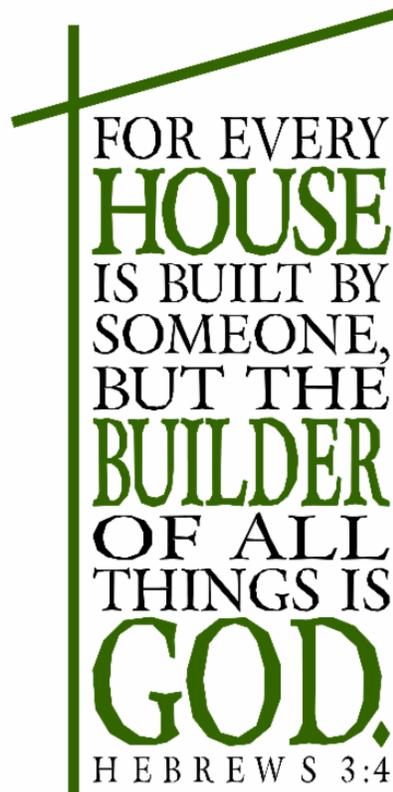
You are invited to MAC Connect 2016:
Oct. 20-21

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



**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

The Synod Office has a New Address!

3125 5th Ave S
Great Falls, MT 59405

Montana Synod Opportunities:

Update to the news

We are changing things up in the the Montana Synod Weekly News! The news archive on montanasynod.org has been updated and all 2016 issues can be found [here](#). All future issues will also be archived, so feel free to download any past issues!

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!

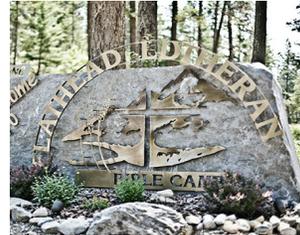
Thank you for your prayers for Christikon this summer, for the summer staff as they transition back to "real life", and for all who have joined in the Christikon life.

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!



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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