



**Montana Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## **News of the Week, September 14, 2016**

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### **Follow Us!**



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## **Prayers for September 18, 2016 Eighteenth Week of Pentecost**

### **Please remember in your prayers this week:**

For Pastor Rand Drollman and family, whose mother passed away last week.

Installation of Pr. Carol Seilhymer, First Plains and Our Savior's Thompson Falls, September 18

Installation of Pr. Tonia Fisher, St. James Columbus, September 18

Installation of United Methodist Bishop Karen Oliveto, September 17, Bozeman



### **From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Volmer/Dagmar  
Nathanael/Reserve  
Faith/Reserve  
Zion Lutheran, Brockton  
Froid Lutheran  
Ebenezer Lutheran of McCabe

New Jersey Synod  
New England Synod  
Montana Synod Council, meeting Sept. 22-24

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## **Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness- "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All"**

*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](http://www.montanasynd.org), archived.*



The 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly considered and adopted the social statement on economic life, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All." A wide-ranging document, the statement concludes:

"Pursuing policies and practices that will lead to 'sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all' is such a formidable challenge that to many it seems unrealistic or not worth the effort. The Church as an employer, property owner, consumer, investor, and community of believers can be as caught up in the reigning economic assumptions as the rest of society....Empowered by God, we continue to act, pray, and hope that through economic life there truly will be sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all."

The statement was written with an acute awareness of globalization and its effect on the world's economy. Remember, this was before 9/11, and before Thomas Friedman's book on globalization, "The World is Flat." (2005) The social statement expresses a deep concern about the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer, using numerous biblical references to society's obligation to provide justice to the poor.

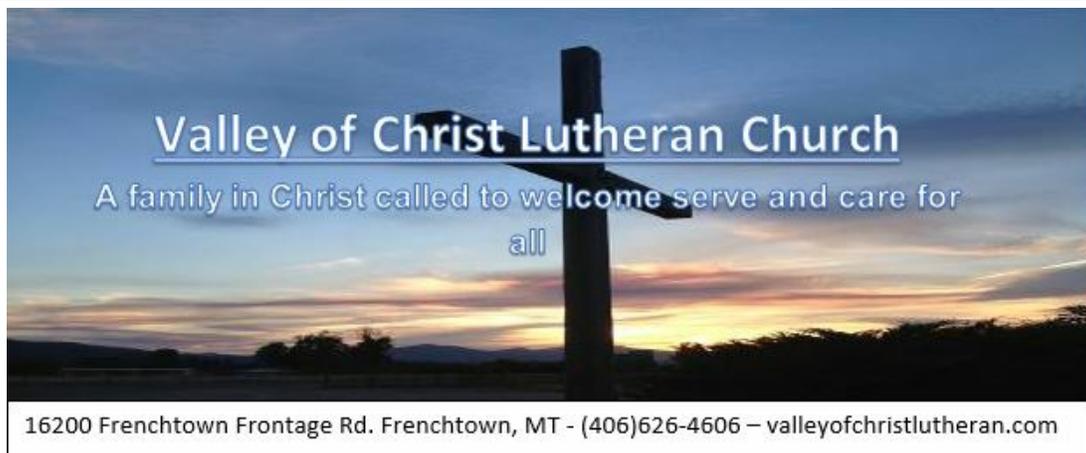
The fundamental question for people of faith considering economic life is: "In what or in whom shall we place our trust and hope?" And of course the response is: "To place our trust in something other than God is the essence of sin. It disrupts our relationships with God, one another, and the rest of creation, resulting in injustices and exploitation."

Among the issues addressed by the statement are the tension between the values arising from a market economy and Christian values of dependence on God, love of neighbor, reconciliation and cooperation. The statement addresses poverty, both domestic and global, calling the church to assess economic activities in terms of how they affect "all," especially people living in poverty. The statement's adoption in 1999 coincided with efforts by the United Nations to establish Millennium Goals to eradicate poverty. In addition, many religious groups worked to establish a millennium Jubilee, to free impoverished nations from the crippling burden of global debt.

The statement also addresses vocation, work and human dignity for all, reminding us that we are all made in God's image. The statement addresses wealth inequality and asks members to work for economic justice in the market place, in tax structures, and in daily life. It also addresses environmental sustainability, and justice for farmers.

You can find the entire statement at [www.elca.org/socialstatements](http://www.elca.org/socialstatements).

Jessica Crist, Bishop



Dear Friends in Christ,

Valley of Christ Lutheran Church is pleased to announce the service of Ordination and Installation of our new Pastor, Lue Moua. We invite faith communities from the Greater Missoula Area to join in the celebration on Sunday, September 25th, at 3:00 PM.

Clergy in attendance are invited to vest and participate in the service as directed. Holy Communion will be

shared. The color of the day is red.

A reception for Pastor Lue and his family will be held following the service.

We hope you can join us for this time of celebration and praise.

Sincerely,  
Julie Duncan  
Co-President  
Valley of Christ Lutheran

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## **LAST CHANCE!**

### **ESTATE AND GIFT PLANNING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, September 17, 2016

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

American Lutheran Church

5 Lewis Avenue

Billings, MT 59101

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

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

**Pastor George Karres** - Director for Evangelical Mission, Montana Synod  
**Dr. Marsha Goetting** - Professor and Extension Family Economics Specialist,  
Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana  
**Ms. Beth Adams** - ELCA Foundation Gift Planner

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

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## **World Hunger Event in Northeast Montana**

What an amazing time we had in northeastern Montana this past weekend! Pastor Mark and Clara hosted a houseful in Plentywood on Friday night; we visited 4 congregations on Saturday (Culbertson, Froid, Dagmar and Westby); and had a churchful back in Plentywood on Sunday for adult forum, worship and the annual WELCA dinner -- so many opportunities to lift up the Montana Synod, the whole church, and ELCA World Hunger!

There seemed to be quite a bit of excitement about Gifts of Grain, so Pastor Mark and I will follow up on that. Here is a link to a Gift of Grain story, [https://www.elca.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA/Campaign-Stories/donor\\_ornin](https://www.elca.org/Campaign-for-the-ELCA/Campaign-Stories/donor_ornin)

Please be sure to be in touch whenever we can join you in Montana! Thank you for your encouragement, and blessings on your ministry,

Rev. Robin K. Brown  
Associate Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, Congregation Support

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## **South Africa Update**

The Montana Synod had plans for Pastor Edwina Letshwiti, from Douglas, South Africa to come spend the months of September and October in the Montana Synod, connected to and being part of the congregations of Our Redeemers Lutheran in Helena and Peace Lutheran, First English Lutheran and Atonement Lutheran in Billings. Sadly, she was denied a visa to enter the United States twice, and so at this time, plans are on hold for her arrival. We have hopes that she will still be able to come, but she will not apply for a visa again for six months or so.

Thank you to those who have given a gift to be used to help pay her travel and some other expenses. Please keep her and the process of applying for a visa in your thoughts and prayers for the next time!

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger



# GOD PAUSE

## 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.](#)

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### Updating your Congregational Constitution

The updated model constitution for congregations is now online at [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org). In the next 2 weeks the Montana Synod will send out a memo from our Constitution Review Committee and another from the Office of the Secretary. These memos will contain rationale for the changes, and instructions on how to amend and update your constitution.

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### 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](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org) by October 10

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#### NRIT News:

*The following events require pre-registration:*

Our first digital offerings are now available on our website. When you purchase the classes, you will have access to them throughout 2016 so can offer the class as a multi-session adult study or watch on your personal computer 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](http://www.nrit.org). Click on the NRIT logo on the upper left side of the page. This will bring you to the NRIT home page. Under the logo, to the right side, click on NRIT Digital Education Store. Then click on the class you would like to access. You will need to pay online with a credit or debit card. After purchasing, you will receive access information.

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## **2016 IRS Update**

The US tax system is a quarterly system, not an annual one. Tax payments are due at least quarterly, and the year-end return is simply a reconciliation of the activity. If you receive income in the first quarter of the year, the taxes are due at the end of that quarter, not in April of the following year when you file your tax return. The IRS structures the four quarters of the year to end in March, May, August and December, not the more common, normalized March, June, September, December quarter ends.

The year is divided into four payment periods, or due dates, for estimated tax purposes. Those dates are listed below.

- Payment 1 - April 18, 2016
- Payment 2 - June 15, 2016
- Payment 3 - September 15, 2016
- Payment 4 - January 17, 2017

Most secular employees have taxes withheld from their paychecks on a bi-weekly basis so they exceed the quarterly requirement. However, if you are classified as clergy and received ministry income or other sources of income such as interest, dividends, Partnership or S Corp draws or dividends, sole proprietorship or LLC income, or a profitable rental property or secular business income, then estimated taxes may very well be required.

The IRS requires that you must pay estimated taxes in 2016 if you will owe \$1,000 or more by year end, and if your total taxes withheld from other sources are less than the smaller of 90% of your 2016 return, or 100 percent of your 2015 liability.

If you choose to wait until 2017, to see if you owe additional taxes, you may be subject to interest and penalties.

If you are a current client of Clergy Financial Resources, you can access your personalized estimated payment coupons in your CyberCabinet account. If you'd like us to review/calculate your estimated payments, please enroll in our Estimate Payment Support service and schedule your appointment today.



*Transforming lives at Montana State Prison through the power and presence of Jesus Christ.*

## THE Event of the Year! Online Quilt/Art Auction

Read about it in the latest edition of The Kite - Freedom in Christ's newsletter.

### *Newsletter*

We apologize for the inconvenience. The last email contained the wrong link to our current newsletter with the Quilt/Art Auction information. The link above will go directly to the correct newsletter. You can also find it on our website under Newsletters in the navigation bar.

Again apologies for the error. We know your inbox gets overloaded with emails each day, and don't want to contribute to that overload!

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Intermountain receives generous matching grant to help build new chapel!

We have good news, friends - Intermountain recently received a \$100,000 matching gift to be used to renovate a vacated 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.



## 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**

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Looking for more information on the 2017 Portico Health Benefit Changes?



You will be receiving information in the mail, and there is also a video available online through Portico. [Here is the link.](#)

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## **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.

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## **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.



Faith • Unity • Justice • Compassion

MAC Connect 2016 will occur in Butte, MT, starting the evening of Thursday, October 20 through Friday, October 21. Register at [www.macmt.org](http://www.macmt.org)

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

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FOR EVERY  
**HOUSE**  
IS BUILT BY  
SOMEONE,  
BUT THE  
**BUILDER**  
OF ALL  
THINGS IS  
**GOD.**  
H E B R E W S 3:4

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

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**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](http://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!



Community Lecture Series

If you are in or near Billings, check out the lecture series being put on by Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. More information can be [found here](#).

## 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](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) • [www.christikon.org](http://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](http://www.flbc.net)! Also, watch for our 2016 Summer Brochure around Christmas! Be sure to register early for your first choice of weeks and programs!*



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

Congregations, please submit the names of your delegates to the office at (406) 752-6602 to reserve your spaces.

This no cost Delegate Retreat will equip your delegates to serve your congregation as the FLBC connection. On October 8th the retreat concludes with the Annual Meeting/Celebration at 1:00 PM!

### 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 with our quilter in residence, Susan Hedahl! [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](#)

## Upcoming Events, etc.



### September

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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