



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, September 21, 2016

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Prayers for September 25, 2016 Nineteenth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pastor Jerry Olson, who is in declining health.

For Valley of Christ Lutheran Church and the Ordination and Installation of new Pastor, Lue Moua.

For the Conference of Bishops meeting in Chicago next week.



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

St. John's Lutheran, Westby
Immanuel Lutheran, Westby
Freedom in Christ Prison Congregation

Metro New York Synod

Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness- Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor

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.



The US has been embroiled in debate about health care coverage and cost for several decades, and the ELCA has been part of the conversation. In 2003 the Churchwide Assembly adopted a Social Statement on health, healing and health care, called "Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor." In the first paragraph we read: "As a personal and social responsibility, health care is a shared endeavor." Beginning with a brief statement of the health care crisis the statement quickly moves to the role of the church. "The Christian Church is called to be an active participant in fashioning a just and effective health care system." "We of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in American have an enduring commitment to work for and support health care for all people as a shared endeavor."

The statement lists what we support as a church:

- + comprehensive approach as shared endeavor
- + individual, church and social responsibilities
- + a vision of a system with a coherent set of services
- + equitable access for all
- + moral discernment in public policymaking

The statement provides biblical and theological perspectives on health, illness, healing and health care.

As it addresses health care and healing as shared endeavor, the statement describes personal responsibilities, the church's ministry (including congregations, social ministry organizations, and advocacy), public health services and whole patient care (including curing and caring, healing and chronic conditions, palliative care, alternative healing, caregiver support, research and development, and peaceful dying.

Acknowledging that our health care system is not adequate for all, the statement explores love and justice, and moving towards just access. "We urge all people to advocate for access to basic health care for all and to participate vigorously and responsibly in the public discussion on how best to fulfill this obligation."

Addressing how congregations can expand their health ministry, the statement includes numerous suggestions including:

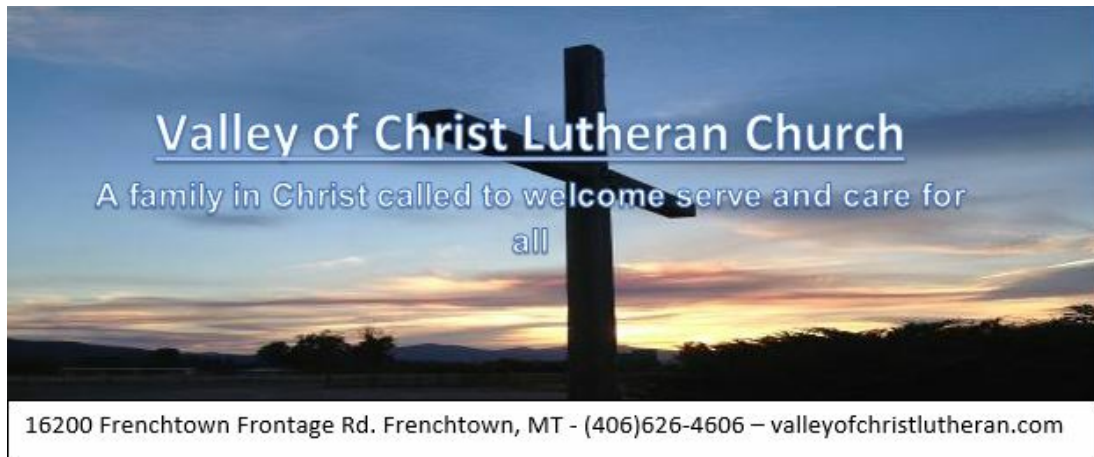
- +education on health issues
- +removing structural barriers to accessibility
- +collaborating with social ministry organizations
- +providing and advocating for transportation to health care
- +attending to spiritual needs
- +attending to staff health, including access to health care
- +learning about global health issues

The statement concludes with a section on Ethical Guidance for Individuals and Families, listing 5 principles for decision-making about health:

- +Health and finitude
- +Love
- +Stewardship
- +Justice
- +Self-determination

"As Christians we discern our moral responsibilities through consulting Scripture, the experience of the community of faith, and the exercise of reason. We deliberate about our decisions not merely as patients or caregivers, but as seekers of God's will. We recognize that the broader dimensions of health and healing compel us to consider our neighbor and our love for them as we make decisions. Above all, we ask God for guidance, mercy, and forgiveness in all our decision-making."

Health care continues to be a hot political issue, particularly this election season. I commend this statement as a starting point for conversation in our churches about how we love God and serve our neighbor.



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

Workshop: Exploring Worship and Music Saturday, October 1

This will be an interactive workshop to share resources and ideas and discuss topics of worship and music to include: worship planning, multi-sensory worship, liturgy, music/hymn choices, and effective use of projection. Bring your favorite worship and music resources, including worship bulletins, for others to review. Be prepared to sing! This workshop is for clergy, lay leaders, musicians and all who plan, lead, and participate in worship. Ecumenical resources will also be shared so be sure to invite ecumenical neighbors to join us. Cost \$25.00, includes lunch.

Location: First Lutheran Church, Wolf Point MT

Presenter: Pastor Julie Long (Our Savior's Lutheran-Broadus, Synod Resource person for worship/music)

Time: 9:00-9:30 gathering/registration, 9:30-3:00 workshop and lunch.

Registration: Send email to Pastor Julie Long (jclong@hotmail.com) or on Facebook. This will help with lunch planning and resources.

Continuing Educ: CEU available through NRIT.

Thank You to all who participated in God's Work Our Hands Sunday!



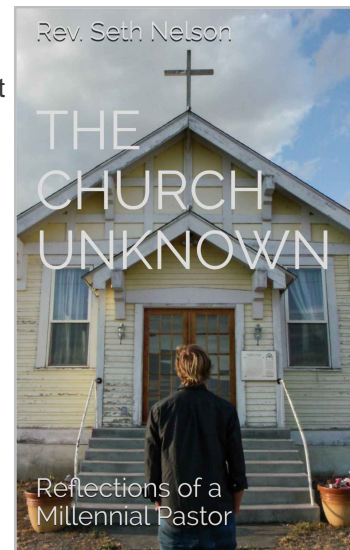


GWOH at King of Glory in Billings

New Book!

Congratulations to [Pastor Seth Nelson](#) who just published his first book,
"The Church Unknown"

[It can be found here.](#)



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, if you register before October 10th. **After that, registration will be \$25**

Preregister: cmccarty@montanasynod.org by October 10

The Quality Inn, 2300 North Oakes Street, Helena, Montana, has rooms set aside for our group on Thursday, October 13th. Single rooms will be \$69 per night plus tax and doubles will be \$79 per night plus tax. If you wish to have more than two people in your room, there will be an additional \$10 charge. Please make your own reservation by calling 406-442-3064. There is a



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.

Ken Olson Adult Forum

Pastor Ken Olson will be in Billings to speak on "Creation & Evolution: Dinosaurs, Galaxies and God" on Sept. 25th at 3:00pm at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

"At a time when Christianity is often equated with anti-intellectualism, Noah's Ark attractions feature dinosaurs among the ship's manifest it's important to present faithful alternative perspectives to creation, scripture and the role of science in our public life."

For more information contact
[Pastor Darren Paulson](#)



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.](#)

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!

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 Konkell, 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!](#)

Fair Labor Standards Webinar

Webinar Title

: New Overtime Rules

Date and Time: October 18, 2016, 12 noon, CDT

Hosts: Steve Knowles, Senior Attorney, Davis & Kuelthau
Thomas Cuniff, Associate General Counsel, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Cost: Free

Registration deadline: October 14, 2016

Description: The U.S. Department of Labor has adopted new overtime regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), which go into effect on December 1, 2016. Among other changes, these regulations increase the minimum salary for exempt employees from \$23,000 to \$47,476. Many congregations, synods, and other ministries of the church have questions about how this impacts their employees and ministries. Does it apply to churches? What about pastors? Youth workers? Sextons? How about schools? Or camps? Join us for a free webinar on how the new regulations will affect religious institutions, and try to answer many of these questions.

Register today for this free webinar: <https://community.elca.org/FLSAwebinar>
Instructions for connecting to the webinar will be sent to all registrants prior to the event.

Looking for more
information on the 2017
Portico Health Benefit

PORTICO®
Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

Changes?

As your organization kicks off a new year of ministry, it's also time to look ahead to next year's benefits. Portico's 2017 Annual Enrollment starts soon, and now is the time to prepare. I encourage you to share these resources with the people who make your organization's benefit and budget decisions:

- [Custom Comparison Report and Spreadsheet](#)
Use this PDF report and Excel spreadsheet to review your options and estimate your 2017 costs.
- [Webinar: A Closer Look at 2017 Health Benefits and Rates](#)
Watch this 30-minute recording to learn about the cost drivers behind our 5% baseline health contribution rate increase, and to preview our innovative new approach to help plan members purchase care with an eye to both quality and cost.

Between Oct. 3 and Oct. 28, your organization will need to select one ELCA-Primary health benefit option to offer your plan members for 2017. After organizations complete 2017 Annual Enrollment, plan members will make their benefit selections between Oct. 31 and Nov. 16. We look forward to receiving your organization's selection on EmployerLink starting Oct. 3.

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

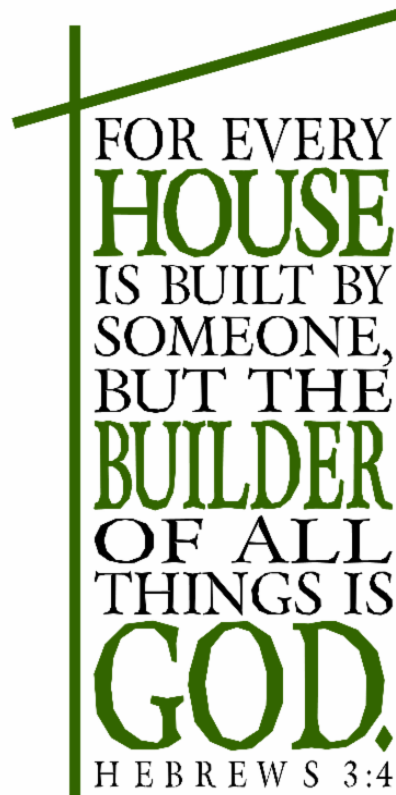
You are invited to MAC Connect 2016:
Oct. 20-21

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:

[News of the Week Archive](#)

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



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 • 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

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](#)
[\(406\) 890-5104 \(cell\)](#)

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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