



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, September 28, 2016

In this issue

[Words from the Bishop](#)

[Kairos Workshop](#)

[Exploring Worship and Music](#)

[Bishop's Convocation](#)

[NRIT News](#)

[Fair Labor Standards Webinar](#)

[Save the Date!](#)

[MAC Connect](#)

[Synod House](#)

[Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Amazon Smile](#)

Follow Us!



Prayers for October 2, 2016 Twentieth Week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pastor Ellen Ayres and her son James, after a fire at the family home in California.

Prayers for Pastor Steve Van Gilder, beginning medical leave to heal his vocal cords.

For the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, meeting October 2-5 to elect a new Bishop. Bishop William Bowles has announced his retirement. Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger will represent the Montana Synod at the election.



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

St. John Lutheran, Great Falls
Zion Lutheran, Lewistown

Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod

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

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.

Lutherans have always been strong advocates of education. One of the hallmarks of the Reformation was a renewed emphasis on education—from the literacy of the clergy to the catechesis of the laity. We have the Small and Large Catechism as a result of this concern of Martin Luther. Over the years, Lutherans have had high standards for an educated clergy, and have established schools, colleges and seminaries as part of our legacy. In 2007, the Churchwide Assembly adopted "Our Calling in Education" as a social statement of the church. You can find a copy at www.elca.org.



The statement begins with a discussion of the Lutheran understanding of vocation. "Lutherans understand vocation as a calling from God that encompasses all of life for all the faithful." The statement goes on: "Our particular calling in education is two-fold: to educate people in the Christian faith for their vocation and to strive with others to ensure that all have access to high-quality education that develops personal gifts and abilities and serves the common good." Education is not just for us. "Education is not a means to secure our personal salvation but a way to benefit the neighbor."

The statement addresses faith formation for children and emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning all. It acknowledges the responsibilities of both parents and congregations in this area. Next, it addresses faith formation for students in the formative years, acknowledging that both children and older students are not simply preparing for a future vocation, they are living out a current vocation—as child, as student. The statement suggests some guidelines for a ministry of faith formation.

The statement moves to questions of education in the public sphere and the question of access to high-quality education for all. There is a section on public schools, affirming ELCA commitment to them, and outlining some expectations for them, including: being communities of learning and teaching. The statement affirms teaching students to live morally in society, and also states that we expect the schools to teach about religion, not to teach religion. The ELCA does not consider science and religion to be mutually exclusive. The statement expects congregations to support with and work with public schools in a variety of ways. In addition, the statement urges the ELCA to work for equitable access to high quality education for all students.

The statement then shifts to addressing Lutheran educational institutions, from pre-schools through colleges. Many congregations sponsor preschools. Some have elementary schools associate with them, and there are also Lutheran high schools. ELCA colleges and universities have different levels of commitment to Lutheran identity, and different styles. Since the statement was adopted, these higher education institutions have formed an organization for closer communication with one another and with the wider church. Many of the Lutheran colleges and universities have been recipients of Lilly grants to strengthen students' understanding of vocation.

The statement nods briefly to seminaries, to the 2005 Study of Theological Education and its recommendation for lifelong learning. "We urge the churchwide organization to continue to provide leadership and support to the institutions and agencies of the church...to encourage them to deepen their interdependent partnership in a network that educates for vocation."

The statement then circles back to public higher education, particularly public institutions, proclaiming a long-standing commitment to public higher education. It notes the Lutheran church's presence on public campuses through campus ministry. Noting funding challenges for campus ministry, the statement goes on: "Let us be fully aware of the growing crisis in this church's ministry to a large, influential segment of your adults living and studying at public and private universities and colleges."

The statement concludes: "May we faithfully and boldly be a teaching and learning church, educating in the faith for vocation and striving with others so that all people have equitable access to a high-quality education."

The statement was adopted 9 years ago. Since then many of the issues brought up in the statement have intensified: equal access to high quality education; funding issues for campus ministry; skyrocketing cost of college. In a time when these issues can become political hot potatoes it is good to know that our church has done thoughtful and thorough (54 pages) reflection on them, and encourages us to be in civil conversations in our congregations and communities.

	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SOUTHERN AFRICA CAPE ORANGE DIOCESE	
	24 Natasha Street North View Homestead Kimberley 8301	Tel: 053 871 1032 Fax: 053 871 1162 Cell: 072 537 5657 Email: mjanong@yahoo.com
DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE SECRETARY		P.B.O NO: 930004573

01 JUNE 2016

TO: ELCA – MONTANA SYNOD

RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND OUR 21ST DIOCESAN SYNOD

Dear Friends in Christ

Be greeted in the name of Jesus who is the risen Christ of God.

Your Synod is herewith cordially invited to honour us with your presence at the occasion of our 21st Diocesan Synod. Details of the Synod are as follows:

Date: 02 – 05 October 2016 (1st and 6th October 2016 are traveling dates)

Venue: Eastern Cape Circuit (Mngqesha – Great place in King Williams Town)

THEME: Saved by Grace alone – Sola Gratia

In the event of your Church accepting this invitation please indicate to us as who the person (and their gender) is who will attend on behalf of your Church. We would also like to indicate that your representative would be expected to deliver short fraternal greetings at an appropriate slot.

We place on record the importance of fellowship as it is a manifestation of the fact that we are members of the one body of Christ.

Thanking you in anticipation
With warm fraternal greetings,
I am

Yours in His service


Rev. Motsamai Manong
Diocesan Executive Secretary



Diocesan Council Members: Bishop W.R. Bowles; Mr. M.W. Jongolo; Ms. I. Krohne-Naidoo; Dean De Vries Bock; Dean J. Bezuidenhout; Dean A.T. Khunou; Dean M.A. Monama; Dean E. Z. Ntiza; Dean J.A. Griske; Rev. A. Matthys; Ms. O. Mayekiso; Mr. S. Malebo; Mr. O.R. January; Mr. Mr. H.A.D. Petersen; Mr. A. Vosloo; Rev. J.A. Standaar(DET); Rev. M.Z. Manong(DES); Ms. E. Phepheng (PWL); Mr. T.J. Hammer(PML)

Unexpected Ministries

It's amazing how many things you look at every day but fail to notice - like the "No Parking-Passenger Unloading Zone" signs in front of our church.

Colter and I discovered the signs when a big yellow school bus pulled up out front at 9:20 one morning last week. As it turns out, the signs had been there for years, but what I didn't know is that the area in front of our church had been newly-designated as a bus-stop for neighborhood children enrolled in HeadStart.

Happily, we did not fail to notice the group of 3 & 4 year olds and their guardians outside waiting for the bus. Their smiles and energy are signs of the promise and new life God gives us with each new day! In the blink of an eye (literally) we discovered a new ministry at New Hope for as long as it is needed - blessing these little ones and their families with shelter, love, and a morning snack as they wait for the bus.

Pr. Tammy Bull, New Hope - Great Falls



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.

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.

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 free continental breakfast offered. This block will remain available until October 6th



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.

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.



St. Johns Lutheran Church

1000 Helena Avenue
Helena, Montana

Saturday, October 1

1:00-3:00 Lecture and Demonstration

3:15-4:30 Harp Circles--Your opportunity to play a harp!

No cost to attend. Public is invited.

Sponsored by: St. Johns Lutheran Church www.HelenaStJohns.org/
and Harp for Healing, LLC www.HarpforHealing.com/

Thank You!

A big thank you to all who have sent books to the Tribal Adult Correctional Facility! We have received around 100 + books and I think we have every Grisham Book ever written. Likewise a big thank you for the coloring books and pencils. The ladies love these.

There is a new request and that is for socks. You would not believe how pitiful the socks are that the ladies wear and I assume the men as well. If you could send size Medium and Large it would be greatly appreciated.

Some great news is that 5 ladies were baptized last Saturday. There would have been 7, but two were released, hopefully i will hear from them. One of the ladies after her baptism said she felt so at peace. We have Word and Sacrament every Saturday. Please pray for all in the facility.

Thanks so much for your support and prayers.

Salaam/shalom

Pr. Chris Holler-Dinsmore
Spirit of Life
400 Garfield Street
Wolf Point, MT 59201
choller-dinsmore@fpcc.edu

Wyoming Association of Churches

40th Anniversary Celebration

October 13-15, 2016



Appreciating Diversity



To be Held at

Saint Marks Episcopal Church

701 S. Wollscot St. Casper

For more information, or to register visit

www.WyoChurches.org

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 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.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars, the 2017 Synod Youth Event will be held, February 10-12 at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Billings.
More information coming soon!

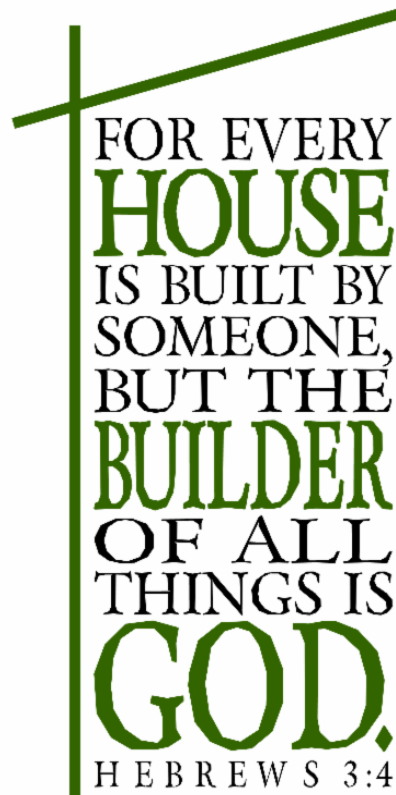
Mac Connect

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





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:

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 \(cell\)](#)

[News of the Week Archive](#)

Upcoming Events, etc.

October

14 Bishop's Convocation

November

7-9 First Call



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

~~~~~  
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](#)

---

## Amazon Smile

Shop at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-3514273> in support of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.



---

*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)

Join Our Mailing List!