



**Montana Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

## News of the Week, October 19, 2016

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## Prayers for October 23, 2016 Twenty-Second Week of Pentecost

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

For Pastor Amanda Liggett & her husband Derek on the adoption of their son Benjamin Gary Liggett!

For LPA Celeste Pogachar as she recovers from back surgery.

For Jean Hay, who will be ordained October 22nd at Pilgrim Lutheran in St. Paul, MN, to serve Bethlehem Lutheran in Billings.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran, Shepherd  
West Virginia-Western Maryland Synod  
Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod



Benjamin Gary Liggett

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## Words From the Bishop - Deepen Faith and Witness-

# An ELCA Social Statement on Genetics

*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.*



By adopting the social statement, "Genetics, Faith and Responsibility" in 2011, the ELCA took a significant step in the engagement with science and technology. Accompanied by a 6-page glossary and 5 pages of footnotes, it takes on complex and sometimes controversial issues at the intersection of science and religion.

"The ELCA contends that morally responsible discernment about these matters requires knowledge and insights from both religious and secular sources. This statement draws on both to provide a framework for theological reflection, public moral deliberation, congregational life, pastoral practice and mission-oriented action."

Laying to rest any lingering doubts about the church's modernism, the statement asserts: "There is no inherent conflict between scientific findings and the understanding of God as creator, redeemer and sanctifier. Christians should celebrate the best of theoretical and practical genetic science that explores genetic structure, function and change."

The area of genetics covered by the statement are wide-reaching:

- +Molecular medicine
- +Procreative activities
- +Genetic engineering in agriculture
- +General commercial and legal applications
- +Military use
- +Social impact

We are also reminded of the global impact of genetic science, and the interconnectedness not only of all humans, but of the whole planet. The statement acknowledges ambiguity--both the promise and the peril of technology. The statement's intent is not to endorse or condemn particular genetic technologies, but rather to call the church (including its trained scientists, engineers, physicians, agronomists and ethicists) to use the resources of faith for assessment and engagement with changing circumstances. It cautions against embracing all new genetic technologies on principle, and it cautions against rejecting all new genetic technologies on principle.

Using such theological concepts as creation, sin, vocation, redemption, hope and responsibility, the statement focuses on the good of the community of life, and how it is impacted by genetic science. "The good of the community of life should now serve as the overarching value to guide moral reflection and action." Respect is a moral baseline. Justice is the goal.

The statement outlines 4 principles for seeking justice in this area:

- +Sufficiency
- +Sustainability
- +Solidarity
- +Participation

The statement concludes with reflection on *koinonia*, the Greek word that evokes "community," "reciprocity," "mutuality."

"The increasing complexity and diversity of options, decisions and points of view represent a key challenge to Christian community in this age of genetic knowledge. Christian community is an identity to be lived into, one that offers the basis for listening, speaking and being together as Christians. It is one that embraces the difficulties and joys as well as the ambiguities brought about in a time of immense new powers."

More than any other social statement, this statement on genetics focuses on a framework for decision-making and discernment, rather than on the specific issues themselves. Much of it could be applied to other issues of contemporary life--continued conversation, engaging knowledgeable lay people, using the resources of our colleges and social agencies, making congregations places where people can disagree without having to split the church. Note: this

statement was the first social statement after the human sexuality one, and perhaps reflects some of the learnings from the process of discussing the human sexuality one.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

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## 2017 Salary Guidelines

The new Salary guidelines are now available on our website under the Resources tab. They can also be downloaded [here](#).

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### From Jim: Politics in the Sanctuary

The media loves conflict and the religious right has faithfully delivered it to them for many years. As we rapidly approach election day, the question of which religious right figures will stick with Donald Trump or reluctantly disavow him consumes whatever media attention is focused on the faith community.

For decades, some prominent religious right figures have been waging a "culture war" in our nation and have named it as such. They lament the demise of a Protestant white, male-dominated culture in which people of color, sexual minorities, and women were silenced and oppressed. Donald Trump is, for now, their standard bearer. Racism, misogyny, and hatred of immigrants and Muslims mark his campaign.

Many of the Christians who are part of the denominational traditions represented in the National Council of Churches, by contrast, are engaged in a biblically-based countercultural ministry. We are feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, visiting those who are in prison, and freeing the oppressed. We seek a society that welcomes the stranger, assists those in need, cares for the earth, and re-orientes national priorities away from war, violence, and racism.

It is not particularly unusual for social concerns to be addressed in congregations associated with the NCC whether from the pulpit or in Sunday School or other forums. The political and theological views of our church members, while labeled by some as liberal, are actually very diverse, and that diversity is deeply valued.

Few, if any, NCC denominational leaders or clergy have publicly endorsed one of the presidential candidates. In fact, quite often clergy and laity are under the mistaken impression that it is illegal to invite candidates to speak in local churches. A large number of congregations avoid any talk of political matters. After all, there is usually plenty of politicking already taking place over matters such as the color of the new carpet in the sanctuary.

This presidential election season, the wildest in recent times, requires careful study. Rather than tell our members how to vote, the NCC and some of its member communions provide [voting principles](#), and [study guides](#) to help them make informed decisions.

As a Christian, I want to believe the direction of our nation, with fits and starts, is toward one of more inclusiveness, acceptance, and justice. But what if I'm wrong? When the dominant culture or race becomes fearful, as is the case at this time, problems result. Perhaps we will choose a more negative direction. Britain has exited the European Union, Colombia has voted to reject a peace agreement, Israel has constructed a wall to keep out Palestinians, Hungary has built a fence to keep out immigrants. There's no certainty love, grace, and mercy will triumph.

I hope I'm mistaken in my hunch that most our congregations are avoiding discussion of the choice ahead of us next month in order to avoid conflict. I pray our clergy and laity are praying and calmly analyzing the issues and the candidates and preparing to vote so that they can answer this question: "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God? (Micah 6:8, NRSV)"

Yours in Christ,

Jim Winkler  
President and General Secretary

[Download the NCC's Group Study Guide, Christian](#)

# California Lutheran University

## Mission and Identity

### Job Announcement

Dear members of the Cal Lutheran and PLTS Communities,

Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary of California Lutheran University (PLTS) is pleased to invite applications and nominations for the position of Rector of PLTS. The Rector oversees the life and administration of the seminary on the Berkeley campus.

I appreciate your consideration and nominations of strong applicants for this exciting position at the seminary from among your network of relationships. Please send all nominations or applications to [CLU\\_PLTSRector@academic-search.com](mailto:CLU_PLTSRector@academic-search.com).

California Lutheran University is an equal opportunity employer. The University and Seminary encourage candidates who will contribute to cultural diversity and who value cultural, ethnic, and racial differences to apply.

[Click here for the application information!](#)



#### 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

Take advantage of this opportunity to study preaching texts for next year. It will be a time set apart to look at the Gospel of Matthew anew. (5 continuing ed credits)

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 / \$10 retired clergy and lay persons (lowered price for lay people- please personally invite anyone from your congregation who might be interested.)

### **Midwinter Theological Conference - Izaak Walton Inn Jan 30-Feb 1**

A wonderful time to gather with colleagues, relax in the hot tub or around the lobby fire, ski or snowshoe in a winter wonderland and to delve into Paul's writings with Dr. David Fredrickson.

## \*Adult Study Opportunity

Syria in the Bible and in the Early Church: A Heritage at Risk We hear about the war in Syria almost every day, but many of us don't know a lot about the history of this country and especially how it relates to the early church. Pr. Tom Lee, a retired pastor and Old Testament Scholar spent time on archeological sites in the middle east and for one summer in Syria. He agreed to sit down with Colter McCarty and record this class on the antiquities in Syria and what they can tell us about our history as Christians. You can access this digital/online hour long class for \$25 and continue to have access for a year. A great opportunity for an ongoing adult study. (Pr. Lee shares reading resources as well.)

*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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## Suicide Prevention Advocacy

The Churchwide Assembly adopted a resolution on increasing funding and awareness of suicide prevention. Montana and Wyoming are among the states with the highest suicide rates. The resolution asked congregations and individuals to encourage the President and members of Congress to "double, over five years, the federal funding to the NIH for suicide prevention research."

The Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry is encouraging followup to the resolution. They encourage congregations and individuals to contact members of the House of Representatives to ask them to introduce and/or support legislation funding additional suicide prevention research. For more information on the Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry, contact [jerryweyrauch@gmail.com](mailto:jerryweyrauch@gmail.com).

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## Transitions Pilot Project: Ending Well

### **Calling all BBCR's (Baby Boomers Considering Retirement):**

The Synod used to do Transitions Workshops through NRIT, and I had the good fortune of leading 3 of them with my husband Daniel. Following a successful pilot of the "Starting Strong" part of Transitions in a new format last spring, I am doing the same for those of you who are aiming at "Ending Well."

Using a group coaching and peer learning model, with some good research materials from the Alban Institute, I am offering a 4-session video conference pilot project for those of you who are planning to retire in the next year or two. While Portico leads us through the financial planning parts of retirement, there is so much more going on!

I had the good fortune of being coached all the way through my retirement planning, as I was receiving coach training from Auburn Seminary. It was helpful. Issues of timing, leave-taking tasks, boundaries, and celebrating are some of the meat and potatoes of "ending well." The wisdom and support of peers is an essential and valued part of the project.

We'll gather for 4 90-minute online sessions this fall, scheduled at the convenience of those who sign on. Group size is limited to 5. Two individual coaching sessions will be included as part of the pilot project. \$200 covers the group and individual sessions. CE funds can be used.

Please email or phone me if you have questions or would like to sign on. We can talk about it at the Bishop's Convocation as well.

Blessings and peace,  
Jean

Rev. Jean Larson, ACC (International Coach Federation)  
Leadership Coaching for People in Ministry

[www.jeanlarsoncoaching.com](http://www.jeanlarsoncoaching.com)

[jeanlarson@gmail.com](mailto:jeanlarson@gmail.com) 406-360-7058

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# Sabbath Center Retreat

## *Watchful Waiting:*

*Attending to the Holy Spirit Inside Us and in the World*

St. Thomas the Apostle Retreat Center  
Cody, Wyoming  
Cost: \$190

Presbytery of Wyoming

Speaker: Rev. Christopher Brown

Thursday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00pm  
- Saturday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> (Lunch)



Immanuel Lutheran  
— COMMUNITIES —



1957-2017

In 2017, Immanuel Lutheran Communities will reach a milestone of service to the elders in Montana.

You can help as we prepare to celebrate by sharing with us your memories and memorabilia from the past 60 years of history. Contact Ronalee in the Development Office if you have any questions.

*Your stories, photos, and memorabilia can be sent to:*

Immanuel Lutheran Communities  
Attn: Ronalee Skees  
185 Crestline Avenue  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
Email: [rskees@ilcorp.org](mailto:rskees@ilcorp.org)  
Phone: 406-752-9243

*We would be honored if you would share your memories with us.*

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## Dear Synod,

Your response to the socks and books has been fantastic. The ladies and I imagine the men are really enjoying socks without holes and socks that are warm.

The beggar is back though. As you may know I have had 7 baptisms. I have given the ladies a horseshoe nail cross, a candle and a prayer shawl to let them know to whom they belong, they are the light of Christ and that they belong to the body of Christ which surrounds them with love and prayer for their well-being. I have just about depleted the WELCA of First Lutheran supply of prayer shawls, so if any the churches in the Synod have some to spare we could use them. I have more baptisms coming. We are going to start making them ourselves, but still first need to learn to crochet and then start making them. We could also use yarn and J size hooks. Thanks so much for any assistance.

We will with the Spirit's help be forming support groups outside and will also be working on them.

Salaam/shalom

Pr. Chris Holler-Dinsmore  
Spirit of Life  
400 Garfield Street  
Wolf Point, MT 59201  
[choller-dinsmore@fpcc.edu](mailto:choller-dinsmore@fpcc.edu)  
406-650-1497

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



Benefit Services | A Ministry of the ELCA

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.

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## Save the Date!

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

[Click here for the pdf version of the poster](#)

[Click here for the Microsoft Publisher version](#)

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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.

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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## Christian Education Network: 6 Questions and a Cup of Coffee with Jon Bates

### 1. Can you describe your call to ministry?

My call to ministry began when I was a youth in my hometown congregation in Shoreview, Minnesota, attending youth group, Sunday School, and going on the annual mission trips. I also had some inkling of a call to ministry through the affirmations from people around me. I didn't fully or want to "commit" to the ministry until I had transferred to Augsburg College for the Youth and Family Ministry Degree after I bounced among four majors at a different college.



During my time at Augsburg I experienced the world in different ways. I spent two months in the typhoon-ravaged city, Tacloban, in the Philippines, I studied in El Salvador, and seized



opportunities by attending conferences around the nation. My goodness. Those experiences helped me realize that my soul feeds off of genuine learning, authentic community, and vulnerable relations all in the name of Jesus, not just for myself but also among those around me. As a college student I also served as the Congregational Life Intern at Lake Nokomis Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and then worked at my hometown church for a period of time.

Early this year after graduation I had this pesky and annoying desire to pursue an opportunity not in Minnesota and started applying for youth ministry jobs in ELCA churches around the nation. It was a long process that began in February and finished in June when I made a decision out of three amazing opportunities. After praying, talking, and more praying, the decision to move to Billings, Montana, as the Director of Youth, Family and Education Ministries at Atonement Lutheran Church was made!

## **2. What is the best part of your ministry now?**

The best part of my ministry has been the continuous learning that I have experienced as I began doing ministry in a full-time position. I would say that the largest learning curve that I'm easing off now is Confirmation. I have not experienced Confirmation since I was confirmed about a decade ago. Now I get this opportunity to help provide a culture and atmosphere for the confirmands and their small group leaders where they can get excited about the Bible, share their questions, and have community together. We're also going to Christikon Lutheran Bible Camp this month for the Confirmation retreat! There we will have worship, learn more together, and enjoy fellowship outside of our "ordinary."

## **3. What is one fact about you that would surprise people?**

I thoroughly enjoy the art of drawing and graphic design.

## **4. What are three things Christian Educators need to keep their eye on?**

1. SELF-CARE. SELF-CARE. SELF-CARE. Self-care is good and it is a blessing that we have so we can take care of our souls, our bodies, our relationships, and our own personal faith formation. With the season of chills and short days approaching us, self-care may even be more important. So, say no to another meeting this week. Say yes to meditating if that's your thing. Say no to staying another hour working in the office after a 9-hour day. Say yes to the things that keep you sane. I mean, Jesus took care of himself. So we should do the same.

2. Take advantage of social media and text messages! With the election happening in November, social media may be daunting. But I think now is the time to continue to be on social media to share those memes and quotes that stir your soul. Share the story of your ministry. Share the story of what the Spirit is doing in the midst of your community. Share ways for others to use their talents in the ministry. I saw a statistic online-so read this critically- that mentioned that 96% of texts are read within the first 5 minutes. So send out a text reminder or words of praise to those around you! There are also platforms that can help with that as well! (I use Flocknote)

3. Keep a box or container for the items and praises that you receive in the ministry. If it's a positive vocation- affirming text from a parent, colleague or youth, screenshot the text and print it out. If it's a drawing from a child, keep it and put it in the box. Sometimes we need those tangible reminders of why we choose a call in the ministry.

## **5. What are some of your favorite resources?**

Currently, my favorite faith formation resources have been the youth, their parents and volunteers of the congregation I'm working at. They are currently the most valuable and precious resources I have within reach that help me learn about this new community and even ministry in general.

Through the conversations with these people I have been able to continuously discover the different passions of the congregation. I can fine-tune the resources that I need so that I can help them live out and act on their passions with the tools that are needed. I use Facebook communities, Pinterest, scribbles of notes from school, and the occasional Google search.

I also have a strong preference for using the resources from Peer Ministry Leadership. From my understanding it's based on the claim of, "If youth aren't leading, they're leaving." Through my

experience in youth ministry I have seen how that claim is true for not just youth but for young adults as well. When voices, talents, and different lives are not celebrated, that community isn't as genuine as it can be. I believe this is what the church is based on – community. When the beautiful God-crafted souls that we all have are celebrated, lived out, and shared, that's when ministry becomes even stronger. Programs then will come second and relationships take priority. Seriously, Peer Ministry is a wonderful tool for congregations.

## **6. How can we pray for you?**

I moved to Montana from Minnesota in June and homesickness has the ability to get super real when I miss things in Minnesota such as family, friends, Super Target, Trader Joe's, Duck, Duck, Grey Duck, and especially Super Target. I really like Super Target. In all seriousness if y'all could pray for me to stay mentally present and aware in Montana, that would be great, and also to seek out family and friends with technology when I need to!

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## **The Summer of Glove is coming!**

### **Montana Synod House Build.**

Thank you for your interest in partnering with the synod on this project. By utilizing volunteer labor, we will be able to save upwards of 15% of the building costs. With congregations from across the state participating it will truly be "our house!"

Here is what the project will look like;

We will be working with the ELCA Mission Builders. They have worked on a number of projects in our synod including Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, Bethel Great Falls and Our Redeemers Helena. You can go to their [elcamissionbuilders.org](http://elcamissionbuilders.org) to find out more about them.

We will be seeking crews to start on June 6th and **expect to finish in early September.**

### **Make up of crews**

We will be looking for teams of 4 builders and 2 cooks to work each week. The build team will be working under the supervision of the Mission Builder manager and foreman. There will be four mission builders joining the project. The cook team will provide snacks for the crew. Note that safety is key on the jobsite so hardhats and the use of safety equipment will be required.

### **Work Week**

The work week will begin on Tuesday and end on Saturday. Mission builders works from 7:30am - 4:30 pm. with a morning break and devotions, lunch at noon and an afternoon break.

### **Housing**

It appears that it would be more cost effective for the volunteers to stay in hotels. RV's and campers could be utilized, the cost at KOA is \$65 per night. It would be great if the congregations of Great Falls could provide some housing for volunteers during the project.

### **Food**

Each team member will contribute to the food kitty. There will be 4 breakfast and dinner meals, 5 lunches as well as morning and afternoon snacks. The last evening is usually a celebration night where the teams go out together. The suggested contribution is \$40.

It would be helpful if once a week a congregation or congregation members could host a meal either in homes or at the church.

### **Equipment**

When you have registered we will provide you with a list of items you might bring with you.

### **Expertise**

Through all phases of the build we will be able to utilize the skill level of each member of your team. If there are specific skills needed that will be communicated once we have the building schedule.

### **Questions?**

Rev. Arne Bergland [arne@ourredeemerlives.org](mailto:arne@ourredeemerlives.org)

[Click here to download the full signup sheet!](#)

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:**

**The Luther 5** 

**October Newsbrief: Martin Luther's View of Creation**

How to think about and relate to the world around us has probably been a challenge since the earliest times of the human race. And probably also since the beginning, people have done that relating and thinking in markedly different ways.

Just think of some of the words we may use: nature... the natural world... ecosystem... creation... Each seems to refer to something of the same realities; but of course, each bears its own constellation of meanings. And think of the long (and sometimes very unhappy) history of how people of faith have engaged the realities behind the words. For example, it sometimes feels like it's a long way from Gerard Manly Hopkins's sonnet that begins, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God," to concerns about pollution, climate change, and ecological collapse. Yet people of faith might still find themselves wanting somehow to hold it all together as they find

themselves called into the ongoing conversation - and action - about these realities and concerns.

Our forebears in the faith still offer us some useful resources in the conversation, even though they may not have had words like "ecology" in their vocabulary. In this month's Reformation Newsbrief, Tonya Eza, who serves as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Powell, Wyoming (among other roles), briefly cites some elements of Martin Luther's thought that can help us continue to develop a useable and faithful frame of reference for our own thinking about and relating to the world around us. Check it out at the Montana Synod web site.

-Bob Quam

## **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 October 2016**

### **2017 Calendar!**

The calendar and sessions listing is on our website [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org). It's not too soon to start planning for next summer's trip to camp!

### **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!*



## 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 \(cell\)](#)

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## [News of the Week Archive](#)

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### Upcoming Events, etc.

**November**  
7-9 First Call



**Please put these important dates on your calendar:**

**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)

Join Our Mailing List!



