



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, November 9, 2016

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Prayers for November 13, 2016 Twenty-sixth week of Pentecost

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Prayers for Carole Dick, Zion Lutheran in Glendive, 2014 Spirit of Hope recipient, undergoing treatment for her third round cancer.

For the ELCA Consultation on Latin American companion synods, and for Pastors Stacey Siebrasse and Steve Schmidt representing the Montana Synod.

For the Candidacy Committee, meeting November 11 and 12, and the candidates they shepherd.

For the Hetzel Board, meeting November 14, and the ministry providing grants.

For the Great Falls Design Review Board meeting November 14, considering our Synod House design



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

First English Lutheran, Billings
Zion Lutheran, Roundup

Lower & Upper Susquehanna Synods

Words From the Bishop - *Promote Unity*

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord ordained his blessing, life forevermore.
(Psalm 133)

Election Day is over. And now we move on. No matter how we voted, no matter whether we felt we won or lost, we move on. We move on because that is what democracy is about—we move on.



In the Church, we have an opportunity and an obligation to begin the healing process in our communities, to be a beacon of light for those who are exhausted, embittered and feeling disenfranchised. Regardless of our political convictions, regardless of our strongly held opinions, what holds us together is stronger than what separates us. And as Christians we need to model that for the rest of the country. Read from Colossians 3:

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

We are joined together by our baptism. We are held together by the love of God in Christ Jesus, who gave his life for the sake of the world, the whole world. We are held together by the God who created each one of us in the divine image, and who loves each one of us despite our faults and flaws. We are held together by the Holy Spirit, who works to transcend our pettiness and self-interest. We are held together by being a forgiven, loved and redeemed people—all of us.

And so we move forward. Election Day is over, and we'll have services on Sunday. We'll preach and teach. We'll partake of the sacraments. And we'll do it in communities that have been divided by politics. And we will pray for unity, pray for wisdom, pray for strength. We will feed the hungry, and visit those in prison. And we will reach out to our neighbors. Because that's how we go on.

A Prayer for the Nation in the Book of Common Prayer goes this way:

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace; Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Jessica Crist, Bishop

2017 Salary Guidelines

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

New Education Material

Dear Friends in Christ,

It took me two years longer than I had planned, but I finally was able to launch my new website: www.faihtwellmt.com

It is filled with resources (free downloads and others to purchase) to help congregations strengthen families to nurture faith in the home, live well in Christ, and pass on the faith.

There are new resources like:

- Baptism Anniversary Cards for all ages
- Confirmation Cards
- Training Workshop for Adult Faith Mentors and Prayer Teams for Confirmation at home
- Resources for nurturing faith at home

And many, many more.

[Please check out the new website.](#) Email me if you have questions about products or services (Coaching, Workshops, Consultation)

Dr. Dick Hardel
 FaithWellMT
 79 Lewis Trail
 Columbus, MT 59019
www.faithwellmt.com

Dear Congregational Leaders,

Your Mission Support helps to fund ministries of the church that no one congregation can do alone. Through it, your congregation is part of all that our church does in Montana and northern Wyoming through the Montana Synod. In addition, the Montana Synod passes on 40% of what it receives to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for its work nationally and throughout the world. Thank you for your partnership in making all the ministries of our church possible!

Watch for the large envelope from the Montana Synod with the bright pink label on it. Discuss at your next Council meeting. Return your 2017 Mission Support Intent Form by February 1, 2017 in the self-addressed envelope.

For the coming year 2017 we will be emphasizing the fourth of our Montana Synod's Benchmarks: "Promote Unity". With God's help, we do this in our congregations and also in the ministries of the Montana Synod and the ELCA. In all the expressions of our church, we do God's work together! Thank you for your partnership in our shared ministries through your Mission Support!

Yours in Christ,
 Pastor George Karres
 Director for Evangelical Mission - Montana Synod



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.

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 letter to the Philippians with Dr. David Fredrickson.

Conference starts with supper Monday at 5pm and ends at noon on Wednesday. 11 Contact hours available.

For more information or to sign up: <http://www.montanasynod.org/nrit>

*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. 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.

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

jeanlarson@gmail.com 406-360-7058

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
Phone: 406-752-9243

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



Montana Synod Winter Youth Gathering 2017

When: February 10-12, 2017

Where: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Billings, MT.

Cost : \$50 (before January 13) (\$60 after January 13) Adult Leaders Free.

What: A youth Gathering for Jr. & Sr. High youth

Why: To Grow as Disciples of Jesus through togetherness, service, music and fun.

To register your group or for more information Contact Pastor Jason Asselstine at jasselstine@montanasynod.org #(406) 453-1461



For more information and to advertise in your congregation:

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

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



intermountain

Caring Solutions ■ Strong Families ■ Healthy Communities

Perhaps it is still a little early to be thinking of Christmas... BUT, we want to make sure to get these materials into your hands well in advance so you can be prepared for Advent and a special resource provided to us by Intermountain's chaplain, Chris Haughee.

Have you ever seen an Advent devotional based on Chrismons? What's a Chrismon, you say?! A Chrismon is a type of symbol. Chrismons, or "Christ Monograms" are all hung on a tree, the Chrismon Tree. The tree itself is also a symbol for the Christmas season, a reminder of the truths we celebrate as we recall Jesus' birth. Many churches use the Chrismon Tree as a way of reminding their congregations about the truths celebrated this coming holiday season. They were first used as a way to celebrate Advent by Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia!

Perhaps your congregation has a Chrismon Tree? It really is a wonderful way to celebrate Advent, and now it's a great way to connect with Intermountain's Residential Services and their chaplain, Chris Haughee, too.

Chaplain Chris has written an Advent devotional based on the Chrismon symbols, based on lessons he has used in chapel services at Intermountain. Intermountain would like to pass these on to the churches of the Montana Synod of the ELCA as a way of saying thank you for a wonderful year of mission together bringing healing through healthy relationships.

Click [HERE](#) to download a copy of the free resource for your church!

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 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

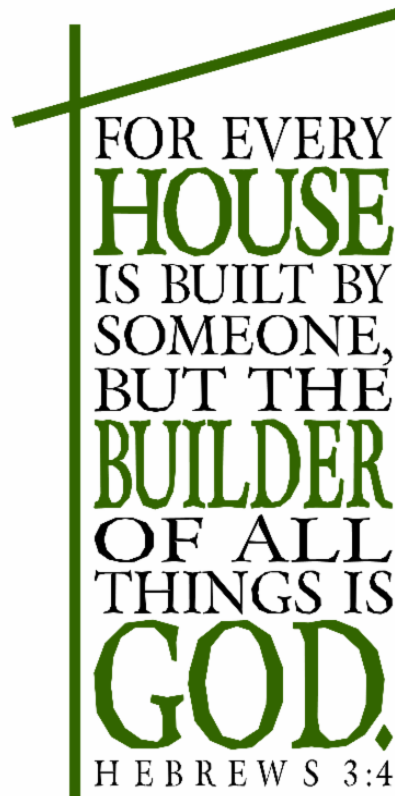
Through all phases of the build we will be able to utilize the skill level of each member of your

team. If there are specific skills needed that will be communicated once we have the building schedule.

Questions?

Rev. Arne Bergland arne@ourredeemerlives.org

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



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 

November Newsbrief: Luther and the Devil

Our society today has paradoxical views of the devil. On the one hand, we think that we are rational creatures who can explain away any Biblical references to the devil or demon

possession by referring to them as a guilty conscience, or physical or mental illness that people in previous centuries did not know how to properly diagnose, and therefore blamed on the devil. On the other hand, we like to scare ourselves with horror movies, and there are legitimately some things that happen in life that we simply can't explain away rationally. In this month's newsbrief, Paul Seastrand takes a look at what Luther thought about the devil. Contrary to the idea of the devil in a red suit with horns and a tail, Luther thought of the devil as a real spiritual presence that worked to tear people away from the true Gospel by using such tools as doubt and temptation. If you've ever had doubts about the baptismal questions which ask us to renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways, then this newsbrief is for you.

Rev. Tonya Eza
Hope Lutheran, Powell, WY

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 November 2016

2017 Calendar!

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

The Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday November 13th at Big Timber Lutheran Church beginning at 3:30pm.

Your appointed Delegates and Pastors will be hearing about this past summer and the plans for the 2017 season, cabin renovation, and much more.

Thank you to Big Timber Lutheran Church for hosting!

We look forward to seeing you all there!

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!



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.

January 13-15: Jr. & Sr. High Youth Ski Retreat

Come for an awesome time of food, fellowship, snow games, worship, skiing, and FUN! [CLICK HERE](#) for more information. 1 adult attends for free for every 10 youth!

[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.

November

11-12 Candidacy Committee



Please put these important dates on your calendar:

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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