



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week, November 16, 2016

In this issue

[Words from the Bishop](#)

[Statement from the ELCA Presiding Bishop](#)

[Attention: Congregations and Pastors in Transition](#)

[NRIT News](#)

[WELCA Newsletter](#)

[Transitions Pilot Project](#)

[2017 Youth Event](#)

[October Newsbrief](#)

[News of the Week Archive](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Amazon Smile](#)

Follow Us!



Prayers for November 20, 2016 Christ the King Sunday

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Gail Shatkus (wife of Pr. Len Shatkus), in hospice in Ohio.

For Pr. Rob Nedbalek's son, Trebor

For Kay Hanson (spouse of Pr. Paul), facing health issues.

For Kogodus Faith & Life in Prison retreat coming up this weekend, at the North Dakota State Penitentiary.



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

First American Lutheran, Hardin
Peace Lutheran, Billings

Delaware-Maryland Synod

Words From the Bishop - *Let's Build!*

Our new Synod House is becoming more real each week. The architects are fine-tuning the plans. Engineers are working on issues related to the site. Electrical engineers are planning the lighting, and mechanical engineers are working on the heating and cooling. We have had our first meeting with the city's Design Review Board, we've begun the conversations about sidewalks and bike racks. We have the support of all our neighbors, and have begun the negotiations for a conditional use permit for Mission Builder RVs on the site. We hope to begin putting down the concrete slab in early spring, as soon as the weather permits.

In the mean time, we continue to raise funds for the project. Jeanne McCoskery continues to work with congregations and individuals. Mcjeanne8@gmail.com.



And we are beginning the signup of volunteers to come to Great Falls next summer to help the Mission Builders build our new house. Starting June 6, and continuing through September 2, we are looking for groups of volunteers from congregations to sign up for 5 day stints-Tuesday through Saturday. We are asking each group to bring at least 4 construction volunteers and 2 cooks. Pastor Arne Bergland (arne@ourredeemerlives.org) and a group of volunteers from Our Redeemer's are coordinating the volunteer recruitment. You can find a signup sheet on our website (www.montanasynod.org) and also in this email. More information is there.

We are excited to have this be the people's house, created and built by members of the Montana Synod. We are so grateful to all the people who are stepping up and helping out any way they can.

I look forward to seeing you and working with you this summer!

Jessica Crist, Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Statement from ELCA Presiding Bishop Eaton on Standing Rock

When we come together for worship, we often begin with confession and forgiveness using these words: "We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." Lutherans acknowledge that this is a broken world and, as part of it, even our best wisdom and efforts fall short. Very often we face issues of extraordinary complexity in which all sides make reasoned arguments for their reality. The current situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota is just such a case.

The route of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) runs through contested land, which the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sees as their homeland and sacred places, including burial grounds. Proponents of the DAPL sees it as a combination of public and private property. The pipeline will run under Lake Oahe, the primary water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. What we see is the tension between two peoples trying to share one land. We can also see the tension between our dependence on fossil fuels and the commitment this church has made to care for creation.

This past August, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery. In it we pledged "to practice accompaniment with Native peoples." The doctrine declared that indigenous land was "unoccupied" as long as Christians were not present. Land deemed "unoccupied" was, therefore, "discovered," as if it had been previously unknown to humankind. This doctrine was used as justification for European monarchies, and later the U.S. government, to take land from Native people. Many of us in this church who are immigrants have benefitted from the injustices done to the original inhabitants of this land where we now live and worship. Our church also includes American Indian and Alaskan Native people, who have been on the receiving end of the injustices done. When we repudiated the doctrine of discovery, we Lutherans pledged to do better together in the future than we have in the past.

Acknowledging the complexity of this issue and the limitations sin places on human decisions, I

believe that we are called as a church to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: to stand with the Tribe as they seek justice, to encourage our congregations to pray for them and to offer material support, and to examine the racism inherent in our system that contributes to the current crisis. As promised in our resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery, we will listen to tribal leaders and respect their wisdom.

We will lend our presence when invited, our advocacy when requested, the resources of our people when asked, and our prayers, friendship and repentance at all times.

Your sister in Christ,



Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Attention: Congregations and Pastors in Transition

We have been informed that the ELCA portal for pastors' RLPs and congregations' MSPs will be unavailable December 15 through January 17.

That means that nobody will be able to post or download. Please be aware of this.

2017 Salary Guidelines

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



Concordia College Christmas Concert

The Concordia Christmas concert will be rebroadcast on Montana PBS stations this year!

Broadcast times are:
December 24th 8pm
December 25th 1pm

Concordia College of Minnesota re-imagines the Christmas message with new music embracing peace and reconciliation under the artistic leadership of composer and conductor Rene Clausen. This concert production marks the 125th Anniversary of the College's founding by Norwegian immigrants. 400 student musicians perform in front of an original mural measuring nearly 200 feet wide.

For more info [click here](#)

Any questions should be directed to Doug Brekke of Big Timber Lutheran. 406-932-5400

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.faithwellmt.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

The Progressive Clergy Network of Montana

The Progressive Clergy Network of Montana (PCNM) is a multi-denominational statewide network of clergy and faith leaders dedicated to the values of equality, justice, and supporting human rights in Montana. The mission of PCNM is to educate and advocate on behalf of progressive issues, as well as provide a support network for clergy in both urban and rural areas. PCNM welcomes faith leaders from all religious backgrounds, denominations, and locations within Montana to connect with each other, share resources, and work together towards creating a powerful faith-led voice in Montana's progressive movement.

Join Us for the Inaugural PCNM Retreat!

PCNM will workshop together, receive training in faith-based advocacy, and shape our mission, vision and voice. Furthermore, we will set our priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session.

Tuesday, December 6th from 10:00am-3:00pm St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Helena Please register for the retreat at:

<https://progressivedergynetworkmt.com/retreat-registration/>

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.

WELCA News

[Click here for the full fall newsletter](#)

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 —

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Annual Holiday Bazaar Friday, November 18th, 9am-3pm, Immanuel Skilled Care Center, 185 Crestline Ave., Kalispell, MT,
Hand-made crafts, books, jewelry and gift items.

Featuring home-made, Scandinavian lefse and cinnamon rolls. All proceeds benefit residents at Immanuel Lutheran Communities.



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

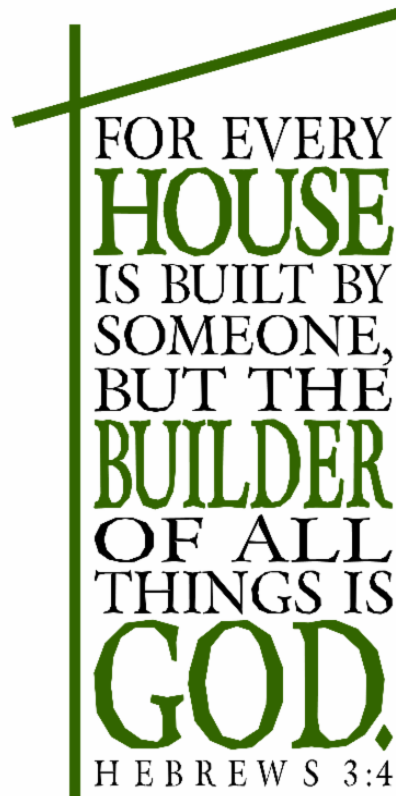
Through all phases of the build we will be able to utilize the skill level of each member of your

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](#)

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



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 \(cell\)](#)

Upcoming Events, etc.

February

10-12 Synod Youth Gathering



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

~~~~~  
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!](#)