



News of the Week September 22, 2021

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Rocky Mountain Synod



Words from the Synod Office: Future Tech

If you have ever played a game in the Civilization series, you are intimately familiar with the Tech Tree. A tech tree is a game device that allows the player to advance technologically over time. Researching advancements allows the player to grow in their abilities and once researched, each technology leads to further, branching possibilities.

Branching out and building on what we have learned fits well into our shared reality now in the church. Since the start of the Covid lock-downs, we have been making leaps and bounds in the area of online worship, however we have been advancing in fits and starts into the world of technology for decades!

Aside from websites, Facebook pages, and worship online, we are also starting to see just how technology can help in day to day ministry of the church. Adult Ed can be made accessible to many more members, and non-members, by adding a live online option; likewise, confirmation and youth groups can be connected despite travel or practice schedules! It is in this vein of thinking that we turn to how we, as church together, can augment our spaces into that of inclusivity and flexibility fitting our rapidly moving lives.



We in the Montana Synod are well equipped and enabled to make these changes! My position in the Synod office, Director of Technology and Communication, allows direct consultation for you and your congregation to talk through how to upgrade in a manner specifically designed for your individual congregation. With fall programs starting up and 2022 budgeting meetings on the horizon, I encourage you to plan and experiment with the concept of dedicated equipment in the church for hybrid learning and ministry. Identifying a space in your building where a [computer](#), [webcam](#), and monitor/TV can be set up for meetings can greatly improve everyone's experience, instead of trying to huddle around a hastily set up laptop that no one can see. Relatively cheap tech solutions can greatly ease scheduling meetings and enhance bible study and education for all.

Of course, our churches are not identical, all have different needs and resources, and there is no one size fits all solution, so please, always feel free to contact me via email or phone to talk about what works best for your congregation. Technology always advances whether we'd like it to or not, and while we need not constantly update every year, its important to help increase our understanding and comprehension so we're not left behind. For example, with Windows 11 officially releasing October 5th, Windows 10 expiration is now counting down and will lose support in 2025. While I suggest everyone wait a bit for the bugs to be worked out, if you are using a Windows PC, consider upgrading sometime next year, it sounds like a nice after Easter project...

The Montana Synod office is here to help you and your congregation with all of these changes and whatever tech challenges we may face in the future. The ministry of the Lutheran church started out using the printing press, the most advanced communications technology available at the time. Now it is our turn to build on that tradition, branching out in new ways, building on all that we have accomplished, and discovering new ways to be church together.

Blessings to you in your emerging and adapting ministries,

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Chico Pastoral Conference Cancellation

Dearest Colleagues,

We are sorry to say that, for the third time, the Pastoral Retreat at Chico for the first week of November has been postponed. Due to the current surges within the state's hospitals, we do not feel it is appropriate to come together at this time.

We do plan to pursue a retreat at Chico the week after Easter next year, however we are currently striving to learn how to live with Covid.

Dearest regards to you all and God's peace upon you,

Chico Leadership Planning Board

Bishops Convocation Information

The Bishops convocation will be held online, November 3rd and 4th, from 9:30 to noon both days. More information to come.

Reminder to all rostered leaders, attendance at the Bishops Convocation is required.

The Synod Staff will not be traveling, except in the case of emergencies, in the month of September due to the rising numbers of Covid cases. We will also not be holding any events in the Synod office during this time.

Also, masks are required in the Synod office and we ask that if you plan to come into the building for longer than a drop off, that you are vaccinated.

The Synod Office will be staffed, so please always feel free to contact us by phone or email.

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