



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements November 15, 2021

To Rostered Leaders, LPAs, Youth Leaders, Congregational Council members:

The ELCA is offering a “Vital Congregations Reboot Camp” for pastors and lay leaders in congregations for four sessions over 6 weeks beginning on Jan. 13th. Please take a look at [this powerpoint link](#) for information and details about this opportunity to rethink and reboot your ministry in your setting and for information about the event. The same sessions will be offered at two different times on each of the days. Click on the link below to register you/your congregation.

[Vital Congregations Training for Leaders Spring Session. Jan 13 & 27. Feb 3 & 17, 2022. \(google.com\)](#)

If you register, please make sure to include a team of people to participate. Be thinking of people who are curious about how to be church in this time!

If you are curious about this event but are not able to attend, please be aware that churchwide will be offering a similar event later in 2022. Also, I will be offering a shortened version of this event through NRIT in the spring of 2022.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

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2022 Mission Support



As you begin the conversation to prepare your congregation's 2022 budget, Bishop Jungling, members of the Stewardship Task Force, others in the Synod, and DEM Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, have prepared these materials to assist you.

Please share the videos and the documents that have been prepared with your church council and the congregation to share the story that Mission Support makes a difference. (Mission Support is the amount that your congregation gives away to support the work that the whole church is involved in, as well as the ministries in the Montana Synod that are supported from the Synod's budget.)

[Click here to access all the 2022 Mission Support Material!](#)



Intermountain provides the Montana Synod-ELCA with FREE Advent materials as a thank you for partnering in mission!

"The Synod and its churches have been amazing supporters in ministry together, and we hope that these materials will be a blessing to pastors and children's volunteers," said Rev. Chris Haughee, Church Relations Director for Intermountain. This article will explain just what those materials are and how you can download them for free.

"Our Watchful Waiting" is Intermountain Ministry's first comprehensive Advent curriculum that will

connect the congregation's children to the lectionary readings that are part of the traditional Advent observance, as well as suggestions for how everyone can get in on the fun!

You can read a little about the materials below, or jump right in and download your free materials [HERE](#):

[Our Watchful Waiting - Advent Curriculum with CFC 2021](#)

Here's an overview of the curriculum, explaining what Rev. Chris and Rev. Sami Pack-Toner, chaplain, have prepared for each of the four weeks of Advent and Christmas Eve:

The **worship/liturgical element** is mentioned first, before the lesson, suggesting ways to tie worship and education together for the children.^[1] If you want to simply make these a part of your classroom or children's education department, that is also an option! The curriculum has easy and fun ideas for setting the mood and engaging young people's imaginations.

The **object lesson** leads each week, letting you know the object you need to gather and a suggested script for presenting the lesson to the children. This lesson time concludes with prayer.

Next is a **game** or activity which builds on the theme introduced in the object lesson.

This is followed by a **song**... an Advent standard, "[Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus.](#)" One verse is introduced each week, both the original words as well as some more kid-friendly and lectionary-themed words Rev. Chris wrote. If you are using the Candle Lighting Liturgy, you'll find another point of connection here for the children and their families!

After the song, a **snack**... also connected to the day's theme and with suggestions for continuing the conversation on the lesson through this relaxed time together.

Finally, a **craft**... again, related to the theme for that Sunday and not too complicated or involved so getting supplies won't break the budget!

For those congregations that would like to participate, there is a tie-in to Intermountain's [Change for Children](#) program, which involves getting collection cans to send home with families to gather loose change throughout the season. ***We hope you will consider participating and sharing the mission of Intermountain with your children and families this Advent.*** It is a great way to reinforce the values of charity and compassion during a season where the world will be encouraging your children to be thinking primarily about themselves and what they want for Christmas. Intermountain will provide **cans and prayer cards**, as well as a "[Coordinator's Instruction Sheet,](#)" should you choose to bless the children of Intermountain by participating in Change for Children. Let them know and they will be happy to send these out to you!

You can contact the team at Intermountain by phone: 406-457-4804 or through contacting Teresa Meyer at teresam@intermountain.org!

[1] Also available from Intermountain are **Candle Lighting Liturgies for Advent** that further make this connection between the children's experience and worship, and if you want those, just click this link: [Candle Lighting Liturgies for Worship Advent 2021](#)

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