



News of the Week December 8, 2021

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For the people of Denton and Great Falls who were impacted by terrible wildfires and the destruction they brought last week.

For Annela Rova, who will be ordained this Saturday at Trinity Lutheran in Choteau, MT where she will begin her ministry!



From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

First English Lutheran Church, Billings
Shields River Lutheran Church, Wilsall

Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod

Thank you First Call Pastors for a wonderful event!





This week, we were excited to welcome the Montana Synod First Call pastors to the Synod house for a time of education, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. We also got to meet the future pastors of the ELCA who came with their pastor parents!

Thank you to all who attended and presented, especially to our ministry partners Andrea Arey (Portico), Janice Kibler (MIF), and Beth Adams (ELCA Foundation)!

Disaster Response

Dear Friends of the Montana Synod,

Some of you have reached out in generosity wondering how you might assist the people of Denton and Great Falls after the destructive fires last week. Thank you for your willingness to help your neighbor in need!

The Montana Synod has a Disaster Relief Fund set up to assist congregations and communities after a disaster such as a fire. And we have a coordinator, Dick Deschamps, who connects us with the other disaster relief personnel on the ground so that we can best help meet unmet needs that are not offered by other organizations or resources. We have already begun that communication with the proper persons in those communities to discover how we can helpfully respond to the recovery effort of the fires at both Denton and in Great Falls. But because the recovery is still in the beginning stages, we are still in learning mode.

If individuals or congregations would like support these communities or others in the MT Synod during their time of need after a disaster, including the Denton and Great Falls fires, please encourage them to **send a donation to the MT Synod disaster relief fund for our use in responding to this disaster and others. That can happen through the website by clicking the [GIVE](#) link at the bottom of the home page or by sending a check to the synod office (no cash please). Just indicate that it should go to the Lutheran Disaster Response and it will be used for those purposes.**

Also, if your community ever experiences a disaster such as a fire, these funds are available for you and your congregation to use to help support people with unmet needs. While this fund is not bursting with money, we can offer some assistance. Please contact Bishop Laurie, Dick Deschamps or the Synod Office for more information on how to receive some funding assistance

after a disaster.

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Synod Council Update

“It is with sadness that I announce the resignation of the Montana Synod treasurer Sue Ost who has served this synod faithfully and with great care in this position for over six years. Sue has decided that it is time for her to devote her energy to other things in her life, especially her grandchildren. Thank you, Sue, for all that you have given to the Montana Synod and the wider church. Your time, talents, gifts and skills have been greatly appreciated and we will miss you and your wisdom even as we send you forth with God’s blessings.

At the same time, it is with excitement and gratitude that I announce the appointment of Dave Scholten, LPA as the interim treasurer of the Montana Synod. Dave is a member of Bethel Lutheran in Great Falls and has many years of experience in financial work and services. He will serve until June 2022 when the Synod Assembly will elect a new treasurer. A more thorough introduction to Dave will be coming in an upcoming Synod newsletter. Thank you, Dave, for your willingness to take on this important role in service to Christ’s Church.”

Save the Date for Synod Assembly!

The theme of the assembly will be:

"Equipping for the Gospel"

The Synod Assembly will be held June 3-4 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center. We will begin the morning of the 3rd and end late afternoon on the 4th. More details to come in the new year.

Invitation to Vital Congregations Training for Leaders

Is your congregation ready to take some steps (even small steps) toward renewal or revitalization? Are you ready to try some new things, share some ideas, gain a greater understanding of the broader mission, bring clarity about your own congregation’s mission, acquire knowledge on how to live that out in community, gain confidence to share what you have learned with the world, and find new allies from

within a cohort of congregations? Then, you are invited to attend the 2022 Spring Session of the ELCA Vital Congregations Re-BOOT Camp.

This is a fast paced co-creative and co-experimental RE-BOOT CAMP facilitated by leaders with steep experience in redeveloping congregations as well as added guest presenters from a variety of settings with a wealth of knowledge. These principles and more will be explored: focusing on Jesus and justice, being expectant of the Holy Spirit, living as disciples of Jesus, multiplying leaders who are young, diverse and bring fresh insights, and aligning with purpose and core values.

This will be a four-session training. The training sessions will be held two times per day from 1:30-3:00 p.m. (eastern time) and from 7:30-9:00 p.m. (eastern time) on January 13th, January 27th, February 3rd and February 17th. You may choose the best time each day that works for you. All sessions will be recorded and available to all registered participants. Pastors and congregations are encouraged to come as teams of 3-5 people for a time of inspiration, learning, planning, sharing, experimenting, visioning, and implementing. *NOTE: This training is for people who did NOT attend the Vital Congregations Re-BOOT Camp in 2021.*

For more information please contact your synod's DEM (Director for Evangelical Mission), or contact Neil Bullock at Neil.Bullock@elca.org (773) 380-2884 or Rev. Anna-Kari Johnson (773) 990-0814 Anna-Kari.Johnson@elca.org

All courses will be coordinated by DEM Rev Nancy Nyland, and team in partnership with the ELCA Christian Community and Leadership Congregational Vitality Team.

With our thanks and prayers for you all in Jesus Christ, Beautiful Savior,

Anna-Kari

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[Click here to download the Vital Congregations PowerPoint](#)

The Montana Synod Staff will be providing a recorded sermon following the lectionary for any interested, especially those congregations currently without a pastor. Check the Synod website every Friday or the Vimeo playlist [here](#). These will be provided every week now through the end of the year.

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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