**Assembly Workshops**

Saturday June 1, 2019 All workshops are at the Heritage Inn, unless Bethel is specified.

Session A (10:20 a.m.)

**Title Location Presenters**

**Understanding Trauma Across the Life Span American Room Jim FitzGerald, CEO Intermountain**

This workshop will focus on how adverse childhood experiences, crisis and traumatic situations affect not only child development but also physical health and the importance of healthy relationships in the healing process.

**Confirmation @ Home Britain Room Rev. Dick Hardel**

Confirmation @ Home connects faith formation and pastoral care and moves from a cerebral learning to an experiential learning of the heart, connecting parent and students learning together and practicing the faith in their homes. The congregation’s role is to strengthen the family to nurture faith, live well in Christ, and pass on the faith. Included also is training for an adult faith mentor and prayer team for each family.

**They are US! Extending Lutheran Welcome in Canadian Room Wilmot Collins**

**Times of Great Challenges.**

In a time of heightened anti-refugee, anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim sentiments, it is more critical than ever that people of faith continue to speak out boldly for welcoming refugees, compassionate policy towards undocumented immigrants and religious tolerance. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service empowers the Church to answer Christ’s call to welcome the stranger. This workshop highlights the evolution of this ministry over its first 80 years and challenges participants to consider how to respond to current needs of refugees and migrants.

**Funding Ministries in the Future Lewis Room Beth Adams, ELCA Foundation**

Let’s boldly talk Money and Ministry, and the means—and much needed transparency—to encourage gifts above and beyond the offering plate. We will talk about Gift Policies, Memorial Funds, and estate planning.

**Path to Wellness & Wholeness Clark Room Ingrid Roeder & Rev. Kris Mitzman**

This Path to Wellness & Wholeness workshop is a fun and unique approach to living well. Here in this workshop we will encourage you in ways to enhance your faith walk as well as the members of your congregation, in order to be more effective, intentional, and healthy leaders in the church, the community, and the world.

**Recommended Proposed Social Statement Missouri Room Trudi Schmidt & Gloria Lannen**

 **Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action**

The recommended proposed social statement on Faith, Sexism and Justice will be voted on at the August 2019 Churchwide Assembly. This workshop’s goal is to present information on what a social statement is, the process that is used and what this proposed social statement is about.

**Community Organizing Within your Congregation Room 200 Rev. Stacey Siebrasse & Rev. Jayson Nicholson**

Community organizing provides a framework and tools for strengthening leaders within congregations. Its methods will also assist your congregation in working alongside other communities of faith to enact social change within your local context. This workshop will answer why community organizing is effective, what it could look like within your congregation, and how it can be practiced using new skills acquired for analyzing power and fostering relationships built on trust.

**Native Voices from the Fort Peck Reservation Bethel Fellowship Hall Rev. Chris Holler-Dinsmore**

We will have a chance for a Zoom Meeting with members of the Fort Peck Reservation. We will have a chance to hear from members of Spirit of Life and others. There will be time to ask questions and converse with people. We will start with some prepared questions for the Fort Peck voices to answer and move on to discuss issues and questions from both sides of the Zoom cyber-space. Questions and concerns will range from bison, water and pipelines, drug issues, education etc.

**Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Bethel Sanctuary Bishop Motsamai Manong &**

**Church in South Africa: A Conversation Pastor Adam Tlaisego Khunou**

Bishop Manong and Pastor Khunou will share information about the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa and the joys and challenges in the church today. Through photos and sharing you will leave with a deeper sense of the church in South Africa and the joy of the companion relationship with these men.

Session B ( 3:00 p.m.)

**Title Location Presenters**

**Peace in the Parish Clark Room John Mundinger**

This workshop is intended to help members anticipate disagreements within the congregation and to address conflict in a constructive manner.

**Ministry with Young Adults in Changing Times: American Room Rev. John Lund & Rev. Kathleen Larson Aasheim**

**Survey results, stories and reflection.**

Pastors Aasheim and Lund will share condensed results from our national Lutheran Campus Ministry survey of over 800 students, give reflections from their own campus ministry experiences, and share ideas and possibilities of how to connect with emerging young adults in our current context.

**That it May Be Well with You Britain Room Rev. Dick Hardel**

Modern research shows that active lay volunteers, clergy, deacons, and LPAs are so busy that they forget or sacrifice taking care of themselves. Wellness is not the lack of illness. Wellness is to live with God centered in each area of wellbeing: Intellectual; Social/Relational; Emotional; Spiritual; Financial; Environmental; Physical; Occupational/Vocational. No matter what surrounds us, we can live well in Christ.

**Practical Stewardship Help: Canadian Room Montana Synod Stewardship Task Force**

**Tools and resources for congregations.**

Members of the Stewardship Task Force for the Montana Synod will share stewardship ideas, suggestions and resources for use in large and small congregations. Pastors and lay leaders will leave with practical and useful ideas for helping their own congregation respond to God’s grace and love faithfully and generously

**Lenten Evening Prayer Lewis Room Rev. Seth Nelson**

Rev. Seth Nelson has composed, written, and arranged a new evening prayer service entitled “Lenten Evening Prayer”. It is an evening prayer service to be used specifically throughout the season of Lent. Focusing on themes of the Israelites’ years in the desert and Jesus’ experience of being tested in the wilderness, the service leads worshippers in prayerful contemplation of what it means to wander in the wilderness with God. Workshop participants will learn this evening prayer service so that they can use it in their home congregations.

**Wittenberg, Germany, 2019: Luther with 17 non-US Pastors Room 200 Rev. Gretchen Wagner**

“In March, 2019, I was invited to participate in a seminar reading Luther and touring sites with pastors from around the world. It was a once in a lifetime experience and I would like to share it with you. We will visit Wittenberg, Leipzig, Torgau and villages with small churches like ours.”

**Toward a More Creative Prayer Life Missouri Room Rev. Julia Seymour**

Whether your prayer life needs a tune up or a jump start, this workshop offers a chance to think about talking with and listening to God is new and different ways. This workshop is suitable for all ages and levels of prayer experience. The time will be spent discussing prayer and its purpose, trying a new way of praying, and reflecting on the experience.

**Here we stand: How Lutherans can respond Bethel Sanctuary Rev. Eric Huseth & Abby Huseth**

**To Climate Change in Montana**

We’ve heard it before: “We can’t change the weather”, “It’s a waste of time to save the polar bears, “ or “Climate change is a hoax.” The truth of the matter is climate change is already here and is bringing unprecedented challenges to the everyday lives of our Montana communities. How can our congregations respond to such a seemingly overwhelming issue within a very polarized context? As Lutherans, we bring a unique and powerful voice that can make a difference. Climate change brings to the church an opportunity for the engagement of young people, empowerment of local communities, the building of bridges between the urban/rural divide, and a renewal of Christ’s mission.

**Drucker’s Five Most Important Questions Bethel Fellowship Rev. Kapp and Bonnie Johnson**

**you can Ask Your Church**

The heart of leadership is asking the right questions. Peter Drucker’s five essential questions will challenge church leaders to take a close look at the very heart of their congregation and what drives them. A tool for self-assessment and transformation, answering these five questions will fundamentally change the way you minister, helping you lead your congregation to an exceptional level of ministry.

**Workshop Leaders**

**Rev. Kathie Larson Aasheim (Ministry with Young Adults in Changing Times)** Pastor Aasheim is Campus Pastor at Montana State University in Bozeman. In the summer she runs at concession at Granite Park Chalet in Glacier National Park. **(Session B)**

**Beth Adams (Funding Ministries into the Future)** Beth Adams is a Charitable Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation, helping congregations and members with Endowment fund planning and guidance, education on wills, estate planning and charitable gift planning. “As a veteran Gift Planner for the Foundation, I bring expertise accumulated over the years. As a professional in the gift planning field, I have assisted generous people in creating their plans that benefit beloved ministries as well as heirs. For every 2 households with whom I meet, an average of $150,000 is left to ministry” **(Session A)**

**Wilmot Collins (They are US! Extending Lutheran Welcome)** Wilmot Collins was born and raised in Liberia, West Africa. Wilmot and his wife fled Liberia in 1990 due to Liberia’s bloody civil war, and were refugees in the Republic of Ghana. Wilmot entered the US as a refugee in February 1994 after two years and 7 months of separation from his family. He holds a MS in Human Resources Management and completed PhD coursework in Forensic Psychology. Wilmot is a former LIRS Board member and 2013 alumnus of LIRS’ Migrant and Refugee Leadership Academy. In 2017 he was elected Mayor of Helena, MT. **(Session A)**

**Jim Fitzgerald (Understanding Trauma Across the Life Span)** Jim Fitzgerald is CEO of Intermountain. He is a dedicated leader in youth advocacy, and has played a vital role in the state and national forum of child welfare, mental health and public policy. Throughout his career of 40 years he has focused the agency upon strengthening families and improving society’s ability to provide prevention, protection, treatment, and permanency for all vulnerable youth. He is also the CEO of ChildWise Institute, a Montana not-for-profit 501c(3) established by Intermountain. Jim holds a BS in Psychology from the university of California, and an MPA and an MSW from the University of Montana. **(Session A)**

**Rev. Dick Hardel (Confirmation@Home; That it May be Well with You)** Dick Hardel has served for 49 years as a parish pastor, assistant to the Bishop (Nebraska Synod), and Executive Director of the Youth and Family Institute. He continues to create faith formation resources for the home as the sole proprietor of FaithWellMT, connecting faith formation with living well in Christ. **(Sessions A and B)**

**Rev. Christine Holler-Dinsmore (Native Voices from the Fort Peck Reservation)** Christine Holler-Dinsmore has lived and worked on the Fort Peck Reservation for about 30 years. She has worked at the Community Tribal College for close to 20 years as a science instructor and Pre-Health and Pre-nursing advisor, directed research on stress reduction among American Indians using Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction, and as a chaplain at the Fort Peck Tribal Adult Correctional Facility for the past 3 years, where she is Pastor of Spirit of Life. **(Session A)**

**Abby Huseth (Here we stand: How Lutherans can respond to Climate Change in Montana)** Abby Huseth graduated with a Masters degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana. She currently works for Climate Smart Missoula, a nonprofit that assists the city of Missoula in strategizing and realizing its climate change commitments. She serves on the board for the Montana Faith and Climate Coalition, a statewide network of churches and people of faith working to bring about a more sustainable future. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Eric Huseth (Here we stand: How Lutherans can respond to Climate Change in Montana)** Eric Huseth has served Our Savior’s in Bonner since 2015. He has been active in the Montana Faith and Climate Change Coalition, a local interfaith group working to advocate for sustainable change in Missoula and Montana. **(Session B)**

**Bonnie Johnson (Drucker’s Five Most Important Questions you can ask your Church)** Bonnie Johnson has twenty-five years of executive leadership across a wide spectrum of organizations, and has studies with Peter Drucker at Claremont Graduate University. She taught Strategic Management at California Lutheran with Kapp Johnson. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Kapp Johnson (Drucker’s Five Most Important Questions you can ask your Church)** Kapp Johnson celebrated 22 years of parish ministry in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles, and concluded his ministry at California Lutheran teaching Business Ethics and Business Law to undergraduate and graduate students. With Bonnie, he taught Strategic Management. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Adam Tlaisego Khunou (Cape Orange Diocese of the ELCIC: A Conversation)** Adam Khunou was Dean of the Western Cape Circuit (in Kimberly, South Africa) prior to service as the Executive Secretary in the Cape Orange Diocese. He grew up in Rustenberg, in the Northern Cape. He and his wife have one daughter. **(Session A)**

**Gloria Lannen (Social Statement on Faith Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action).**  Gloria Lannen is an LPA and a Process Builder for Social Statements. She has long been active in the Montana Synod Women’s organization, in her congregation, in the cluster, and as synodical President. She was a CASA/GAL Volunteer for 4 years. She travelled to Bolivia with a group of women from the Montana Synod, to visit our companion Synod. **(Session A)**

**Bishop Motsami Manong (Cape Orange Diocese of the ELCIS: A Conversation)** Bishop Manong has been Bishop in the Cape Orange Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa since 2016. He previously served as the Executive Secretary in the Cape Orange Diocese. **(Session A)**

**Rev. Kris Mitzman (Path to Wellnes & Wholeness)** Kris Mitzman has been Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Billings since 2012, being called after a one-year interim. She worked in interim ministry following her graduation from LSTC in 2009. 25-year career educator, she is involved in volunteer work with a Billing exchange Club, the Montana Rescue Mission, and served on the Board of Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry. She has a long history with music organizations in Billings, and spent a few decades as a church choir director. She and Skip have been married 28 years. **(Session A)**

**John Mundinger (Peace in the Congregation**) John Mundinger is a former FWP employee. During his tenure, he enrolled in several continuing education classes that emphasized management and conflict resolution. As a private consultant, he worked with the Montana Consensus Council on several difficult natural resource management issues. He also provided strategic planning services for several agencies. John is a Montana Synod LPA, and serves on the Candidacy Committee. He has served on the Consultation Team, and on the Montana Synod Council, where he assister the Council in developing a strategic plan. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Seth Nelson (Lenten Evening Prayer)** Seth Nelson is the Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Ronan, Montana. He lives and serves there with his wife, Jennifer, and children, Otto and Freja. He loves music, snowboarding, running, hiking and golfing. He is also the author of the book, The Church Unknown: Reflections of a Millennial Pastor. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Jayson Nicholson (Community Organizing within your Congregation)**  Jayson Nicholson is Pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Laurel, Montana, and is in the process of becoming a Naval Reserve Chaplain. He has been involved with groups using community organizing in California and western Montana, and most recently, Laurel. An example is a community garden in Laurel. **(Session A)**

**Ingrid Roeder (Path to Wellness & Wholeness)**  Ingrid Roeder is Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kalispell, and the Montana Synod Wellness Coordinator. She has an AA in Health and Fitness and a BFA (studio drawing) and an MA from LSTC. She has been a personal trainer, and fitness instructor at the U of Chicago, and in Maine Nantucket and Washington. **(Session A)**

**Trudi Schmidt (Social Statement on Faith, Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action)** Trudi Schmidt is a Process Builder for the social statement. She served for 16 years in the Montana Legislature, and currently serves on the Church Council at New Hope, and on the Intermountain Board on behalf of the Montana Synod. She was a Voting Member at the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. **(Session A)**

**Rev. Julia Seymour (Toward a more Creative Prayer Life)** Julia Seymour serves Big Timber Lutheran Church, having recently moved from Alaska. God keeps an ongoing conversation with her (and the rest of creation) and Pastor Julia enjoys expressing her side of the chat in many different ways. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Stacey Siebrasse (Community Organizing Within Your Congregation)** Stacey Siebrasse is a community organizer for the Missoula Interfaith Collaborative. She believes the principles of organizing can help transform congregations, as social narratives continue to shift within our contexts and the American culture. She is a member of the Bolivia Companion Synod team. **(Session A)**

**Stewardship Task Force (Practical Stewardship Help: Tolls and Resources for Congregations)** Members of the Stewardship Task Force –Pastor Scott Thompson from Bethlehem in Kalispell, Pastor Phil Wold from Trinity in Sheridan, and Pastor Tim Tostengard from American Lutheran in Billings—represent congregations that have been faithful and generous givers to the Montana Synod and the wider church over many years. DEM Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, will join them in leading the workshop. **(Session B)**

**Rev. Gretchen Wagner (Wittenberg, Germany, 2019: Luther with 17 non-US Pastors)** Gretchen Wagner is a pastor in northeast Montana, serving Culbertson and Bainville. A transplant, she was raised in Oregon and lived in Seattle until 5 years ago. “I jumped at the chance to go to Germany. It is the country of 50% of my origin, and I was excited to see a new-to-me part of it. I am always looking forward to meeting Lutheran pastors from other places.” **(Session B)**