

Assembly Workshops – Friday, June 3, 2022

Round 1 (3:00 – 3:50 p.m.)

Title	Location	Presenters
The Racial Justice Task Force: Plans and Prep for Moving Forward Join members of the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) to learn about the work they've done so far and what they hope to do moving forward. Learn how to get involved and become an active promoter of racial justice within your community.	Parlor 1001	Rev. Stacey Heggem Rev. Melanie Martin-Dent
Top 10 Things to know about Revelation This is a quick preview of "Reading Revelation without Fear," a class Pr. Julia offers to debunk the mystery and untruths about the book of Revelation.	Parlor 1009	Rev. Julia Seymour
Listening Event: ELCA Social Statement Development The ELCA is engaged in a multi-year process of developing a social statement on Church, State and Civic Participation. The completed social statement will have many uses, including a resource to stimulate responsible and caring discussion, and to think more deeply about the relationship of the church, its members, and public life. This development process is being led by a task force made up of ELCA members from across the country. One of their most important roles is to listen to public feedback. At this early stage in the social statement process, that takes the form of Listening Events. The objective of Listening Events is to hear what topics people think the social statement should cover and their other hopes for the statement. Listening Events are an opportunity for people to share what's important to them, rather than a debate or even a discussion. The task force will read all the notes taken at the event and consider them as it begins to study and prepare a social statement. The more Listening Events, the fuller the picture the task force will receive about how ELCA members are thinking. For more information, please go to www.elca.org/civicsandfaith . If you have feedback you would like to give to the task force and can't attend a listening event, please email your thoughts to civicsandfaith@elca.org .	Parlor 1010	Dr. Kyle Pasewark Facilitating
Introduction to the Office of Faith and Community Based Services at DPHHS The Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) has launched a new office, Faith and Community Based Services, bringing faith and community organizations alongside Department efforts to coordinate supports for children and families at the local level. This workshop will introduce participants to the new Office of Faith and Community Based Services at DPHHS to support healthy families and safe communities across Montana.	Parlor 1018	Ms. Tracy Moseman
Legacy Gifts: Are you Inviting Congregants to Plan? You don't need to be a professional gift planner to invite and encourage your folks to remember your ministry in their estate plans. But knowing a gift planner, and knowing when to ask for her help, is critical. Attend this workshop to hear helpful hints on encouraging future generosity! And then we'll talk about the importance of a Gift Acceptance Policy. Because what are you going to do with that beautiful gift when you receive it?!	Parlor 1019	Ms. Beth Adams
Let's Talk About Money: from Scarcity to Abundance The Stewardship Task Force will share resources about stewardship and generosity for congregations as well as individuals/families. Come learn about the Fed By Ravens pilot project from participants and about the relational nature of fundraising. Come hear about the need to get real about money in congregations. Resources and encouragement will be provided. There will be time for questions, too.	Parlor 1030	Stewardship Task Force
Freedom in Christ Ministry: Walk with Me. "So strengthen one another, and build each other up." 1 Thes 5:11 Guest speaker shares his story about Freedom in Christ and how it helped him while incarcerated at Montana State Prison. A discussion about possible expansion of the ministry to the Women's Prison in Billings and inviting people to join in the conversation and sign up for the task force. A storyteller talks about Philemon. A brief Bible study by Pr. Rob Nedbalek. A brief discussion about changes to Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry.	Parlor 1031	Rev. Kris Mitzman, Pr. Rob Nedbalek, Ms. Bea Rosenleaf

Round 2 (4:00 – 4:50 p.m.)

Title	Location	Presenters
The Care for Creation Task Force: Here Comes the Sun!! Churches and Solar Energy Ever wonder if your church could go solar? Come and hear about several churches and organizations in Montana who have already taken the solar plunge and aren't paying an electric bill as well as helping to care for our Montana landscapes.	Parlor 1001	Rev. Eric Huseth
How Lutherans Read the Bible This is a quick glimpse at some of the ways we, as Lutherans, read and engage with the written word of God.	Parlor 1009	Rev. Julia Seymour
Listening Event: ELCA Social Statement Development The ELCA is engaged in a multi-year process of developing a social statement on Church, State and Civic Participation. The completed social statement will have many uses, including a resource to stimulate responsible and caring discussion, and to think more deeply about the relationship of the church, its members, and public life. This development process is being led by a task force made up of ELCA members from across the country. One of their most important roles is to listen to public feedback. At this early stage in the social statement process, that takes the form of Listening Events. The objective of Listening Events is to hear what topics people think the social statement should cover and their other hopes for the statement. Listening Events are an opportunity for people to share what's important to them, rather than a debate or even a discussion. The task force will read all the notes taken at the event and consider them as it begins to study and prepare a social statement. The more Listening Events, the fuller the picture the task force will receive about how ELCA members are thinking. For more information, please go to www.elca.org/civicsandfaith . If you have feedback you would like to give to the task force and can't attend a listening event, please email your thoughts to civicsandfaith@elca.org .	Parlor 1010	Dr. Kyle Pasewark Facilitating
Beyond Administration: Congregational Leadership-Equipping the Body of Christ Serving on Church Council is not always glorious. However, when we understand that it is the role of the Council to equip people for the work of the Gospel, it becomes more meaningful and important. Together we will look at Council leadership and reimagine ways to reframe this vital ministry of the Church.	Parlor 1018	Rev. Jason Asselstine
History of Indian Boarding Schools in the United States and Canada This workshop will offer some basic cultural sensitivity training as well as share a closer look at important stories of Indigenous experiences of boarding schools in the US and Canada that will open our eyes beyond what we learned from our high school history books. Also presented will be a brief history of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, now 102 years on the Rocky Boy reservation and some of the exciting things that are happening with this ministry.	Parlor 1019	Ms. Loni Taylor Ms. Lisa Watson-Whitford
The Faithful Innovation Process: Listen, Act, Share The Faithful Innovation Process for congregations in the Montana Synod introduces a paradigm shift for congregations. In the midst of a changing church and world, the process empowers leaders in a congregation to listen – to God, one another and their community, and to experiment and then to reflect and learn from the listening and experiment. And then repeat – over and over again. Come learn what the process is and hear how it is impacting congregations in the Montana Synod and consider participating in the process sometime.	Parlor 1030	Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Confluence: The Moment of Meeting and the Movement Forward How would you start a new faith community with people who don't come to church? Join the Confluence Leadership Team to hear about the process, practices, core values, and stories that have helped create a creative and life-giving new ministry in the Montana Synod!	Parlor 1031	Confluence Leadership Team

Workshop Presenters/Facilitators

Ms. Beth Adams (Legacy Gifts: Are you Inviting Congregations to Plan?) Beth is a Regional Gift Planner of the ELCA Foundation and serves Montana. She is a resource to partner with you, your congregation, synod, or other ELCA-related organization as you explore the variety of possibilities to give with generosity, and planning. Beth provides expertise — as well as resources, financial education and investment and endowment management services — to help you joyfully answer the call to love and serve our neighbor. **(Round 1)**

Rev. Jason Asselstine (Beyond Administration: Congregational Leadership-Equipping the Body of Christ) Jason Asselstine was ordained in 2004 and has served congregations in Northern Minnesota and Choteau, Montana before receiving a call to the Montana Synod staff beginning in 2014. Jason is Associate to the Bishop and works in the areas of mobility, youth, and serves as the director of the Lay Pastoral Associate program. He is responsible for the Montana Synod Nominating Committee and oversees First Call Theological Education. **(Round 2)**

Confluence Leadership Team (Confluence: the movement of meeting and the movement forward) Lars Anderson is a student at Wartburg Seminary and a pastoral intern at Emmaus Campus Ministry in Missoula and Valley of Christ in Frenchtown. Colter Murphy is the Children, Youth, and Family Director at St. Paul in Missoula. Rev. John Lund is the campus pastor at Emmaus Campus Ministry in Missoula. All three serve on the Confluence Leadership Team alongside Karin Craven, Rebekah Cochrane, and Kalani Padilla. **(Round 2)**

Rev. Stacey Heggem (Racial Justice Task Force: Plans and Prep for Moving Forward) Stacey Heggem and Melanie Martin-Dent have been co-leading the RJTF since its new inception in 2019. Pr. Melanie serves at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Polson. Pr. Stacey is serving as interim pastor at Zion Lutheran in Lewistown. Both are grateful to work alongside ELCA congregation members and clergy as we seek to involve the Montana Synod in matters of racial justice, health, and the wellbeing of all throughout Montana and Northern Wyoming. **(Round 1)**

Rev. Eric Huseth (The Care for Creation Task Force: Here Comes the Sun!!: Churches and Solar Energy) Eric Huseth has served as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Bonner for seven years. In 2021, our Savior's installed 30 solar panels on its facility, and it is continuing to work at energy upgrades. Pastor Eric serves on the Montana Synod Care for Creation Task Force. **(Round 2)**

Rev. Melanie Martin-Dent (Racial Justice Task Force: Plans and Prep for Moving Forward) Melanie Martin-Dent and Stacey Heggem have been co-leading the RJTF since its new inception in 2019. Pr. Melanie serves at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Polson. Pr. Stacey is serving as interim pastor at Zion Lutheran in Lewistown. Both are grateful to work alongside ELCA congregation members and clergy as we seek to involve the Montana Synod in matters of racial justice, health, and the wellbeing of all throughout Montana and Northern Wyoming. **(Round 1)**

Rev. Kristine Mitzman (Freedom in Christ Ministry: Walk with Me.) Kris Mitzman is a retired pastor and past pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Billings. She is currently the Chair of the Board of Directors for Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry. **(Round 1)**

Ms. Tracy Moseman (Introduction to the Office of Faith and Community Based Services at DPHHS) Tracy Moseman began her new role as Faith and Community Based Services Coordinator in December of 2021. Prior to this role, she led health and safety initiatives at the Office of Public Instruction from 2014 to 2021 in several roles including Director of Coordinated School Health Programs, Division Administrator for Health and Safety, and Chief Program Officer. Before joining OPI, Tracy spent a decade managing and leading state and federal grants at Helena Public Schools to provide student support services to the K-12 district including work to build community collaboratives supporting students and families. In her early career, she worked in substance prevention and the corrections system. Tracy is committed to supporting Montana children and families through a collaborative and community building approach. Tracy is also a member of Our Redeemers Lutheran Church in Helena. **(Round 1)**

Rev. Rob Nedbalek (Freedom in Christ Ministry: Walk with Me.) Rob Nedbalek is the pastor and Mission Developer of Freedom in Christ. He has been in this position for 12 years. **(Round 1)**

Dr. Kyle Pasewark (Listening Event: ELCA Social Statement Development) Kyle Pasewark is an attorney and law school admission advisor. Previously, he taught Christian theology in liberal arts colleges. He received his J.D. from Yale Law School and his Ph.D. from The University of Chicago Divinity School. After 20 years of experiencing the pleasure of living in New York City, he now has the even greater pleasure of having returned to his native Wyoming. He lives in rural Clark, Wyoming. **(Rounds 1 & 2)**

Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger (The Faithful Innovation Process: Listen, Act, Share) Peggy, MT Synod DEM, Dick Deschamps, Synod VP and LPA, and Marilyn Hall, Synod Coaching Coordinator and LPA, along with participants and coaches in the process will share the impact of the process in the life of congregations. This process has been an experiment during the pandemic meeting via Zoom by the Leadership Team. We have gleaned some wisdom and knowledge to share.
(Round 2)

Ms. Bea Rosenleaf (Freedom in Christ Ministry: Walk with Me.) Bea Rosenleaf is the Executive Director and has been with Freedom in Christ since its inception. **(Round 1)**

Rev. Julia Seymour (Top 10 things to know about Revelation and How Lutherans Read the Bible) Julia Seymour has served Big Timber Lutheran Church since 2018. **(Rounds 1 & 2)**

Stewardship Task Force (Let's Talk About Money: from Scarcity to Abundance) Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, the DEM in the Montana Synod and members of the Stewardship Task Force and Synod Stewardship Consultant have been meeting for conversation and planning around stewardship and generosity for a few years. Treasurer Dave Scholten, Pastors Lindean Barnett-Christianson, Scott Thompson, Tim Tostengard and Phil Wold and Synod Consultant on Stewardship Dennis Trotter have a passion for sharing and talking about stewardship. **(Round 1)**

Ms. Loni Taylor and Ms. Lisa Watson-Whitford (The History of Indian Boarding Schools in the US and Canada) Ms. Loni Taylor and Ms. Lisa Watson-Whitford are from the Chippewa Cree Tribe at Rocky Boys. Loni Taylor is the ELCA Churchwide Council Region 1 Representative. Lisa Watson-Whitford is Loni Taylor's Mother. **(Round 2)**