



Montana Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

April 2, 2018

Dear Members of the Montana Synod,

The Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference on the theme of **“Strengthen Congregations,”** is June 1-3, in Great Falls. This packet of information will give you everything you need to get registered for the Assembly. And if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact our office.

Our keynote speaker will be The Rev. Brenda Smith, Program Director for Faith Practices and the Book of Faith Initiative with the ELCA. Based in Chicago, she equips and empowers congregations and synods to engage Scripture, deepen prayer and reach out beyond their comfort zones. Ms. Linda Bobbit, former Vice President of the Rocky Mountain Synod, will share with us a congregational vitality assessment that she developed while working in her synod. The Rev. Dr. Mark Gravrock will be our Bible Study leader.

This packet contains the information that you will need to register your pastor and your lay voting members for the Synod Assembly, June 1-3, 2018, at the Best Western Heritage Inn, in Great Falls. **We will be offering a discount to people who register by the early deadline, May 14.** This packet of information is being sent to each congregation office, retired pastors, deacons, and others. Look for a bright neon label on the outside of the envelope. Please copy and share the contents with your voting members.

The Synod Council encourages congregations to elect youth (high school) and young adults (18-30) to be voting members. In order to encourage youth participation, we have added 20 youth voting member slots to the Assembly. Contact your cluster Dean for more information.

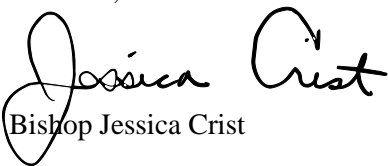
Because this is a Theological Conference, our business will be limited to Friday night and Sunday morning. We will adopt a budget and conduct elections and hear reports.

On Saturday we will hear from our keynoters, and have two workshop sessions, with 20 workshops to choose from. Our goal is to strengthen congregations.

We'll also dedicate the Synod House and offer tours. Prior to the start of the Assembly there will be a Boundaries Workshop (Thursday-Friday), and a hearing on the proposed Social Statement on Women and Justice (1:30 Friday).

Keep checking our website and watch for our Wednesday News of the Week for up-to-date information. Hotel registration information (**Deadline is May 14**) and other important information is enclosed, along with envelopes for the offering—designated for strengthening congregations in Puerto Rico after Maria.

In Christ,


Bishop Jessica Crist

