Free Class for Pastors and Lay Leaders

Sponsored by the Montana Synod and NRIT. We wanted to share this class with you as we continue to be physically and mentally impacted by COVID and other stressors. Please join us Jan 27th and Feb 3rd – one hour each day – for a Zoom we hope you’ll find helpful. Class will be recorded for those unable to attend.

**Trauma in our Bodies and Brains:** What is trauma and how does it impact us? Join Dr. Betsy Stone to learn why your sleep is disrupted and your brain isn’t functioning as it used to.

**Thursday, January 27th from 10am to 11am.**

**Post-traumatic Growth:** Not all trauma stops us in our tracks. Some of us actually grow from trauma. Learn about the arenas of posttraumatic growth, and think about how you might build them in yourselves, your families and your congregants.

**Thursday, February 3rd from 10am to 11am.**

*Taught by Dr. Betsy Stone, a retired clinical psychologist who currently teaches as an adjunct lecturer at HUC-JIR, teaching pastoral and developmental topics in the School of Education. Betsy consults on program development and community building. During the COVID-19 crisis, Betsy has led webinars on Trauma, Resilience and Post-Traumatic Growth for congregations, Rabbis, Hillels, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, The Jewish Teen Funders Network, Hebrew Union College*
Reading Revelation without Fear

In this class, we will discuss what's *behind* the text, what's *in* it, and what's *in front* of it. Behind is the social and political setting in which the text was written. Then we look at what's actually in the book (and what's not!).

We consider all of this alongside our own context—what's happening in our homes, towns, and in the world right now. Please join us as we learn more about this fascinating book of the Bible and why it continues to be so important in worship and useful for discipleship.

Led by Pastor Julia Seymour, serving Big Timber Lutheran Church.

- Thursday, Feb 10 and Friday, Feb 11
- 9:30 am to 12:30 pm both days – 6 Contact Hours

Sign up by clicking on NRIT logo on the Montana Synod home page. Scroll down to find the class you are choosing.

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The Annual Assembly of the Montana Synod of the ELCA will be held June 3-4, 2022 at the Billings Hotel and Convention Center in Billings, Montana

*Rev. Amanda Liggett, Synod Secretary,*

This year, the assembly will deal with business issues as well as engage in theological reflection under the theme, “Equipping for the Gospel.”

Our Churchwide Representative will be Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos.

As you consider electing voting members at your annual meeting, please remember we will be having our assembly in person this year!

A livestream will be provided but there will be NO online voting. All voting members will need to be present to cast their votes. In addition, all attendees are expected to be vaccinated.

We will be announcing more details including registration information, submitting resolutions, elections, budget, and deadlines by March 1st. Make sure to check our website and subscribe to our weekly news in
January Hammer and Dance

January 2022 is already well under way. If you're like me you're still recovering from the holiday, a bit bummer about Omicron, but ready to dig in and do what it takes for the year ahead. Time to take control!

The year ahead invites us once again to thoughtful Climate Action, Disaster Preparation, caring Racial Equity work and thanksgiving for all we actually have. This month’s Hammer and Dance ia all about this. Download your copy today.
The next Region 1 Congregational Preparedness Network Gathering will be Thursday - January 20 at 6:00 PM PT (5:00 PM AK and 7:00 PM MT.)
You will need to register to participate, so please do so today.
Intentional Disaster Preparedness would be an awesome New Year’s resolution!!

Read the Hammer and Dance online, or Download your copy. Share it with a friend, your pastor or congregation council. Invite them to subscribe.

I’m so excited to be moving into 2022 with you. Lets do it!

Dave Brauer-Rieke
Region 1 Disaster Preparedness Project Manager

Chico Update

Put it on your calendars! We are planning to have the Rostered Leaders Retreat at Chico this year from April 19-22 (Tuesday - Friday).

At this time we are trusting you to be able to make your own decisions on Covid. However, we are expecting that all attendees will be vaccinated and boosted and will abide by the Covid needs at the time of the retreat.

Finally, we are possibly looking for a speaker, if you have any ideas please email John Lund at john.lund@mso.umt.edu or give him a call at 406-396-4974.

Built on Grace
We embrace grace. We are built on grace and all that it embodies.

**Love. Kindness. Forgiveness.**

For the last ten years we have built a non-traditional “church” into a robust worshiping community.

Our community operates behind the wire of the Montana State Prison (MSP). We don’t own a building with all its trappings. Instead, we meet in the Religious Activities building for both worship services and Bible studies. We don’t (and can’t by prison regulations) have members. We must rely on our wonderful supporters (You), to continue to minister to the broken and lost at MSP. In essence, you are our members providing support through your prayers, word of mouth, and financial gifts! To say the least, we are not a “traditional” church!

We teach forgiveness – of self and of others. We teach love – of self and for others. We teach respect and kindness – to self and to others. We teach acceptance. And we do not judge. The power and presence of Jesus Christ empowers us and leads us to do His work in a place that can be dark and lonely, and not so accepting or loving.

**Read the full update here!**

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You’ve heard a lot about coaching, but does it work? Last month we had a testimonial on how it worked for David. How about for you???

In many congregations, the pastor or leader needs a safe place to discuss something that needs to be worked out that can’t be discussed with someone in the congregation or another peer. Sometimes it helps to talk it through with someone who is listening closely and able to ask questions that moves you to formulate ideas, actions, find resources, or create plans. It helps to bring it outside of your head...to hear your own thoughts with a coach who can help you summarize, categorize, or just plain grow in awareness.

A coach reported that a client said, “I guess I’ve done more thinking about this than I thought. When I hear what I’ve told you I’ve got some ideas that can be planned, or discussed with others, and our exploring our resources has really helped.” That client left feeling more positive and empowered, something we need.

We are here to help, not direct, and not mentor. It’s your ideas, your plans, and your dreams. [https://www.montanasynod.org/coaching-in-the-montana-synod.html](https://www.montanasynod.org/coaching-in-the-montana-synod.html)

Contact: Ps. Peggy PaughLeuzinger , DEM for Montana Synod at:
Church and Clergy Compliance Advisor - W-2 vs. 1099: Which workers get which?

As the economy continues to expand, churches now more than ever need to possess a thorough understanding of the classification for each person performing services for the church. Knowing whether the IRS views someone as your employee or as an independent contractor dictates tax obligations and associated paperwork...

Read More

Christikon Clips
February, 2022

We are recruiting staff for the upcoming season. If you know someone who would be a good fit, direct them to christikon.org/employment for more information and application materials.

Family Adult opportunities can be found at our website. Watch for updated topics and speakers. Register at: https://christikon.org/registration-adult-family/

Do it online! You can use the Internet to register for all camp sessions at Christikon, or to make a gift, or to find out more about this special ministry. Go to www.christikon.org

Save the dates: The Annual Christikon Benefit Auction at the Billings Depot is coming on Sunday, April 24th. Watch for updates on our website.

The past year was dominated by pandemic, masks, and uncertainty yet we were thankful for the opportunity to do ministry. We safely held camp sessions, although challenging, all our effort ended up providing a powerful experience for those who attended camp. Our plans for the 2023 season are going forward and we look forward to again welcoming all! Watch for updates on our website.

It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ — exploring God’s creation and the adventure of life together.

CHRISTIKON ● 1108 24th Street West ● Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 ● christikon@aol.com ● www.christikon.org

FLBC is hiring for 2022 Summer Staff!
We are putting together an awesome team of staff to help us make Summer 2022 amazing!
We are looking for faith-filled, hard-working, and kind-hearted individuals to join our team. Visit [https://flbc.net/employment/](https://flbc.net/employment/) to learn more and to apply!

**Registration for 2022 Youth Summer Camps is OPEN!**
Find more information and details on our website [https://flbc.net/summer-camp/](https://flbc.net/summer-camp/) to find the right adventure for your camper!

**Volunteer and Pastor application is open!**
Plan your week at camp as a pastor or adult volunteer. Serve as a resource to our staff and campers, as well as helping FLBC with basic functions like dishes, cleaning, maintenance work, and more, while enjoying time with the FLBC community in God’s Great outdoors on Flathead Lake. Don’t wait as spots will fill up fast! Information/FAQs as well different application options (printable vs online app) are available at [https://flbc.net/donate-volunteer/#volunteer](https://flbc.net/donate-volunteer/#volunteer)

**Upcoming Retreats:**
**Peer Ministry Leadership Training with Dr. Lyle Griner**
*April 1-2, 2022 (Fri - Sat with options to attend all or part of the event, and options to extend your stay!) $100/person (Fri - Sat.) / $85 for Saturday only*
Join us April 1-2, 2022 for a Peer Ministry Leadership Training with Dr. Lyle Griner at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! Peer ministry is about the practical life skill that empowers us to become Good Samaritan leaders who care for every neighbor, every day, everywhere in every relationship. This retreat is for adults and youth (Jr high and up). Bring a group from your congregation, scout troop, or come on your own!

**Adult Education/Spirituality Retreat with Dr. Andrew Root**
*May 1-3, 2022 225/person (entire event) Monday only: $175*
Join us for this special retreat with Dr. Andrew Root, professor of youth and family ministry at Luther Seminary. Expect insightful sessions such as “Living after a pandemic…why are we exhausted?” and time for fun and relaxation at camp, too - quiet time, reading time, worship, hikes, pottery, and great food. This retreat is for all adults. Pastors, LPA’s, Lay people, youth workers.

**Upcoming events:**
- Valentines Day Tea Party: February 12, 2022
- Easter Sunrise Service at camp: April 17, 2022
- Mother’s Day Brunch: May 8th, 2022

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**Synod Staff:**

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