



# Montana Synod Weekly Announcements January 23, 2023

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## Message from the Racial Justice Task Force

Francine D. Spang-Willis read the following acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples and Lands at the recent meeting of the Racial Justice Task Force Advisory Team and graciously agreed to share it with the Synod. The Advisory Team is a group of Native American leaders and leaders of color who advise and direct the Strategy Team's work.

### Indigenous Peoples and Land Acknowledgement

Written by Francine D. Spang-Willis

As you might be aware, this beautiful and sacred landscape has a layered history. Millions of Indigenous humans had existed on it and engaged with it for thousands of years before it became known as the United States. **Today** millions of Indigenous peoples are still connected to it, including **but not limited to** the following Indigenous nations and people in Montana:

- Assiniboine & Sioux
- Blackfeet
- Chippewa & Cree
- Confederated Tribes of the Salish, Kootenai & Pend d'Oreille
- Crow
- Gros Ventre
- Little Shell Band of Chippewa Cree
- Northern Cheyenne

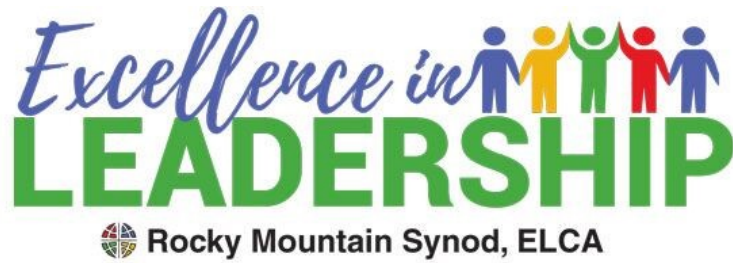
We also **all** have a relationship and connection to the landscape as we engage with it for sustenance, spiritual, and recreational reasons. Like our Indigenous ancestors that came before us, we must also help to fulfill our stewardship responsibilities. It is our turn to take care of each other and the land, so future generations can exist on it and enjoy it as we do today.

We must also learn about the impacts of colonization, the processes of colonialism that are ongoing for Indigenous as well as non-Indigenous peoples, and the deep sacrifices made so we can enjoy the land. We must also work past the processes that harm the land and all living beings on it.

We can begin by simply acknowledging Indigenous peoples and their traditional homelands. This simple act of recognition has the potential to help with the reconciliation,

healing, and progression of all people. But we must not stop with an acknowledgment. We must also respect diverse ways of doing and being and include them in our current processes.

Nea'ase, which means thank you in Cheyenne!



Excellence in Leadership is prototyping a new Spring Cohort. The meetings will begin in March 2023 and commissioning will be April 2024. Yes, this cohort will move faster because they will meet more often. We are hoping to have the participants be congregational groups. **The brochure** will explain our ministry and registration should be opening today.

Click the link below to see a video with more information!

[https://www.dropbox.com/s/8trxioivh7fy4ho/Final\\_EiL%20Explainer.mov?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/8trxioivh7fy4ho/Final_EiL%20Explainer.mov?dl=0)

**Peace,**

**The Rev. Sarah J Moening**

**(she/her)**

**Director of Excellence in Leadership + Rocky Mountain Synod**

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**cell: 970-290-5990 + [www.rmselca.org](http://www.rmselca.org)**



NRIT Digital Classes Available for Streaming:

· **Reading Revelation without Fear** (6 hour biblical class taught by Pr. Julia Seymour) Great class for an adult study. Can stream in shorter sections.

- **Heaven, Hell, Death and Judgement** (6 hour class taught by Pr. Julia Seymour)

• Access this free resource for council training - recorded a few years ago but still applicable: **Serving on the Congregations Council**

Scroll down to the bottom of the NRIT homepage to find this digital class.



## **Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church**

At the 2022 Churchwide Assembly last August, voting members adopted a memorial concerning restructuring the ELCA's governance.

In November the ELCA Church Council responded to this by authorizing the establishment of a Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church (CRLC).

Nominations for the commission are being accepted through March 9. More information about the commitment and expectation of serving on the CRLC, and instructions regarding the nomination form, can be found at [ELCA.org/CRLC](https://www.elca.org/CRLC).

## **Upcoming Stewardship Webinar**

Have you ever wondered why people are generous in the ways they are? Curious to explore how you can tap into giving motivations to encourage generosity? In this increasingly post-pandemic world, rostered and congregational leaders might well explore some of the nuances of giver motivation with the upcoming webinar "Practical Stewardship Tips," which is free and open to all. Presenters will be Rev. Timothy Brown, Director of Congregational Stewardship for the ELCA and Rev. Meredith McNabb with the Lake Institute on Faith & Giving.

Mark your calendar!

Practical Stewardship Tips

Wednesday, Feb. 1

6 p.m. Central

Join from computer or mobile: <https://iu.zoom.us/j/86372108860?pwd=NXpScVRWS1ZORXUyU3NIREpqcEg5UT09>

Meeting ID: 863 7210 8860

Password: 938447

The Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Director for Evangelical Mission,  
Montana Synod, ELCA

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