Montana Synod Weekly Announcements
January 24, 2022

Free Class for Pastors and Lay Leaders

Registration closes tomorrow, January 25th!

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 and the Jewish Education Project.

Although this class is free, you will need to register in order to receive the link. Go to the NRIT home page on the synod website. Contact Jenny Kunka at j.kunka@nrit.org or 406-396-1398 with questions.

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.

Getting Political with Luther: Cultivating Virtues to Serve God and Neighbor

Dr Anthony Bateza will lead this “Luther Lecture” on:

Tuesday, February 22 - 9:30 to 2:30 (Mountain Time) 4 Contining Ed Credits.

Dr. Bateza is Associate Professor of Religion at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. Dr. Bateza is a specialist in Martin Luther, moral theology and Christian ethics. His primary area of research examines Luther’s political theology, focusing on the reformer’s understanding of human agency and his relationship with the virtue tradition. Dr. Bateza's other scholarly interests include the broader Augustinian tradition, the impact of Luther’s thought on 19th century philosophy, and questions of race, identity, and social justice.

Dr. Bateza has earned degrees from Iowa State University (B.S, 2002), Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (M.Div., 2006), and Princeton Theological Seminary (Ph.D., 2017). An ordained pastor in the ELCA, Dr. Bateza enjoys speaking in various congregational settings learning alongside God’s people.

Sign up by clicking on the NRIT logo on the Montana Synod home page. Scroll down to find the class you are choosing.
2022 Hetzel Grant Applications are now available.

Agencies, institutions, and ministries which serve the elderly and youth in the Montana Synod of the ELCA are eligible to apply for grant assistance from the Hetzel Foundation.

ELCA organizations are eligible to apply, provided that they demonstrate evidence of project partnership, participation, and/or investment from within an ELCA entity. For example, a non-ELCA affiliate could ask an ELCA church to co-author the grant with them. The application deadline is March 15, 2022.

Go to our website for more information and to download the application. www.hetzelfoundation.org

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.

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/](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](http://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.*

**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*
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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