



## Montana Synod Weekly Announcements January 31, 2022

### Helena church working with nonprofits on proposed affordable housing campus



Housing shortages and runaway rental prices have derailed the efforts of some Lewis and Clark County nonprofits to graduate clients to more stable housing situations, but an ambitious proposed development aims to make sizable strides to improve resiliency among those facing housing insecurity.

Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, 3580 N. Benton Ave., is prepared to sell about nine developable acres of its land to the city of Helena.

A portion of that land will go into a land trust administered by Trust Montana for the construction of Helena Area Habitat for Humanity homes.

[Read the full article from the Independent Record here](#)



## 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  
Continuing 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.

## ANNUAL PARTNER GATHERING AGENDA THURSDAY, FEB. 24, 2022, VIA ZOOM Riding the Wave of Hope – Ending Childhood Hunger in Montana



MT-PECH’s Annual Zoom Conference, Thursday,  
February 24, 2022, 10 AM - 12 N, *Riding the Wave  
of Hope -- Ending Childhood Hunger in  
Montana*

The highlight of this Zoom Conference, with messages from our state’s leaders, will be showcasing the strong cross-section of research and innovative solutions to feeding communities. Eleven Montana-based organizations will share their work through a Pecha Kucha-style presentation model. The presentations will be divided into three categories -- *Exploring Food Access, Integrating Nutrition Security into Healthcare, and Systematic Approaches to Solving Hunger for Good* -- separated by brief Q & A Sessions.

MT-PECH aims to bring together state program and policy leaders and the many partner organizations involved in our [8-Step Plan to End Childhood Hunger](https://montanapartnershiptoendchildhoodhunger.org/) (<https://montanapartnershiptoendchildhoodhunger.org/>). The goal is to share successful interventions, to identify existing food security gaps post-pandemic, and to facilitate better coordination and collaboration with usual partners and new allies in the fight against childhood hunger. Join us to rekindle your inspiration, to find fresh momentum for caring for your neighbor, and to meet partners with shared goals.

For those interested in networking and engaging in smaller group discussion on specific topics, we plan to take a 15-minute break at 12:00 PM to move around and grab lunch, then have 45-minutes of facilitated discussion time in breakout groups while this information is fresh in our minds. Although this is a long time to spend in a virtual setting, we are confident that the meeting format and inspiring presentations will make the time fly by.

[Click here to register](#)

[Click here for the agenda](#)



**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](http://www.hetzelfoundation.org)

[Click here to go to the Hetzel website](#)

## Reporting the Housing Allowance



CLERGY FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Reporting the Housing Allowance The designated housing allowance may be reflected on Form W-2 in Box

14 with the notation, "Housing Allowance."

Though not required, this reporting method is suggested by Publication 517. Or, a church can report the designated housing allowance to a minister by providing a statement separate from Form W-2. This may...

[Read more](#)



**THRIVING**  
Leadership Formation

## CONTEMPLATIVE ACTION COMMUNITY

All are welcome to join TLF staff, church leaders, and lay people for a time of spiritual renewal and contemplative practice via Zoom.

Come gather for 1, 2, or all 3 virtual sessions to find community and restoration in the New Year.

**SIGN UP TO ATTEND AT:**  
[WWW.TINYURL.COM/TLFCOMMUNITY](http://WWW.TINYURL.COM/TLFCOMMUNITY)

**TUESDAY,  
FEBRUARY 22**

**10:00 - 11:30AM PST**

**SUNDAY,  
MARCH 27**

**4:00 - 5:30PM PST**

Spanish interpretation will be provided during this session. En esta sesión, se proveerá interpretación simultánea al Español.

Questions?  
Email [thriving@callutheran.edu](mailto:thriving@callutheran.edu)

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### Synod Staff:

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