



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements January 9, 2023

World Hunger Offering

Bethel Lutheran Church in Great Falls has a long-standing tradition of supporting the work of ELCA World Hunger. A number of local organizations in the Great Falls community have received ELCA World Hunger domestic grants over the years. Bethel is intentional about connecting with these organizations especially Helping Hands Ministry which the congregation has supported financially and through adult and youth volunteers. A number of



people from Bethel have traveled to visit our Lutheran siblings in Bolivia. They returned wanting to support God's work beyond their own community. ELCA World Hunger has given the church an excellent way to do this. Through the local and global exposure, the people at Bethel have seen firsthand the need as well as the positive impact of ELCA World Hunger locally and globally.

A team of about three people from the congregation plan and carry out a whole variety of ways for the congregation to engage with and support the work ELCA World Hunger is doing globally and locally.

Each month a Sunday is designated as ELCA World Hunger Sunday on which a special offering is taken, a spotlight moment is shared, and the congregation prays for the work of ELCA World Hunger. At Christmas they decorate a tree with Good Gifts decorations and encourage folks to grab a decoration and support the Good Gifts campaign. As part of their vacation bible school each year they use resources from ELCA World Hunger to engage participants in conversation and action related to local hunger needs and how those needs connect to global needs. This year they invited a representative from ELCA World Hunger come share more information with the congregation during their worship service and adult education hour.

Church and Clergy Compliance Advisor

[Click here for the latest edition of the newsletter, including :](#)

Can all church employees qualify for housing allowance?

and

Quarterly Estimated Tax Payments – Reminder

New 2023 milage rates:

Beginning on January 1, 2023, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups, or panel trucks) will be:

- 65.5 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3 cents from the midyear increase setting the rate for the second half of 2022.
- 22 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes for qualified active-duty members of the Armed Forces, consistent with the increased midyear rate set for the second half of 2022.
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations; the rate is set by statute and remains unchanged from 2022.

These rates apply to electric and hybrid-electric automobiles, as well as gasoline and diesel-powered vehicles.

For clergy doing their own taxes: 2023 Church & Clergy Tax Guide

This guide will help you:

- Prepare 2022 tax returns
- Understand tax laws
- Correctly report federal income taxes and social security taxes
- Reduce tax liability

This guide is ideal for:

- Executive pastors
- Senior and solo pastors
- Church treasurers
- Church board members
- Church bookkeepers

Church attorneys, CPAs, and tax practitioners

[Click here for more information](#)



Montana Winter Theological Retreat: Journeying with God, Tales of God's Faithfulness in Troubling Times

Deadline to Register is January 20th

Speaker: Dr. Michael Chan

February 5th through 7th at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp – Lakeside, MT

8 Hours of Continuing Education

Cost:

\$265 - includes meals, housing and class with Dr. Chan

\$165 - for spouse not attending class

Winter Chats with NRIT (Free)

Learn about ELCA AMMPARO

Thursday, January 12th 10am to 11am

Led by Mary Campbell, Program Director of AMMPARO

Church Budgets 101: For Pastors and Treasurers

Thursday, January 19th - 10am to 11:30am

Led by Synod Treasurer Dave Scholten

Whats the Big Deal about Coaching?

Thursday, January 26th - 10am to 11am

Led by Jill Beverlin, ELCA Program Manager - Coaching Ministries/

Faith+Lead Coaching Liaison, Luther Seminary

Marilyn Hall – Montana Synod Coaching Coordinator will be available to answer questions about coaching in the Montana Synod.

To Learn More or Register: [NRIT \(montanasynod.org\)](http://NRIT(montanasynod.org))

January, 2023

*Information for our
Congregations*

Watch this month for Christikon

brochures on opportunities for youth. It's not too early to start thinking about this summer. Youth brochures will be mailed to every young person in grades 4-12 in our congregations this month. Those brochures will detail some very special deals for registering early for camp. We hope to serve even more people from our member congregations



in 2023!

Early registrations have been very strong so get registered earlier than later!

Save the date: Christikon Benefit Auction is scheduled for April 23rd.

Too few of our nation's young people (not to mention adults) have significant outdoor experience. Christikon combines spirited outdoor experience with a community experience that helps open people to the life of faith. Think about joining the Christikon life this coming summer. It can do a world of

good...

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

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FLBC 2023 Summer Staff

We are excited to assemble a team of dedicated, talented, faith-filled summer staff to make ministry happen! We've significantly increased our weekly pay, which we hope will make spending a summer at camp a financially feasible option for more potential applicants. More information and instructions to apply can be found on our website: <https://flbc.net/work-at-flbc/> We greatly appreciate your help spreading the word and helping us recruit staff!



Registration for 2023 Youth Camping Programs is OPEN!

Visit <https://flbc.net/summer-camp/> to find information on all of the programs being offered in 2023, and to register! Register early to receive a discount on your registration fees - register by March 1st and save \$100; by April 1st and save \$50.

The Application Opens for Adult Volunteers/Camp Pastors/Youth Directors on February 16th, 2023, at 10AM!

Upcoming Retreats & Events

Find other retreats and information online at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>

Ski - Snowboard - Stay Winter Retreat ❄️

January 13-16, 2023 (Fri-Sunday, or stay through Monday) || \$150/person Fri-Sunday – OR – \$175/person Friday – Monday ~ For youth groups coming together: 1 free adult for every 5 youth. Register by January 3rd, 2023.

Let FLBC be your basecamp for a winter adventure! Come for all or part of the long weekend. Spend the day at camp or head to one of our local ski/snowboard areas or cross

country ski trails, or spend the weekend hanging out at camp! This weekend is for youth groups, families, adults, and Junior/Senior High individual campers. Price does not include lift tickets or rentals.

Couples Care Retreat ♥

February 24-26, 2023 || \$325 per couple

Register by February 14th, 2023

This weekend is ideal for couples who desire to strengthen their relationship and experience deeper joy together, and for those who want to take intentional time to renew and grow their faith as an individual and as a couple. Time for relaxation, hiking, campfire worships, and great food will round out the weekend. Julie Engh Peters & Pastor Lindean Barnett Christenson will provide a guided couples relationship workshop using John Gottman's "Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work" curriculum.

2023 Upcoming Events/Retreats:

Mar 27–31 Spring Break Day Camp (Grades 1–6)

April 9 Easter Sunrise Service

May 14 Mother's Day Brunch

May 26–29 Memorial Day Work Weekend + Family Retreat

June 9–11 Women's Retreat with Rev Dr. Meggan Manlove

June 10 Partners Luncheon Speaker Ben Haugestuen

June 30–July 2 Family & Friends Weekend + 80 Years Celebration with Rev Gary Cockrell & Brad Abbott

July 21–23 Family Weekend with Pr. JP Carlson (MSU Campus Ministry)

July 28–30 Wild Women on the Water with Elizabeth Peterson

Sept 1–4 Labor Day Work/Family Retreat

October 14 Harvest Festival

October 20–22 Grief Retreat

October 29–31 Flathead Theological Conference with Dr. Rachel Wrenn – "The Bible in 24 Hours"

November 9–12 Crazy About Quilting and Crafts Retreat

December 8–10 Advent Retreat

December 27–29 Young Adult Retreat

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