ELCA Missionary Update

Svens in Slovakia
Ukraine Conflict - WE ARE SAFE
24 February 2022

Dear Partners in Ministry,

We want to begin by thanking each and everyone of you for voicing your concern and prayers for our well-being in response to the invasion of Ukraine. Please know that WE ARE SAFE in Slovakia's capitol of Bratislava. We will keep you updated if our situation changes at any time. Below is a map of the region around Ukraine (today's conflicts marked with red stars), with our location marked (with a blue star) to give you some context for our proximity to the areas of conflict.

Right now, we are asking for your prayers for our neighbors in Ukraine and for a swift and peaceful resolution. We also appreciate your prayers as the Slovak people and its leaders prepare to receive refugees fleeing Ukraine in the coming weeks. We want to make you aware, also, that Slovakia is a member of NATO and the European Union, and therefore in good-standing with Western allies and their
If you are interested in ways you can help in the coming weeks and months, please let us know. Also, please know that we continue to keep you and your ministry in prayer as well, even during these dark times. God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kyle & Anna Svennungsen
ELCA Missionaries in Slovakia

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**Upcoming FLBC Retreats**

**Peer Ministry Leadership Training with 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 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! CEU credits available.

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**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. CEU credits available.
**Trauma in our Bodies and Brains**

Free Zoom Class Recording Sponsored by the Montana Synod ELCA and NRIT

*Because this topic and information was especially helpful for participants of the live class, we decided to provide the recording to interested participants until March 25th. Access the two-hour recording by registering on the NRIT page of the synod website.*

**Part one: Trauma in our Bodies andBrains:** What is trauma and how does it impact us?

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

*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.*

Go to the Montana Synod website: [www.montanasynod.org](http://www.montanasynod.org). Scroll down to the blue NRIT (Northern Rockies Institute of Theology) logo and click, then find this item on the NRIT page. After registering, you will receive the link in order to view the recording. Contact Jenny Kunka at j.kunka@nrit.org or 406-396-1398 with questions.

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**Synod Staff:**

Bishop
Laurie Jungling: ljungling@montanasynod.org

Associate to the Bishop
Pastor Jason Asselstine: jasselstine@montanasynod.org

Director for Evangelical Mission
Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org

Director of Technology and Communications
Colter McCarty: cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Office Manager
Candi Standall: cstandall@montanasynod.org

Director of NRIT
Jenny Kunka: j.kunka@nrit.org

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