



# Montana Synod Weekly Announcements April 3, 2023

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**The Montana Synod office will be closed on Good Friday and Easter Monday. We will be open again on Tuesday, April 11th.**

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**advocacy**

## **ELCA Farm Bill Listening Sessions**

The U.S. Congress is working to draft a new, five-year Farm Bill. “You may already know Farm Bill reauthorization is underway,” says John Johnson, ELCA Program Director for Domestic Policy. This impacts all of us who eat, including those of us who struggle with hunger. Beyond our bellies, we’ll feel the impact of farm bill policy decisions through our vocations. “Many of you work on farms, in businesses, and help to feed hungry people not only in the United States but around the world,” he observes.

**What Is the Farm Bill and Why Now?**

The farm bill is legislation that is critical to addressing hunger in the United States and globally. It covers federal nutrition programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), environment, trade, foreign aid and rural development. The bill impacts the lives of Lutherans and their communities – among us are farmers and ranchers and Indigenous communities and global partners and low income Americans. Congress is preparing to reauthorize the bill in 2023. Each reauthorization provides an opportunity to improve or expand programs that ensure access to fresh and healthy food while addressing root causes of hunger.

## What Is a Listening Session?

ELCA farm bill listening sessions are virtual gatherings where ministry leaders, members of congregations, and those with valuable lived experiences gather our opinions and experiences informed by faith values on stewardship, justice and serving our neighbor. This input will equip one another and the many communities of this church for farm bill advocacy that reflects those values, including our ELCA Witness in Society advocacy staff. These viewpoints, opportunities, concerns and hopes for a future farm bill will inform ELCA advocacy and help shape the ultimate law that Congress passes.

## When Are They Happening & How Can I Register?

At this time, three, 1.5 hour listening sessions are scheduled in April 2023. Register for any, but each session will feature some discussion specific to the region of a particular time zone.

- Eastern & Central Time Zone focus
- Tuesday, April 18 – 6 p.m. ET / 5 p.m. CT
- Register – <https://bit.ly/ELCAfarmbilllisteningEasternCentral>
- Pacific Time Zone focus
- Friday, April 21 – 12 noon PT [3 p.m. ET)
- Register – <https://bit.ly/ELCAfarmbilllisteningPacific>
- Mountain Time Zone focus
- Tuesday, April 25 – 6 p.m. MT (8 p.m. ET)
- Register – <https://bit.ly/ELCAfarmbilllisteningMountain>

## Conclusion

Current legislation is set to expire in September 2023, and our faithful action can impact reauthorization decisions. On Capitol Hill, our faith-centered perspectives will inform ELCA advocacy as we advance priorities toward a just world where all are fed. “We need your expertise, and we need your comments, hopes and dreams for how this Farm Bill can make a better world,” invites Johnson. Please be part of a Listening Session to Inform ELCA Farm Bill Advocacy.



## Emmaus Job Opening

Emmaus Campus Ministry at the University of Montana seeks to call our next pastor! Join us at this unique and vibrant campus ministry where we seek to live our faith through service to others, open and honest dialogue, spiritual grounding, and collaborative peace and justice work. We journey with students as they encounter questions, doubts, and joys during a transformational season in life.

We are accepting applications for a rostered minister, with the position starting as early as

August 2023. A successful candidate will lead all aspects of our campus ministry, and also manage three residential houses with up to 15 residents as well as recruit student participants from the larger campus community.

[Click here for the full job posting!](#)

## Looking for Assembly help

We are looking for worship leader volunteers during the Montana Synod Assembly this year in Great Falls.

Positions include:

Musicians

Readers

Ushers

Communion Leader

If you are interested please contact the Synod office: [office@montanasynod.org](mailto:office@montanasynod.org)

## Reports to the Bishop

If you are on the Retired Roster or an LPA please click the links below in order to submit your report to the Bishop. Thank you for your ministry in whatever form it takes!

[Retired Pastor](#)

[Lay Pastoral Associate](#)



# Christikon Benefit Auction

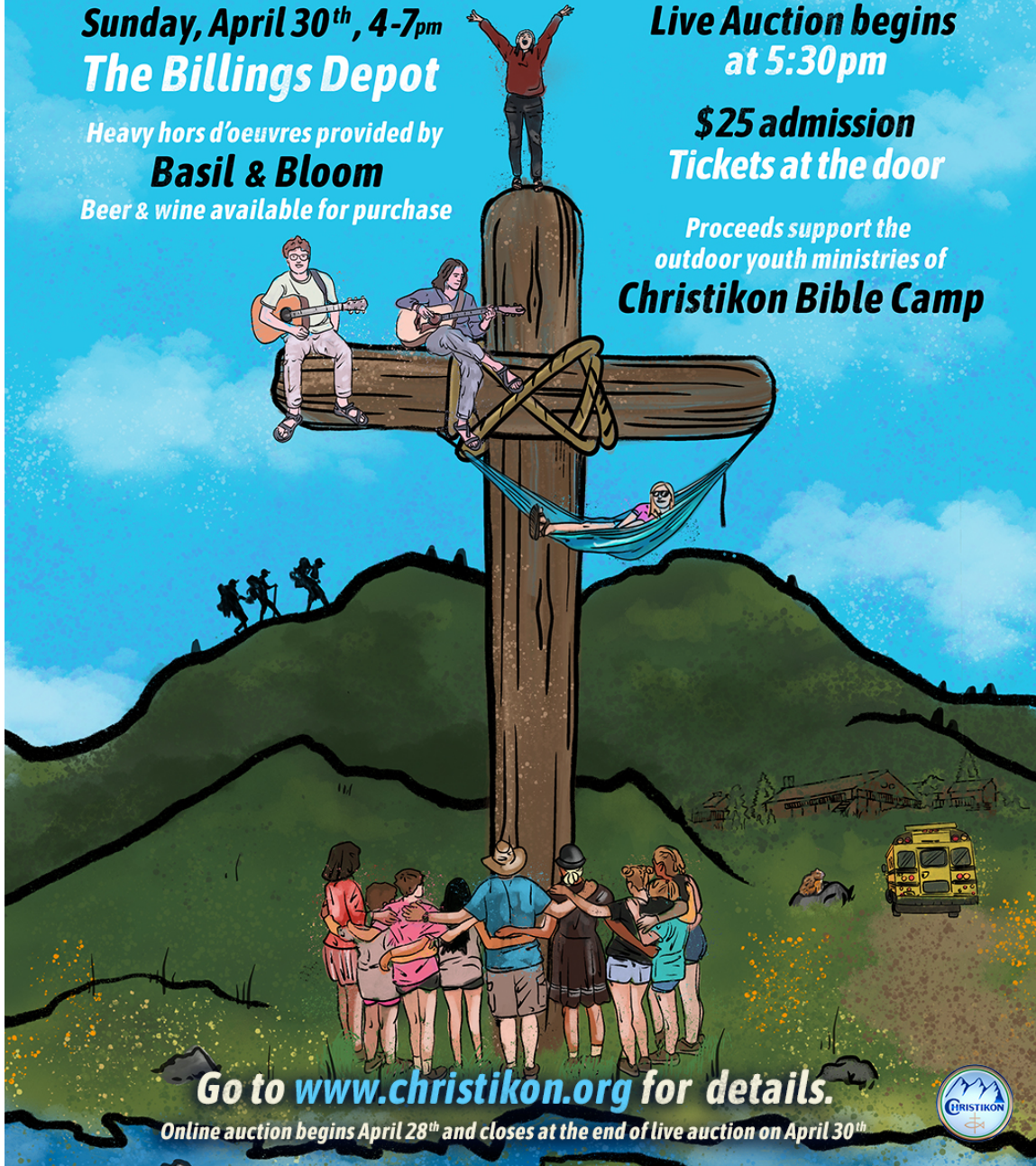
Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm  
The Billings Depot

Heavy hors d'oeuvres provided by  
**Basil & Bloom**  
Beer & wine available for purchase

Live Auction begins  
at 5:30pm

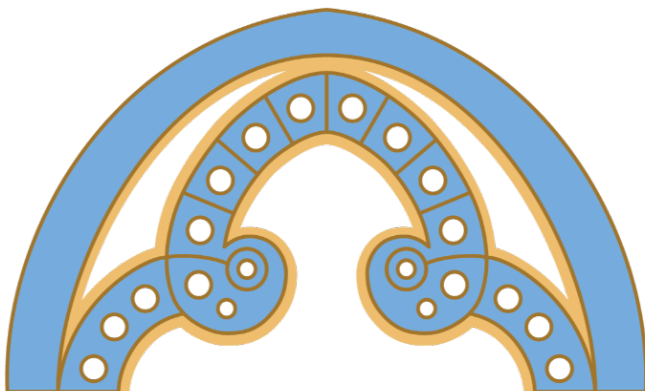
\$25 admission  
Tickets at the door

Proceeds support the  
outdoor youth ministries of  
**Christikon Bible Camp**



Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) for details.

Online auction begins April 28<sup>th</sup> and closes at the end of live auction on April 30<sup>th</sup>



MONTANA  
JEWISH  
PROJECT

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# Standing Up Against Hate:

An online Yom HaShoah panel discussion

Join MJP as we commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and explore strategies for taking action against antisemitism and hate of all kinds

Monday, April 17th  
7:00pm MDT  
On Zoom

Standing Up Against Hate: An Online Yom HaShoah Panel Discussion  
April 17th at 7:00pm on Zoom (join at [this link](#))

Join MJP as we commemorate Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and explore strategies for taking action against antisemitism and hate of all kinds.

#### Panelists:

Rabbi Francine Roston of Glacier Jewish Community  
Travis McAdam of Montana Human Rights Network  
Isaac Nehring of Montana Youth Action  
ADL Pacific Northwest Representative

## **Sermon Manuscripts Will Be Available to Use in Congregations Who Do Not Have a Called Pastor**

The Manuscripts will be found on the Synod's website and the Manuscript for the upcoming Sunday will be posted by 12 noon on Saturdays. (Maybe before, but at least by 12 noon on Saturdays for the upcoming Sunday. The Sermons will be based on the Revised Common Lectionary.)

LPAs, please feel free to use this resource made possible by the generosity of the pastors in the Synod if it is needed. Pastors, if you would like to be added to the list to provide a Manuscript, please contact me. (It is good order to credit who wrote the sermon and where they serve.)

We are stronger together as the Montana Synod and this is one way that all of us can be a part of equipping one another for the ministry of the Gospel.

Please contact me if you have questions about this in general or contact Colter at [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org) about any technical aspect of this.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod  
[ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)  
406 451 8461 Cell

## **Basic Training in Transitions for Intentional Interim Ministry**

**Offered by LuTMA *right after Easter***

**Phase 1 - Virtual (13 online sessions)**

April 20, 27, May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1, 8, 15, 22, July 6, 13, 20

**Phase 2 - Residential (October 2--6)**

**Highland Lake, NY**

**Cost: \$1,600 (\$400 scholarships available)**

Detailed information and registration at:

[LuTMA Website](#)

**Registration is still open**

*Questions?* Contact  
Rev. Lois Van Orden  
Executive Director for LuTMA  
[LutheranTMA@gmail.com](mailto:LutheranTMA@gmail.com)

or  
Rev. Peter Alexander, Dean  
LuTMA Training Faculty  
[pca676@gmail.com](mailto:pca676@gmail.com)

Check out some of the excellent continuing education opportunities happening around the ELCA.

Go the NRIT page to see just a few coming classes, and to learn how to sign up.

**[NRIT \(montanasynod.org\)](http://montanasynod.org)**



## Hetzel Grant Applications now open!

The applications are [available to download here](#). Please read carefully as we have made some changes.



**April, 2023**

*Information for our Congregations*

### **Christikon Benefit Auction In Person and Online**

**Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More will be on Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Billings Depot.** Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, getaways, jewelry and so much more.

**April 28-30 Online**

Watch for the link to our auction platform on facebook at [www.facebook.com/Christikon](http://www.facebook.com/Christikon)  
Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

**Campers:** Don't forget to register for one of our many sessions available this summer!

**How about Work Weekend?** Bring your family and enjoy camp/fellowship and more while helping to prepare camp for the season! We look forward to welcoming you to camp! Go to [www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org) and find your session!

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ**

**exploring God's creation and the adventure of life together .**

**CHRISTIKON**

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406 656-1969 • [director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) •  
[www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

Summer staff needed! It's going to be an awesome summer! Minimum age 18! Here is a



link to our staff  
application: <https://flbc.net/work-at-flbc/>

**Will you be near or around the Flathead this spring or summer? Join us! MARK your calendar!**

Easter sunrise service on the lake, April 9, 7am

**May 14th**, Mother's Day Brunch..(often called the best brunch in the valley) 3 seatings, call for reservations. 406-752-6602

**May 26-29** - Memorial day work weekend..."A taste of camp" FREE...but must register, so we have enough smore making ingredients!

**June 10th** - Partners luncheon for all our amazing donors!

**June 9-11** - Women's retreat on Storytelling with Dr. Meggan Manlove  
Every Sunday from June 18th through July 30th-Worship with us in the Cockrell center at 11am, and join us for brunch at 10am; Boat, drive, or jog on in!

Passion Play each Thursday around 9pm from June 22- August 3rd, in our outdoor amphitheater!

July 1-Free picnic, concert with JUST MOVE..(formally AGAPE) and campfire fun to celebrate FLBC's 80th birthday!!!

**Volunteers needed every week this summer! Apply today!** [www.flbc.net](http://www.flbc.net)

**Our mission: To experience Christ's grace, through meaningful relationships, shared adventure, and purposeful service!**



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### Synod Staff:

#### Bishop

Laurie Jungling: [ljungling@montanasynod.org](mailto:ljungling@montanasynod.org)

#### Associate to the Bishop

Brenda Frelsi: [bfrelsi@montanasynod.org](mailto:bfrelsi@montanasynod.org)

#### Director for Evangelical Mission

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: [ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)

#### Director of Technology and Communications

Colter McCarty: [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

#### Office Manager

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#### Director of NRIT

Jenny Kunka: [j.kunka@nrit.org](mailto:j.kunka@nrit.org)

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[Click here to be taken to the newsletter archive](#)





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