



# Montana Synod Weekly Announcements April 17, 2023

## **Messiah Lutheran Church in Red Lodge**

is celebrating the opening of their new building! Easter Sunday was a joyful first service, but the work of opening this building to the Red Lodge, Carbon County and Montana community is just beginning. May 14th is Celebration Sunday and we invite any Montana Clergy who are available to join us

- we will be gathering at 9:00 a.m. for worship at 10:00. The color is red.



This is a very special occasion for the Montana Synod. In the midst of congregations without pastors and regular church closings across the state, this will be an opportunity to bear witness to what God is still up to in Montana. Hope is alive in this Easter Season, so let's gather and celebrate as a Synod.



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.

# Christikon Benefit Auction

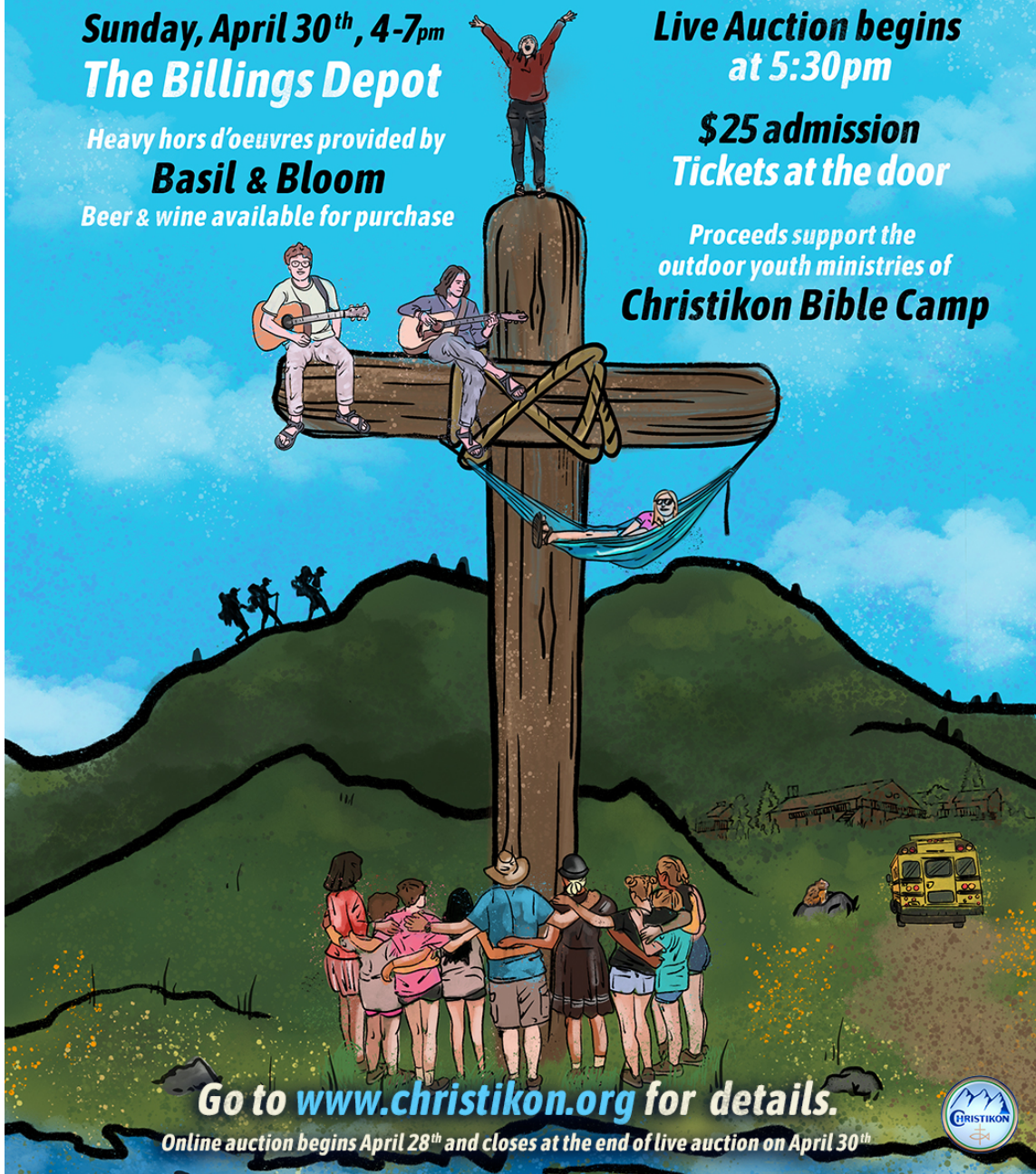
**Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 4-7pm**  
**The Billings Depot**

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>



**Truth & Healing Movement**

Over the next months the ELCA will provide opportunities to learn the true history and current realities of Indigenous people. It is these truths, truths that have been ignored by most for hundreds of years, that will bring healing for both Indigenous people and non-Indigenous people.

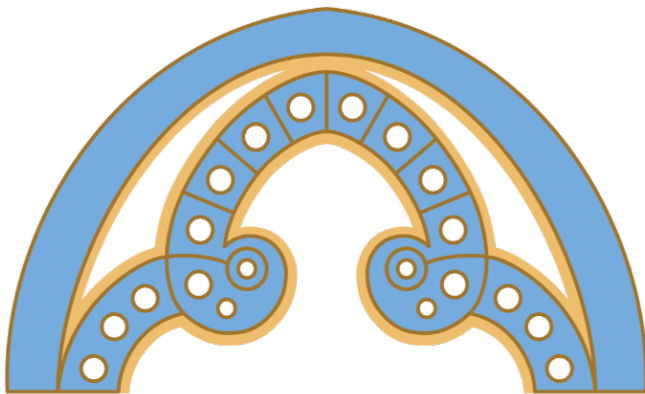
Some of these opportunities will be calls to individual action, and some will be activities that congregations and small groups should coordinate and participate in together. All these opportunities can be easily promoted by sharing links on social media or other communication platforms.

[Click here to see all of the opportunities and to register for them!](#)

Current Class offering:

**Indian 101**

April 18, 20, 25, 27th



**MONTANA**  
**JEWISH**  
**PROJECT**  
לדור ודור

# 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

## Educational Opportunity

Barbara Keller of the ELCA Churchwide Office is leading a one hour zoom seminar for rostered ministers on “How to Work with Sex Offenders in Your Congregation.”

Thurs 4/27/23 at 11:00AM Central time (10:00 AM Mountain Time)

Participants who have additional questions can remain on zoom to ask questions.  
Register by emailing [kate.schnaath@elca.org](mailto:kate.schnaath@elca.org)

Participants will receive handouts and zoom information.

The zoom will be recorded for future use.

## **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.

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/>

**Blessed Easter and Earth Day, April 22nd!**  
Get outside, and do something wonderful to care for God's beautiful creation that we are blessed to be caretakers of!

**Memorial weekend, May 26-29, 2023**  
Come for all or part of this FREE fun, working, growing weekend, as we care for God's creation at FLBC. Registration required by May 12th. [Registration@flbc.net](mailto:Registration@flbc.net) or call 406-752-6602. Pastor Carol Seilheimer, from Northridge Lutheran will be our Bible study and worship leader. This is a great weekend to bring family members for a "taste of camp!"

#### **Adopt a Bench!**

As we celebrate 80 years of ministry, we are working to re-do the outdoor chapel. \$750 will pay for a bench, and you can have your church name, family name, Bible verse, etc engraved on the bench! 28 benches are needed!

#### **Positions open at FLBC**

Summer Arts and Crafts Director; Summer staff chaplains (2 week minimum) ;Year round maintenance assistant; Year round Food Service Director... Please see application information, and job descriptions on our Website. Contact [margie@flbc.net](mailto:margie@flbc.net) Is God calling you to a new adventure??

#### **Outreach Ministry October 2023-April 2024**

FLBC staff will come to your congregation, 1x per month to lead a youth and or family night. Contact our office if your congregation is interested!

There is still time to register for summer youth camp and family camp weekends We have an awesome summer staff hired, and they are eager to meet you! It's going to be a fun, faith filled summer! Please join us at FLBC as we explore our summer theme, "Holy Trinity. Wholly Love"



**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**

1108 24<sup>th</sup> Street West • Billings, MT 59102  
406 656-1969 • [director@christikon.org](mailto:director@christikon.org) • [secretary@christikon.org](mailto:secretary@christikon.org) •  
[www.christikon.org](http://www.christikon.org)

---

#### **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**

Lori Jara: [office@montanasynod.org](mailto:office@montanasynod.org)

##### **Director of NRIT**

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

---

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





[Unsubscribe cmccarty@montanasynod.org](#)  
[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cmccarty@montanasynod.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!