



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Montana Synod Weekly Announcements April 26, 2021



ELCA World Hunger

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ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Matching Grants support congregations and their partners as they work

toward a just world where all are fed. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) congregations with feeding ministries are eligible to participate. In this round, approximately 50 grants are available to eligible ministries.

If your congregation sponsors a feeding ministry, please reach out to Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod for assistance to apply for the Daily Bread Matching Grant.

The Grant process opens on April 26th, and is only open until May 7th, so timing is important. If your application is approved, you will be able to invite your congregation, networks and friends to donate to kickstart your campaign, and the funds you raise will be matched by ELCA World Hunger with a grant of \$500.

Friends of Lutheran Campus Ministry at MSU

Blessings to our wonderful Lutheran Campus Ministry supporters! Your strong voice of support helps us to grow in mission and ministry!

The GIVE BIG Gallatin Valley Virtual Fundraiser is almost here!

This event will take place on **May 6 at 6pm until May 7 at 6pm**. We thank you for supporting the work of LCM during the 2021 Give Big Gallatin Valley!

Visit givebiggv.org and SEARCH for the Lutheran Campus Ministry profile.

Please watch the LCM video below with student reflections during COVID-19 this year.

Thank you! God's blessings! Pastor Kathie



Singing Plains, Calling Mountains

An Original Liturgy from the MT
Synod Changing Climate Task Force



Dearest Colleagues, are you tired of teaching all about bread? Remember, this is Year B and we who follow the RCI have 6 weeks on bread toward the end of August. What if the Climate Change Task Force gave you a fully built liturgy, sermons (or sermon guidance), videos, new songs, and new prayers all geared toward Creation Care that you could sub – in during that 6 week cycle? During this workshop, the Task Force will provide an introduction to the new liturgy, have a text study on the chosen scriptures, and provide an update on what the Task Force is currently doing.

Date: April 29

Time: 5-8pm MST.

Cost: \$25 (includes access to the liturgy after the class)



St. John's United

FAMILY SERVICES

From time to time, letters arrive in our office with a seemingly simple request — *Would you please forward this to my child?* If we are fortunate, the sender shares a bit about their adoption story — often with a hiccup of joy and grief in their voice — as they wonder about their child. They send the letters with faith that someday... Sometimes, the letter we send on their behalf returns to us without a forwarding address so we file for safekeeping "just in case."

Many of us have experienced grief, anxiety, and worry during this global pandemic as we consider our relationships and wonder about the future. For those impacted by adoption, especially in closed adoptions or those whose communication exchange has dwindled, I think these past months have heightened these feelings. And so we hear from a birth grandparent seeking to connect with their (now adult) grandchild, perhaps for the first and last time. We hear from an adoptee with dark hair, lovingly raised in a family full of redheads, who has decided to reach out to their birth family. We hear from birth parents bravely saying that they are ready to meet their child and their adoptive family.

St. John's United Family Services adoption counselors answer the phone, respond to the emails, and treasure the letters as we hear stories of loss and hope. **We provide this ministry thanks to the faithful support of donors like you who recognize the lifelong complexity of adoption.** Because of your financial support, we meet adoptees, birth families, and adoptive families where they are regardless of their worries and fears. We hold their hands as they remember the goodbye at the hospital. We help them compose the letter inviting a reunion. We facilitate gatherings of nervous parties meeting again years after the placement. All of this is possible thanks to your generosity.

As spring emerges with signs of new life, renewal, and promise, I invite you to help us keep the faith by offering your financial support for those impacted by adoption as they wonder about their past and face their future.

With gratitude,

Trudi Paulson
Director of Family Services

P.S. Please use the reply envelope or go to www.stjohnsunited.org to send your gift of hope, dignity and love. For more information, please call 406-655-5425.

SPRING 2021



EMMAUS
CAMPUS MINISTRY
*Be Yourself, Love the World,
Make A Difference*

Emmaus Campus Ministry at the University of Montana has openings for student residents this fall!

Emmaus:

- is a progressive Christian group with co-op living for 15 students in 3 houses (the Ark, Emmaus House, and Wesley House)
- works to build safe community centered around strong relationships, deeper questions about life and faith, serving neighbors, and social justice
- is open and affirming for LGBTQ+ students and open to varied faith perspectives
- is an ELCA campus ministry in partnership with Episcopal, UCC, and Methodists congregations



Residents are asked to help with cleaning, yard work, and leadership in the group. Visit website for details.

Text or call John 396-4974

ecmum.org



FLBC is looking for a few more summer staff members to round out our team!

We are so excited for this summer ~ Weeks of camp have been filling up quickly, and we are looking for a few more staff members to add to our Summer team to welcome more campers to FLBC! If you or someone you know would be a good fit for a team, we would love to start a conversation! Visit <https://flbc.net/employment/> to learn more about working at camp and to find instructions for applying.



BACKPACKING WITH THE BISHOP!

Join FLBC Staff and Bishop Laurie Jungling for a backpacking trip through the Jewel Basin, August 22 - 26. Find more information at <https://flbc.net/backpackingwiththebishop/>

Upcoming FLBC Retreats & Events

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> to learn more about our year-round programming and to find additional COVID-19 related information.

Mother's Day Brunch - REGISTER BY SATURDAY, MAY 1!

Sunday, May 9th, 2021

\$25/adult | \$18/ages 5-14 | Free/4 & under

Celebrate Mother's Day on the lake! 3 settings are available: 9:30am, 11:00am, and 12:30pm. Contact FLBC to register by May 1st!

Memorial Day Family Retreat & Work Weekend

May 28-31, 2021

FREE! Registration still required :-)

Come have a fun weekend and help FLBC get ready for summer!

Women's Retreat

June 11 - 13, 2021

\$165/person (\$125 for Saturday only)

Join us for a weekend of rejuvenation, fellowship and fun! Pastor Miriam Schmidt (Big Sky, MT) will lead us through the theme "Saying No, Saying Yes - A Spiritual Practice"

Christikon Clips



Christikon Auction Goes Online

April 6-13 on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Christikonbenefitauction>

Like our page and share it with your friends! Watch for sneak peeks!

The annual **Christikon Benefit Auction – Quilts, Vacation Get-aways, and a Whole Lot More** begins on Tuesday April 6th and runs through April 13th. Items are some of the finest artistry including a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, Big

Sky Condo, Murray Hotel Weekend, Big Sky Golf, jewelry and so much more. The auction will most definitely look different this year so join us on facebook and support Christikon's ministry and enjoy the friendly competitive bidding.

Youth Campers: Our Early Registration Discount has been extended to April 15th!
You've got time to get registered!

Christikon is celebrating its 70th year! 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 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.

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

