



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Montana Synod Weekly Announcements June 21, 2021



**MEMORIAL SERVICE
FOR
PASTOR LAWRENCE 'Larry' G.
VINSON**

(September 5, 1944 to January 13, 2021)

**Will be held on June 23, 2021
at 11:00am.**

**Please join us at Hope Lutheran Church
to celebrate Larry's life.**

**588 Avenue H
Powell, Wyoming**

All clergy are invited to vest and process. The color of the day is red.



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Since the early days of the pandemic, the ELCA has been a partner in the Ecumenical Consultation on Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacraments, publishing general and seasonal guidance for safe worship practices.

Over the past two months, the consultation met once again to approve a comprehensive update to the guidance originally published in the summer of 2020, incorporating the latest CDC guidance and other interim guidance previously issued by the consultation.

The consultation included an ecumenical group of theologians, scientists, physicians, pastors, bishops, and practitioners from at least seven church bodies.

Direct link to **Care-Filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic:**

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Care-filled%20Worship%20and%20Sacramental%20Life%20in%20a%20Lingering%20Pandemic.pdf)

A link to this resource has been added to [ELCA.org/publichealth](https://www.elca.org/publichealth).

Additional resources can be found on the ecumenical consultation website or Facebook page.

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

<https://sites.google.com/view/worshipsafely>

On Wednesday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the consultation will host a **webinar** titled **“Leading the Church in a Lingering Pandemic,”** a roundtable discussion with public health experts and pastors in a time of progress and uncertainty concerning the Covid-19 pandemic. How will congregations minister to those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated in multigenerational settings? What church activities should we continue to adapt or avoid, such as congregational singing or shaking hands?

Direct Registration link: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpYj6oaATtu8XxHysK1fxA

Facebook Event invitation: <https://fb.me/e/5uVtDe5SQ>

In Christ’s peace,

John

Deacon John E. Weit

Executive for Worship

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Portico Update!

Portico’s New Podcast - Being Here

Being Here is a podcast that explores real world issues and topics important to professionals in the faith community. Hosted by the Rev. Melissa Pohlman, Being Here invites us to learn together, listen to each other, grow together, and move forward together — stronger, more resilient as a unique community. Check out the three new episodes [here](#).

Lead Well Employer Webinars

Our Learn to Live mental health benefit partner has created these quick half-hour sessions for employers. Learn to recognize the signs of mental distress in others, and how to talk about mental health, create a culture of well-being, and lift the stigma about mental health in the workplace.

- [Register](#) and attend together as a leadership group
- o *Supporting Your Team’s Behavioral Health* webinar: 6/14 and 6/23
- o *Recognizing Potential Behavioral Health Challenges on our Teams* webinar: 6/16 and 6/24
- o Access code: **PORTICO**

[Click here to download the whole update!](#)

2021 Chico Gathering

November 2-5, 2021

Welcome all ministry leaders to the deferred Chico Gathering! This past year has been unusual – so why shouldn’t our Chico Gathering be?!? We will retain our traditional schedule of free afternoons

(ahhh – for some, that’s all you needed to hear!); however, this year will be a hybrid event with the



Bishop's Convocation. We understand that not all ministry leaders attend the Chico event, however the Bishop's Convocation is a required event. Therefore, we are working on a virtual attendance option for the sessions.

Mark your calendars and watch for further information (theme, schedule, etc.) in coming months!

Room Reservations: you may make room reservations immediately by contacting Chico Hot Springs directly (www.chicohotsprings.com or 1-406-333-4933). There are rooms blocked out for our event – indicate you are part of this group.

Gathering Registration: watch for registration information in early September.



**The Third Biannual
Fall Sojourn to Holden
September 26th - October 3rd**

**Now is the time to make plans for a
special week at Holden Village and
invite your friends!**

Holden is a retreat center for adults and families, nestled in a beautiful valley in the Cascade Mountains of Washington State.

Fall is a wonderful time to visit the Cascade Mountains. While at Holden Village you will have the opportunity to create your own rhythms of each day according to your interests. Teaching sessions and opportunities for creative engagement will be bountiful. You are encouraged to take time for rest and recreation - hiking, fly-fishing, weaving, other crafts, and a host of other activities. Please spend some time exploring Holden's website (holdenvillage.org) and consider exploring the Village in person.

After the busy summer schedule, fall is quieter and a beautiful time to visit. This late September week will feature the following teaching staff.

- **Rick Brown, PhD - Clean Energy as a Core Strategy to Address Climate Change.** Rick is Founder and President of TerraVerde Energy from 2009-2020. He has led a team that has developed over \$4,500 Million in clean energy projects. He has also been deeply involved in California legislation and regulation regarding clean energy and has been called on by the California Public Utilities Commission, California Energy Commission, and the Legislature to provide expert testimony on a wide range of clean energy issues
- **Pr. Jessica Crist - The Doctrine of Discovery — How Rick Santorum (and just about everyone else) Got it All Wrong.** Jessica has degrees from Yale and Harvard and is the former Bishop of the Montana Synod. She coordinated the ELCA's commemoration of the women's ordination anniversaries and currently co-chairs the ELCA's Task Force implementing the 2016 repudiation of the doctrine of discovery. She has been an advocate for Native American issues.
- **Pr. Mark Gravrock - The Reign of the Gathering God: The Gospel of Mark for 2021** Mark is a teacher and pastor, and has found the same vital center of joy in each setting of ministry: the place where the living word of God intersects with real, concrete daily life. He has taught Bible, Greek, and Christian spirituality for 22 years at Trinity Lutheran College in Washington.

If you are interested or have questions, contact Darius Larsen ASAP at:
dariuslarsen@msn.com.

To discover more about Holden Village, go to:
www.holdenvillage.org/visit.

Please do whatever you can to promote this week in your church community.

Christikon Clips

June, 2021

Information for our Congregations

We welcome our summer staff May 31st and the first session this summer will be our Developmentally Disabled Adults in June.

We are also in the midst of the Deck Rebuild project. The demolition is completed and the prep work begun. We will continue into Work



Weekend with the prep and then start building with crews each week in June with hopes for completion by mid June. We are in need of volunteers, skilled and partially skilled! We will provide housing and food. Please sign up by calling the office. Let's Re-Build the Deck!

Campers! There is still room in our on-site sessions. Please visit our website to register. www.christikon.org We have a few trails spots available – call the office for availability. 406-656-1969.

Remember to pray for your congregation's ministry through Christikon this summer, for the summer staff, and for all who join in the Christikon life.

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 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

Upcoming FLBC Retreats & Events

Visit <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/> to learn more about our year-round programming and to find information on how to register for each of these retreats.

Summer Family Weekends - Register 2 weeks ahead of time

July 2 - 4 & July 16 - 18, 2021

Spend time on the lake, enjoy Bible Study sessions led by Pastor Barb Gwynn & Pastor Scott Hedegaard (weekend 1) and Pastor John Lund (weekend 2).

<https://flbc.net/annual-programming/summer-family-weekend/>



BACKPACKING WITH THE BISHOP! - Register by August 8

August 22-26, 2021

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

Labor Day Weekend Retreat - Register by August 20

September 3-6, 2021

Join FLBC for this *free* retreat over Labor Day Weekend! Enjoy good food, fellowship and fun, while helping camp with some work projects!

<https://flbc.net/annual-programming/labor-day-family-camp/>

Grief Retreat - Register by August 27

September 10-12, 2021

This retreat is for any adult (18+) who has lost a loved one such as a partner, friend, parent, or child. You are invited to spend a weekend at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp; there will be opportunities for learning and fellowship, and time for peace and quiet.

Synod Staff:

Bishop

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