



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements August 2, 2021

Keeping in Mind Global Mission in South America

July 2021

Newsletter

Keeping in Mind Global Mission In South America

IELB-Bolivia: a servant and thriving church

COVID 19 causes enormous damage to the Bolivian people, both in their health and the possibility of people obtaining their daily bread. The 2019 and 2020 political crises caused damage as well. However, in this difficult and challenging time the IELB Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church is active, dynamic, and flourishing,

Anticovid vaccination is in trouble because the government planned to vaccinate 50% of 15 million Bolivians over 18 years old until October 2021 to achieve the so-called herd immunity. Still, until July 2021, 20% have one dose and only 7% the two doses.

Vaccination is slow due to the low participation of citizens. According to experts, the government's communication campaign needed more information and more education, and less propaganda; especially promoting the benefits of vaccination, debunk myths, and combat misinformation disseminated by anti-vaccine groups and fundamentalist religious organizations. Blessedly, the U.S. Government has shipped one million doses of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine to Bolivia in mid-July.

People's work (others would say (the economy) is in trouble because the COVID crisis has led to a decrease in economic activity and an increase in poverty. Bolivian governments tried to protect the poorest with cash transfers and deferred payments. But the crisis also exposed the bad preparedness of the health system, the high level of labor informality, and the lack of focus on social protection programs.

Bolivia's urban population suffers the worst consequences of the crisis, with overburdened hospitals, insufficient water and sanitation services, and profound inequalities. Even though in the cities, the population shows extraordinary solidarity and resilience.

The political crisis has also caused damage. A year after its fall, Evo Morales' political party is once again governing Bolivia. President Luis Arce focused his campaign on the remote neighborhoods, on the impoverished by the coronavirus. Also, he made a campaign on those who went out from poverty to the middle class during Morales' government fell back into poverty because of the coronavirus. Arce, who is not a caudillo like Evo Morales, is a well-known technician, won more than 50% of the votes. The new government faces an economic crisis, social conflict, and a health emergency due to covid-19.

Amid this context, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, IELB, has given testimony of an integral mission: service to the needy and proclaiming the good news.

Although COVID fatally affected many people in the church, and dozens of leaders and pastors have died because of the pandemic, the church has continued serving and giving testimony of God's unconditional love. IELB is making a distinctive contribution by providing food and support for pandemic-affected families. Because of its long-term relationships, belonging, commitment to communities and the local population acceptance, IELB reaches the most vulnerable people and remote places.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Jesus The Galilee Congregation.
Opening of the new sanctuary.
April 2021



Jesus The Galilee
Congregational Leadership



Copacopa Congregation
47 anniversary celebration
in a crowded sanctuary



Rev. German Lopez celebrating a community
water supply system opening

Visit www.regionlac.net

[Click here to download the full newsletter!](#)



Holy Land Journey

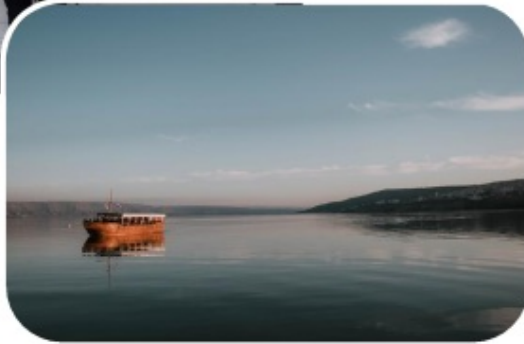
Walk Where Jesus Walked

June 20-29, 2022

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp



FLBC Staff
& Rev. Arne Bergland, retired from
Our Redeemers (Helena)



\$3,290 From Chicago, IL - ORD

Package price includes:

- Roundtrip airfare
- All nights accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily
- Eight days sightseeing in modern, air conditioned private bus
- English speaking, government licensed, Christian tour guide on duty
- And much more!

Places of interest

- ✓ Bethlehem
- ✓ Jerusalem
- ✓ Jericho
- ✓ Nazareth
- ✓ Sea of Galilee

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp
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ELCA Worship News

Updated Guidance for Safe Worship Practices

[“Care-filled Worship and Sacramental Life in a Lingering Pandemic”](#) is a comprehensive update from the consultation [on Ecumenical Protocols for Worship, Fellowship, and Sacramental Practices](#). Incorporating the latest Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance, this update informs decision making and basic practices of Christian worship and congregational life. The ELCA has been a partner in this consultation throughout the pandemic.



We Bought the Stuff, Now What?

A Zoom forum to Discuss Technology, Gadgets and Best Practices
Facilitated by Colter McCarty, Dir. of Technology and
Communication for the Montana Synod

This interactive forum will provide time for questions as well as a
space for sharing ideas, concerns and plans for the future.

(Please note, this is not a tech support class.)

Tuesday, August 10

9:30 am to Noon

Free ([Must pre-register on the NRIT page of the synod website.](#))



Leading Holy Conversations amid Polarization: Equipping Followers of Christ to Communicate in Faith- filled Ways. A Class Designed for Church Leaders.



We live in a time when it is nearly impossible to communicate with one another with any depth, a time in which our conversations so easily descend into angry retorts, judgmental suspicion, reactive demonization, and hateful dehumanizing until there seems nothing left to do but retreat into same-thinking groups or go to battle with the so-called “enemy.”

How do we as followers of Christ and leaders in Christ's Church respond to the challenges that intrude into our congregations and ministries? Do we say nothing? Do we engage in the same divisive rhetoric? Do we leave the church altogether? Or do we seek different approaches designed to lower the anxiety level, build up community, and equip us to love one another into faith-filled communication?

This workshop will offer various tools, guidance, and methods so that you can better lead healthy and effective conversations in your communities.

Taught by Bishop Laurie Jungling.

Class held via Zoom

Sept. 9th 10am to Noon and 1pm to 3pm.

Register by going to www.montanasynod.org and clicking on the blue NRIT logo.

Christikon Clips



August 2021

Information for our Congregations

As you are reading this clip, we are readying for the last sessions of our 70th season. We hosted over 550 campers so far this season including youth, families, adults and at risk youth. We have retreats schedule through August.

Our summer staff will be completing their stay with us and will soon be heading back to their lives outside of Christikon.

We look forward to our congregational and family retreats scheduled this fall. A few retreat times are still available.

Call Kerry in the office and reserve a time.

We continue to ask for your prayers for those traveling to camp, our staff, and campers.

Blessings to all of you who support Christikon with prayer, time, skills, and financially. We are grateful!

Please visit <https://christikon.org/donate-to-christikon/> and continue your support.

**It is the mission of Christikon to awaken and nurture faith in Christ— exploring
God's creation and the adventure of life together.**

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**FLBC is currently hiring for our year-round
staff!**

We are seeking a Wilderness/Environmental

Education Director and Community Staff.

Interested in being a part of the ministry of FLBC or know someone who would be a good fit?

Visit <https://flbc.net/employment/#yearround> to see the full job descriptions and instructions for applying.

Upcoming FLBC Retreats & Events

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



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. CEU credits are available through the NRIT

<https://flbc.net/annual-programming/grief-retreat/>

Fall Harvest Festival & Auction

October 9th, 2021

Help FLBC raise funds to ensure no one is turned away due to inability to pay through camperships! This special event also coincides with the FLBC Annual Meeting (taking place at 2:30 pm on Saturday, 10/9).

Crazy About Quilting & Crafting Retreat - Register by October 21, 2021

November 4-7, 2021

Bring your quilt and craft projects and work alongside friends old and new on the west shore of Flathead Lake.

<https://flbc.net/annual-programming/quiltcraft-retreat/>

Advent "Preparing for Christmas" Retreat - Register by November 19, 2021

December 3-5, 2021

Prepare for the Christmas season by taking intentional time to slow down and enjoy the season. Make awesome crafts, cut your own Christmas tree, and soak in time for worship and prayer this Advent.

<https://flbc.net/annual-programming/advent-retreat/>

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