

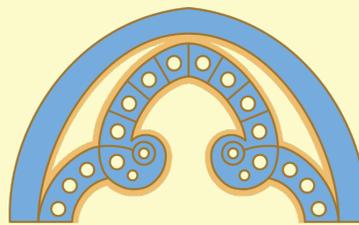


Montana Synod Weekly Announcements August 15, 2022

Dear MJP Supporters,

It's been another busy week at the Montana Jewish Project, and I'm excited to update you.

First, MJP's Board decided to focus only on acquiring historic Temple



**MONTANA
JEWISH
PROJECT**
לדור דור

Emanu-El—the first synagogue built in Montana (and the first between Minneapolis and Portland). The original contract we signed with the Diocese in November 2021 was to purchase the historic synagogue, a free-standing house behind the synagogue, and an open lot next door to it—all for \$925,000.

This was a great opportunity. However, given our current fundraising, we would need to finance a portion of the \$925,000 package—and then immediately sell the house to pay down the mortgage. It would have proved extremely complicated for our all-volunteer-led nonprofit organization.

Our mission—to reclaim Temple Emanu-El, establish a statewide Jewish community and cultural center, and to provide Helena's Jewish community with a permanent space for community-building and worship— is deeply personal to all of us. Focusing on purchasing only the historic synagogue simplifies our task.

We are continuing negotiations and meetings with the bishop's office to finalize purchasing the majestic synagogue. The great news is we are very close to returning this historic synagogue to Jewish use for the first time in 86 years.

As you know from previous newsletters, we pushed our closing back a final time until August 31, 2022.

Our other big news is that we received a \$50,000 grant from the Treacy Foundation. We're honored that such a venerable foundation put its faith in our efforts. Along with this, we've received some other large individual donations.

We are so close to the amount we need for reclaiming this building, having the funds we need to maintain it while we get our operations up to speed, and hiring a programming director. Every contribution we receive now makes more of this possible. Can you help us?

All of us invested in this project have been running a marathon since we learned the Diocese was vacating Temple Emanu-El, and we incorporated as non-profit 15 months ago. We've run a capital campaign, honed our vision, identified the needs we can fill in Montana, and started offering the kinds of programming our Jewish community and cultural center will continue to provide across the state.

We can see the finish line now, just ahead, up over the final incline.

We're all digging deep. Thank you for running along beside us since May 2021. Thank you for sharing this dream with us.

Now let's finish!
With gratitude as always,
Rebecca Stanfel

God's Work. Our hands. 2022!



On Sunday, Sept. 11, congregations will join together for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. This annual day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. To help you plan for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, we invite you to visit [ELCA.org/DayofService](https://www.elca.org/DayofService) for resources including:

- [An invitational video.](#)
- [2022 planning tool kit.](#)
- [2022 worship resource.](#)
- ["Service in the Time of COVID-19."](#)
- [Posters, postcards and social media graphics.](#)
- [Spanish-language resources.](#)
- [Special hymn text, music and recording.](#)

[Old Lutheran](#) has T-shirts and other items available for purchase. The deadline for ordering your congregation's personalized T-shirts is Aug. 19.

Don't forget to share your participation with us. Send your stories and photos to LivingLutheran@elca.org so that together we can celebrate what God accomplishes through you.

Participate on social media using #GodsWorkOurHands.

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 11, please consider another day for your service activities. We know that you work every day to make a positive impact on your community!

Go in peace, serve the Lord!



Visions of Hope for Vitality and Sustainability in Small Congregations

Thursday, September 15th VIA ZOOM
10am to 3pm (four contact hours)

Many small membership congregations experience unique challenges and stresses in fulfilling mission and ministry which seem even more serious as we emerge from the impacts of global pandemic. But there are crucial signs of hope amid these challenges. In this workshop we will explore some new and important information, resources, and strategies to aid smaller congregations in increasing vitality and sustainability in mission and ministry.



Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen is a leading authority on congregational ministry in small congregations and rural contexts and serves as Director of the Center for Theology and Land at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He is also the Chair of the Rural Ministry Network of the United States and Canada and the International Rural Churches Association. Prior to coming to Wartburg, Mark led rural congregations in southwestern Minnesota for 17 years, founded and led the ministry of Shalom Hill Farm, and consulted with hundreds of rural congregations.

Stewardship in Congregations

As leaders are thinking about the fall and making plans for the rest of 2022 and 2023, in the midst of post-covid and the inflation that we are experiencing, you maybe are wondering how the Montana Synod is working to provide resources for your congregation to address questions of stewardship, congregational finances and other issues. Please note these options available to congregations in the Montana Synod.

End-of-Summer Stewardship Conversation Via Zoom

Wed. Aug. 31, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Join with others in the Synod for a 1 1/2 hour time of learning with DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Dennis Trotter, Synod Stewardship Consultant and members of the Stewardship Task Force on basics of Stewardship and Generosity. Topics to be covered include the state of giving in the church today, challenges and opportunities to talk about money in the church and a beginning conversation about how to equip leaders to encourage and strengthen generosity in the congregation.

Topic: Montana Synod Stewardship for Congregations Zoom

Time: Aug 31, 2022 07:00 PM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/83182805587?pwd=bkpBUTRsTTBZbGpXM3UzSzNNUFUoZz09>

Meeting ID: 831 8280 5587

Passcode: 049937

One tap mobile

+16699006833,,83182805587#,,,,*049937# US (San Jose)

+17193594580,,83182805587#,,,,*049937# US

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 831 8280 5587

Passcode: 049937

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kd4SNgGvSj>

Discernment Event for Intentional Interim Ministry

What is Intentional Interim Ministry, Really?

Is This a Ministry For Me?

How Do I Get Started?

Two, 2-Hr. Online Workshops

Tuesday, September 6 or Wednesday September 21

1:00 PM CDT

Register for livestream participation. Click on one of these links to register through Zoom.

[Registration for Sep 6 workshop](#)

[Registration for Sep 21 workshop](#)

\$25 for each workshop payable to LuTMA

Mail check to: PO Box 124, Carlisle, PA 17013

(Fee can be deducted from full tuition for Basic Training in Transitions class.)

Limited to 15 participants per workshop.

Among the Topics

How is interim different from "regular" ministry?

Do I have the aptitude? How do I train?

Presenters

Rev. Dr. Scott E. Olson, ELCA

Rev. Dr. Martin Lee, LCMS

Rev. Peter Alexander, LuTMA Faculty Dean

Intended for Pastors and Synod / District Leaders

For more information click below.

[Link to the LuTMA Website](#)

Go to Education tab - select Discernment Event

September 2022

Information for our Congregations

Summer season # 71 is in the books. What a journey it has been with so many opportunities for us to be about God's work. Our exceptional staff has headed back to their lives outside of camp, the campers are back at school, and we begin the planning for 2023. It has been an adventure!



We hosted campers from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Iowa, Florida, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. Wonderful opportunity to connect with people from these out of state congregations and forge long lasting friendships sharing the Christikon experience.

Our special guest speaker Dr. David Lose led our CE Retreat and Mountain Weekend sessions.

Fall Retreats: We have retreats scheduled into the middle of October with a few dates still available. Bring your group and enjoy fall in the mountains!

Capital Campaign: We are looking at the Adult Housing/Boys Dorm next! **If you have not received a Capital Campaign packet, please contact the office and one will be sent to you.**

We are grateful for your prayers for Christikon this summer, for the summer staff as they are called back into the world newly equipped to share their mountaintop experiences, and for all who have joined in the Christikon life. We ask for your continued prayers and 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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406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org



Upcoming Retreats & Events:

Find more information and register online at <https://flbc.net/annual-programming/>

Labor Day Work Weekend & Family Retreat

Join us this Labor Day weekend for one last summer celebration with your family! Enjoy all that FLBC has to offer during this great family retreat: swimming, stand up paddleboarding, crafts in the Art Barn, sailing, and much more! Come to help us with some work projects or join us for a weekend of relaxation, or both! Either way, there will be fun, worship, and more for all.

Plus, join us for a **fun run, lake time, and ice cream party** – Dash, Dive, & Dip! – on Sunday, September 4 at 2PM. Make it a part of your Labor Day Weekend Retreat, or come just for the event. \$25/person supports camperships.

Women's Retreat

September 23-25, 2022 | \$175/person (Full Weekend) \$135/person (Saturday Only)

Join us for a weekend of fun, good company, great food, and rest. Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission at the Montana Synod, will lead our Bible Study focusing on Dwelling in the Word. Plus, spend time enjoying the beauty of camp, doing yoga on the docks, doing pottery, drinking coffee on the deck, and much more.

FLBC Golf Tournament

On Friday, October 7th, 2022, join FLBC for a fun day of golf at Polson Bay Golf Course as we raise funds for camperships! \$150 / player includes green fees, golf cart use, driving range practice & more! Register as a team of 4 or as a free agent. More information can be found online at flbc.net/golf

Can your congregation / business/ organization / family / etc. be a tournament sponsor? From donating a raffle item, to sponsoring a hole, to being the title sponsor, your support makes an un-fore-gettable impact! Contact carlee@flbc.net for more information about supporting the tournament in this way!

In this interim time during our search for an Office Administrator, the best way to reach the Synod staff is by email or cell phone. We will of course be checking voicemail messages in the office and get back to you!

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

Director of NRIT

Jenny Kunka: j.kunka@nrit.org

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

