



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements September 5, 2022

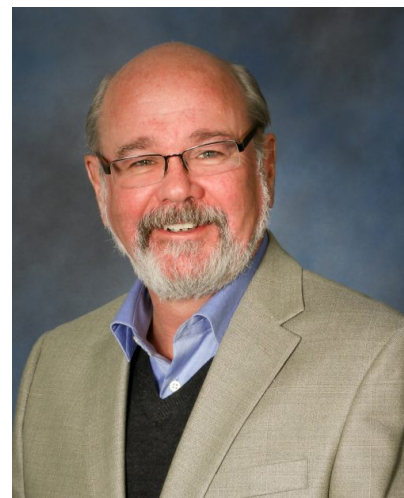


Visions of Hope for Vitality and Sustainability in Small Congregations

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.



SWO Scoop

News from MT SWO



ALL THINGS MADE NEW

Women Of The ELCA Montana Synodical Women's
2022 Convention and Gathering

September 30 and October 1, 2022
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
1000 Helena Ave, Helena, MT

Convention, September 30

Election of new officers, board members and the Triennial Voting Members

Adoption of the working budget for 2022-2024

Decisions on use of our Pool of Living Waters Contributions for 2022-2024

Gathering, October 1, Special Guests

Jade Eaton - Discernment in Group Decision Making

Mary Stevens – Harp for Healing

Pool of Living Waters offering goes to Montana Suicide Prevention & ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response

Miranda Searcy – Women of the ELCA Churchwide Rep

Thankoffering Box Competition (Bring one to Show)

Thankoffering Service offering goes to ½ Women of the ELCA and ½ to Home Florence Crittenton of Helena

Please send a Voting member and other women of your Church

Tax info from the DEM

Employee Retention Tax Credit – It's Not Too Late

By now, most churches have heard of or even claimed Employee Retention Tax Credits (ERTC). ERTC has been a lifeline for so many churches that struggled during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have you pursued it yet?

Congress' Employee Retention Credit (ERC) rules make tax refunds available for churches that paid employee wages and health insurance in 2020 and 2021. Is the ERC now in the rearview mirror? No. ERC remains as hot as ever with only 50% of the churches claiming this credit. Your church may qualify for the ERC.

Don't miss the opportunity of claiming the Employee Retention Credit.

This stimulus money is available to any church affected by a reduction in gross receipts or partially or fully shut down due to government orders anytime from April 2020 – September 2021.

If your church hasn't taken advantage of this stimulus opportunity, take the quiz below to see if your church is eligible...

[Employee Retention Credit Eligibility Quiz](#)

Here's just one example of potential savings: A church with 10 employees each making \$40,000 per year in wages could get a \$50,000 ERC for 2020 and \$210,000 ERC for 2021!

Luther Seminary's "Faith+Lead" offers an important learning opportunity for pastors and judicatory leaders prior to the 2022 Mid-Term election.

"FROM HOLY RAGE TO HOLY HOPE: THE PASTOR AS PUBLIC LEADER AND CONGREGATION AS HEALING COMMUNITY" led by Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse

Overcome the polarization that exists in American religion and politics by learning how you and your congregation can help bridge the divide. Offered Thursdays, 1-2:30 Central Time, on **Sept. 15, 22, and Oct 6-27**. Cost is only \$125 and scholarships are available. For more information and to register click on the following link today:

<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/from-holy-rage-to-holy-hope/>



Register by September 9th for the FLBC 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.

Christikon Clips

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.

CHRISTIKON • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102
406 656-1969 • secretary@christikon.org • www.christikon.org

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](#)



Montana Synod, ELCA | 1221 24th St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405-5034

[Unsubscribe cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cmccarty@montanasynod.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!