



Montana Synod Weekly Announcements September 25, 2023

**GENEROSITY 101:
PRACTICAL STEPS FOR CONGREGATIONS
WEBINAR: OCT. 2, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 PM**



On Monday, October 2, 2023, from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Congregational Stewardship Committees, Congregational Council leaders, Pastors and LPAs are invited to join in a Zoom webinar with Rev. Tim Brown, (the speaker at the 2023 Synod Assembly) and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod, Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger.

This will be a time to learn and discuss practical steps for congregations to align values and mission around stewardship in congregations. We will consider generosity through the lens of abundance, rather than scarcity. There will be time for questions with the leaders at the end of the session for those who would like to remain on the Zoom.

Please register for the webinar using the link below, in order to receive the Zoom invite link.

A Second Session with Rev. Brown and Rev. Leuzinger is also scheduled for Mon. Dec. 4, 2023 again from 6:30 – 7:30 to discuss “What can we do now?” as your congregation approaches the end of the fiscal year. There will be suggestions and conversation about how to “make the ask”.

[Click Here to Register](#)



Lutheran Volunteer Corps News

AN IMPORTANT SEASON FOR LVC

Greetings,
TEAM LVC! Alumni engagement and financial support can sustain the LVC experience, AND we need your help this fall to determine the future of the LVC program.

First, we need alumni ambassadors to help us lead the action Zooms in October; next, we'll invite alumni to join us for these discussions.

In our [July e-news](#) we announced Zoom discussions for LVC's future to be held in the fall, so that supporters can help determine LVC's future. We'll schedule a Zoom for each LVC city where we can get two alumni/supporters to help us lead those discussions.

ICYMI, FROM THE JULY E-NEWS -- LVC: A PIVOTAL YEAR AHEAD

In a recent conversation with an LVCer, the alum shared that his LVC experience was so formative and impactful, he thought LVC could move along just fine without his help. He was surprised that the number of volunteers had been reducing so drastically over the last decade, and his help is, indeed, greatly needed.

LVC is not able to sustain without the engagement and financial support of alumni, organized to actively support recruitment and fundraising.

We know from our campus ministry connections that Lutheran Colleges are becoming less Lutheran, without the active champions on campus sending graduates to LVC. Volunteers' first choice for location has shifted to Washington, DC. Volunteers used to join for intentional community; now the Placement position drives their commitment. Applicants used to apply by the February deadline; now most applications come May-July, late in the year for decision making. Applicants join, then withdraw due to family financial pressure to start earning. Engagement with religious institutions continues to decline in general. Fewer Lutherans join the program (see chart below). Fewer participants are from the Mid-west (see chart below).

LVCers share how critical the experience was in their lives; many volunteers get hired into their first jobs and lifelong careers; 3 of 16 volunteers are doing a second year; and alumni often commit to service and anti-racism, and friendships, for a lifetime.

Consider how you can help LVC thrive, and look for discerning conversations on *LVC's future*, this Fall.



Enhancing Worship with Art: Music, Design, Visual Elements and Themes

Come, explore, learn and share ideas for music, liturgy and enhancing church spaces to emphasize worship and sermon themes. This workshop will involve singing a variety of songs and liturgies from various resources. In addition to music, ideas will be presented using our senses to enhance worship spaces to highlight seasonal and sermon themes included in the Revised Common Lectionary and Narrative Lectionary. You are invited to bring resources and ideas to share with others. Continuing Education Credits available for rostered leaders and LPAs.

October 7th, 10am to 3:30pm at Northridge Lutheran, Kalispell
Cost: \$25

Montana Rural Ministry: Hope and Possibility

Believing that the future of rural ministry is ecumenical and also knowing that there are hopeful possibilities for rural ministry in Montana, we'd like to invite both pastors and lay people to this ecumenical gathering as a time to ask questions and envision the future.

1pm Wednesday, Oct. 11 through noon Thursday, Oct 12
St. John's Lutheran, Great Falls

Cost: \$25 and supper Wednesday night is provided. Participants need to find their own lodging for Wednesday evening.

GVIA invites you to a ***Faith Over Fear*** training in Bozeman, MT Thursday, October 5th

Thanks to an incredibly generous grant, **Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign** (<https://www.shouldertoshouldercampaign.org/>), is providing a world class training, worth 6 CEUs, on October 5th from 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM in Bozeman, MT, followed by a celebratory dinner starting at 5:30 PM. Gallatin Valley Interfaith Association (GVIA) is very proud to bring this offering to our associated houses of worship. While the training and celebratory dinner are FREE, participants are required to RSVP to both. To get a taste of this training, look at the following short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iwt-aRsXeaM>).

A multifaith coalition founded on the notion that anti-Muslim discrimination, like

discrimination against other targeted groups, impacts all of us, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign representatives and their team, including Montanans, will provide a dynamic program with concrete take-aways for being an effective ally. Grounding ourselves in our shared ideals and values, we will consider experiences of inclusion and exclusion in Montana and our nation, learn about Islamophobia, and consider the role of clergy and people of faith in messaging strategies for change. Specifically, we will learn about and practice strategies for being good allies to our Muslim, Jewish, LGBTQ+, and non-white neighbors, including **The 5 D's** (Distract, Delegate, Document, Direct, Delay) and more.

All training participants must RSVP through the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology, a ministry of the MT ELCA Synod, at <https://www.montanasynod.org/nrit.html>. (QR code below) As this website offers numerous classes and trainings, scroll down until you see "Faith Over Fear."

We will offer free coffee, tea, and Wild Crumb delicacies from 10:00 – 10:30 AM at the Fireside Room at Hope Lutheran Church, off South 19th Avenue (2152 Graf Street) before the 10:30 AM – 4:30 PM training. Please bring your own 'Brown Bag Lunch.' After, from 5:30 – 7:00 PM, each LOCAL Gallatin Valley house of worship is invited to bring members to a GVIA-hosted Halal Celebratory Dinner again at Hope. Please RSVP here by Sept 25, if possible: [RSVP for Celebratory Dinner](#). You are welcome to bring a dessert to share.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Valerie Webster (406-579-3980; vwebster587@gmail.com).



BOZEMAN MONTANA

October 5, 2023

A training for people of faith to be allies to our Muslim Neighbors, and others in our communities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO REGISTER, VISIT:

MontanaSynod.org/nrit.html

During this training you will:

- Build stronger local multi-religious networks
- Improve skills and confidence to speak against anti-Muslim/anti-other rhetoric & discrimination
- Increase community discussions to effectively counter anti-Muslim & other discrimination

Participants are eligible for 6 CEUs through NRIT



SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

Standing with American Muslims. Advancing American Ideals.



**GALLATIN VALLEY
INTERFAITH
ASSOCIATION**

Seek Truth & Healing with Indigenous Siblings

The ELCA's Truth and Healing Movement encourages us to support the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. September 30 is the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools. Wear an orange t-shirt and hang orange banners in your congregations.

Take a class or view previous presentations of the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement. Past sessions include conversations with boarding school survivors and descendants. Upcoming classes include "Indian 101", Indigenous Thought and Theology, the Vine Deloris Symposium, Land Acknowledgement preparations, and more.

[Click to See All Truth & Healing Sessions](#)

Join us at
**ELEA Innovative Leadership Summit:
Developing the Leader Within**
October 27-29, 2023

[Register](#)

ELEA Innovative Leadership Summit is intense training for leaders of ELCA Schools and Learning Centers who are interested in building a network for themselves, developing new skills and innovative strategies, and re-inspiring passion for your mission. *We encourage Pastors and Administrators to attend together and will offer ways to connect if that is not possible.* [View our program guide \(draft\)](#)

Date/Time

Our program will begin on October 27th at 1:00 pm. There will be an early-bird welcome on October 26th for those arriving early. Our program will conclude on October 29th by Noon. Please schedule travel accordingly.

Fees/Admission

This event is offered at a rate of \$375/person. This fee covers a multitude of engaging workshop offerings, Saturday Lunch, and breaks as well as resources, panelist time, and much more. Room rates have been secured at \$119. Once participants are registered we will share the attendee list in case you would like to share a room.



ELEA INNOVATIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT:
DEVELOPING THE LEADER WITHIN
AN INSPIRING LEADERSHIP EVENT

MEET THE SPEAKERS

JENNIFER SKIBBA
Personell

CODY COTTON
Impact

JANELLE HOOPER
Faith

CHRIS COMELLA
Diversity

MICHAEL ROTTMAN
Energy

CHERYL COLLINS
Equity

DON GILLINGHAM
Strategy

OCTOBER 27-29, 2023 | CHICAGO, IL | WWW.ELCASCHOOLS.ORG

Clergy Financial Resources

What type of service is right for you?

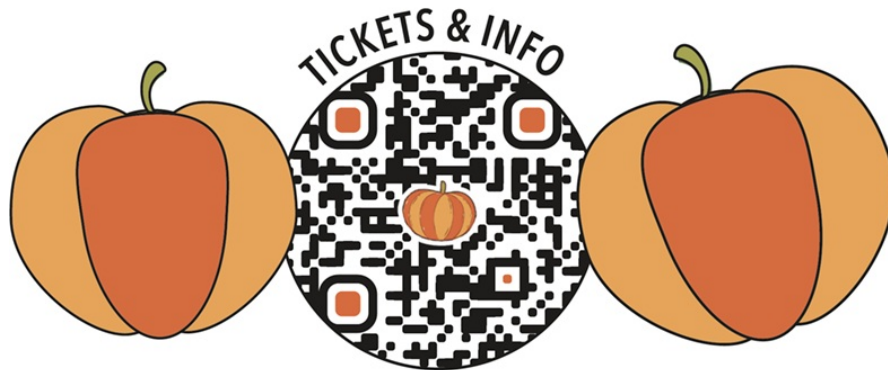
Selecting a tax advisor or accounting firm may seem easy at first. There are two types of professional services within our industry. The first type is called a "Generalist." - A Generalist prepares any return and often only knows what you tell them, which can cause confusion. They do not provide adequate guidance and knowledge about clergy tax law, ministers' compensation, PARP, housing, pension accounts, W-2 forms, etc. The second type is called a "Specialist"- A Specialist has a

focus on clergy tax law and provides services exclusively to that group. Clergy Financial Resources is a "Specialist" within the industry and has provided tax services and support exclusively to ministers since 1980. We understand that ministers are treated differently under the tax code than anyone else in the country, which may lead to advantages and disadvantages. You may be losing out on the best tax filing strategies without even knowing it.

- Our knowledge, experience, and approach are what sets our firm apart -

The rules are constantly changing; we will sort out the questions, simplify your tax return, and do all the tedious work that consumes your valuable time. Need to file? There is still time to file before the extended tax deadline of October 16, 2023.

Learn how to get started



Harvest Festival and Auction at FLBC

The Annual meeting, of the FLBC Association will be Oct 14th, at 2:30pm! Our meeting will include worship and the installation of Pastors Grant and Amanda Applehans as Co-Associate Directors! Clergy are invited to vest and process.



We still have a few tickets left for the Harvest Festival and auction, Oct 14th! Get yours today...(Colter can you put the QR code in here, or parts of the flyer?) see flyer attached

Donations are needed for the auction. Do you know a business you could ask for a gift certificate? a fun basket of items? Contact: Events@flbc.net for more information, on how you, your church and your business can help make camp accessible to all. All proceeds go to our annual fund for camperships.

Outreach in your congregation! FLBC is once again offering to come to your congregation to work with youth, or family groups. Once a month is available, October 2023,- April, 2024. Contact Amanda@flbc.net for more information and to sign up!!

Mark your calendars!

Day camp registration opens Oct 10th, first come first serve! Call 406-752-6602 or email Amanda@flbc.net

Staff applications will be open for summer 2024, beginning Nov 1st. Know of someone who might benefit from a summer at FLBC? They will learn leadership skills galore! Minimum age to apply is 18.

Summer registration opens Nov 10th, 2023. Watch for your brochure in snail mail soon. The FLBC web site will be open for registration Nov 10th.

Pastors and volunteers, get your first choice of weeks for summer 2024. Go to www.flbc.net, beginning Nov 10th, for the application! WE are excited for our theme "Created to Be," as the curriculum for 2024. Psalm 139:14

[Click Here for Tickets](#)

Confirmation! FLBC has had some requests for an on-line confirmation class, with 3-4 retreats at FLBC during the year. The class would/could be for students across the synod who Would zoom together for class, and then gather for retreats, and or a week of summer confirmation camp. Would any of you Pastors/LPS's/lay leaders be interested in this for your student(s)?? Would you be willing to help teach? What curriculum would be the most helpful for your congregation? Please contact Associate Director Pastor Amanda Applehans. Amanda@flbc.net

Grief Retreat: October 20-23, with professional counselor and Pastor Keith. For those adults coping with the loss of a friend, or family member. Registration deadline Oct 6th.

The Bible in 24 hours, October 29-31, (Sunday-Tuesday) Come enjoy FLBC in the fall. Relax, hike, sip some wine, and enjoy learning more about the Bible with Dr. Rachel Wrenn, Biblical Studie professor a Trinity Seminary, Columbus, OH.

Young Adults! Plan now to attend the young adult retreat, Dec 27-29 at FLBC. Ski, play, enjoy the new sauna, with a dip in the lake! Join Baird Linke, and the FLBC staff who will lead the sessions, on the theme: "Spiritual Wilderness" \$100 per person; 18-35 year olds. Registration deadline Dec. 13th.

THANK YOU....for all our amazing 57 summer staff, over 50 volunteers, and over 1200 campers who made the summer of 2023 extra special. THANKS be to God

For questions and more details, or if you would like the schedule of these retreats: call FLBC at 406-752-6602. (leave a voice message, as many of our staff work remotely) or email Registraion@flbc.net.

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



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