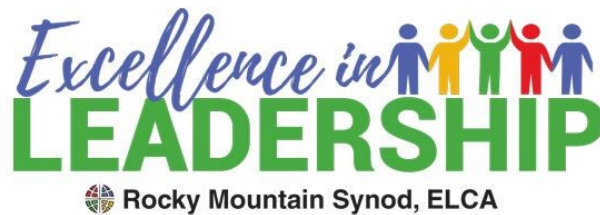




Montana Synod Weekly Announcements December 11, 2023



“It’s not easy to be the church these days”. This is a common sentiment in mainline Christian denominations. We know there is a need for hope and grace and the power of the gospel, but the ways of communicating that and the ways of being church in the world are shifting beneath our feet.

In response to this truth and the desire to raise up courageous, resilient, and faithful leaders, the Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA, has created a leadership ministry called Excellence in Leadership. The coursework is a 13-month investment, meeting 2 times each month which will provide tools and resources to last a lifetime, and deep relationships with leaders from around the country to accompany you on your journey in your local community.

At the heart of this ministry is the belief that effective leadership begins with the individual and is honed in community. This ministry helps each person learn how to appreciate who they are, how they are embodied, and manage the way they personally respond to challenges and conflict. Through engaging in this work, individuals are then able to show up more effectively in places of anxiety, conflict, and frustration. When leaders show up in healthy ways, they are better equipped to help the people and systems they work in and with to also respond in healthier ways.

By engaging deeply in the studies of adaptive leadership, vulnerability, emotional intelligence, family systems, Theory U, and spiritual practices, we will be stepping forward to meet the future boldly. We are inviting participants from all regions and walks of life – lay or rostered, young or old. That includes you!

The next cohort will begin on January 5, 2024, and will meet twice per month on Friday mornings from 9:00am-12:00pm Mountain Time, with a commissioning on January 17, 2025.

Truly this initiative is helpful for not only for congregations, but for all people who wish to improve their leadership skills and increase their capacity for emotional intelligence in any area of their lives. Whether you would like to do it as an individual or would like to participate as a group, this initiative is for you.

Listen to this testimony from Flip Wilson, a commissioned participant from the program. (note: the video mentions an 18-month cohort, which we also offer, beginning each fall)

<https://vimeo.com/748832132>

We don't know exactly what the future holds, but we do know that it begins with each personal journey toward emotional and spiritual wholeness. Let's embark on this journey together.

Find out more information and register here: <https://www.rmselfca.org/excellence-in-leadership>

Sign up today!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

The theme for the 2024 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#) will be "You Shall Love the Lord Your God ... and Your Neighbor As Yourself" (Luke 10:27). Resources for the week, January 18-25, 2024 or whenever you choose, have been jointly prepared and published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity and the World Council of Churches' Commission on Faith and Order, and they can be downloaded [here](#).



NRIT Retreat at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp,
3pm January 29th – 9am January 31st

Words of Wonder: Using Writing to Nurture our Relationships with the Bible, our Congregations, and God.

This retreat offers a combination of presentation, small group activity, quiet time for writing and contemplation. (And did we mention that there is a sauna?)

Led by Dr. Kaethe Schwehn, author and professor at St. Olaf College
Cost: \$265 includes class, food and lodging
Registration Deadline: January 15



Zoom: Thursday, Jan 25th and Thursday, Feb 1 from 1pm to 2:30pm both days

NRIT Facilitated Video and Group Discussion: Presiding Bishops Elizabeth Eaton and Michael Curry Respond to Christian Nationalism

Using materials from "Christians Against Christian Nationalism," an organization endorsed by both ELCA Bishop Eaton and Episcopal Bishop Curry, participants will discuss how our Lutheran and Episcopal beliefs contrast with Christian Nationalist views.

Cost \$20 for both days

(*Note corrected date. First class will be held January 25th, not January 24th.)

Many thanks to all who attended the Advent Retreat on December 8-10! We had so much fun with crafts, gingerbread houses, a scavenger hunt, playing in the snow, and gathering together as God's children to pray and play together.

FLBC has **some openings for year-round staff!** We are seeking a **Maintenance**

Coordinator and an **Office Administrator**. If you are interested, please go to FLBC.net to find position descriptions and instructions for applying.

There are still openings for **Young adult retreat, Dec 27-29** and for the **Ski and Board retreat, January 12-15**. All retreats include great fun, games, Bible Study, worship, playing in the snow, relaxing, and great food. For more information and to register. Go to www.flbc.net!

Join NRIT at FLBC for the educational retreat with Dr Kaethe Schwehn, professor at St Olaf, Jan 29-31. Our theme is "**Words of Wonder using writing to nurture our relationships with the Bible, our congregations, and God.**"

"Besides wonderful Educations sessions and worship, with Dr. Schwehn, and continuing ed credits, there will be time for relaxing, enjoying FLBC's new sauna, hiking, reading, and just catching your breath before Lent. Open to all pastors, spouses, LPA's and interested adults. To register go to: www.montanasynd.org/nrit/html

Registration for week **long Family Camp opens Jan 15th, 2024, at 10am.** Please call the office, 406-752-6602 or email office@flbc.net, or registration@flbc.net Family means "family of God," so single adults, couples, single parent families, and couples with children are all welcome. This week fills



fast.... first come first serve. Make memories with your loved ones at FLBC this summer as we explore God's creation under the theme, "Created to Be."

Remember to use your **Thrivent Choice** distribution for the good of ministry, at your camp, campus ministry or church, Thrivent Choice makes a big difference! THANKS for Choosing Ministry!!

Our staff are enjoying meeting people and working with congregations in our **Outreach Ministry**. We have been to Polson, Sunburst, Helena, Joplin, and Joeko Valley. If you are interested in staff coming to your congregation on a monthly basis, or for a one-time lock in.... contact: Amanda@flbc.net!

Mark your calendars for **the Confirmation/Campfirmation Retreat at FLBC, March 15-16**. Only 1-2 students in confirmation? come.... a chance for them to build relationships with others around the state; Whether you have 2 students or 20...we guarantee growth, learning and FUN at camp.



December 2023

As we move into the dark days of winter, and in the midst of a world weary of brokenness and war, we look yet again towards the promise of the coming Christ child. As the gospel writer proclaims, "The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it."

Shine, Jesus, shine...in our hearts and homes, our community and world.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you and yours from your Christikon family.

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

Synod Staff:

Bishop

Laurie Jungling: ljungling@montanasynod.org

Associate to the Bishop

Brenda Frelsi: bfrelsi@montanasynod.org

Director for Evangelical Mission

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org

Director of Technology and Communications

Colter McCarty: cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Office Manager

Oliver Main: office@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](#)

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

Sent by cmccarty@montanasynod.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!