



## News of the Week March 2, 2022

### Prayers of the Week

**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

For the people of Ukraine, and all those who are suffering senseless violence and aggression.

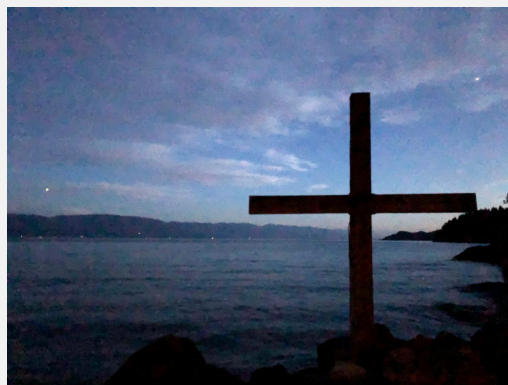
**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Thompson Falls

Faith Lutheran Church, Ronan

Central States Synod

Missionary: Pr. Bradn Buerkle, Russia



### Lenten Faith Practice: Generosity -by Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger

On this Ash Wednesday on my Facebook page, I have seen many images and invitations for us as members of congregations in the Synod to enter into this Lenten season by joining in worship today, or to receive ashes outside the church by our pastors. Thank you to the leaders and pastors in the Synod who are leading us into deeper reflection and contemplation today and in the weeks to come.

This is also a strange time as we have been watching and reading about the unfolding war in Ukraine, praying for peace, praying for those whose lives are being impacted by the devastation, praying for an end to the invasion of Ukraine.



As we enter this Lenten season with the forces of darkness pushing against us, I am reminded of the strength, generosity, and courage of so many in the world pushing back against the darkness. In a few short days of the war, I have read and been inspired by nations around the world who have said no to the invasion, offering supplies to aid the people of the Ukraine in their fight. As refugees have been fleeing the country, nations around the world are stepping up to help, to offer aid, to welcome those who are fleeing from the terror. (Please take a look at the ELCA Disaster Response plea and consider how you might share with those in need.)

In a time when many of us feel helpless to make a difference in the world, I am reminded that when we work together and give generously to ministries and organizations around the world, our joint impact is life-changing and transformational. When we give to our congregation or to other ministries, the offerings become like a rock thrown into a pond as the ripples extend outward.

Whenever you give of your generosity to your congregation, there is impact for your congregation and community. As congregations give to the work of ministry in the local community and give Mission Support to the Montana Synod, there is impact that ripples out. When individuals give to ELCA Disaster Response or ELCA World Hunger or to the Montana Synod or the ELCA, there is impact in the ripples that extend out even farther into the world. It is the generosity of individuals and congregations that make possible ministry that brings hope and healing, life and light into the darkness of the world.

Thank you for the generosity that you share with your congregation. Thank you for the generous ways that congregations share in transformational hope in communities in northern Wyoming and Montana and that ripple out across the Synod and around the globe.

On this Ash Wednesday and in this Lenten season, know that what you give matters and makes a difference in your community and then in the ripples that flow out around the world. In this Lenten season, I invite you to consider how the faith practice of generosity might be one of the ways that you seek to deepen your own faith. May this season of Lent be a time of growing in trust and deepening your relationship with God!

Praying for God's strength and peace for you,

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger  
Director for Evangelical Mission,  
Montana Synod, ELCA

## Update from our Missionaries in Slovakia



'We are having a good family day. We went shopping this morning for items needed by fleeing Ukrainians and then took them to a collection point where they are loading a truck to take them over.'

Rev. Kyle & Anna  
Svennungsen  
ELCA Missionaries in  
Slovakia



## Time to register for the Chico Hot Springs Pastoral Conference!

[Click here](#) to go to the registration page and to find out speaker and registration info, as well as instructions on how to make sure you have a room at Chico!



### **2022 Hetzel Grant Applications are now available.**

Agencies, institutions, and ministries which serve the elderly and youth in the Montana Synod of the ELCA are eligible to apply for grant assistance from the Hetzel Foundation.

ELCA organizations are eligible to apply, provided that they demonstrate evidence of project partnership, participation, and/or investment from within an ELCA entity. For example, a non-ELCA affiliate could ask an ELCA church to co-author the grant with them. The application deadline is March 15, 2022.

Go to our website for more information and to download the application.  
[www.hetzelfoundation.org](http://www.hetzelfoundation.org)

[Click here to download the application](#)

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