



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week March 03, 2021

Prayers of the Week

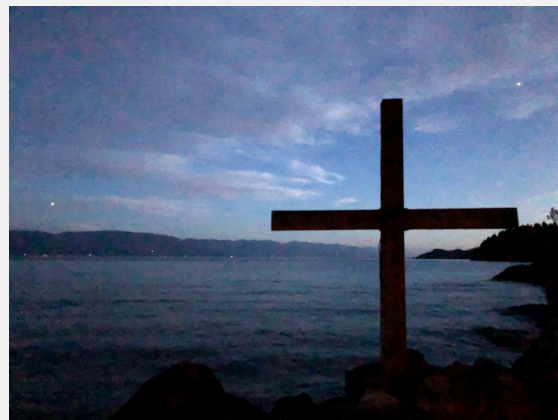
Please remember in your prayers this week:

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,
Polson

First Lutheran Church, Plains

Central/Southern Illinois Synod



Spotlight on the Synod: Welcome New Pastors!



Since the pandemic began, the Montana Synod has been fortunate to welcome eight pastors into our church congregations. We want to introduce these pastors who are new to our synod and we encourage you to reach out in welcome as they continue learning about their congregations, communities and our synod.

Pastor Ben Cherland serves Messiah Lutheran in Red Lodge

Ben grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan and went to college at Concordia in Moorhead, MN. He spent about eight months at Holden Village before starting his MDiv at Union Seminary in New York and, for his internship, he returned to Chelan, WA (near Holden Village). Before coming to Red Lodge, Ben spent ten years in the twin cities in Minnesota. He started at Messiah

Lutheran on April 12th, last Easter.

Pastor Tammy Craker serves Plentywood Lutheran in Plentywood

Tammy grew up in Loganville, Wisconsin. She went to college in Madison, WI and then married her high school sweetheart and

started a family. In 2006, Tammy began commuting to seminary at Wartburg in Dubuque, Iowa while her husband was taking care of the house and family. After finishing seminary, Tammy's first call was in Faulkton, SD. In 2015 she moved to her second call in Clarkston, SD and stayed there until coming this past year to Montana.

Tammy started at Plentywood Lutheran last May.

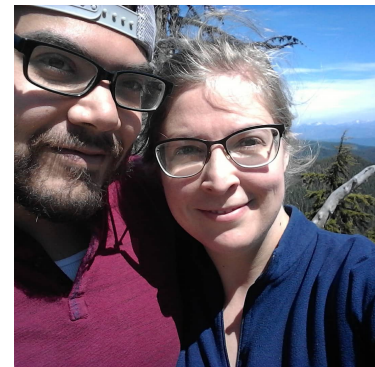


Pastor William Rima serves American Lutheran parish in Harlem, Hogeland and Turner

Will grew up Wellpinit, WA. He enlisted in the Marine Corp out of high school and served from 1992 to 2000. Will did his undergrad work at Trinity Lutheran in Everett, WA., receiving a B.A. in Biblical Studies. After college he went to seminary at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary. His first day as pastor of American Lutheran parish was Feb. 1st, 2021.

Pastor Abigail Cress-Orellano serves Christ Lutheran in Libby

Abigail was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. She went to college at Seattle University, planning on being an elementary school teacher. After working as a pre-school and toddler teacher for several years followed by a year in East Jerusalem with Young Adults in Global Ministry (YAGM), Abigail finally listened to her childhood pastor and began the candidacy process. Abigail attended Gettysburg Seminary/United Lutheran in Gettysburg, PA and did her internship in New York City. She graduated, got married and then ordained in quick succession and started at Christ Lutheran this past September.



Pastor Ken Carruthers serves Good Shepherd Lutheran in Billings

Ken grew up in the Midwest between Omaha and St. Louis. He graduated from Luther College and spent five years in student affairs at a small college in Wisconsin. He also worked as an assistant manager of a grocery store, an operations manager of an erosion control firm and a director of youth and children's ministries before attending seminary at Luther in St. Paul, MN. Ken's first call was to Redeemer Lutheran in Boise, ID, a single point parish that turned into a dual point with the addition of another church in Horseshoe Bend, ID. As a young adult, Ken spent six summers on the Christikon Camp staff. He started at Good Shepherd in February of this year.

Pastor Judith Gosnell Lamb serves Hope Lutheran in Anaconda

Judy grew up in the steel valley of Ohio and Pennsylvania. She graduated with a special education teaching degree from Youngstown

State University and headed west. After teaching in Harlem, MT for two years and earning a master's degree at the University of MT, Judy moved to Conrad where she got married and started a family. They lived in Conrad for 27 years and Judy worked as Dir. of the Big Sky Special Needs Cooperative while also pursuing a doctorate at UM.

In 2012, they moved back to Pennsylvania and Judy taught at Grove City College. Hoping to meet some new people, she also started taking classes in Lutheran History and Theology that were offered by her synod. The classes were actually TEEM courses and soon, God was calling Judy to the ministry. She continued teaching at Grove City College while completing the TEEM coursework, going to school at Gettysburg during the summer. Last spring, she and her husband decided it was time to return to Montana. Pastor Judy (aka Rev. Dr. Judith) started at Hope Lutheran on Oct. 6th this past fall.



Pastor Megan Hoewisch serves First Lutheran in Havre, MT

Megan grew up in the Bay Area of California and went to college at Occidental College. She knew she wanted to pursue seminary but felt like she needed more life experience so she moved to South Korea and taught kindergarten for 3 years in Seoul. She went to Candler Seminary at Emory in Atlanta where she took Lutheran classes from the seminary and online from LTSS. Megan did her internship in Durham, ND and moved to Havre during February of 2020.

Pastor Tom Gehring serves Our Saviour's Lutheran on the Rocky Boys Reservation.

We introduced Tom in a [February newsletter article](#).



2021 Montana Synod Assembly Registration "Equipping Ministry for Change"

...Equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...

Ephesians 4:12

**The 2021 Montana Synod Assembly will be held as a virtual meeting
June 4-5.**

Tutorials will be available to help voting members with participation.

[Click here for the Assembly registration link!](#)

Multiple voting members can be registered at the same time when you click on the form. Please note, there will be no physical registration or physical payment allowed this year. Please insure that each individual voting member has their own unique email address and has the ability to check it regularly.

There will be no visitor registrations this year, the assembly will be streamed on Youtube, so any non-voting individuals can watch there.

Registration will close April 15th.

If you have any questions about the registration process email:
cmccarty@montanasynod.org



Take A First Step in Growing Generosity! From FLBC and Christikon

Is your congregation experiencing growth, stability, or decline in generosity? Are you wondering who will lead generosity in the next generation? Have you considered or implemented new strategies over the last year? Do you need inspiration for inspiring generosity in the years ahead?

You are invited to a **free**, three-part, online education series provided by Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp and Christikon in partnership with the Montana Synod. All are welcome! A great opportunity for stewardship committees, Pastors, SAMS, and all interested adults!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/87658985117?pwd=eWooY3ZaNkdZRDVaRkZiRDRKZiNYZz09>

Meeting ID: 876 5898 5117

Passcode: 986922

One tap mobile

+13462487799,,87658985117#,,,*986922#

Inspiring Generosity Today

Monday March 8th, 4:30-5:30 PM

Why Do People Give? Trends and Driving Forces in U.S. Generosity

Monday March 15th, 4:30-5:30 PM Zoom

Annual Stewardship: Planning for and creating annual stewardship efforts that grow generosity

Monday March 22nd, 4:30-5:30 PM Zoom

Stewardship For All Seasons: Exploring the other seasons of stewardship in the life of congregations their impact on giving

These sessions are designed for congregational leaders, rostered and lay. They will build upon each other, but recording will be available if you are not able to attend all sessions.



Our Speaker:

Evan Moilan, CFRE

Evan Moilan is a certified fundraising executive (CFRE) and brings experience, energy, and innovative thinking, based on over 23 years of Executive leadership and Board service for congregations and faith-based non-profits across the United States.

Currently a consultant with GSB Fundraising, Evan has worked with hundreds of congregations over the last 6 years to grow generosity in their community.

Previously Evan served in Leadership for Lutheran Social Services of the South, the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest, Lutheran World Relief and Lutherhill Ministries; and as a volunteer, Evan has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Vice-President of the TX-LA Gulf Coast Synod, and is an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Bastrop, TX.

Evan is passionate about Outdoor Ministry and is thrilled to partner with the Outdoor Ministries of Montana to provide this opportunity to our partner congregations.

**Save the Date: Retired Pastors Gathering
Online
April 9th 10am - 11:30am**

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