News of the Week
March 30, 2022

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For healing and a speedy recovery for Pr. Tammy Craker, who had a small stroke and is recovering and rehabbing in Billings.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:
Jocko Valley Lutheran Church, Arlee
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Missoula
Atonement Lutheran Church, Missoula

Eastern North Dakota Synod
Northwest Intermountain Synod

Words from the Bishop: Reminder to Remember

Dear Friends in Christ,

You may (or may not) recall the request that came from our siblings in the American Indian/Alaska Native Association of the ELCA (AIAN) last July to hang orange banners in our churches to honor and remember the lives of the children who were lost to the boarding school system in our nation and who hopefully will be returned home as their bodies are rediscovered. Here is the link to that request, as well as my letter and video lifting up that request.
In that request, the AIAN asked that we hang these orange banners for 225 days, remembering the 225 bodies of children that had been discovered in Canada and the U.S. at that time. Those 225 days have passed and yet the remembering and honoring continues. But even as we remember and honor, we are called to continue our confession and change of life (repentance) in the face of the suffering that those actions caused not just to those children stolen from their families but also the long-term consequences for their descendants that are perpetuated even today.

By partnering with our Indigenous neighbors and living with them as equals, how can we work with them to seek justice and make their lives better in the ways they wish and hope for? How can we continue to learn more about the truth of the past even as we seek to find ways to rectify the painful consequences of that history and also join the Indigenous peoples in building new and more sacred relationships? In other words, how can we become better neighbors as Jesus calls us to be neighbors, loving our fellow human beings as much as (or even more than) we love ourselves as the Samaritan did in Jesus’ famous parable?

So today, I remind you to remember and invite you to lift up those orange banners again, perhaps putting them in a new location, and to honor the children of God those banners represent and the families they left behind. And then reflect anew on how we can learn from the past, including our past sins, to make amends on behalf of those who are not here to do it for themselves. As I stated in July, "We as followers of Christ have the faith to confess our sins in the love and grace of God in Christ. But at the same time, through those same words of love and grace from God, we also hear God’s ongoing call to enter into the light of the truth of our history and our present, and to love our neighbors who are suffering."

Blessings to you this week as you explore ways to be Christ-like neighbors through your love!

Bishop Laurie

The time has come to register for the Montana Synod Assembly!

Friday, June 3, 2022 ~ 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 4, 2022 ~ 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Billings Hotel and Convention Center - 1223 Mullowney Lane, Billings, MT - 406-248-7151

The Montana Synod Assembly theme this year is, "Equipping for the Gospel" and will be held over two days, June 3-4 at the Billing Hotel and Convention Center. Please be aware that all attendees are responsible for their own room reservations. Call the hotel at: 406-248-7151 and reference the Montana Synod Assembly.

**Room Block (Expires May 12, 2022)**

We will be having our assembly in person this year! A live stream will be provided but there will be NO online voting. All voting members will need to be present in order to cast their votes.

As per the Assembly Rules:

**Addendum to the 2022 Assembly Rules**

All voting members and visitors will be expected to be fully vaccinated (except for medical reasons) as defined by CDC guidelines at the time of the Synod Assembly. Alternatively, a negative test the day before arrival will be acceptable. Monitoring will be done on the honor system, and each attendee will be trusted to make their own decisions in the spirit of Christ’s ongoing call to us to love our neighbor and seek their health and well-being.

Masks will be optional unless circumstances arise that will again require us to wear masks while gathering. The Yellowstone County Health Department and the CDC guidelines will be consulted for recommendations one week before the date of the assembly and a final determination...
regarding mask use will be made then.

Approved by Synod Council 3/12/2022

A few things to remember before registering:

- Have all information needed to register beforehand including Name, email, physical address, and any meal requirements for each person registering.
- Carefully read all options available before registering, make sure to select the appropriate option for your registration.
- An individual email is required for each person.
- If prompted for a country code at the address portion of the registration, enter the number 1.
- All payments are online only.
- There will be **NO in person registration** at the assembly. All voting members **Must** be registered before the registration cut off date of May 24th.
- There is no need to print the tickets generated by Tithely. You will receive your registration packet in person at the assembly.
- When filling out the address, enter the number 1 in the box labeled "Country Code"
- Any questions should be directed to Colter McCarty: cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Register for the 2022 Montana Synod Assembly Here

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**Are you a ministry partner interested in providing a video greeting or hosting a display table at the assembly? Download the application here!**

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**To Pastors, Congregational Presidents and Treasurers:**

As your Annual Meeting concludes, please remember to fill out the “2022 Mission Support Statement of Intent” that is on the Montana Synod website in the Mission Support Downloads for your congregation.

Together as the Montana Synod, you support and fund ministry that empowers, equips and strengthens individuals, congregations, ministry agencies, Campus Ministry, Colleges and Seminaries and activities that strengthen us all to serve as disciples of our Lord! Thank you for sending the “Statement of Intent” form to the Synod Office at the mailing address: 1221 24th Ave. S. Great Falls, MT 59405, or to cstandall@montanasynod.org as soon as possible.
Thank you to the 20 congregations who have already submitted their statements.

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

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!

You will need to reserve your room at Chico separately from the conference registration! Room reservations can be made here.

Our room discount at Chico expires on Monday, March 28th! Make sure to get your room reservation before then to get our discount.

Registration will close April 6th.

Resolutions and Memorials at the Assembly

-From the 2022 Assembly rules approved by the Montana Synod Council

Resolutions and Memorials
Resolutions submitted by the April 15th deadline will be considered by the Resolutions Committee and presented to the Synod Assembly, if appropriate. Other resolutions will be dealt with as time permits.

Regarding communication with Churchwide
The Montana Synod Assembly may only address the ELCA Churchwide Assembly by means of a memorial. References: ELCA Constitution 12.11.c and ELCA Bylaw 12.51.21. This bylaw states that a Memorials Committee shall review memorials from synodical assemblies and make appropriate recommendations for assembly action.

The Montana Synod Council may only address the ELCA Church Council by means of a resolution. ELCA Bylaws 14.21.11 and 14 pertain to resolutions sent to the Church Council
which involves a report to the Churchwide Assembly). ELCA Bylaw 14.41.11 pertains to resolutions sent to the Executive Committee of the Church Council with referral to, and additional action to be taken by, the appropriate churchwide unit.

The memorial route is the most direct route to the churchwide assembly, but, at the same time, it is perhaps the least effective route. The churchwide Memorials Committee has to work through hundreds of memorials from synod assemblies. Consequently, most memorials (especially if they are poorly written) wind up with a “do not pass” recommendation. However, reworked resolutions from the ELCA Church Council or a churchwide unit have a tendency to meet with a much more favorable review.

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