



Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

News of the Week April 14, 2021

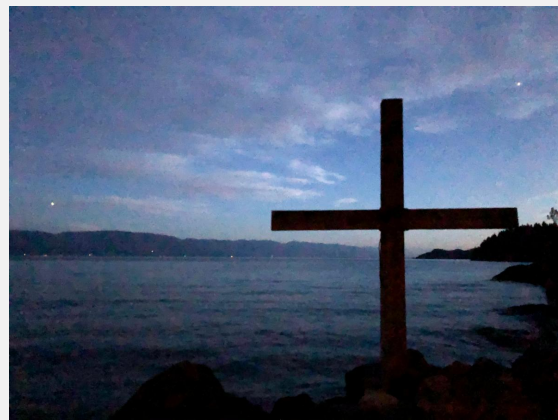
Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Hope Lutheran Church, Anaconda
Freedom in Christ Prison Congregation,
Deer Lodge

Greater Milwaukee Synod



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

Registration will close Tomorrow, April 15th!

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.

Please only register if you are a voting member nominated by your congregation!

[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 Tomorrow, April 15th

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

Spotlight on the Synod: Montana Synod Changing Climate Task Force



-By Jenny Kunka

Through our baptisms, God brings us into the divine plan for all of creation. We are equipped by the Spirit, then, to care for others and the world that God made. Whole-hearted, intentional stewardship of God's creation is a serious aspect of what it means to be a follower of Christ, doing God's work with our hands.

-Pr. Julia Seymour, Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran Church and member of the MT

Synod Changing Climate Task Force

When it comes to talk of climate change, there is a lot of fear.

“For young people, it’s often a fear of whether or not the world will be livable for them,” Pastor Eric Huseuth said. Huseuth, pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran in Bonner added that, for others in Montana, there is a fear of losing jobs and a way of life. These are people who are just trying to get by and don’t want to lose what they know.

The Changing Climate Task Force is well aware of the divisive nature of climate change and the emotions involved.

“How can we respect the people of both sides and respect their fear?” Huseuth said. “Can the church step in and say, ‘What can we do as a church to partner with those who would be affected by climate changes or economic changes?’”

Patrick Miller is a retired engineer and member of All Saints Lutheran in Big Sky. Miller spent his life working in energy, for a gas and electric generation company. When the task force was created, Miller

heard of it but wasn't sure if there was space for someone like him, a person who was not an activist and who had worked in the energy field. When he contacted Pastor Huseth, though, Miller heard that they wanted someone with his kind of expertise. And they needed someone with background in the issues that exist within green energy.

"I kept wondering if there was room for a person like me on the task force and Eric (Huseth) wanted to have someone who had a different perspective," Miller said, adding that he brings a sensitivity to members of the synod who might not be as gung ho. He is a voice for working together with all people and he isn't the only one. The task force has members from around the state and the pastors bring feedback from their congregations.

One of the first projects of the task force has been to create a full liturgy that is designed to be used toward the end of August. The liturgy, written by Pr Julia Seymour (Big Timber) and Jacob Kvale (Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp) aims to connect people with their natural surroundings and to cherish and care for those places. The series uses lectionary selections to guide users through four weekly themes. **To attend the NRIT workshop introducing this liturgy, go to the synod website and click on the NRIT link, The actual liturgy will be made available free of charge.*

Another project is a youth survey, spearheaded by a youth member of the task force. This survey will be sent to youth groups around the synod to gather the thoughts of youth and determine how the church can do a better job of providing engagement for youth groups in sustainability.

Looking to the future, the task force hopes to provide ideas to churches who want to become greener, or simply want to save money by using green energy. The task force is looking to Hope Lutheran in Bozeman to provide some guidance in this area. Hope is a member of Lutherans Restoring Creation, a national group, and has used LRC resources to create a green team. Congregations who have an interest in making changes that fit their reality can reach out to the task force for ideas and resources.

"Much of what we do is about sustainability," Miller said. Big things are often hard to do but there are smaller things that the task force can help with, like churches figuring out their carbon footprint. There is a way to measure this, Miller said, and if you can measure something, you can work on it. As a green team gets started, a church can make some changes and, a few years later, compare to see what has happened. When Pastor Huseth and others proposed the Changing Climate Task Force, it was because he and other young pastors realized there was a hole in the faith community on this issue. "I just found that the church wasn't speaking to that, beyond our congregations," he said.

As the task force has been working, they decided that their first objective is to elevate the issue and to try to move the needle on how to make a difference. Their second and equally important objective, however, is to build bridges and to try to heal and unify the church. "Conversation between congregations and even pastors has not been the greatest when it comes to the urban/rural divide," Huseth said. "We are modeling ourselves on other task forces in other synods, but I see our work as different because we live in a conservative state. That doesn't hamper our vision but affects it." Huseth added that it was extraordinary to see how the task forces members had understood this reality and had focused on building bridges going forward.



Singing Plains, Calling Mountains

An Original Liturgy from the MT Synod Changing Climate Task Force

Dearest Colleagues, are you tired of teaching all about bread? Remember, this is Year B and we who follow the RCI have 6 weeks on bread toward the end of August. What if the Climate Change Task Force gave you a fully built liturgy, sermons (or sermon guidance), videos, new songs, and new prayers all geared toward Creation Care that you could sub – in during that 6 week cycle? During this workshop, the Task Force will provide an introduction to the new liturgy, have a text study on the chosen scriptures, and provide an update on what the Task Force is currently doing.

Date: April 29

Time: 5-8pm MST.

Cost: \$25 (includes access to the liturgy after the class)

Montana Synod Devotion for the Easter Season is Ready to be Distributed in Your Congregation



Leaders and pastors in the Montana Synod have written reflections for Easter Season Devotions that are now available for congregations to print to distribute to people in congregations or to prepare to share on the Congregations' web site or Facebook page.

The document is available [here as a PDF link](#). It is also available to download on the Montana Synod website. It prints out well as a bifold booklet, IF your printer has that capability. Otherwise, it will print with each page being 8 1/2 x 11 in size.

If you prefer to post each day's devotion on your congregation's Facebook page, you can do that from the

Synod's website or share it from the Synod's Facebook page.

Congregations and leaders are encouraged to share this as a way in which the whole Synod is growing together as we are "equipped for ministry."

Please contact Candi in the Synod office if you have questions about how to print the document. Please contact Colter if you have questions about how to share the devotions electronically.

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