Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pastor Tammy Bull (New Hope, Great Falls) as she recovers from pneumonia.

For all congregations that are in transition and searching for a pastoral leader, that they may find hope in God’s promise.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

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

Greater Milwaukee Synod
An Easter Message: "The Risen Christ"

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with those oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

Text: Nigel Weaver, b. 1952
Text © 1993 Nigel Weaver.

A Letter of Support for the Jewish Community in Montana

In honor of our abiding inter-relationship with our Jewish siblings, the Montana Synod Council and I ask you for your support of the Jewish community in Montana in a particular way during this holy time for both of our religious traditions. We invite your financial support for the Montana Jewish Project (MJP) centered in Helena but serving throughout the state.

The Montana Jewish Project is trying to repurchase the synagogue in Helena that was sold more than 100 years ago and has passed through several hands over the years. An opportunity has risen for them to buy back this important place of Jewish heritage in order to develop it as a community educational center for all Montanans (and others) to learn about the Jewish experience in Montana, to grow in a relationship of mutual support with the Jewish community, and to experience the Jewish faith as they practice and cherish it. (See here for more info)

The Montana Synod Council has already given $4000 toward the project in the spirit of relationship with our Jewish neighbors. In this way, we are fulfilling the ongoing pledge we as the Montana Synod made in the “Agreement between Montana Synod Lutherans of the ELCA and Montana Association of Jewish Communities” signed in June 1995. Through this gift, we also stand with the wider ELCA in its
“Declaration of the ELCA to the Jewish Community,” originally adopted in 1994 and then reaffirmed by the Churchwide Council in 2021 and the “Declaration of Inter-Religions Commitment” adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in 2019. (You can find these documents here)

And we would ask you and your congregation to join together with the rest of the Montana Synod to match the council’s $4000 so that we can increase our support to $8000. In this way we can continue our ongoing work of building mutually encouraging relationships with our Jewish siblings.

We are hoping to raise this money by May 15, 2022. You may donate by clicking here and selecting Montana Jewish project or sending a check to the Synod office with “MT Jewish Project” in the memo line. Whatever gifts we are able to gather, we plan to give to the leaders of the MJP before the end of June which is an important deadline for them in purchasing the property.

Click here to download and read the full letter

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
- 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

Click here for the list of openings that will be voted on at the assembly as well as the Nominations Committee members.

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

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.

Montana Synod in the news

Billings church sees full Easter service for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic

In Billings there was no shortage of churches holding services on Easter Sunday, but at Atonement Lutheran Church in the Heights the service was packed for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This felt like we’re starting to come back to life again around here. We had the most people we’ve had in this place since 2019 Easter,” said Kristen LaVe, worship director for Atonement Lutheran.

Read the full article here

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