



News of the Week May the 4th, 2022

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

American Lutheran Church, White Sulphur Springs
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Townsend

La Crosse Area Synod



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America observes 35th anniversary



Chicago (April 24, 2022) – The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will observe its 35th anniversary on April 30. On this date in 1987, the ELCA constitution was adopted during the opening session of the Constituting Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

[The ELCA was formed from a merger of three Lutheran churches – the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America.](#) To symbolize the formation of the new denomination, the bishops from the three predecessor church bodies poured water from separate containers into one baptismal font.

[The Rev. Herbert W. Chilstrom was elected first bishop of the ELCA](#) during the Constituting Convention. He was former bishop of the Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

As the church commemorates its history, it also is looking toward the future. ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton spoke of the importance of the “Future Church” priority being rooted in tradition while also being relevant to people who may not know the gospel message of freedom.

“In 1522, early in the Lutheran movement, Martin Luther took hold of the new technology of the printing press and modernized communication by translating the Bible into German, the language of the people,” she said. “Now, 500 years later, we need to find new ways to speak into the cultural vernacular.

“It’s not our intent to water down or minimize the gospel word, but to share the good news to make it rooted in tradition and radically relevant. We believe that the gospel changes lives. The gospel not only is a word of grace but it’s also a word of liberation.”

Additional “Future Church” priorities include starting new ministries and engaging with new, young and diverse people.

Let Us Pray for the Church

Gracious God, we pray for your holy universal church as the Body of Christ. Fill it with love, truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it. Pour out upon us your one and unifying Spirit, and awaken in all expressions of your church a holy hunger and thirst for unity in you. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy God, we praise you for calling diverse people into the church's ministry of word and sacrament. Uphold all pastors with your strong and loving arms. Empower our ministers to serve your people with the word of scripture, the water of life, and the meal of grace. Equip them with both beloved traditions and fresh ideas; grant them joy in their tasks; and renew them daily by the Spirit of Jesus Christ. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

O God, through the ages you have called from among your people those who will carry out the ministry of word and service in the church. Let your blessing rest on all deacons who answer that call. Give to all deacons understanding of the gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ that many people will be served and your love be lived into the world. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of compassion, your Son came among us not to be served but to serve. We give you thanks for those whom you have called to be Lay Pastoral Associates in the Montana Synod. Give to them the faith to serve you with gladness; sustain them with a living hope, especially in times of despair; and kindle in them your love, so that they see in every neighbor the face of Jesus Christ. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Almighty and merciful God, you built your church on the foundation of the apostles and prophets and all those who have served your church throughout its history. Thank you for those many servants of Christ who you called to minister to your church in various ways and have now retired. Support and sustain them in your faith and love as they seek new ways to serve your church and grant that they, and all pastoral leaders in your church, may carry out their ministry faithfully in the power of your Spirit. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of love, justice and equity, you call us to support the weak, to help those who suffer, and to honor all people. By the power of your Holy Spirit, make us advocates for your justice, workers of love, and instruments of your peace, so that all may be reconciled in your beloved community. God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Job Opening in the Montana Synod Office

We are sad to announce that Candi Standall will be resigning to move to Memphis, Tennessee to be closer to family at the end of June.

Therefore we are opening up applications for our Office Administrator position! If interested, please download the full application below and mail to the synod office or email:

cstandall@montanasynod.org

Open Position: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Full-time, hourly + benefits

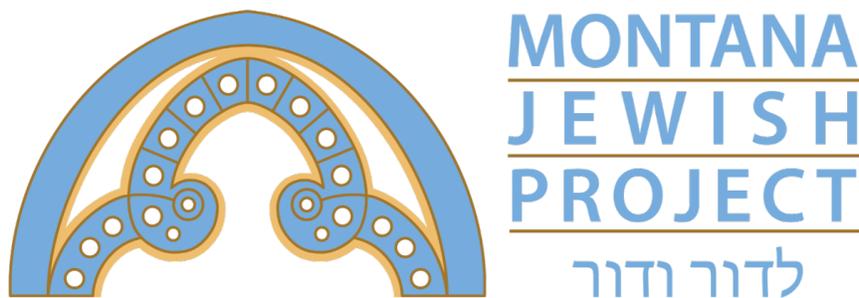
Interviewing is expected to begin May 2, 2022.

Start date: June 13, 2022 (at the earliest)

Accepting Applications until the position is filled.

Position Description:

The Office Administrator for the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is an integral part of the synod staff team whose primary responsibilities involve the day-to-day activities within an office environment including answering phone calls and email, maintaining paper and on-line filing systems, organizing synod events, maintaining a contacts database and a variety of front office reception tasks.



Dear Montana Jewish Project supporters,

I hope you are all doing well. It's an incredibly busy and exciting time for the Montana Jewish Project (MJP), and I wanted to update you.

We are getting close to our June 30, 2022 deadline to close on the sale of Montana's oldest synagogue and some nearby properties that are part of our sale agreement with the Roman Catholic Bishop of Helena. As you know, MJP has been working hard to reclaim Helena's 1891 synagogue and return it to Jewish use for the first time since 1935. We are making good progress fundraising, but we need your help to cross the finish line.

We have raised over one-half of the purchase price! MJP is grateful to the nearly 2,000 individual donors from around the world who have contributed to establishing a statewide Jewish community center in this majestic building. We are also honored to have received recently a \$50,000 grant from the Molly Blank Fund of the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. In only six months of fundraising, we are halfway to owning the historic synagogue! It's pretty extraordinary for an organization that just turned one year old to have made such strides.

The MJP Board decided last week that we will immediately sell the freestanding house behind the synagogue that is part of the sale package (the historic synagogue, this house, which was appraised for about \$400,000, the yard next to the synagogue, and a rear parking area). This decision brings us closer to our goal. But we need your help to make a final push to buy back this synagogue. Every dollar puts us closer to making this dream a reality.

Last week, MJP hosted Rabbi Laurie Franklin from Congregation Har Shalom (Missoula) and Rabbi Sonja Pilz from Congregation Beth Shalom (Missoula), along with speakers from ADL and the Montana Human Rights Network in a [free online event to mark Yom HaShoah](#) (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and discuss the disturbing rise in antisemitism across Montana. I learned that last year we had the highest number of antisemitic incidents and assaults since 1979. Returning the former Temple Emanu-El to Jewish life is a concrete act that pushes back against this trend. MJP will proudly and visibly stand in our state capital—in this important building—and provide an anchor for all ages from all around Montana to come together to learn, celebrate, and share our tradition.

MJP's all-volunteer board has been fundraising and launching programming. We want to hit the ground running in our historic home with events, education, and speakers coordinated by our future programming director in collaboration with Montana's Rabbis and congregations.

We've got a lot of great opportunities for learning and community-building coming up...and this is before we've even reacquired the building. Check out what's on tap below. Following our website, Facebook, and Instagram accounts will also let you know what's coming up.

If you support community programming, and want to keep this historical gem of a building in community hands, [we need you to join with us](#). We received notice of our tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service. MJP is officially a 501 (c) (3) organization! All donations are tax-deductible, including those made after May 20, 2021.

We are also proud to be participating in [Greater Helena Gives](#) on May 5-6, presented by the Helena Area Community Foundation. Joining with other local non-profits in this fundraising effort is just another example of MJP's commitment to our broader community. And this is an easy way to donate to MJP and share with your networks.

We can't wait for the possibilities ahead!

Gratefully,

Rebecca Stanfel

Board President, MJP

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.

Only 8 Days left to get the Assembly rate for your room in Billings! (Expires May 12)

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 Mallowney 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)*

There will be no physical packets to pick up this year! All assembly material will be available online previous to the start of the assembly. If you are a Voting Member at the assembly, make sure to regularly check the [Montana Synod website](#) for up to date information and to bookmark the page on whichever device or browser you'll have with you at the assembly.

If you would like physical copies of the material, make sure to print it out beforehand. Check with your fellow voting members before the assembly to make sure everyone has what they need before making the trip to Billings.

[Register for the 2022 Montana Synod Assembly Here](#)

Pre-Assembly Budget meetings



We will have three budget meeting opportunities before the assembly for all those who are interested. They will be lead by Synod treasurer Dave Scholten and will be a time to learn about the proposed budget and time for questions. There will be no budget meeting the dates of the assembly outside of regular business.

The offered meetings will be held on:

May 17, 12pm
May 21, 2pm
May 26, 7pm

If you are a voting member interested in joining one of these meetings please email cmccarty@montanasynod.org for the link.

Synod Staff:

Bishop

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