



## Montana Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

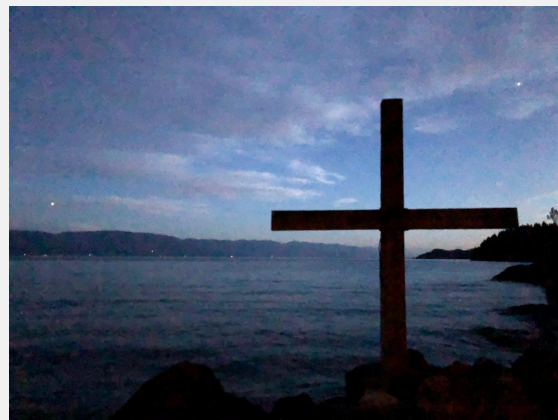
## News of the Week May 5, 2021

### Prayers of the Week

**Please remember in your prayers this week:**

For Pastor Julie Long (Our Savior's, Broadus) and her family as they mourn the death of her mother, Abigail Beguhn.

For the family and friends of retired Pastor Cliff Gronenberg, who died last week, and who's funeral is this coming Saturday.



**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

All Saints Lutheran Church Clancy

New Life Lutheran Church Helena

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Helena

Lower Susquehanna Synod

### Words from the Bishop: Spring Cleaning



Jesus calls us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

But how can we best love our neighbor right now during this time?

One easy way is to get vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus. This action shows love not only for yourself but also for your neighbor and your community as we work together to stop this thing in its tracks, develop communal immunity, and practice neighbor love as followers of Christ.

I know from experience that getting vaccinated can involve some suffering – I got my second dose last Monday and it wiped me out to barely functional on Tuesday as the vaccine activated my body to empower itself to face the virus head on.

But I've recovered – the miracle of the human body and the science that can support it never ceases to amaze me! Thanks be to God!

Getting vaccinated is one of the clearest ways we can express our love for neighbor and ourselves right now. **So please get vaccinated**. In this, you will be blessed and also share God's blessings of health and hope with your neighbors! Bishop Laurie

## National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls

Today, May 5th, is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls. There are currently 170 missing persons in Montana, 30% of which are Native American. This is an astounding number, considering Native Americans only make up 7% of the state's population.

Recently, the Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) of the Montana Synod was asked to turn our attention to this day by donating gift baskets to a Silent Auction hosted by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes' (CSKT) Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Work Group. Money raised will be placed in CSKT's "Victim Services Assistance Fund" to help alleviate burdens faced by families as they search for loved ones and cope with devastation and loss.

Together, members of the RJTF "Strategy Team" assembled four different gift baskets entitled

"Made in Montana", "Start Your Morning Right", "A Picnic For Two" and "A Day at the Beach". All items were purchased by Pr. Melanie Martin-Dent, who intentionally purchased items from locally sourced vendors throughout the Flathead Valley. Items totaled just over \$300, supplemented by a few generous donors from the Strategy Team.

If you would like to contribute to these gift baskets as well or the RJTF of the Montana Synod in general, please send a check to the Montana Synod with RJTF on the memo line. Want to get involved in the Racial Justice Task Force? Contact Pr. Stacey Heggem at [stacey.heggem@gmail.com](mailto:stacey.heggem@gmail.com) or text/call her at 406-670-8886. And stay tuned! More information about the work of the RJTF is forthcoming in subsequent newsletters and Synod reports.

Finally, please be praying for CSKT's Silent Auction and the victims or families of those missing and murdered around Montana. As is the mission of the RJTF, may we also do more than pray as we seek to stand in solidarity and relationship with our Native American siblings battling disparities of health and wholeness throughout our state.

## Service of Remembrance and the Celebration of Life of Pastor Cliff Gronneberg

November 9, 1917 – April 26, 2021  
Saturday, May 8, 10 AM

### Hope Lutheran Church

A limited number of seats are available and a reservation is required. Masks will be required. Tickets are available by clicking --> [HERE](#).

To watch the live-stream of the service on the Hope Facebook Page (no Facebook account required) on Saturday at 10am click --> [HERE](#).



## 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

EQUIPPING...  
FOR THE WORK OF MINISTRY



EASTER SEASON DEVOTIONS  
WRITTEN BY LEADERS IN  
THE MONTANA SYNOD

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.

### **Synod Staff:**

Bishop

Laurie Jungling: [ljungling@montanasynod.org](mailto:ljungling@montanasynod.org)

Associate to the Bishop

Pastor Jason Asselstine: [jasselstine@montanasynod.org](mailto:jasselstine@montanasynod.org)

Director for Evangelical Mission

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: [ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)

Director of Technology and Communications

Colter McCarty: [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

Office Manager

Candi Standall: [cstandall@montanasynod.org](mailto:cstandall@montanasynod.org)

Director of NRIT

Jenny Kunka: [j.kunka@nrit.org](mailto:j.kunka@nrit.org)

