



## News of the Week May 11, 2022

### Prayers of the Week

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

For Pastor Brenda Frelsi's daughter, who was just diagnosed with Covid and expecting twins.

For all those leaders of congregations who have received and are struggling with Covid diagnoses around the Synod.

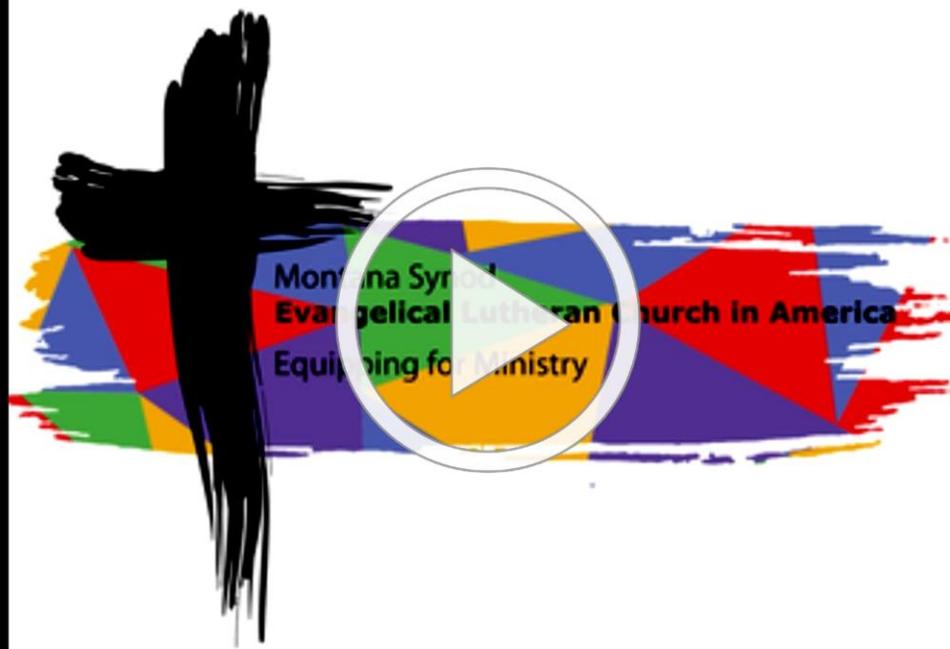
**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

All Saints Lutheran Church Clancy  
New Life Lutheran Church Helena  
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Helena

Lower Susquehanna Synod



### Words from the Bishop: 2022 Assembly



# Only 1 Day left

## to get the Assembly rate for your room in Billings! (Expires Tomorrow, 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.

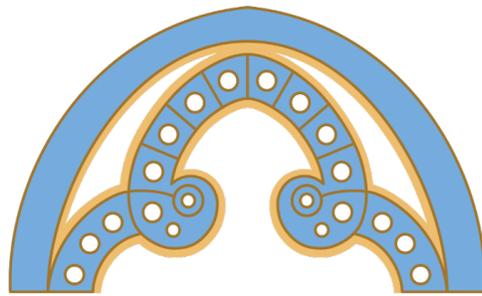
**Billings Hotel and Convention Center - 1223 Mallowney Lane, Billings, MT - 406-248-7151**

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](#)**



# MONTANA JEWISH PROJECT

לדור ודור

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.*

## 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](mailto: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.

[Click here to download the full job posting and application information](#)

## 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](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org) for the link.

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### **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)

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

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