



News of the Week June 15, 2022

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For all who are impacted both in the short term and long term by the flooding in Montana.

For Pastor Brenda Frelsi's daughter Lizz, expecting the birth of twins.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Dodson Lutheran Church, Dodson
American Lutheran Church, Chinook
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Box Elder

New England Synod



Words from the Bishop: Flooding

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for the many prayers and well-wishes to me as I got some much needed rest during my vacation. I spent several days at the Mini Moose cabin in Red Lodge reading, napping, hiking, and sleeping some more. It was wonderful!

And now, five days later, that same cabin and the town around it is under water. Or mud as some of the water recedes.



You have no doubt seen many of the pictures and video footage coming out of south central Montana, particularly along the Yellowstone in Paradise Valley and along I-90. Red Lodge was also hit badly as Rock Creek overflowed its banks – a riverbank I walked along just a few days ago – and knocked out bridges, flooding the east side of town where many of the service industry workers live. As of last report, the Lutheran church there had not been badly affected by the flood waters, but other churches, hotels and community buildings were just beginning to consider what's next for clean-up.

Because the situation across southern Montana continues to change every day as the rains leave and the temperatures rise to create mountain run-off, it is hard to get a solid picture at this time of what can be done to help the communities in the paths of this flooding. Right now food, clothing, quilts, etc. don't seem to be primary needs in these places.

But one thing that is very welcome is financial help toward the funds designed for response to these disasters. Monetary donations are what is needed the most right now based on what I have been told by those in the know.

Red Lodge has a community foundation fund that the Synod has already donated to from its disaster relief fund and will give to again as the need arises.

A new fund has been created to help all those affected by flooding in Southwestern MT. "The Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund" serving Park and Madison Counties, has been created to provide support for immediate needs like emergency shelter, drinking water, food, clothing, food replacement from lost freezers and refrigerators, and will also help with clean-up and rebuilding efforts in Park County, Madison County and other areas of Southwest Montana. The Synod will also be giving from its disaster relief monies to this fund as well.

And the Montana Synod has our [Lutheran Disaster Response fund](#) that will be used to assist with various forms of unmet needs as we learn of recovery efforts from the pastors, lay members and congregations on the ground.

Please see the articles below to donate to any one of these funds.

We in the Montana Synod are a generous bunch of people when we see our neighbors in need. We raised over \$10,000 total for the Montana Jewish project...Thank you so much for those gifts!

Now I encourage you and your congregations/ministries to share what financial support you can with the people and communities of southern Montana. If other needs arise that we hear of, we will be sure to let you know.

And I also invite you to pray for all who are currently affected by this disaster as well as for those whose lives will be affected in the future. We don't know what that future looks like yet but asking God for the strength, courage, faith and hope to move through days ahead in the healthiest ways possible is a great gift you can give too.

God's blessings be with you all this coming week,

Bishop Laurie

Note: Bishop Laurie will be gone next week for a Region 1 bishops gathering in Oregon.

Flood Relief Information

From Pastor Ben Messiah Lutheran, Red Lodge

Dear Messiah community,

We have received a great number of calls and emails from here in town and around the state (particularly from Lutheran churches and our synod office) asking after our well being and ways of supporting the church and the Red Lodge community. I wanted to reach out and let you know some of the best ways of responding today.

I connected with Tesla at the Red Lodge Area Community Foundation this morning. RLACF is fielding calls from people offering assistance and is cataloging the resources being made available. She has told me that emergency food supplies are in good shape around the county, thanks be to God. So food is not among the more pressing needs. The real need in the coming weeks will be almost exclusively financial. Money is the most flexible means of supporting those who've now lost homes, property and the security that comes with them. So, if you are moved to donate what you can, please reach out to the [RLACF's donation page here](#). If you'd rather send in a check than donate online, their address is:

Red Lodge Area Community Foundation
122 S. Hauser Ave · Red Lodge, MT 59068

Marked with the cross of Christ forever as we are in baptism orients our response to this suffering world as always 'toward'. We walk in faith, and that faith walks us in the direction of the needs set before us. Peace to you and blessing in the midst,

Pastor Ben

Messiah Lutheran Church

Light in the Beartooths

723 S. Adams
P.O. Box 1330
Red Lodge, MT 59068
406-446-2430
www.redlodgemessiah.com

Press Release from Greater Gallatin United Way (GGUW) and Park County Community Foundation (PCCF)

To make an online donation to the SW Montana Flood Relief Fund, go to text Flood22 to 41444 or go to www.greatergallatinunitedway.org.

June 14, 2022 – Park County or Livingston, MT: A new fund, the Southwest Montana Flood Relief Fund-serving Park and Madison Counties, has been created to support communities affected by the severe flooding in Park County, Madison County and other areas of Southwest Montana. The funding will provide support for immediate needs like emergency shelter, drinking water, food, clothing, food replacement from lost freezers and refrigerators, and will also help with clean-up and rebuilding efforts. The creation of the fund is a joint effort between the Greater Gallatin United Way (GGUW) and Park County Community Foundation (PCCF) to streamline support and focus it to the areas of our region that need it most at this time. Those wishing to help people most impacted by the flooding in Southwest Montana are encouraged to donate to this fund.

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:

cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Open Position: OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Full-time, hourly + benefits

Interviewing is expected to begin immediately

Start date: ASAP

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](#)

Synod Staff:

Bishop

Laurie Jungling: ljungling@montanasynod.org

Associate to the Bishop

Pastor Jason Asselstine: jasselstine@montanasynod.org

Director for Evangelical Mission

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org

Director of Technology and Communications

Colter McCarty: cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Office Manager

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Jenny Kunka: j.kunka@nrit.org

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