



News of the Week August 4, 2021

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For all those fighting wildfires around the world.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Bethel Lutheran Church, Great Falls
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Great Falls
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Great Falls
First English Lutheran Church, Great Falls

Northern Illinois Synod



Words from the Bishop: God Loves You



Faithful Innovations

The Montana Synod will be offering a “Faithful Innovation” training process for congregations this fall. The process, developed by leaders at Luther Seminary, equips a guiding team from a congregation to listen to God, one another and the community, and then to experiment. Each guiding team is accompanied by a “coach”, who meets with them to help hold them accountable and who is trained to keep asking questions of the guiding team. In listening first, the guiding team is encouraged to experiment, based on what they have been hearing.

The process for Faithful Innovation will begin in Oct. with a training over Zoom and conclude in the spring with the third training. Although listening and experimenting seem simple, the congregations who have already participated have learned that the listening is hard, but the most important thing. This process begins to open a congregation to challenge assumptions and explore with a renewed openness what God is already doing in their midst.

If you would like to know more, check out the brochure on the Synod’s website or contact Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod. 406 451-8461 (Cell) or ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org

Keeping in Mind Global Mission in South America

IELB-Bolivia: a servant and thriving church

COVID 19 causes enormous damage to the Bolivian people, both in their health and the possibility of people obtaining their daily bread. The 2019 and 2020 political crises caused damage as well. However, in this difficult and challenging time the IELB Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church is active, dynamic, and flourishing,

Anticovid vaccination is in trouble because the government planned to vaccinate 50% of 15 million Bolivians over 18 years old until October 2021 to achieve the so-called herd immunity. Still, until July 2021, 20% have one dose and only 7% the two doses.

Vaccination is slow due to the low participation of citizens. According to experts, the government's communication campaign needed more information and more education, and less propaganda; especially promoting the benefits of vaccination, debunk myths, and combat misinformation disseminated by anti-vaccine groups and fundamentalist religious organizations. Blessedly, the U.S. Government has shipped one million doses of Johnson & Johnson's coronavirus vaccine to Bolivia in mid-July.

People's work (others would say (the economy) is in trouble because the COVID crisis has led to a decrease in economic activity and an increase in poverty. Bolivian governments tried to protect the poorest with cash transfers and deferred payments. But the crisis also exposed the bad preparedness of the health system, the high level of labor informality, and the lack of focus on social protection programs.

Bolivia's urban population suffers the worst consequences of the crisis, with overburdened hospitals, insufficient water and sanitation services, and profound inequalities. Even though in the cities, the population shows extraordinary solidarity and resilience.

The political crisis has also caused damage. A year after its fall, Evo Morales' political party is once again governing Bolivia. President Luis Arce focused his campaign on the remote neighborhoods, on the impoverished by the coronavirus. Also, he made a campaign on those who went out from poverty to the middle class during Morales' government fell back into poverty because of the coronavirus. Arce, who is not a caudillo like Evo Morales, is a well-known technician, won more than 50% of the votes. The new government faces an economic crisis, social conflict, and a health emergency due to covid-19.

Amid this context, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church, IELB, has given testimony of an integral mission: service to the needy and proclaiming the good news.

Although COVID fatally affected many people in the church, and dozens of leaders and pastors have died because of the pandemic, the church has continued serving and giving testimony of God's unconditional love. IELB is making a distinctive contribution by providing food and support for pandemic-affected families. Because of its long-term relationships, belonging, commitment to communities and the local population acceptance, IELB reaches the most vulnerable people and remote places.



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Jesus The Galilee Congregation.
Opening of the new sanctuary.
April 2021.



Jesus The Galilee
Congregational Leadership



Capaliva Congregation
47 anniversary celebration
in a crowded sanctuary



Rev. German Lopez celebrating a community
water supply system opening

Visit www.regionlac.net

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