



## News of the Week August 11, 2021

### Prayers of the Week

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

For all those in Broadus and the surrounding area who are without power due to wildfires.

For all those individuals and communities in the Western United States who are displaced and affected by drought and wildfires.



**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Zion Lutheran Church, Glendive  
Hope American Lutheran Church, Fallon  
St. Elizabeth's Lutheran Church Ekalaka

Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod  
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

### Spotlight on the Synod:

#### **Singing Plains, Calling Mountains An Original Liturgy from the MT Synod ELCA Changing Climate Task Force**

Now available on the MT Synod Website:

Through our baptisms, God brings us into the divine plan for all of creation. We are equipped by the Spirit, then, to care for others and the world that God made. Whole-hearted, intentional stewardship of

God's creation is a serious aspect of what it means to be a follower of Christ, doing God's work with our hands.

*-Pr. Julia Seymour, Pastor at Big Timber Lutheran Church and member of the MT Synod Changing Climate Task Force*

The Changing Climate Task Force is offering a free liturgy that aims to connect people with their natural surroundings and to cherish and care for those places. The series uses lectionary selections to guide users through four weekly themes.

This is a fully built liturgy with sermon guidance, new songs and new prayers that can easily be used during the six-week cycle on bread at the end of August. The liturgy is constructed so that all or parts of it can be adopted by congregations during any other time of the year as well. The full liturgy is a four-week series and includes written introductions to each text to ground them in the broader context of the liturgy.

Worship settings follow the form of the ELW. Pastor Julia Seymour has written original pieces for the liturgy that will serve and accompany the lectionary selections and Jacob Kvale of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp has written original service music. The selections include the Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, Holy Holy Holy, and Lamb of God. The music is written to be accessible in a broad range of settings and includes piano accompaniment and guitar chords. Melodies are simple, repetitive, and easy to learn. These pieces will be consistent across all four weeks of the liturgy in order to build familiarity and comfort.

*This free resource is available on the [synod website](#) go to the synod home page and Click on the "Changing Climate Task Force Website."*

## Faithful Innovations: New Cohort

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](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)

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