



News of the Week August 25, 2021

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For the people of Afghanistan, and for all those who risk their own safety in the defense of others.

Prayers of congratulations on the instillation of Scott Kiehn at First Lutheran in Glasgow

For Pastor Tim O'Shields who was installed at Zion Lutheran in Fairview, Montana.

For the upcoming instillation of Will Rima in Harlem, Hogeland, and Turner this weekend.

From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Broadus
American Lutheran Church, Baker

Northwestern Minnesota Synod
Ecumenical Partner, Community Presbyterian Church, Jordan



Spotlight on the Synod:

From the Racial Justice Task Force - Remembering the Children

Calling all Montana Synod Leadership and Congregations! The American Indian Alaska Native Lutheran Association wrote a letter over a month ago



calling on ELCA congregations to stand with them in Christ and in solidarity while remembering the lives of the [215+ children of the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia whose remains were found in an unmarked mass grave in May](#). The remains included children of the Rosebud Sioux, whose bodies were returned to their homeland in early August. Please [Click Here](#) to read their letter.

This letter asks that each congregation hang an orange banner in their churches as a form of remembrance as we, God's collective church, acknowledge and confess the sins of these atrocities committed against innocent children and Indigenous peoples throughout our history in Montana, the United States, and in countries around the world.

Below is a picture of a banner made by Bethel Lutheran in Great Falls. The Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF) of the Montana Synod is asking you, each congregation, to follow their lead by making a banner of your own. Get as creative as you would like but please ensure your banner is **orange**, the significance of which is described in the letter mentioned above.

As you plan for your banner, think of ways you can use it to initiate conversations within your church about the history of Indigenous peoples in Montana and the effects colonization has had on their cultures and communities. Consider: "How can we support the healing work of Indigenous leaders in their communities? What can we do to bridge age-old cultural divides and work to become supportive allies of your Indigenous neighbors?"

Share your stories with us! Send us a picture of your banner at MTSynodRJTF@gmail.com (by September 15th) and/or tell us your plans for leading conversations about racial justice within your church community. Remember, we're here to provide resources for you and guide you into upcoming educational processes that will 1) set you and your congregation on new paths of understanding and 2) ultimately accompany you in forming trusting relationships with leaders of color in your area. Reach out to us and God bless!

LPA Class this October!

A new class of LPAs will be starting up this fall in Great Falls. If you have a candidate in mind from your congregation, or would like more information, please call the Synod office or email [Candi](#)!

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