



News of the Week August 30, 2023

Prayers of the Week

Please remember in your prayers this week:

For Pastor Mark Galbraith (St. Paul, Missoula) and his family as they mourned the death of his mother earlier this month and celebrated her life this past weekend.

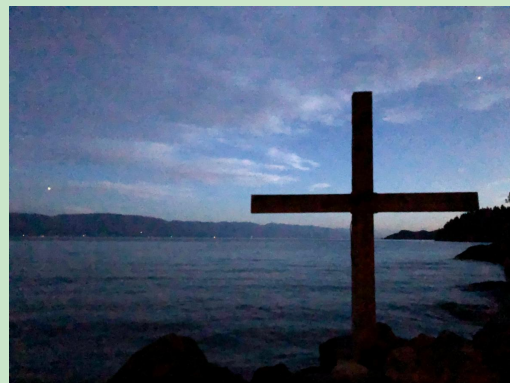
For the family of Pat Gjerde, wife of pastor Ken Gjerde (deceased), who recently died.

For the congregation of Saco Lutheran and the community of Saco, MT as they mourn the sudden death of Marilyn Breipohl, church musician of 60+ years and a pillar of the community.

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



The Synod office will be closed on Monday, September 4th, in observance of Labor Day

Words from the Bishop: Some News from Bolivia

Last week I had the joy of visiting with Pastor Presidente Freddy Choque Rondo, the newly elected leader of Iglesia Evangélica Luterana Boliviana, the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELB). Pastor Presidente Rondo, or Pastor Freddy, was elected in May and has been in this new office (which is similar to the bishop's role in the ELCA) for three months. Before becoming the Pastor Presidente of the IELB, Pastor Freddy worked for a state institution as well as serving as a pastor.



Through a translator, he described the work he has been doing since taking office. His primary focus has been connecting with and visiting the 107 congregations and ministries across Bolivia, some of whom are quite remote, as well as spending time in the office getting used to the various administrative tasks of this role.

As he settles into his new role, one of Pastor Freddy's emphases for the IELB is working with the three ministers of the IELB (two of whom are female) to coordinate and provide social, educational and mission support for the many congregations across Bolivia. Like the Montana Synod, the IELB is facing ministry shortages as an older generation of clergy retires and a new generation of clergy and lay leaders is sought for the future of the church. With the help of Pastor Aaron Decker from the Global Missions area of the ELCA, one of the projects they are working on is developing a seminary for theological education of both pastor and lay people. They are also putting together materials for a lay education program somewhat similar to our LPA program.



Pastor Freddy describes the IELB as a church that is changing not only in leadership but in its desire to work with the culture and other Christian denominations toward various social reforms. For example, the IELB just signed a cooperation agreement with World Vision in Bolivia to begin work with the Safe Churches for Children program which seeks to protect children in religious communities and promotes that churches and places are safe environments.

During our conversation, I officially invited Pastor Freddy to visit the Montana Synod at some point in the future and we discussed the possibility of me visiting Bolivia. This conversation is in its earliest stages but when I suggested to him that we could at least meet together in Houston at an upcoming Latin American Consult, Pastor Freddy replied that he'd rather come to Montana! I'd rather show off Montana and Northern Wyoming too!

Please keep Pastor Freddy, the IELB and the people of Bolivia in your prayers as they move through this time of leadership transition. Also, if you have interest in serving on a small team of people who can help coordinate our ongoing companion relationship with the IELB, please send me an email.

Blessings to you all this week!
Bp Laurie

Bishop's Convocation Save the Date!

The Bishop's Convo will be held on October 24th, 10am - 3pm in four locations!

We are trying something new this year in order to provide an **in person** opportunity to gather while accounting for our vast territory. These sites will be linked via Zoom with a Synod staff member at each location to facilitate so we can convene with all of our pastoral leaders simultaneously together across the Montana & Northern Wyoming Synod!

In person locations will be:

Pella Lutheran, Sidney, MT
First Lutheran, Glasgow, MT
Immanuel Lutheran, Missoula, MT
Big Timber Lutheran, Big Timber, MT

Make sure to plan ahead for where you'd like to attend and look for registration information in an email coming later in September

Brought to you by the MT Synod Racial Justice Task Force:

Part 1 of a 2-Part Series

Wrestling with Colonization and the Processes of Colonialism to Strengthen Ministry

Wednesday Mornings On Zoom*

September 6th - October 4th

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.

Part 1 costs:**

- Clergy Members: \$125
- Lay Pastoral Associates (ELCA): \$50
- Lay Members: \$25

* Attending all 5 sessions is highly encouraged to aid in group participation and discussion. Sessions will not be recorded. If it's necessary to miss more than one session, we suggest waiting to register until the next series offering.

** Part 2 will have a separate registration (dates TBD).

For more information and to register: Visit the NRIT webpage at montanasynod.org/nrit
Questions? Email us at rjtfmtnsynod@gmail.com

Course Teaching Team:



**Francine
Spang-Willis**

is of Cheyenne, Pawnee, and settler descent. She is an oral historian, educator, strategist, researcher, and content curator, and owner of Appearing Flying Woman Consulting based in Bozeman, Montana. Francine earned an Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) degree from Columbia University. She also has a Native American Studies Master of Arts degree from Montana State University.



**Raimund
Combs**

is of Tsimshian First Nations and German descent. He is a veteran of two military services and two federal law enforcement agencies, totaling 28 years service to the United States. He recently graduated with dual Bachelor of Arts degrees in Environmental and Native American Studies, and has been working as an educator in Missoula the past 4 years.



**John
Lund**

is of Finnish and Sicilian descent and serves as pastor at University Congregational Church, UCC in Missoula. In Missoula John has served as a connecting point between the campus community, congregations, and non-profits. He has organized and/or led numerous workshops, book studies, lectures, community action events and community celebrations.

Come join us for a little over an hour, every Wednesday morning for 5 weeks. This class meets the requirements for ELCA diversity training plus 6.5 hours of continuing education.

Deadline to Register - 5pm on Thursday, August 31st

[Click here to register](#)

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the tAble Young Adult Gathering

September 15, the day when registrations begins for the 2024 Youth Gathering, is approaching quickly!

As the Synod coordinator, my task is to see if you have any questions and also to make plans for any congregations that wish to travel to New Orleans together. With this in mind, I will host a zoom on Sept. 12 at 7 pm for one person in each congregation that is planning to take part. This will help me know who is planning to attend and also to give you some information regarding registration and the flow of the gathering. We can also choose a hotel for all of us so that the youth in our synod can be housed close together and actually get to know each other. [Please let me know](#) if you are able to attend the meeting and I will send you the link directly. I hope to see you on Sept. 12!

Blessings,
Pastor Brenda

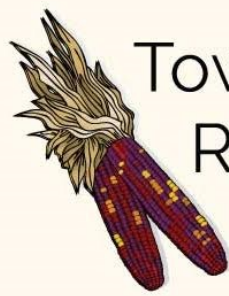


Lutheran Disaster Response
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

The Montana Synod maintains a disaster relief fund that is funded with donations by individuals and congregations. The purpose of this fund is to help out with those smaller unmet needs suffered by individuals or congregations as a result of a disaster, natural or otherwise. If you or your congregation is aware of an individual in your congregation or in the wider community that needs assistance recovering from a disaster, please let us know. You may contact Dick Deschamps, Synod Disaster Coordinator, through the Montana Synod office or directly at (406) 580-9906 (Voice or Text).

Congregational property directly affected by a disaster may also be eligible for relief from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR).

Please let Dick know as well if your church has been affected by a disaster.



Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

News and Updates



UPCOMING INDIGENOUS EVENTS – Make plans in your community

September 30, Orange Shirt Day

Wear orange on Sept 30 and join events in your community to commemorate the residential school experience and to witness and honor the healing journey of the survivors and their families. This annual commemoration began in Canada and is now widely observed in the U.S.

October 9, Indigenous Peoples Day

Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) and Northern Arapaho speakers Nelson White Eagle and Patrick Moss at 2019 event in Boulder, CO



Start making plans today for Indigenous Peoples Day events in your community!

November: Native American Heritage Month

Start making plans today for Native American Heritage Month in your community! Learn about this national commemoration [here](#) and [here](#).

The Indigenous Boarding Schools and Multigenerational Trauma

Tuesday, Sept 12, 8-9:30 pm EDT, 6-7:30 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)

This slide presentation is offered by Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa). Jerilyn is co-director of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, a program of Friends Peace Teams. She is an attorney specializing in Indian law, and she currently serves on the supreme courts of San Ildefonso Pueblo and the Kiowa Nation. She is past president of the board of directors of the [National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition](#)

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

**Saturday, Sept 9, 4-6 pm EDT, 2-4 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)
Sunday, October 15, 4-6 pm EDT, 2-4 pm MDT, [REGISTER](#)**

This interactive workshop is facilitated by a team of Native and non-Native presenters. It is appropriate for high school students and adults. Participants experience the story of the colonization of Turtle Island (the United States) through the voices of Indigenous leaders, Euro-American leaders, and Western historians. We share reflections through writing exercises and small and large group discussions.

Register for any of our upcoming **online** programs at
FriendsPeaceTeams.org/upcoming-events



Wondering how to lead in challenging times?
Leading without hope?
Hoping something will change?
Changing without a plan?

www.rmselfca.org/excellence-in-leadership

Excellence in 
LEADERSHIP
Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Rostered leaders, LPAs and lay leaders: Consider participating in Excellence in Leadership, a process of learning more about your own leadership and working to enhance and strengthen how you lead in your congregation.

Check out the Rocky Mountain Synod website and link for more information and to register for the upcoming fall cohort. (All the sessions are held via Zoom.)

Contact [DEM Peggy Paugh Leuzinger](#) if you have any questions about EIL.

Effective Leadership?



Sermon Manuscripts Available

Montana Synod leaders have been providing manuscripts for use in congregations through the Lent and Easter seasons. We are happy to announce that these manuscripts will be provided throughout the entire year! Thank you to the leaders in the Montana Synod who are providing these manuscripts every week. They can be found and downloaded on the [Montana Synod website here](#).

[Click here to give to the Montana Synod](#)

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