



News of the Week September 6, 2023

Prayers of the Week

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

**From the Montana Synod Prayer
Calendar:**

Peace Lutheran Church, Plevna
St. John's Lutheran Church, Jordan

Northwest Washington Synod



Words from the Bishop: Synod Office Transitions

Dear Friends in Christ in the Montana/Northern
Wyoming Synod,

It is with sadness and understanding that I
announce the upcoming retirement of Pastor Peggy
Paugh Leuzinger as the Director for Evangelical
Mission in the synod. Pastor Peggy has given much
of herself and her gifts to this synod over many
years serving as parish pastor, synod council
member, synod secretary, and the DEM but she has
discerned that it's time for her move into the next
part of her life.



While she will not be leaving the role until December 15, I will begin the process of
searching for a new DEM in early October. Because the DEM is an ELCA Churchwide
position, this process moves forward in a particular way and I will be working with the
Churchwide office as well as members of our synod council to find our new DEM. More

information about this process will be shared as it becomes available.

In the meantime I ask for your prayers for Pastor Peggy as she transitions out of this role into the new directions God is leading her to go and for prayers for the synod staff as we again enter into a time of transition. While change is often a difficult thing to journey through, I have faith that the Holy Spirit will be blowing through this change to bring new possibilities to Christ's Church in Montana and Northern Wyoming.

Blessed week to you all!

Bp Laurie



Dear friends in the Montana Synod:

I have announced to Bishop Jungling that I will be retiring on December 15, 2023.

Although I have loved working as the Director for Evangelical Mission, I have come to realize that it is time for me to retire and enjoy a new stage in life. It has been a joy and honor to serve in the Montana and northern Wyoming Synod for the past six years as the DEM.

I have worked to encourage and equip you to enhance vitality in congregations, and to work creatively to spread Gospel love and share generosity for the sake of local communities, the Synod, and the world. I am grateful for the opportunity that I have had to walk alongside many of you in a variety of ways through the years.

I give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve with former Bishop Jessica Crist, Bishop Laurie Jungling, the Synod staff, the Synod Council, members of the Stewardship and Congregational Vitality Task Forces, and other leaders in the Synod and in congregations, in these last years in my role as DEM.

The Montana Synod and you all are near to my heart. May God bless and keep you!

Yours, in Christ,
Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger
Director for Evangelical Mission,
Montana Synod, ELCA

Announcing new Synod office hours

As Oliver and Colter start fall classwork and we hire Betty Brumwell (LPA) to take on a few specific office responsibilities, **our office hours are changing as of this week** .

The office will be open as usual Monday through Thursdays 8:30am - 4:30pm. The physical office will be closed on Friday, however staff will be working and can be reached via cell phones or email. You can find [our contact information here](#).

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

GENEROSITY 101: PRACTICAL STEPS FOR CONGREGATIONS WEBINAR: OCT. 2, 2023 6:30 – 7:30 PM



On Monday, October 1, 2023, from 6:30 – 7:30 pm, Congregational Stewardship Committees, Congregational Council leaders, Pastors and LPAs are invited to join in a Zoom webinar with Rev. Tim Brown, (the speaker at the 2023 Synod Assembly) and Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod, Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger.

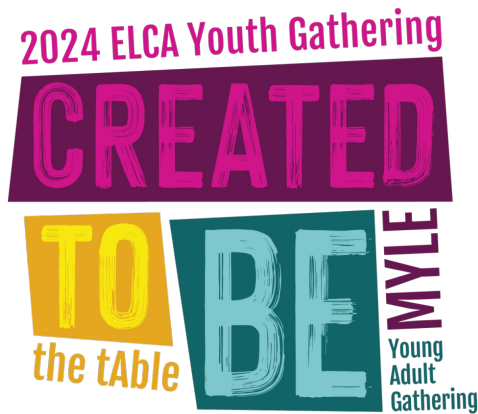
This will be a time to learn and discuss practical steps for congregations to align values and mission around stewardship in congregations. We will consider generosity through the lens of abundance, rather than scarcity. There will be time for questions with the leaders at the end of the session for those who would like to remain on the Zoom.

Please register for the webinar using the link below, in order to receive the Zoom invite link.

A Second Session with Rev. Brown and Rev. Leuzinger is also scheduled for Mon. Dec. 4,

2023 again from 6:30 – 7:30 to discuss “What can we do now?” as your congregation approaches the end of the fiscal year. There will be suggestions and conversation about how to “make the ask”.

[Click Here to Register](#)



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 may 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.

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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