



News of the Week September 20, 2023

Prayers of the Week

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

For Pastor Bob Nagy as he recovers from
knee surgery.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer
Calendar:**

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Westby

Pella Evangelical Lutheran Church,
Sidney



Words from the Bishop: Equipping for Ministry Bible Study - Ephesians 4



[Link for Ephesians 4 Bible Study for the MT/NWY Synod](#)

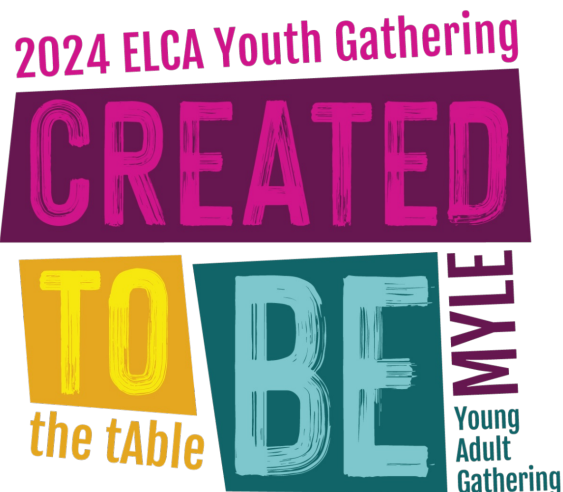
Registration is open for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans next July 16-20. Several youth leaders met via zoom recently to talk about the registration process.

There were questions regarding those congregations with a small number of youth attending, and it was decided that the congregations would have the option of registering together so that they could then be housed together. This will help with sharing adult leaders and combining in rooms, if there were not enough youth of the same sex from one congregation to fill a room. Gretchen Munding, from St. John's Lutheran in Helena has generously offered to be the adult contact for this group.

If you would like to join in with several other congregations to be a large Montana group, please contact her at stjohns@helenastjohns.org. This means that she will be the one who sends in the registration for everyone in the group, after she has received the registration information for each congregation. She plans to do the registering on Sept. 28.

Each group will travel to New Orleans separately, and we will meet there. It may be possible for groups that are near each other to travel together. We will be talking about this as the Gathering gets nearer.

If you have more questions, please contact Pastor Brenda at bfrelsi@montanasynod.org





The board of directors and staff at Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry have been hard at work for the last two years redefining who we are and what our vision for the future is. Healthy organizations need to constantly evaluate their mission and the services they provide. We have had 11 years of ministering and walking with the men at Montana State Prison, and we will continue this mission for as long as the prison allows us. Now we feel it is time to explore other possibilities where the ministry can grow and provide services to more people within the carceral systems in Montana and northern Wyoming.

During our explorations, we really looked within at our core principles and beliefs. This led to lively discussions at our retreats in defining who we are, what we believe, and what our core values are. These discussions led us to change our original mission statement and create statements about our vision and core values.

Our old mission statement:

Transforming lives at Montana State Prison through the power and presence of Jesus Christ.

Our discussions led us to believe there is a need to provide more services to those incarcerated beyond Montana State Prison. We have a new program that we are developing...but details about that are for another article! These discussions led us down the path to a new and improved mission statement:

*Transforming lives and empowering living for the incarcerated and those who **care for them in the name of love in Christ.***

Freedom in Christ is a ministry that welcomes all to its community, regardless of denomination or religious/spiritual beliefs. Over the years we have had men with every denomination or spiritual (and even those without) belief attend our Bible studies, worship services, and pastoral visits - none have ever been turned away. Our new program will also invite all denominations and spiritual (or no belief system) to participate in services offered through Freedom in Christ. It is open to any congregation, individual, or community organization that wishes to participate.

This led us to develop our vision and core values that we are sharing with you today.

Our Vision:

We believe that **forgiveness is through grace**, that all are **welcomed at our table**, and that we are **called to love one another**.

Our Core Values:

We believe **everyone** deserves a second chance; has **dignity** and **worth**; and we are called to **show love to all people**. We believe that **ALL** are welcomed to the table.

We invite you to join us in our mission to minister to the least of us, as we were commanded by Jesus! Please consider supporting this ministry with your financial gifts. And we thank you for your prayers for Pastor Marlow Carrels and the continuation of the ministry of FIC.

"I was in prison. And you came to visit me." ~Matthew 25:36
Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry: ficprisonministry.com

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



On Monday, October 2, 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](#)

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

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](#)

Synod Staff:

Bishop

Laurie Jungling: ljungling@montanasynod.org

Associate to the Bishop

Brenda Frelsi: bfrelsi@montanasynod.org

Director for Evangelical Mission

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org

Director of Technology and Communications

Colter McCarty: cmccarty@montanasynod.org

Office Manager

Oliver Main office@montanasynod.org

Director of NRIT

Jenny Kunka: j.kunka@nrit.org

[Click here to be taken to the newsletter archive on our website](#)



Montana Synod, ELCA | 1221 24th St. South, Great Falls, MT 59405-5034

[Unsubscribe cmccarty@montanasynod.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by cmccarty@montanasynod.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!