



## News of the Week November 8, 2023

# Prayers of the Week

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

For the victims of ongoing war across the world, including people of Israel and Gaza.

**From the Montana Synod Prayer Calendar:**

Volmer Lutheran Church, Dagmar  
Ebenezer Lutheran of McCabe

South Carolina Synod



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## Words from the Bishop: Rocky Boy Parsonage Fund



Today I come to you on behalf of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Rocky Boy. As some of you may know, the people of Our Saviour's Lutheran and the Rocky Boy community have been without a Lutheran pastor for over a year and a half. I, working with Vance Blackfox at the ELCA Churchwide Office and the Montana Synod Council,

continue to search for a dedicated and capable pastor to serve alongside the Chippewa and Cree people in their context.

However, we have discovered that the parsonage at Our Saviour's is unlivable. Even as we search for and encourage a new pastor to consider this exciting call, we need to replace the parsonage.



**And so we are asking for your support!**

This past summer, Our Saviour's, Rocky Boy received a gift of \$34,000+ from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Cheney, WA as part of that congregation's holy closure legacy. After a conversation with the leaders of Our Saviour's, it was decided that the Montana/Northern Wyoming Synod would use this generous gift as seed money towards replacing the parsonage.

But we need this gift to grow into at least \$250,000, the anticipated cost of a modular home.

To accomplish this goal, we are **challenging the congregations, ministries, and individuals of the Montana/Northern Wyoming Synod and many other supporters across the country to match the original gift of \$34,000, not once or twice but 7 times.**

And we'd like to do this by Easter 2024 so that we can get the parsonage placed before potential pastoral candidates become available (weather cooperating).

Why are we doing this? There is great opportunity for new and exciting ministry with, by and for the people of Our Saviour's and the Chippewa and Cree tribes at Rocky Boy. And it is vitally important that whoever serves as the pastoral leader of the congregation actually live on site. For it is only in living with the people that holy relationships of accompaniment can truly grow.

You may give to this special restricted fund that has been established for this campaign in three ways at this time. All monies given to this fund will go toward the new parsonage.

- 1. Send a check to the Montana Synod office made out to the "Montana Synod ELCA" with "Parsonage for Rocky Boy" in the memo line. (1221 24<sup>th</sup> St S., Great Falls, MT, 59405)**
- 2. Click the "Give" button on the [Montana Synod website](#). In the dropdown box select "Parsonage for Rocky Boy" to give to this special fund. (link to website)**
- 3. Congregations: give using your normal monthly or quarterly giving to the Montana Synod by designating an amount for "Parsonage for Rocky Boy" on your remittance form.**

Thank you for your generous support of one of the oldest ministries in the synod. There may also come a time next spring when volunteer support from individuals and congregations will be needed so please keep that in mind. And of course your prayers are always welcome.

Blessings to you all as we celebrate this season of gratitude and thanksgiving to God for all that we receive.

In Christ,

Bishop Laurie

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# ELCA Task Force Study

Earlier this year, the ELCA Task Force on *Studies for Civic Life and Faith* released a study curriculum for use throughout the ELCA. This study is part of the process toward developing a social statement on topics related to our civic life and faith, including the church's relationship with government. Participants' feedback is key in helping the task force as it moves into the next phase of its work of drafting a social statement.

**If you have not had a chance to do the study yet or submit responses, you may still do so until November 30. The link is still open and the study is still active.**

<https://elca.org/civicsandfaithstudy> It would be great if the task force could hear from some of our more rural and frontier areas in the Montana Synod!

## Director for Evangelical Mission - Montana Synod

As we announced several weeks ago, Rev. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger is retiring in mid-December. So it is now time to begin the search for a new Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod, ELCA. If you are interested in serving in the DEM position for the Montana Synod or know of someone who might be interested, please click here for the position announcement and application which is offered through the ELCA Churchwide Office (CWO). All applications must be done through the CWO so please do not contact the synod office to apply. Once applications have been received, then selected qualified candidates will be contacted for an interview.

If you have any questions about this position, please read through the job description first and then you may contact Bishop Laurie Jungling through her synod email address. ([ljungling@montanasynod.org](mailto:ljungling@montanasynod.org)) The application deadline is mid-November for a January 2024 start date.

[Click here to see the application and to apply](#)

## Montana Synod Zoom for Congregations Involved in Feeding Ministries

The Synod Hunger team would like to invite those from congregations who are involved in a feeding ministry to join in a Zoom conversation on Thurs. Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> from 7pm - 8:30pm. There are several congregations around the synod who host food pantries, serve meals or engage in other ministries to address the needs of people in our communities. Plan to attend (and encourage a team from your congregation to join with you) to hear about what others are doing, to be encouraged to collaborate and partner with others in your community to address needs and to join in conversation about other ways to respond to meet the needs in your area. The reality of hungry people in our Synod is deeply disturbing. The need is great! By joining together in conversation and collaboration, the Hunger Team hopes that you will be equipped to meet the needs of those in your area.

We will also be discussing the grant process that the Hunger Team is putting in place using funds from the Montana Synod Hunger Fund.

Here is link to register for the Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclce-vqTsiE9wF6lpiodXkDLT6sRDLude->

## 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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### **Synod Staff:**

#### **Bishop**

Laurie Jungling: [ljungling@montanasynod.org](mailto:ljungling@montanasynod.org)

#### **Associate to the Bishop**

Brenda Frelsi: [bfrelsi@montanasynod.org](mailto:bfrelsi@montanasynod.org)

#### **Director for Evangelical Mission**

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger: [ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org](mailto:ppleuzinger@montanasynod.org)

#### **Director of Technology and Communications**

Colter McCarty: [cmccarty@montanasynod.org](mailto:cmccarty@montanasynod.org)

#### **Office Manager**

Oliver Main [office@montanasynod.org](mailto:office@montanasynod.org)

#### **Director of NRIT**

Jenny Kunka: [j.kunka@nrit.org](mailto:j.kunka@nrit.org)

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

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