



Strengthen Congregations

Montana Synod Assembly

June 1-3, 2018

Best Western Heritage Inn

Great Falls, Montana

Reports Book

ASSEMBLY REPORTS – 2018

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

Welcome to the 2018 Montana Synod Assembly and Theological Conference!

Whether you are reading this as a Voting Member, or simply as an interested person, you will learn a great deal about the ministries of the Montana Synod by reading this book of reports. Every congregation has its own ministry, its own special niche. This book of reports tells you a bit about some of the ministries that we support together, as a Synod.

No congregation can do it all. This book of reports reminds us that we are stronger together than we are apart. I hope that as you read these ministry reports you will find ways to highlight these ministries in your congregation. And I hope that you will find your curiosity piqued so that you learn more.

Our Synod Assembly theme this year is "Strengthen Congregations." It is based on one of our five Synod Benchmarks. The other four are:

Meet the future boldly.

Serve the world, especially the poor and those in need.

Deepen faith and witness.

Promote unity.

We hope that these reports, along with the speakers and workshops and worship at the Assembly will help us strengthen congregations as we seek to serve God and neighbor.

Thank you for your partnership and your prayers.

In Christ,

Jessica Crist, Bishop



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

“For by grace you have been saved through
faith, and this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God.”

– Ephesians 2:8

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are Lutheran. For the past year it has been “all Reformation all the time!” So now what? The Lutheran Confessions teach that God freely and graciously creates a trusting relationship between us and Jesus. As we gather to meet in synod assemblies, let us remember that our hope is in the living Christ and share that assurance with the joy of the gospel.

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are free of the burden of making ourselves acceptable to God. The cross of Christ and the living Christ assure us that God's final word for us is life and freedom in Christ. Lutherans confidently and enthusiastically claim this promise: “For freedom Christ has set us free” (Galatians 5:1). How does this claim affect your faith journey as an individual, a congregation, synod or member of the church universal? Through his death and resurrection, we have a truly living Lord who meets us, forgives us and calls us to follow, and in that we find our freedom.

Because we are set free in Jesus Christ, we are free from trying to save ourselves and free for loving and serving others. As a church, we walk by faith, trusting God's promise in the gospel and knowing that we exist by and for the proclamation of this gospel word.

“Future Directions 2025”

Through “Called Forward Together in Christ – Future Directions 2025,” we are addressing the challenges and embracing the opportunities of the church we are becoming – a church that is confident about who we are in Christ and what God is calling us to do. I invite you to lift up these goals and engage how we journey forward in Christ as church together. You can learn more by visiting [ELCA.org/future](https://elca.org/future).

ELCA Youth Gathering

Many of us will be together at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston June 27-July 1, 2018. I look forward to sharing in the excitement and energy of our young people as they experience the wonder and joy of being with more than 30,000 Lutherans and grow in their faith formation. For information and resources on the Gathering, go to [ELCA.org/gathering](https://elca.org/gathering).

The Campaign for the ELCA

We are in our final year of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*. Help us rally to the end! As of Dec. 31, the campaign has received more than \$138.6 million in cash and multiyear commitments, representing 70 percent of our \$198 million goal. Read more about the campaign's progress at [ELCA.org/campaign](https://elca.org/campaign). Thank you for your continued support!

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

Sept. 9 is our suggested date for the 2018 dedicated day of service. If your congregation cannot participate on this date, please consider another day. “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday is an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. To order T-shirts or download resources, go to ELCA.org/dayofservice.

Join the conversation

There are two opportunities for you to provide feedback about what this church says on important issues. One is “Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice.” The draft is in two sections: basic theses and fuller explanations, which speak about how sexism harms us all in church and society. The task force wants to hear from you about the content of the draft and this innovative format. Find the draft, supplementary materials and order information at ELCA.org/womenandjustice. The other is on the draft of “A Declaration of our Inter-Religious Commitment: A Draft Policy Statement of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.” The comment period is open from now until June 30, 2018. Visit ELCA.org/ecumenical for more information and the document.

I have shared some of the ways we are loving and serving our neighbor. This is what being free in Christ looks like. This is part of our Lutheran story. This is part of your congregation’s story and your synod’s story.

Wherever you are for your synod assembly, from the Alaska Synod to the Caribbean Synod, there is something that we all have in common – our life in Christ. We have our life in Christ – in the crucified and risen Savior, in the one who poured out his life for us, the one who gave himself away for the life of the world so we may be free. As Lutheran Christians, we live in the freedom of Christ.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Rev. Brenda K. Smith

is Program Director for Faith Practices and Book of Faith in the Domestic Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-Churchwide Office in Chicago, Illinois. In this role she heads the Faith Practices Team, which is developing strategies to create a culture of discipleship in the ELCA. Rev. Smith and another staff member, Rev. Sara Vanderpan, coordinate the Book of Faith ministry of the ELCA; a ministry that has the



goal that individuals and congregations will be intentional about opening the Bible and having conversations about the transformative power of the word of God. She also convenes the ELCA's Renewal/Prayer/Revival Team that offers healing and prayer services; Lutheran revivals; and workshops on various topics for congregations and synods.

Prior to her current position Rev. Smith was pastor of New Hope Lutheran Church in Jamaica, New York for 13 years. Before answering God's call to ministry, she was a pediatric nurse and taught pediatric nursing at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She attended New York University where she received both her B.S. and M.A. in nursing. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

In her spare time Rev. Smith enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching movies, reading and listening to Motown classics, especially any songs by the Temptations.



Linda Bobbitt

is a researcher and project manager for the Congregational Vitality Project for the ELCA. This project focuses on how congregations live into their relationships with God, one another and their neighbors. Linda works with synods and congregations to learn about the factors that influence congregational vitality and what congregations, synods, and the wider church can do to strengthen it. The website she developed (congregationalvitalityproject.com) provides summaries of research and hands-on resources to help congregations engage in fruitful conversations about how to be or become a more vital church.

Linda has published articles on how to measure congregational vitality in the Review of Religious Research (a peer reviewed journal) and regularly presents research at the annual meeting of the Religious Research Association. She also serves on the steering committee of the multi-faith Cooperative Congregational Studies Partnership. Linda has over 20 years of outcome measurement and program evaluation experience, and over 15 years as a lay leader (Congregational President and Synod Vice President) in the Lutheran church. She has a Master's of Arts in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary and a Master's of Science in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kansas.

2018 Montana Synod Secretary's Report

The Council of the Montana Synod met three times this past year; in June 2017 just prior to the Synod assembly, in September 2017 and in February 2018. The Synod Council is commissioned to conduct the business of the Synod between Synod Assemblies, as well as set the direction for the Synod. The Council conducted the following business:

- Transferred a tithe from the Synod House Campaign to the Mission Venture Capital Fund.
- Adopted changes to the 2018 budget.
- Elected Neal Wedum, Lisa Carlson, Dick Deschamps to the Executive Committee.
- Appointed the Executive Committee to serve as the Resolutions Committee for the 2017 Assembly.
- Accepted the proposed date of May 31-June 2 in Great Falls for the 2019 Assembly.
- Affirmed Bishop Crist's appointments of Pastor Amanda Liggett as synod secretary and Russ Plath to the synod council.
- Authorized the spending of up to \$2500 of disaster response funds to assist in fire relief.
- Adopted the recommended minimum salary guidelines.
- Changed the tithe on future contributions to the Capital Campaign to Montana Synod mission partner congregations (Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry, Our Saviour's Rocky Boy, and Spirit of Life) until the building is paid for.
- Nominated Pastor Amanda Liggett as secretary of the Montana Synod for election at the 2018 Synod Assembly.
- Transferred \$10,000 from our cash to the restricted account 02-341-05006 to fund Freedom in Christ for 2019.
- Determined that the 2018 synod assembly offering be used for relief support in Puerto Rico.
- Approved suggested amendments to the personnel handbook regarding family medical leave and to the sexual misconduct policy.
- Recommended the projected budget for 2019 to the Synod Assembly.
- Approved On Leave from Call Status: Deacon Brooke Ells, Pastor Robin Luckey, Pastor Maryann Morgenstern, Pastor Brenda Satrum, and Pastor Stacy Siebrasse.
- Approval of Retirement Roster Status: Pastor Joel Brosten, Pastor George Karres, and Pastor David Rommerein.
- Approved Disability Status for Pastor Len Shatkus.
- Approved New Synod Council Calls: Pastor Tim Spring, Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Pastor Elizabeth Liggett, Pastor Patricia Harant, and Pastor Paul Balaban.
- Reviewed Synod Council Calls as of May 2017.
- Appointed: Pastor Linda Rose to the Candidacy Committee, Pastor Tanner Howard and Jan Martin to the Mission Table, Joan Schmidt to the Candidacy Committee, Pastor Jessie Obrecht as Hunger Coordinator, Pastor Elizabeth Liggett and Wayne Leininger to the Hetzel Foundation,
- Approved the dissolution of the Bridging Faith (Our Savior's, Laurel and Joliet, Joliet) and Upper Musselshell (Harlowton, Barber, Lennep) parish agreements.
- Approved the proposal that Montana Synod congregations may have seasonal members.
- Approved the release of Immanuel, Joplin.
- Rescinded Synod Council action SC.07.02.25 "Policy change that Bishop live in the city where Synod Office is located."
- Ecumenical Appointments: Risa Paul (PCUSA) to Trinity, Hot Springs and Ric Beals (PCUSA) to St. Paul's, Cut Bank.
- Heard reports from Bishop Crist, Associate to the Bishop Jason Asselstine, Tech Advisor to the Synod: Colter McCarty, Synod Treasurer: Sue Ost, Director of NRIT: Jenny Kunka, CEO of St. John's Lutheran Ministries: David Trost, Synod Vice President Tom Gossack, LDR Director Dick Deschamps, Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, DEM, and welcomed several guests to Synod Council meetings.
- The council reviewed the Synod Benchmarks at each meeting.

I would like to thank the synod for the opportunity to serve as secretary this past year. It has been a privilege to serve with the dedicated men and women of the council, as well as to work with our talented Synod staff.

Pastor Amanda Liggett, Secretary, Montana Synod

PROGRAM BUDGET PRIMER 2018

Montana Synod

Income

Mission Income From Congregations

Support from Churchwide	1,033,755.73				
Gifts	10,000.00				
Interest Earnings					
Miscellaneous Income	1,456.76				
Other Income	850.00				
Restricted Income	10,500.00				
Total Income	<u>1,056,562.49</u>	<u>1,086,500.00</u>	<u>10,500.00</u>	<u>1,060,000.00</u>	<u>1,030,000.00</u>

Expenditures

Churchwide Mission Support

36.99%

Synod Agency & Social Ministry

Montana Synod Ministries

Lutheran Social Services					
Montana Association of Churches					
Wyoming Association of Churches					
Colleges and Seminaries					
Lutheran Campus Ministry					
Northern Rockies Institute of Theology					
Kogudus Ministry					
Our Saviour's Rocky Boy					

Shared Missions

4.88%

Program Delivery

Region 1 Ministry					
ELCA Shared Missions Fund					
Assembly					

Montana Lutheran Youth Organization

1.71%

Assistance to Congregations

4.96%

Care of Clergy and Families

1.89%

Evangelism Ministry

29.89%

5.25%

3.42%

Stewardship Ministry

30.37%

5.002%

2.768%

324,786.69

57,000.00

37,137.09

325,623.66

53,500.00

92,660.00

Other Revenues

100.69%

1,093,971.78

1,100,685.66

102.01%

30.18%

4.96%

8.59%

1,055,002.45

99.85%

TOTALS

2017 Mission Support

Code	Congregation	Physical City	2017 Giving
13341	Immanuel Lutheran	Absarokee	\$5,421.00
13342	Hope Lutheran	Anaconda	\$1,000.00
30136	Jocko Valley Lutheran	Arlee	\$1,572.50
13344	First English Lutheran	Bainville	\$3,000.00
13345	American Lutheran	Baker	\$6,600.00
13346	Grace Lutheran	Barber	\$800.00
13348	Christ Lutheran	Big Sandy	\$0.00
30785	All Saints Lutheran	Big Sky	\$22,428.93
13349	Big Timber Lutheran	Big Timber	\$7,408.87
04836	Bethlehem Lutheran	Billings	\$7,350.50
04837	First English Lutheran	Billings	\$8,000.00
04838	Messiah Lutheran	Billings	\$3,803.31
13350	American Lutheran	Billings	\$57,000.00
13351	Atonement Lutheran	Billings	\$35,124.47
13352	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	Billings	\$47,917.49
13353	Peace Lutheran	Billings	\$15,995.00
16293	King of Glory Lutheran	Billings	\$41,171.02
13354	Our Savior's Lutheran	Bonner	\$9,675.14
04839	Our Saviour's Lutheran	Box Elder	\$720.00
04851	Christ the King Lutheran	Bozeman	\$24,908.40
13357	Hope Lutheran	Bozeman	\$19,652.00
13358	Our Savior's Lutheran	Broadus	\$1,320.00
13359	Broadview Lutheran	Broadview	\$0.00
13360	Zion Lutheran	Brockton	\$580.00
04840	Gloria Dei Lutheran	Butte	\$7,000.00
13362	Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran	Butte	\$18,631.00
13367	American Lutheran	Chinook	\$750.00
13368	Trinity Lutheran	Choteau	\$3,600.00
13369	First Lutheran	Circle	\$3,600.00
30539	All Saints Lutheran	Clancy	\$3,432.58
13372	Trinity Lutheran	Cody	\$16,143.23
13373	Our Savior's Lutheran	Columbia Falls	\$6,467.19
04841	St. James Lutheran	Columbus	\$2,008.37
13376	Trinity Lutheran	Culbertson	\$6,840.00
13377	St. Paul Lutheran	Cut Bank	\$3,946.00
04842	Volmer Lutheran	Dagmar	\$1,250.00
30996	Freedom in Christ Prison Congregation	Deer Lodge	\$0.00
13378	Devon Lutheran	Devon	
13380	Dodson Lutheran	Dodson	\$600.00
13381	Bethany Lutheran	Dutton	\$4,200.00
30475	St. Elizabeth's Lutheran	Ekalaka	\$600.00
13382	Grace Lutheran	Fairfield	\$1,275.00
13383	St. Paul Lutheran	Fairfield	\$300.00

2017 Mission Support

13384	Zion Lutheran	Fairview	\$15,499.00
13385	Hope American Lutheran	Fallon	\$650.00
90009	Fort Peck Lutheran	Fort Peck	\$100.00
16091	Valley of Christ Lutheran	Frenchtown	\$3,600.00
13390	Froid Lutheran	Froid	\$1,000.00
13391	Galata Lutheran	Galata	\$0.00
13463	Goldstone Lutheran	Gildford	
13392	First Lutheran	Glasgow	\$23,521.34
13393	Zion Lutheran	Glendive	\$20,785.20
13440	Bethel Lutheran	Grain	
04843	Bethel Lutheran	Great Falls	\$16,275.00
04844	First English Lutheran	Great Falls	\$3,735.00
04845	St. John Lutheran	Great Falls	\$1,026.96
13396	Our Savior's Lutheran	Great Falls	\$9,496.70
13397	Redeemer Lutheran	Great Falls	\$15,000.00
30946	New Hope Lutheran	Great Falls	\$12,454.07
90155	Peace Lutheran	Greybull	\$625.00
13398	Faith Lutheran	Hamilton	\$14,900.00
13399	First American Lutheran	Hardin	\$1,000.00
13400	American Lutheran	Harlem	\$3,000.00
13401	American Lutheran	Harlowton	\$4,088.50
13402	First Lutheran	Havre	\$21,025.48
13403	Messiah Lutheran	Havre	\$1,000.00
04846	St. John's Lutheran	Helena	\$4,228.54
07738	New Life Lutheran	Helena	\$5,400.00
13405	Our Redeemer Lutheran	Helena	\$41,019.98
13406	Hingham Lutheran	Hingham	\$2,500.00
13407	Hinsdale Lutheran	Hinsdale	\$1,749.96
13408	American Lutheran	Hogeland	\$2,486.00
13410	Trinity Lutheran	Hot Springs	\$810.41
13411	Joliet Lutheran	Joliet	\$2,400.00
13412	Bethel Lutheran	Joplin	\$600.00
13414	St. John's Lutheran	Jordan	\$618.75
13415	Bethlehem Lutheran	Kalispell	\$41,788.58
16105	Northridge Lutheran	Kalispell	\$25,500.00
13419	Kremlin Lutheran	Kremlin	\$2,000.00
13420	First Lutheran	Lambert	\$0.00
13423	Our Savior's Lutheran	Laurel	\$4,070.00
13424	American Lutheran	Lavina	
13426	Trinity Lutheran	Lennep	\$3,600.00
13427	Zion Lutheran	Lewistown	\$21,000.00
13428	Christ Lutheran	Libby	\$9,501.15
04847	Redeemer Lutheran	Livingston	\$500.00
13430	American Lutheran	Livingston	\$8,786.57

2017 Mission Support

13431	Loring Lutheran	Loring	\$1,000.00
13433	Malta Lutheran	Malta	\$9,366.90
13434	Ebenezer Lutheran of McCabe	McCabe	
13437	First Lutheran	Miles City	\$0.00
04848	Immanuel Lutheran	Missoula	\$17,422.64
04849	Prince of Peace Lutheran	Missoula	\$3,000.00
13438	Atonement Lutheran	Missoula	\$14,541.61
13439	St. Paul Lutheran	Missoula	\$37,599.67
13441	Our Redeemer Lutheran	Nashua	\$0.00
13447	First Lutheran	Plains	\$5,236.12
13448	Plentywood Lutheran	Plentywood	\$14,450.86
13449	Peace Lutheran	Plevna	\$2,450.00
13450	Good Shepherd Lutheran	Polson	\$7,386.88
31082	Spirit of Life Lutheran	Poplar	\$150.00
13453	Hope Lutheran	Powell	\$10,918.00
13454	Messiah Lutheran	Red Lodge	\$15,523.13
04850	Nathanael Lutheran	Reserve	\$5,000.00
13455	Faith Lutheran	Reserve	
13458	American Lutheran	Richey	\$1,200.00
13461	Faith Lutheran	Ronan	\$5,000.00
13462	Zion Lutheran	Roundup	\$950.00
13466	Saco Lutheran	Saco	\$2,922.40
13469	First Lutheran	Savage	\$3,190.00
13471	St. Luke's Lutheran	Shelby	\$1,200.00
13472	Emmanuel Lutheran	Shepherd	\$4,000.00
05513	Trinity Lutheran	Sheridan	\$30,727.00
13474	Pella Evangelical Lutheran	Sidney	\$36,792.67
13473	Grace Lutheran	Skaar	
13475	Eidsvold Lutheran	Somers	\$8,047.77
13477	Lutheran Church of Sunburst	Sunburst	\$3,000.00
13478	Our Savior's Lutheran	Thompson Falls	\$1,000.00
13479	Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran	Townsend	\$3,300.00
13480	American Lutheran	Turner	\$2,347.00
13483	Immanuel Lutheran	Westby	\$4,500.00
13484	St. John's Lutheran	Westby	\$1,375.00
13486	American Lutheran	White Sulphur Springs	\$600.00
13487	Whitewater Lutheran	Whitewater	\$1,000.00
13489	Shields River Lutheran	Wilsall	\$2,500.00
13491	First Lutheran	Wolf Point	\$14,552.08
13492	Grace Lutheran	Worland	\$10,071.78
	Total		\$900,630.00

Montana Synod of the ELCA
Designated Gifts from Congregations
01/31/2018

<u>Gift Number</u>	<u>Gift Name</u>	<u>MTD Gifts</u>	<u>YTD Gifts</u>
646	1st Call Theological	\$0.00	\$924.00
626	Assembly Offering:MONTANA	\$0.00	\$100.00
MSG0075	Buerkle, Bradn	\$2,219.67	\$7,128.04
WHG0106	CHICKS (Global Barnyard)	\$40.00	\$40.00
616	Campus Min-Bozeman (MSU)	\$168.00	\$3,043.95
605	Christikon Bible Camp	\$0.00	\$810.00
701	Continuing Education	\$0.00	\$525.00
WHG0097	Cows	\$0.00	\$50.00
641	Dacotah Oyatue Churc	\$60.00	\$720.00
DDG0060	Disaster Response Fund	\$0.00	\$3,120.00
DDG0010	Domestic Disaster Respons	\$200.00	\$13,023.05
MSG0682	Eller, Justin & Kari	\$0.00	\$2,051.02
629	Emmaus Campus Min (UofM)	\$645.15	\$4,156.52
610	Emmaus Endowment	\$0.00	\$150.00
653	FISH-MT	\$50.00	\$600.00
660	Family Promise	\$162.50	\$1,950.00
608	Flathead Bible Camp	\$819.94	\$8,087.61
636	Freedom In Christ (Prison	\$1,341.93	\$11,294.65
WHG0102	GOAT (Global Barnyard)	\$200.00	\$942.57
GCS4003	Global Ministries-Bo	\$0.00	\$50.00
GCS1000	Global Mission	\$0.00	\$7,481.83
WHG0051	God's Global Barnyard	\$3,975.60	\$4,947.60
654	Great Falls Rescue M	\$0.00	\$100.00
MSG0700	Help an ELCA Missionary	\$0.00	\$300.00
WHG0100	Honey Bees	\$60.00	\$60.00
DDG0089	Hurricane Harvey	\$0.00	\$2,699.67
DDG0088	Hurricane Irma	\$0.00	\$74.67
DDG0087	Hurricane Relief	\$851.00	\$6,824.00
DDG0073	Hurricanes-United St	\$0.00	\$1,789.76
647	Immanuel Lutheran Ho	\$0.00	\$100.00
617	Kogudus	\$100.00	\$650.00
601	LSS-MONTANA	\$361.00	\$4,997.60
4	LWR-A5	\$1,266.31	\$20,193.20
MSG0260	Langdji, Anne & Willie	\$0.00	\$300.00
703	Luther Seminary	\$83.00	\$1,390.00
614	MT Synod Disaster Relief	\$113.28	\$4,184.09
633	MT Synod Office Building	\$5,379.82	\$49,765.26
644	MT-Fund for L in Mission	\$0.00	\$1,371.00
603	Misc Gift - Montana	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
GCS2500	Missionaries & Yng Adults	\$0.00	\$1,900.00
GCS2000	Missionary Support	\$0.00	\$475.00
650	Mont Assoc of Christians	\$0.00	\$250.00
628	NRIT	\$1,150.00	\$2,991.00
WHG0099	PIG (Global Barnyard)	\$60.00	\$1,189.00
704	PLTS	\$0.00	\$83.00
638	Poverello Center	\$596.44	\$2,723.61

Montana Synod of the ELCA
Designated Gifts from Congregations
01/31/2018

<u>Gift Number</u>	<u>Gift Name</u>	<u>MTD Gifts</u>	<u>YTD Gifts</u>
WHG0048	Refugees	\$0.00	\$60.00
WHG0133	Rooster	\$30.00	\$30.00
WHG0121	School Fees/uniform girl	\$120.00	\$120.00
WHG0103	Sheep	\$100.00	\$100.00
IDG0033	South Sudan Relief	\$0.00	\$1,843.08
663	Spirit of Life/Fort Peck	\$60.00	\$720.00
634	Student Scholarship-Boliv	\$0.00	\$100.00
621	Upper Missouri Minis	\$0.00	\$200.00
WHG0113	Vaccinations for chi	\$30.00	\$30.00
733	WMPL: General Support	\$0.00	\$350.00
IDG0086	Water Purification T	\$30.00	\$40.00
WHG0038	World Hunger	\$10,421.83	\$83,891.49
GCS3329	YAGM Colter Murphy	\$0.00	\$735.00
GCS3317	YAGM-Baird Linke	\$0.00	\$500.00
GCS2029	YAGM-David Thorp	\$0.00	\$1,937.52
GCS3347	YAGM-Eamon Ormseth	\$295.84	\$1,595.04
GMG0503	Young Adults in Glob	\$0.00	\$700.00
		<u>\$30,991.31</u>	<u>\$269,558.83</u>

ELCA in Region 1
Summary of Restricted Accounts - YTD Activity
Montana Synod
February 2017 to January 2018
Note: The Report Option to include Open Transactions is selected.

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Ending Balance
<u>Temporary Restricted</u>				
02-341-04186 - Funds Held-LSS Montana	\$0.00	\$4,997.60	\$4,997.60	\$0.00
02-341-04196 - Funds Held-Companion Synod	(\$1,803.24)	\$6,781.64	\$4,978.40	\$0.00
02-341-04226 - Funds Held-Disaster Response	\$1,737.51	\$10,619.09	\$1,000.00	\$11,356.60
02-341-04246 - Funds Held-Energy Conservation	\$5,829.19	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,829.19
02-341-04256 - Funds Held-Undesignated Gifts	\$28.64	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$28.64
02-341-04346 - Funds Held-Seminarian Moving Costs	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
02-341-04386 - Funds Held-MT Synod Prison Cong	\$0.00	\$11,294.65	\$11,294.65	\$0.00
02-341-04396 - Funds Held-Fort Peck	\$216.46	\$37,113.86	\$37,330.32	\$0.00
02-341-04416 - Funds Held-Rocky Boy	\$0.00	\$2,615.00	\$2,615.00	\$0.00
02-341-04436 - Funds Held-World Hunger Grant	\$1,926.03	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,926.03
02-341-04446 - Funds held-Growing in God's Field	\$3,722.55	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$3,122.55
02-341-04476 - Funds Held-Leaders in Mission	\$2,241.54	\$3,339.13	\$5,433.50	\$147.17
02-341-04516 - Funds Held-Mission Partners	\$633.27	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$633.27
02-341-04526 - Funds Held-American Indian Strategy	\$175.42	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$175.42
02-341-04556 - Funds Held-Evangelism Grant	\$1,898.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,898.33
02-341-04566 - Funds Held-Rural Ministry	\$3,713.76	\$0.00	\$2,065.81	\$1,647.95
02-341-04576 - Funds Held-Bishop Transition Fund	\$5,478.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,478.83
02-341-04586 - Funds Held-Cong Leadership Training	\$42.50	\$0.00	\$42.50	\$0.00
02-341-04596 - Funds Held-Lay Pastoral Associates	\$3,989.69	\$9,736.50	\$9,186.35	\$4,539.84
02-341-04606 - Funds Held-Equipment Reserve	\$1,383.71	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$1,883.71
02-341-04676 - Funds Held-Campus Ministry Capital	\$3,604.02	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$4,104.02
02-341-04976 - Funds Held-Stewardship Growth grant	\$1,129.88	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,129.88
02-341-04986 - Funds Held-Mission Venture Capital	\$39,916.30	\$33,775.95	\$3,300.00	\$70,392.25
02-341-05006 - Funds Held-MLF receipts	\$21,797.04	\$0.00	\$10,500.00	\$11,297.04
02-341-05696 - Funds Held-1st Call Theological	\$7.98	\$3,108.62	\$2,432.84	\$683.76
02-341-05706 - Funds Held-Care of Clergy & Family	\$795.83	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$795.83
02-341-07206 - Funds Held-Church in Society	\$1,810.69	\$0.00	\$1,810.69	\$0.00
02-341-07406 - Funds Held-Building Maintenance	\$4,594.54	\$500.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,694.54
02-341-07506 - Funds Held-Aid to Smaller Congr	\$3,411.24	\$604.32	\$2,581.38	\$1,434.18
02-341-07606 - Funds Held-Church Council Training	\$81.00	\$0.00	\$81.00	\$0.00
02-341-08406 - Funds Held-Communications Committee	\$271.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$271.00
02-341-08636 - Funds Held-Youth Gathering	(\$131.39)	\$6,200.00	\$99.00	\$5,969.61
02-341-08676 - Funds Held-Full Communion	\$2,906.50	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,906.50
02-341-10016 - Funds Held-New Syn Offic Bldg Fund	\$337,805.22	\$518,529.88	\$848,998.82	\$7,336.28
02-341-10046 - Funds Held-Capital Campaign Income	\$249,686.87	\$159,441.74	\$385,751.31	\$23,377.30
02-341-10056 - Funds Held-Capital Campaign expense	\$3,730.82	\$3,749.00	\$7,479.82	\$0.00
02-341-64066 - Funds Held-Montana Synod Youth	\$6,323.72	\$430.00	\$2,454.37	\$4,299.35
02-346-01006 - Funds Held-Assembly Offering	\$100.00	\$6,309.00	\$6,409.00	\$0.00
Continuing Education Accounts				
02-345-00046 - Funds Held-CE-Crist, Jessica	\$699.96	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$1,399.96
02-345-00056 - Funds Held-CE-Asselstine, Jason	(\$305.05)	\$700.00	\$0.00	\$394.95
02-345-00066 - Funds Held-CE-Hedahl, Susan	\$661.34	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$886.34
02-345-00116 - Funds Held-CE-Karres, George	(\$292.26)	\$349.98	\$57.72	\$0.00
02-345-00136 - Funds Held-CE-McCarty, Colter	\$300.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$525.00
02-345-00146 - Funds Held-CE-Leuzinger, Peggy P	\$0.00	\$291.65	\$85.00	\$206.65
Total Continuing Education Accounts	\$1,063.99	\$2,491.63	\$142.72	\$3,412.90
Council Designated				
02-341-04136 - Funds Held-Christian Ed Network	\$3,138.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,138.00
02-346-00006 - Funds Held-Synod Assembly	\$4,208.59	\$76.93	\$0.00	\$4,285.52
06-341-10006 - Funds Held-Crist Scholarship Fund	\$6,081.57	\$0.00	\$3,352.00	\$2,729.57
Total Council Designated	\$13,428.16	\$76.93	\$3,352.00	\$10,153.09
Temporarily Donor Restricted				
02-341-05626 - Funds Held-Bolivia Water Project	\$715.95	\$99.00	\$0.00	\$814.95
02-341-05636 - Funds Held-Bolivia Scholarship	\$127.00	\$100.00	\$668.50	(\$441.50)
02-341-05656 - Funds Held-J Crist Retreat Center	\$1,323.93	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,323.93
02-341-05666 - Funds Held-Macedonia Grant	\$2,835.32	\$687.50	\$1,308.11	\$2,214.71
02-341-05676 - Funds Held-Rudyard Scholarships	\$55,569.72	\$4,690.40	\$5,670.11	\$54,590.01
Total Temporarily Donor Restricted	\$60,571.92	\$5,576.90	\$7,646.72	\$58,502.10
Total Temporary Restricted	\$787,119.52	\$828,291.44	\$1,366,983.80	\$248,427.16
<u>Permanent Restricted</u>				
05-341-06116 - Funds Held-Planned Giving Endowment	\$33,511.02	\$9,361.55	\$1,465.86	\$41,406.71
05-341-06126 - Funds Held-Emmaus Endowment	\$62,549.78	\$17,639.23	\$2,741.32	\$77,447.69
05-341-08686 - Funds Held-Ramseth Seminary	\$144,242.53	\$39,496.62	\$9,574.79	\$174,164.36
Total Permanent Restricted	\$240,303.33	\$66,497.40	\$13,781.97	\$293,018.76

**Region 1 of the ELCA
World Hunger Gifts
From 02/01/2017 To 01/31/2018**

Organization	City	PIN	MTD Total	YTD Total
Montana Synod of the ELCA				
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Absarokee	13341	\$0.00	\$14.48
American Lutheran Church	Baker	13345	\$222.98	\$999.21
Big Timber Lutheran Church	Big Timber	13349	\$0.00	\$95.00
Atonement Lutheran Church	Billings	13351	\$0.00	\$761.00
King of Glory Lutheran Church	Billings	16293	\$1,473.01	\$1,855.33
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Bonner	13354	\$82.92	\$936.74
Christ the King Lutheran Church	Bozeman	04851	\$1,356.36	\$7,078.29
Hope Lutheran Church	Bozeman	13357	\$312.00	\$2,842.00
Broadview Lutheran Church	Broadview	13359	\$0.00	\$100.00
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church	Butte	04840	\$308.00	\$726.67
American Lutheran Church	Chinook	13367	\$0.00	\$500.00
First Lutheran Church	Circle	13369	\$560.00	\$2,571.40
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Columbia Falls	13373	\$0.00	\$126.50
Ebenezer Lutheran Church (McCabe)	Culbertson	13434	\$642.00	\$642.00
Trinity Lutheran Church	Culbertson	13376	\$0.00	\$168.95
St Paul's Lutheran Church	Cut Bank	13377	\$649.69	\$2,219.37
Bethany Lutheran Church	Dutton	13381	\$0.00	\$600.00
St Elizabeth's Lutheran Church	Ekalaka	30475	\$56.50	\$205.86
Zion Lutheran Church	Fairview	13384	\$269.00	\$924.00
Valley of Christ Lutheran Church	Frenchtown	16091	\$100.00	\$100.00
First Lutheran Church	Glasgow	13392	\$0.00	\$128.00
Zion Lutheran Church	Glendive	13393	\$0.00	\$1,840.75
Bethel Lutheran Church	Great Falls	04843	\$1,674.00	\$17,576.86
New Hope Lutheran Church	Great Falls	30946	\$0.00	\$194.15
Our Savior's Lutheran Church	Great Falls	13396	\$0.00	\$250.00
Redeemer Lutheran Church	Great Falls	13397	\$100.00	\$1,200.00
Faith Lutheran Church	Hamilton	13398	\$0.00	\$95.00
First American Lutheran Church	Hardin	13399	\$0.00	\$250.00
American Lutheran Church	Harlem	13400	\$0.00	\$100.00
First Lutheran Church	Havre	13402	\$0.00	\$1,237.00
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church	Helena	13405	\$35.00	\$4,130.50
St John's Lutheran Church	Helena	04846	\$0.00	\$467.00
Hingham Lutheran Church	Hingham	13406	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Bethel Lutheran Church	Joplin	13412	\$20.00	\$20.00
Bethlehem Lutheran Church	Kalispell	13415	\$0.00	\$115.00
Northridge Lutheran Church	Kalispell	16105	\$166.67	\$4,583.26
Zion Lutheran Church	Lewistown	13427	\$185.00	\$3,575.00
Christ Lutheran Church	Libby	13428	\$263.28	\$1,869.20
American Lutheran Church	Livingston	13430	\$100.00	\$120.00
Atonement Lutheran Church	Missoula	13438	\$411.51	\$1,945.87
Immanuel Lutheran Church	Missoula	04848	\$120.00	\$2,430.94
St Paul's Lutheran Church	Missoula	13439	\$65.00	\$1,010.00
First Lutheran Church	Plains	13447	\$50.00	\$75.00
Peace Lutheran Church	Plevna	13449	\$46.67	\$282.81
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church	Polson	13450	\$98.05	\$1,071.26
Hope Lutheran Church	Powell	13453	\$0.00	\$2,026.00
Messiah Lutheran Church	Red Lodge	13454	\$150.00	\$439.00
Volmer Lutheran Church (Dagmar)	Reserve	04842	\$0.00	\$200.00
Goldstone Lutheran Church (Gildford)	Rudyard	13463	\$0.00	\$400.00
Trinity Lutheran Church	Sheridan	05513	\$711.02	\$3,351.82
Pella Lutheran Church	Sidney	13474	\$0.00	\$3,425.00
Lutheran Church of Sunburst	Sunburst	13477	\$0.00	\$132.00
Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church	Townsend	13479	\$193.17	\$2,338.27
American Lutheran Church (Turner)	Turner	13480	\$0.00	\$200.00
First Lutheran Church	Wolf Point	13491	\$0.00	\$845.00

Montana Synod of the ELCA

\$10,421.83 \$83,891.49



ELCA Fund for Leaders
Montana Synod
2018 Annual Report

Thank you to the people of the Montana Synod for making an investment in the future of the church through the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Our goal is to provide full-tuition support for every rostered ministry candidate at our ELCA seminaries. Together, we are making great progress toward that goal.

In the 2017-18 academic year, the ELCA Fund for Leaders provided scholarship assistance of more than \$2.1 million in support of 251 future pastors and deacons. Thank you for your role in ensuring that these future leaders will be freed from the burden of student debt so that they can go and serve as the church needs and the Holy Spirit leads.

Your fund

Since its inception, the Montana Synod Fund for Leaders endowment has awarded scholarships of \$20,597.00 for seminary tuition, and the ELCA in total has awarded more than \$17.5 million. We are grateful that the Montana Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment provided a total of \$4,500.00 in tuition support during the 2017-18 academic year for:

- Joshua Gomez - \$500 - Wartburg Theological Seminary
- Annela Rova - \$4,000 - Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

As of Dec. 31, 2017, the Montana Synod Fund for Leaders scholarship endowment had the following:

- a total market value of \$152,994.03;
- a total of \$0.00 in new gifts in 2017;
- a remaining balance in the income account of \$3,286.62; and
- **\$6,200.00** available for scholarships in the 2018-19 academic year (represents amount after a 10 percent conservative cushion retained by Fund for Leaders to account for sudden market fluctuations).

2018 awards – what's new?

Beginning in 2018, the ELCA will use a new platform, **ELCA GrantMaker**, for awarding scholarships and grants. As in the past, we are looking forward to receiving the name(s) of the students your synod wishes to support this year through synodical Fund for Leaders scholarships. This year, synods will also direct their applicants of choice to ELCA GrantMaker, where they will submit their contact information to Fund for Leaders. Please read the **Guidelines for synod scholarship funds** document carefully for instructions on this year's scholarship award process.

Although Fund for Leaders awards are intended primarily to pay for tuition, books and fees, students who already receive full-tuition support through Fund for Leaders may also receive synodical scholarships to help with additional expenses. Note that scholarship funds used to cover costs beyond tuition, books and fees (such as room, board, insurance, etc.) will count as taxable income to students and should only be granted provided that there is a clear understanding between the synod and its donors about how the funds will be applied. Please work with seminary financial aid offices to make sure your students are aware of the tax implications of such scholarship awards.

We will notify synods by mid-April of our full-tuition award decisions for the coming year so that synods may plan accordingly. We encourage you to prayerfully discern which rising candidates would benefit most from the support you can offer. **Synods should notify Fund for Leaders and students of their nominations no later than May 15, 2018, and nominated students must complete the Fund for Leaders Synod Scholarship application in ELCA GrantMaker by May 31, 2018.** Applications received after this date run the risk of not being awarded in the fall semester.

Finally, we ask the Montana Synod, its congregations, and its members for continued support of Fund for Leaders as a meaningful way to make an investment in the future of this church and its leadership. A gift to Fund for Leaders is a wonderful way to celebrate a pastor's ordination or a deacon's consecration, the installation or retirement of a new pastor or deacon, or the anniversary of a congregation.

Again, thank you to the people of Montana Synod for your generous support, and thanks be to God for you!

For more information visit ELCA.org/fundforleaders or call our office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2936.



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is the lending ministry of the ELCA. MIF makes low-interest loans to ELCA congregations and ELCA-related ministries for building and renovation projects. With MIF loans, congregations and ministries can purchase property, construct new buildings, and expand or renovate existing facilities.

MIF loans expand the capacity for ministry. MIF loans help create expanded worship spaces, updated space for education and youth ministry, new kitchens for community meals and soup kitchens, affordable housing units for the community and much more.

At year-end 2017, MIF had 888 loans outstanding, totaling \$539.1 million.

To fund these loans, MIF offers a portfolio of investments for congregations, their members, synods and ELCA-related ministries to purchase. At year-end 2017, MIF investments totaled \$506 million.

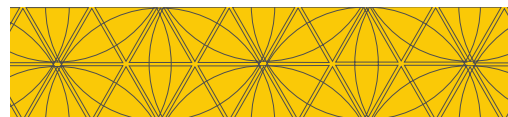
MIF is a financially strong and stable organization, with a record of steady, controlled growth. With total assets of \$715.7 million and net assets of \$203.9 million at year-end 2017, MIF maintains a capital ratio of 28.5 percent—positioning MIF in the top tier of well-capitalized church extension funds. For more information, visit mif.elca.org.

MIF loans and investments in the Montana Synod (as of December 31, 2017):

- 13 Mission Investment Fund loans, with a balance of \$4,931,261
- \$5,503,147 in Mission Investment Fund investments

MIF representative:

LuAnn Ferguson, Regional Manager, Tel: (651) 900-3575; email: luann.ferguson@elca.org



We are church together.

This call from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is at the core of Portico's identity: We serve those who serve the church, so they can serve others. Ecclesiastes 4:12 reads, "a three-fold cord is not easily broken."

Imagine, then, the resilience that comes from a community more than 50,000 strong that includes:

- Active and retired rostered ministers, lay employees, and family members
- Congregations, synodical and churchwide ministries, and social ministry organizations
- The dedicated and talented staff at Portico Benefit Services

Together, we pool our resources and carefully steward our gifts, leveraging our collective strength to provide the care our members need. Together, we walk the path toward financial, emotional, and physical well-being, so all might experience God's abundant life. Together, we are church.

In 2017, our community's size and scope allowed Portico to:

Deliver personalized support that helps our members live well.

- Skillful Portico Care Coordinators by Quantum Health helped more than 70% of members with ELCA-Primary health coverage navigate the complex world of health care.
- More than 400 members enrolled in Livongo's innovative diabetes management program to make living with diabetes easier and more cost-effective.
- 35% of our sponsored members used Portico's Retirement Planning Tool to get a comprehensive picture of how much they're saving, and how it might last in retirement.
- 3,500+ members gained a better understanding of their financial picture after talking with our new in-house team of credentialed Portico Financial Planners.

Exceed our goals for practicing good financial stewardship.

- Over and above a record-breaking year for the markets, the expertise of our investment management team demonstrated our commitment to a long-term, diversified approach to investing.
- For the second year in a row, administrative efficiencies and innovative plan adjustments allowed us to hold our baseline increase for ELCA-Primary health benefits to 5% — below the national trend of 6.5%.
- Benefiting from the run of growth in the markets and strategic fund management, we announced a 4.0% increase in the ELCA Participating Annuity payments for 2018, the sixth consecutive annual increase.

Speak with one voice on behalf of those who serve the church.

- As part of the Church Alliance, Portico joined with 37 other denominations to advocate for legislation to protect 403(b)(9) plans designed to help churchworkers save for retirement.
- On behalf of ELCA investors, our shareholder advocacy team championed a history-making climate-change resolution at a major energy-producing company.

The church is a shining example of what happens when we come together to care for one another. Lives are changed, hearts are touched, hurts are healed, hope is shared. We are grateful to lead the ELCA in the good work of wellness, and thankful for your partnership that makes this possible.

We are church together — and together, in Jesus' name, we are creating abundant life for those who serve.

In Christ,

The Rev. Jeffrey D. Thiemann

President and CEO

Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

CHRISTIKON

Rev. Mark Donald, Executive Director



A few numbers that tell something of the year past, and/or point to the upcoming camp season:

- \$ **570**...approximate number of former Christikon staff people
- \$ **450+**...number of former staff connecting faith and life in their communities and in their congregations (teachers, board members, readers, assisting ministers, etc.)
- \$ **100+**...number of former staff connecting faith and life as ordained ministers, serving congregations all over the country and world
- \$ **21**...staff serving this summer, hailing from Montana, Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Washington. 13 are new, and 8 returning.
- \$ **1**...pastor leading our June 29 – July 1 family weekend. **Phil Wold** (Trinity, Sheridan) lends his charm and expertise to our guests
- \$ **1 + 1**...theologian and “professional fundraiser” leading our July 31-August 3 Continuing Education Retreat. **Rev. Dr. Phil Jamieson** (Pastoral Theology, University of Dubuque Theological Seminary/UM Foundation, Memphis) works with themes of money and ministry and how to talk about finances more effectively. **Dennis Trotter** (COO, United Lutheran Seminary), looks at the practical side of stewardship, and lifts up best practices from the fundraising world.
- \$ **67** (and counting)...years Christikon has served God’s people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.
- \$ **1,000,000**...goal for our upcoming Capital Campaign
- \$ **450,000+**...initial commitments from Christikon Board and other lead givers. The first phase (renovation of 100 year old Blackfoot Lodge) commences this summer
- \$ **50+**...developmentally disabled campers who come to Christikon (as far as we know we are the only camp in MT that serves this population)
- \$ **17**...kids from disadvantaged and/or troubled backgrounds that take part in our Sojourners camp
- \$ **1 of 3**...camps in MT accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)

We remain deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon ministry and look forward to all God has yet in store for us together.

*Christikon • 1108 24th Street West • Billings, MT 59102-3810 • 406 656-1969
christikon@aol.com • www.christikon.org*

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Celebrating 75 years of Outdoor Ministry (1943-2018)

Join Us

- **Brunch & Worship**, Sundays from June 17-August 5. Brunch at 10am (reservations required, \$25/person), followed by Worship at 11am in the Cockrell Center.

- **Passion Play**, Thursdays from June 21 - August 9 at dusk in the Amphitheater.

- **FREE Church Council Retreats** through May 2019. Call the office to schedule!

75th Birthday Celebrations

June 8-9, 2018

Friday: AGAPE* concert at 7pm, FREE, All Ages
Saturday: Family Carnival, Partners Celebration, BBQ Lunch, Guest Speaker Rev. Gary Cockrell, Ceremonial Ground Breaking of Lakeview Cabin Complex, and of course, birthday cake!

October 6, 2018

Annual Meeting & Worship with guest speaker Bishop Crist and music by South to Cedars featuring FLBC Alumni Staff, Ben Haugenstein. Lunch will be served after worship.

Summer 2018

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is a gift of God (Eph. 2:8)



- There is still time to register for youth, adult and family camps! Camperships are available. NO ONE is ever turned away from camp for inability to pay!

- 2018 Summer Offering will support the FLBC Lakeview Cabin Complex and the Synod House.

- Volunteers, Pastors & Grandparents are needed each week—come spend a week at camp! Apply to be a volunteer today! EMTs/Nurses still needed!

- 54 young adult summer staff arrived the beginning of June to serve this summer at camp!

Thank You

for your prayers, gifts, participation, care, ideas, time, and support of FLBC! We are grateful for you!

Did You Know

- 22 congregations participated in the Outreach Program from October-April.
- \$74,000 was given in camperships & discounts in 2017.
- 7657 campers and guests were served in 2017!
- 98% of campers say they grew in their faith while at camp.



WHO WE ARE

Concordia College is a four-year liberal arts college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America offering more than 50 majors, including 15 honors majors and 12 preprofessional programs.

CONCORDIA
COLLEGE

Moorhead, Minnesota

ConcordiaCollege.edu

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Applied Physics

Astrophysics

Computer Science

Finance

Management

Master of Science degree
in nutrition

Executive education for
mid- and upper-level
managers

PEAK

PIVOTAL EXPERIENCE IN APPLIED KNOWLEDGE

Developed with a commitment to integrative learning, PEAKs give students an edge in future academic and occupational endeavors. The culture of responsible engagement at Concordia is undeniable. All Concordia graduates will have at least two PEAK requirements in their portfolio, which can include a special course, internship, global learning opportunity or service project. With a blend of in-class instruction and hands-on practice, students are challenged to engage in relevant, multidisciplinary research aimed at addressing real problems.

HONORING CONCORDIA'S ANNIVERSARY AND OBSERVING THE REFORMATION

Last spring, "The Passion of Jesus Christ" composition made its world premiere in Minneapolis and Moorhead. Dr. René Clausen, conductor of The Concordia Choir, was commissioned to create the piece to honor the 125th year of Concordia College and acknowledge its Lutheran roots as we observed the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The founders of the college interlaced the two events by selecting Oct. 31 in 1891 for the opening ceremony of the college.

FINISH IN
FOUR YEARS
GUARANTEED

88%
MEDICAL SCHOOL
ACCEPTANCE RATE



500+
STUDENTS

PARTICIPATE IN
COOPERATIVE EDUCATION
PRACTICUMS, INTERNSHIPS
AND STUDENT TEACHING
EXPERIENCES ANNUALLY

\$29K
AVERAGE FINANCIAL
AID AWARD



22
NCAA DIVISION III
ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

97%
LAW SCHOOL
ACCEPTANCE RATE
21

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE SYNODS AND CONGREGATIONS OF REGION 1 | 2018

A MESSAGE FROM ALLAN BELTON, ACTING PRESIDENT

Pacific Lutheran University's priority is to continue to focus on our students — their learning and their success. We realize this priority when we increase scholarship opportunities, when we invest in academic programs that match 21st-century needs, or when we develop new resources that support students from admission to graduation at PLU. This year, several projects and initiatives undertaken stand out as especially noteworthy for the positive impact they've had and will continue to have on this institution and its students.

We are hard at work on a **new student success center** (located in the Mortvedt Library) that will provide our students with individualized academic and personal support and resources through a collaborative, student-centered approach. Services offered will include academic advising, tutoring, supplemental course instruction, registration transactions, coaching and other specific support services for all students, with particular attention to first-generation, low-income, first-year, veteran and transfer students.

Another way we've invested in student success is by creating a one-stop financial shop by restructuring **Financial Aid and Student Services**. This newly created office provides students with counseling and processing for financial aid, billing and payments, VA benefits, financial literacy and student loan repayment. This effort has been an example of how PLU can innovate on behalf of our students.

Service is a fundamental part of our university's mission, and as Lutes we've always tried to answer the needs of our communities. **The PLU School of Nursing** recently received a \$1.4 million ANEW grant from the federal Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The grant is targeted at expanding curriculum, doubling nurse practitioner student numbers and sending those students

into medically underserved areas around the state. With support from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, faculty continue to explore important curricular revisions that create strong learning communities, build intentional connections across the curriculum, and foster our Integrative Learning Objectives. Two Mellon Foundation grants — an initial grant for \$100,000, and a second grant awarded this summer for \$500,000 — provide funding for building faculty capacity across a range of curricular initiatives.

Supporting social justice is intrinsic to the core tenets of Lutheran higher education. **The Undocumented Student Task Force** was formed in fall of 2016 with the goal of purposefully reviewing and addressing the unique barriers to success that undocumented students experience at PLU. The Task Force initiated a crowdfunding campaign and raised over \$30,000 — nearly four times the group's original goal of \$8,000. The funds have assisted individual undocumented students in persisting at PLU and also assisted in setting up a textbook lending library.

Beginning in January 2018, Dr. Jennifer Smith was installed as PLU's first **Dean for Inclusive Excellence**. In this role, Dr. Smith provides necessary attention to diversity and inclusion issues directly affecting student success, while simultaneously investing in professional development and support for faculty in areas ranging from recruitment and hiring to curriculum development.

This past year also included meeting

our challenges head on. Twenty members of the Faculty Joint Committee took on the challenge of realigning our educational program to meet the needs of our student body. The committee, comprised of faculty representatives from every academic division and school, spent seven months reviewing enrollment data, soliciting narratives from academic leaders to understand their enrollment trends, and analyzing the higher-ed landscape to develop its recommendations. The faculty took ownership of our educational mission and made the difficult choice to reduce their own ranks. In time of need, they didn't bury their heads in the sand, they stood up to the challenge. PLU will be a stronger university as a result of that work.

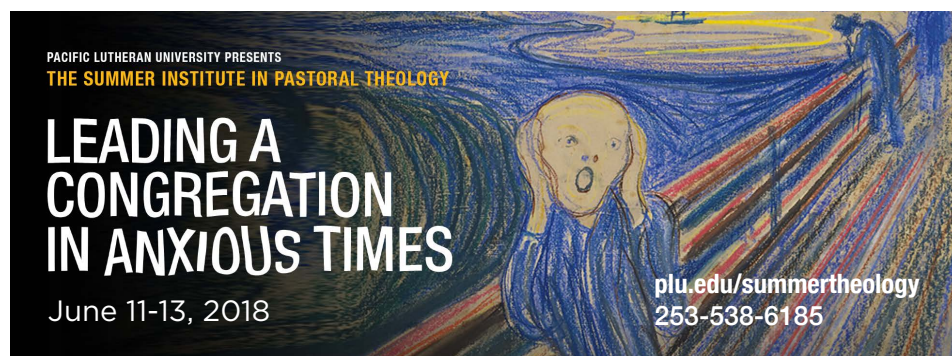
In the midst of challenges and opportunities, the power of our greatest resource — our people — and the impact they will continue to have for generations to come has never been more apparent. We are the heirs of an unfinished Reformation, a reform that is ongoing and that must always be open to new voices and fresh perspectives. At PLU, we are inspired by this challenge. We are convinced that our future will be as transformational as our past. In that conviction, we will continue to celebrate our successes and confront our challenges with a reforming spirit and unwavering resilience. In a world that faces growing uncertainty and societal divides, the world needs more Lutes — now more than ever.

PACIFIC LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY PRESENTS
THE SUMMER INSTITUTE IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY

LEADING A CONGREGATION IN ANXIOUS TIMES

June 11-13, 2018

plu.edu/summertheology
253-538-6185



2017 Annual Report



“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

—Romans 12:2

There are two significant pieces of data that shine a light on the changing church in which we all find ourselves.

- Within the next couple of years, between the rate of retirements in the ELCA and the trends in seminary enrollment, there will be 1,000 congregations who could otherwise afford a full-time pastor who will not have one.
- The ELCA seminary system does not have the number of students needed to respond to those vacancies.

At the same time, we see a world that needs more than ever the honesty, integrity and unconditional welcome embodied in the gospel message. We see ministry erupting in the most surprising places and forms. Our students are so clearly called to serve in the name of the gospel, inspiring us all to do our very best.

From within our circle of influence, Luther Seminary has been addressing these realities and leveraging these assets. Our mission is to educate leaders for Christian communities, called and sent by the Holy Spirit, to witness to salvation in Jesus Christ, and to serve in God’s world. We need to be innovating in a rapidly changing world

Over the last year, we have embraced the hallmarks of adaptive change: adjusting to and understanding the rapid change

occurring in the church and authentically undertaking the gradual but meaningful process of change.

Our staff and faculty spent the latter half of the year imagining a new future for Luther Seminary, a future that will be more suited to the context in which we and our students minister. In addition,

- our budget was reduced by \$1 million so we could focus our core operations;
- the proceeds from the land sale are earmarked for strategic reinvestment, not to fund operations; and
- 112 new leaders were launched to lead across the globe, 43 percent of them without any educational debt.

We are eager to engage in new kinds of listening and learning to pay attention to where God’s Holy Spirit is stirring. The results of this last fiscal year have positioned us well to invest in new arenas and to experiment with new pathways of leadership formation, to deeply engage and listen to places where innovation is happening.

Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for mentoring people for leadership in the church and inviting us to accompany them in their preparation and discernment. Thank you for your financial support which makes it possible for us to engage in this adaptive work.

Robin Steinke
President

Thank you Montana Synod for being a ministry partner!

Your prayers, direct synod gifts of \$25,197 last year, and encouraging our students like Annela Rova who give us strength and courage in our mission of equipping faithful leaders. In addition, there are 27 alums of PLTS that live and work on the territory of your synod, many of them in congregational ministries.

New Curriculum for a New Day

We are excited to share the news that our faculty have collaborated to develop a new curriculum which will be implemented in the fall of 2018. The new curriculum can be completed in three years instead of four, including internship. This addresses concerns regarding student debt by saving a year of residential costs. The new curriculum is shaped by four orienting perspectives that emphasizes cultivating spiritual practices and skills for building community, putting Christian beliefs and practices into collaborative engagement with other religious traditions and secular disciplines, and faithful social transformation grounded in the good news of Jesus Christ. The curriculum maintains the solid theological, biblical and ministerial formation that is the hallmark of Lutheran theological education and aims to prepare pastors for both traditional and emerging forms of Christian communities that are centered in the gospel of Jesus Christ, social justice, and ecological well-being. The new curriculum will take advantage of our central location in Downtown Berkeley, California by providing a growing number and expanding opportunities for community engagement.

Photo Captions

Left: Ray Pickett, Rector

Center: PLTS Faculty

Right: Students in
Liberacion Classroom



Synod Spotlight: Annela Rova, M.Div.'21

Annela is a first-year seminarian. She grew up in an indigenous community in Montana, where she was influenced by her mother, a Cherokee. At the University of Montana, campus pastor John Lund encouraged her to become a Young Adult in Global Missions in Palestine. She is glad to be in seminary for its journey of self-awareness and looks forward to serving a parish to build creative faith-based organizations that build up rural communities. She sees the importance of being entrepreneurial in ministry, and understands how buildings support real ministry to neighbors; such as drama clubs, 12-step groups, prayer/worship space for folks of other religious, and food shelves. Please pray for Annela in her continuing preparation!



QUICK FACTS ABOUT PLTS

- Number of Students (including TEEM): 89
- Number of Graduates (2017): 16
- Tuition (Full-time M.Div): \$13,920
- Total Average Cost of Attendance: \$35,312
- Scholarships Awarded (2016-2017): \$436,286 to 100% of need-based qualifying students
- Average Total Educational Debt for Seminarians Upon Graduation: \$46,386

To learn more about PLTS, or to make a gift, visit PLTS.edu.

Celebrating [LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY-MSU](#) !

Interfaith MSU Training Session



Weekly Desserts & Devotions



Chico “Hatred to Love” Spring Retreat

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 30th 1st Annual LCM Fundraiser!

LCM’S NEW VISION STATEMENT

**“To be an inclusive, caring, Christ-Centered community at Montana State University,
serving our campus *and beyond*.”**

MSU Fall Highlights

***^Our Neighbor’s Faith ^Relationship Building-the Love List ^Fork & Spoon Community Service
^MSU Faith & Science Event ^Vocational Workshop***

Thank you for your prayers, your faithful support, and your commitment to making a difference at MSU



Annual Report, May 2018

Pastor John Lund: John.lund@umontana.edu, 396-4974, www.ecmum.org

Student residents and staff: We currently have 11 students living in the Ark and Emmaus House and about 20 more who are active in some way with us. This year we had about 15 students and young adults working on staff or on internships related to different aspects of our ministry. We also connect with and relate to 6-8 UM departments and have about 65 faculty and staff contacts.

Program: A good try: last winter and spring we started a new young adult group called **Confluence** that met weekly, with about 4-6 leaders to make it go. We had a good group going with momentum, but suffered losses to our leadership. By the fall all the core leaders had either moved or went back to school and were unable to continue. Thus, Confluence is on hold for now. However the desire and interest is still there if we can build the leadership to make it go.

This fall we moved into a Wednesday night group called **Salt and Light**, and a Sunday night **dinner and discussion** group. Both groups were able to hold average attendance of 8-12 with great conversations, devotions, and connections.

This spring we came back to trying a Worship format on Wednesday nights. This was sparsely attended but held with a core group. This has shifted into Wednesday night gatherings around our outdoor fire ring with storytelling and music with a much stronger response. We continue to adapt and listen to the needs and desires of the group.

Volunteerism and serving others: Through our Friends in Need we have students helping with Family Promise, Habitat for Humanity, food drives, and other projects about once per month.

Outreach Worship: We also have an outreach worship team of 6-8 students who leads worship and gives the message in various churches around Western Montana once per month.

Retreats and Trips: This past year we had a successful winter retreat at Georgetown Lake and a sailing retreat on Flathead Lake.

Faith and Climate Action: Emmaus is the fiscal holder of this group and continues to support interns to help it run. This group is offering quarterly educational events, and in April hosted "The Time is Now" conference in Missoula with about 70 people attending various events.

SALAM: Emmaus is also the fiscal holder for this Muslim ally group and also sponsors two interns who have provided leadership along with a strong steering committee. This group offers larger community educational events, Celebrate Islam Week in the spring, and smaller educational and social events as desired and needed.

Anti-Racism Work: Pastor Lund is an active member of the Missoula MLK Day planning team and is also on a team of community leaders building an Anti-racism Coalition in Missoula that is building active leadership, goals, and networks.

MIC/Family Promise and the YWCA family housing project: Pastor Lund continues to represent MIC and Family Promise at the table with the YWCA to help vision and negotiate the larger family housing project that is coming together. This will be an exciting partnership that will roll out over the next few years as it comes into fruition.

Intro to Honors Course: Pastor Lund continues to teach the freshmen fall Honors course called "Finding Your Path" with about 18 students each fall.

Buildings and Grounds: We have recently made our 8th payment out of 10 to the Glacier Presbytery for the buyout of the Ark (10-year buyout). Currently we are considering a new firepit and bicycle shed this summer.



*To Make Visible Our Unity in Jesus by
Educating & Advocating for Justice and Compassion,
in Our Communities and Our World.*



Would you like to bring your faith and/or science interests collaboratively to the social conversation surrounding positive change for the world's climate?

Faith, Science & Climate Action Conference

**October 12 & 13, 2018 — Bozeman, MT
Emerson Center for the Arts & Culture**

- Resources, networks, and project ideas for congregations and local communities
- Workshops and national speakers that include education, inspiration, and tools related to local issues
- Opportunities to build community and network. thoughts and tools for engaging in broader public advocacy



MAC CONNECT

November 10, 2018

Helena, MT

Plan now to join us for this inspiring and informative ecumenical event.

To learn more about the Montana Association of Christians, to become a member or support our vital ministry, please visit www.MacMT.org.



DAY AT THE LEGISLATURE

January 21, 2019 — Helena, MT

This event provides training in advocacy and an avenue for people of faith to voice their hopes and concerns to legislators.

In 2019, MAC's legislative agenda will include the following issues:

Abolition of Death Penalty

MAC opposes capital punishment and calls upon the Montana Legislature to abolish the death penalty.

Children & Families

MAC calls upon the State Legislature and all the people of Montana to recognize the rights of children, to help the hungry, and access emergency care without fear of financial devastation.

Prisoner Re-Integration

MAC is looking at all aspects of the criminal justice system and seeking ways to reduce incarceration while increasing public safety, and increasing the success of prisoners returning to our communities.

Immigration / Hospitality toward vetted and documented immigrants and humane treatment for all

MAC seeks to love our neighbors and welcome the stranger by promoting immigration legislation, public policies and business practices that are humane and just.

Mark your calendar now for this important event.



Wyoming Interfaith Network

Working together for justice

May 2018 Report

Mission Statement: As a people of faith, we empower Wyoming's faith communities to promote social and environmental justice through prayer, discernment, respectful dialogue, leadership, advocacy, service and study.

Mantra: Fear not. Be bold. Build Bridges. Do justice.

Activities in 2018:

Becoming interfaith. At the October 2017 Annual Board Conference, the Board voted to become interfaith, and to change our name from Wyoming Association of Churches to Wyoming Interfaith Network (WIN).

New Board Chair. Rabbi Larry Moldo, of Mt. Sinai Synagogue in Cheyenne, was elected as the new Chair of the Board of Directors at the October 2017 meeting. Previous Chair, Carl Carmichael, remains on Executive Committee and facilitated a smooth transition. Rabbi Moldo received his Ordination in 2005 from the Academy for Jewish Religion, New York. While in Seminary he participated in an interfaith Colleagues in Dialogue Seminar hosted by Sacred Heart University. He has been involved in interfaith endeavors ever since.

New Executive Director. In January of 2018, WIN hired a new Executive Director, Susie Markus. Susie holds a bachelor's Degree in Social Work, a Master's in Counselor Education and a PhD in Educational Leadership. The focus of her work has always been on fostering relationships and community connectedness to improve health, wellness and equity, with and on behalf of marginalized people. Susie specializes in storytelling for social justice and educating about historical roots of intersecting disparities to promote peaceful, supportive, inclusive, socially just spaces for all, where we grow, live, learn, work, play and pray.

Children, Youth and Families Focus. The focus of work for WIN this year is children, youth and family health and well-being. We are exploring grant opportunities and partnering with several organizations and churches to determine specific projects and programs to further this focus.

Legislative Session 2018. Chelsie Lee continued as WIN's lobbyist in the 2018 Legislative Session. She was especially instrumental in lobbying against Senate File 74, a bill that would have made new criminal classifications for those damaging or slowing down critical infrastructure like oil and gas facilities or pipelines. Under such a law, WIN could have been subjected to a fine of \$1 million for encouraging dissent and protest against an infrastructure that our membership believed to be potentially causing more harm than good. This bill passed, and Governor Mead vetoed the bill.

Fostering a culture of connectedness and interfaith humility: At the WIN Board Retreat in Lander, WY in August 2018, Susie Markus will facilitate a PhotoVoice storytelling project in which members of the Board will take photos and provide related narratives to depict their faith traditions to tell individual stories and one collective story of what it means to be an interfaith network. This will affirm that our network of peoples of faith, our common humanity, and the richness of our varied religious traditions are deeper than our divisions. The PhotoVoice stories will be featured on WIN's new website and shared widely to strengthen our network to work together for the good of the people and for reconciliation among all races, conditions and ideologies.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Markus

smarkus@wyointerfaith.org

307-274-6292

Montana Synod Candidacy Committee

The Montana Synod Candidacy Committee is part of the ELCA ministry that seeks to identify, nurture, train, and approve leaders for the public ministries of the church. Candidacy invites an active participation of congregations, Candidacy committees, seminaries, and the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission unit, to work together with individuals who are discerning whether their vocation in life includes service in the church's "rostered ministries."

The ELCA's public ministries are now ordered in two **rosters**. Most people are familiar with the ministry of those who are ordained as **Ministers of Word and Sacrament**. Their preparation is ordinarily as residential and/or distributed-learning Master of Divinity students at a seminary, or through TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries), an ELCA initiative using seminaries and synods to prepare leaders for service in special locations/situations of Word and Sacrament worshiping communities. In addition, there are also **Ministers of Word and Service**, a category that includes lay rosters previously known as Associates in Ministry, Diaconal Ministers, and Deaconesses. Their preparation may include seminary training or another masters degree program, video course work, and special work in their areas of specialization.

(Besides the ministries towards which Candidacy is directed, the Montana Synod also has a separate program for preparing and recognizing Lay Pastoral Associates [LPA] for various kinds of ministerial service within the Synod, sometimes as Synodically Authorized Ministers [SAM]. Some other synods have comparable programs.)

As it works with those who are discerning and preparing for church vocations, the Montana Synod Candidacy Committee, on behalf of the whole church, makes three important decisions along the way: *Entrance* recognizes promise for ministerial leadership and formally brings a candidate into the whole process. *Endorsement* acknowledges that the candidate is ready for internship or field work within the particular arena of ministry for which she or he is preparing. *Approval* indicates to the whole church that the candidate is now ready to be called into its public leadership.

Members of the Candidacy Committee include **Peter Metcalf** (Missoula), **John Munding** (Helena), **Amanda Nelson** (Missoula), **Pastor Linda Rose** (Billings), Joan Schmidt (Great Falls), **Pastor Kim Wilker** (Red Lodge), **John Munding** (Helena), **Bishop Jessica Crist** (*ex officio*), **Rev. Mark Nelson** (*advisory*, ELCA deployed staff), **Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker** (*faculty advisor from Luther Seminary*), and **Rev. Bob Quam** (*Synod staff representative*, who functions also as Chair). Committee members not serving in *ex officio* or advisory capacities are appointed by the Montana Synod Council to four-year terms which may be renewed once.

Candidates whose candidacy received Approval since the last Synod Assembly (2 total):

Carol Will (Helena) – approved for the Ministry of Word and Service

Stephanie White (Kalispell; M.Div. Luther Seminary) – approved for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament

Currently active Montana Synod Candidates (6 total):

for Ministry of Word and Sacrament (5): **Joshua Gomez** (Havre, Wartburg Theological Seminary), **Logan McLean** (Billings, Yale University Divinity School), **Cheryl Muncy** (Chester, TEEM - Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Luther Seminary), **Annella Rova** (Arlee, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary), and **Keith Weatherford** (Distributed Learning M.Div., United Lutheran Seminary).

for Ministry of Word and Service (1): **Colter McCarty** (Great Falls).

Do you think you might be called towards the church's public ministries? Do you know someone who may be interested and promising for such service? Contact the Synod Office, the Synod Staff Representative for Candidacy, or anyone on the Candidacy Committee. And keep this ministry, and our candidates, in your prayers.

Submitted by Bob Quam

Synod Representative for Candidacy

Report from the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod

As the former secretary of the Montana Synod, I was a part of the conversations to craft the Benchmarks for the Montana Synod. From the first benchmark, to “meet the future boldly”, the second, to “serve the world, especially the poor and those in need,” the third, to “deepen faith and witness” and even the fourth, to “promote unity”, all the benchmarks propel us to the final bench-mark, which is our focus for our Synod Assembly this year. As we gather for this Synod Assembly under the fifth Benchmark: “strengthen congregations”, I believe that my call as the Director for Evangelical Mission is to strengthen and support congregations to be faithful to the gospel, and to be faithful to the ministry entrusted to each congregation and ministry. Congregations are seeking to be places of vitality and life and I am humbled to be able to walk alongside these congregations.

I began to serve as the Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod last September. Although each Synod of the ELCA functions in it's own unique way, the ELCA churchwide organization has called me and the other DEMs to serve as ELCA employees to be deployed in our own particular Synod to be about the work of strengthening congregations. Through the work of the DEMs, the churchwide partnership is visible as together we work to strengthen congregations.

In the course of the last months, I have worked to develop and deepen relationships with clergy and congregations in order to hear and support them in their efforts to strengthen their own congregations. Through the process of several Comprehensive Ministry reviews, the review teams and I have listened carefully to leaders describe what they experience and hope for within their own congregation. I have stated that I am committed to walk with those congregations and pastors in order to strengthen them to reach out in their community and to focus energy on being more effective as the people of God for the sake of their community.

As a resource to clergy and congregations I have worked to empower congregations to be more effective and faithful in their stewardship practices. I also have worked to lift up the ministry of the whole Montana Synod and ELCA in order to remind people of the work in which we share together. As a sign of that partnership, during the Friday evening worship during our Synod Assembly, voting members will receive a copy of their congregation's “Statement of Intent” and will join in a processional offering of those statements as a symbol for all of the offerings received in congregations and which are then passed on to the Montana Synod that are part of how we are church together for the sake of the world.

I also serve as the liaison to the ministries in the Synod, which receive Mission Support money from the Synod and from the ELCA. It is a joy to walk along side Pastor Rob Nedbalek at Freedom in Christ Ministry at the Men's Prison in Deer Lodge, Pastor Christine Holler-Dinsmore at Spirit of Life on the Fort Peck Reservation, and Pastor Linda Webster at Our Saviour's on the Rocky Boys Reservation. Currently, these three ministries receive money from the ELCA, the Montana Synod and from congregations and individuals. Please consider how you/your congregation can also join in supporting these ministries on behalf of those who are in need in our Synod. And as you see these pastors at the Assembly, please ask them about the important ministry that they are a part of.

I also coordinate and work with the Mission Table and help to oversee the granting of money from the Mission Venture Capital Fund. I will be working more closely with the Mission Table in the coming year as we seek to engage more congregations to be intentional about vitality in settings around the whole Synod.

I am grateful to serve as the Director for Evangelical Mission for the Montana Synod and to serve along side you, my sisters and brothers in Christ in congregations and ministries around the Synod.

Pastor Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, Director for Evangelical Mission in the Montana Synod

The William and Blanche Hetzel Foundation, Inc.

P. O. Box 22276

Billings, MT 50104-2276

The William and Blanche Hetzel Foundation exists to provide financial assistance to agencies and institutions providing care for the elderly and programs for the health, education, religious training and recreation of children and young people through the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

In 2017 the Hetzel Foundation Board distributed financial grants in the amount of \$43,000.00.

Elderly:

- \$6,875 St John's Lutheran Ministries Transitional Care Intravenous Infusion
- \$5,000 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd "All are Welcome"
- \$5,000 Sapphire Lutheran Homes – Fitness Enhancement Program
- \$8,375 Atonement Lutheran Church – Connectivity Walkway
- \$7,000 – Zion Lutheran Church – Church Without Walls

Youth:

- \$1,000 Christ the King Lutheran Church – Connect through Tech
- \$3,500 Christikon Sojourners Expansion
- \$1,678 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp – Going Mad
- \$2,000 Emmaus Campus Ministry – Confluence
- \$1,822 MSUB Lutheran Campus Ministry – Kickstart connection with students and Alumni
- \$750 Zion Lutheran Church – Church without Walls

Current Board members of the Hetzel Foundation are Chair Wayne Leininger, Vice-Chair Dale Peterson (Chair Investment Committee), Director Dr. Ashley Quanbeck (Investment Committee), Director Pastor Robert K. Leaverton (Grants Chair), Director Steve Martin (Grants Committee), Director Pastor Elizabeth Liggett (Grants Committee) and Director Bishop Jessica Crist. Non-board members serving on the Grants Committee are Ruth Edge from Powell, WY, Pastor Mark Taylor from Plentywood, and Alicia Moe from Two Dot, MT. Treasurer Steve Restad and Secretary Kerry Ellertson.

Together in Christ,
Wayne Leininger
Chair, Hetzel Foundation Board

Montana Synod ELCA World Hunger Report 2018

In the past year, ELCA World Hunger had one of its best fundraising years on record! The Montana Synod has been a big part of that both financially and service-wise. This year three groups received Domestic Hunger Grants from our Synod. Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Rocky Boy received a grant for a relief food effort they are doing in collaboration with another agency on the Rocky Boy's Reservation, MAC received a grant for some of the advocacy and community organizing efforts they will take part in in the coming months, and Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Laurel received a grant for starting up a community garden on their property. If you are a church that is looking to or already engaging in a hunger-based ministry, check out the Domestic Hunger Grant portion of the ELCA website. This is FREE MONEY to help your ministries thrive, and we look forward to supporting the ministries that are already happening out there in our synod. A final piece of news from Montana Synod World Hunger is that we sent two representatives, Pr. Lou Moua and myself (Pr. Jessie Obrecht) to Washington D.C. in January for an ELCA World Hunger Leadership Conference in January. While there we were learned about the Farm Bill, collaborated with colleagues from all over the country, and learned more about how to support hunger ministries in our synod.

Currently our Synod Hunger team is in need of TEAM MEMBERS! If you are interested in being a part of our synod Hunger Team or would like to help coordinate Hunger events synod-wide with me in the coming years, please do e-mail me at pastorjessieobrecht@gmail.com. It takes a village to get a ministry up and on its feet, and with a space as large as the entire state of Montana and Northern Wyoming, it will take many of us to connect our synod together in these efforts. Thank you so much for your giving this past year, and for all of the work that you do in your communities to combat hunger and ensure that all are fed!

God Bless,

Pastor Jessie Obrecht



YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

MONTANA ELCA SYNOD -- YOU DID IT! YOU HELPED INTERMOUNTAIN RESTORE HOPE FOR 2,625 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN 2017!

245



**Home Support
Services &
Adoption and
Foster Care**

2,300



**Community
Services &
Mental Health
Clinics**

80



**Residential
Services**

By the Numbers

- Over 2,600 children and families served in 2017. 900 clients in care daily.
- ChildWise, created in 2010 to provide education, advocacy and awareness, has trained over 11,000 parents and professionals to date.

Licensed by the State of Montana as:

- Adoption Placing Agency
- Mental Health Center
- Therapeutic Youth Group Homes

Nationally Accredited by:

- AdvanceEd Northwest Accreditation Commission
- Council on Accreditation

For more information, please contact
Intermountain at (406) 457-4804. or at
teresam@intermountain.org.



intermountain
Caring Solutions ■ Strong Families ■ Healthy Communities

KOGUDUS RENEWAL MINISTRY
(2017 Annual Report to the Synod)

The Board of Directors of K.R.M. and I thank the Montana Synod and all who have supported this retreat ministry in 2017 and previous years. As a partner in ministry K.R.M. continues to promote and equip lay leadership in the Church and community. This partnership began in 1976 under the leadership of Rev. Olaf Magis who began Kogudus retreats in 1969 while he was a pastor of First Lutheran Church in Glasgow, Montana. The Estonian word, Kogudus, means “Christian fellowship”. Olaf chose that word to convey the **message of Christ, fellowship in Christ, and service for Christ**. Kogudus retreats have been held throughout the U.S. and in other countries throughout the world. In recent years, however, there are three states that continue to offer retreats: Montana, North Dakota, and Illinois.

The original retreat called “Faith and Life” is a study of the Apostles’ Creed and the New Testament Greek words for different kinds of servants. It encourages those who attend to discover their God-given gifts and consider how the Holy Spirit calls them to put those gifts to use for the common good of Christ’s Church and the world. Another retreat, “Lament and Laughter”, was introduced in 2011. It connects human losses to the cross and joys to the resurrection. Dying and rising in Christ (daily baptism) is experienced at this retreat and encouraged as a daily practice.

“Contrast Community” was introduced in 2014. It is a retreat inspired by Dr. James L. Bailey’s book by that name and is a study of the Sermon on the Mount. This retreat has been held at both the state women’s and men’s prisons in Montana and the three state prisons in North Dakota. It was also offered at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy’s reservation in Montana by the Bear Paw Cluster pastors and LPAs. Here is a comment from one participant: “I want you to know what I felt in that place (Montana State Prison) for three days: Peace, Contentment, Joy, THE SENSE OF GOD’S PRESENCE.”

There were a total of 11 retreats held in 2017. Montana and North Dakota both hosted 3 “Contrast Community” retreats. North Dakota hosted 2 “Lament and Laughter” events. Illinois hosted 3 retreats: 2 “Faith and Life” and 1 “Covenantal Living”. All of the Illinois retreats were held at Camp Griesheim. A total of 200 people attended K.R.M.’s retreats in 2017.

For the first time a “Pilgrims in Recovery” retreat will be offered at both the state prisons in Montana and at Rocky Boy in 2018. This retreat was held once at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in 2003 for those recovering from addiction and/or co-addiction. It connects the 12 Steps of A.A. and other recovery programs with their Biblical basis in order to offer spiritual support and guidance to Christians and others who seek serenity.

Kogudus Renewal Ministry is grateful for the support and cooperation of the state prisons in Montana and North Dakota as well as the hospitality of Rev. Rob Nedbalek at Freedom in Christ ministry. We also thank Chaplain Charles Bott for graciously accommodating K.R.M. retreats at Montana Women’s Prison.

More information may be found at www.kogudus.org or by calling Rev. Greg Karlsgodt (406-544-1699). The K.R.M. motto prayer is appropriate for all of us as followers of Jesus Christ: “COME, HOLY SPIRIT! REVIVE YOUR CHURCH! BEGIN WITH ME!”

Rev. Greg Karlsgodt, Executive Director

LPA Report

In 1997 the Montana Synod established the Lay Pastoral Associate (LPA) program to train and equip qualified laypersons for a congregational-based ministry of preaching, administration of the sacraments, worship leadership, and where appropriate, leadership for Bible study, catechetical instruction, visitation and spiritual growth. Once completed, Lay Pastoral Associates are licensed by the Bishop to serve our synod as interims, pulpit supply, and in other capacities.

Lay Pastoral Associate trainees follow a two-year curriculum that includes intensive coursework in Old and New Testament, Church History, Lutheran Theology, Preaching, Worship, Prayer and Spirituality, and Pastoral Care. LPA candidates are mentored by an ordained ELCA clergy person in their own or a nearby congregation.

2017-2018 has been a banner year for the LPA program. Not only do we have one of the largest classes on record for the program based out of Great Falls, we added a class in the eastern part of the state to accommodate the need.

Our LPA West class meets at the Ursuline Centre in Great Falls in October and in April each year. The majority of this class will finish this spring and be recognized at the Synod Assembly in June making way for a new class of LPAs to begin study in October of 2018. Our LPA East class meets at Zion Lutheran Church in Glendive, Mont. They have just finished their first year.

Last fall our largest class began with a course on prayer with Pr. Dan Heskett and this spring they learned about worship and worship leadership from Pr. Sandy Van Zyl. They have yet to engage in a Preaching course with Prs. Lindean Barnett Christenson and Steven Loy and training in Pastoral Care with Pr. Karl Guhn. With their mentors they are expected to be engaged in other activities like teaching a Bible Study or confirmation class, pastoral care and nursing home visits, and monthly times for check-in and conversation.

If your congregation is interested in having a member train to become an LPA, the next class cycle will begin in fall of 2018 in Great Falls. Please contact the Synod office for more information. Candidates need to be recommended by their Pastor.

And remember, if your congregation needs a supply preacher you can go to the Synod website and go to [resources>pulpit supply](#) and access the list of Lay Pastoral Associates who are available for pulpit supply.

Thank you to our course instructors Prs. Dan Heskett, Sandy Van Zyl, Christine Hollar-Dinsmore, Julie Long, Steven Loy, and Karl Guhn, for your valuable time and expertise. Also, thanks to Colter McCarty from the Synod office and Pastor Katie Emory for your help in making things run smoothly. They are responsible for keeping track of the progress of each LPA student and organizing the retreats. Their time and talent allow the program run smoothly.

In Christ's Service,

Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop

Current LPA Candidates (West): 35

Current LPA Candidates (East): 17

Active LPAs: 98

Lutheran Disaster Response

The Montana Synod is an affiliate organization of Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Lutheran Disaster Response strives to help the church continue to be church in the midst of disaster — following Christ's call to bring hope and healing to our neighbor in need. Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the varied needs of the community
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes

Montana Synod concentrates on building resilient communities by helping families and churches work toward reducing their risks in disaster and to prepare for the disaster event which will inevitably occur. Resources are provided on the synod website.

Efforts have begun to work ecumenically to provide spiritual care for individuals affected by disaster. The synod emphasis will be to provide training to ordained and lay church leaders, who can then deploy to communities affected by disaster.

In March 2018 the Montana Synod through generous donations of Montana Lutheran congregations and members, as well as several synods across the United States, was able to provide in excess of \$16,000 to provide food on the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The shortage of food happened as a result of a winter weather and snow event.

There are always unmet needs in any disaster, as such was the case on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation this winter. We are now in the middle of flood season, with people affected. There is the potential for another vigorous fire season as many parts of the state are dry. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to give to the Synod Disaster Fund so that we are in a position to help out when the need arises. Thank you.

Dick Deschamps
Synod Disaster Coordinator/LDR Liaison

Montana Synodical Women's Organization

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Purpose Statement:

As a community of women

Created in the image of God,

Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,

And empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We commit ourselves to

Grow in faith,

Affirm our gifts,

Support one another in our callings,

Engage in ministry and action, and

Promote healing and wholeness

In the church,

The society,

And the world.

The Montana Synodical Women's Organization is every woman, young or old from Montana and Northern Wyoming that take part in bible studies, Thankoffering services, quilting, making prayer shawls, raising money for outreach and getting together with other women in the Synod. It all starts with the women of your church. The definition of an active women's group of your church entails that they need to have a Contact person, need to take part in a cluster meeting, go to a Region 1 Gathering, or take part in a Triennial Gathering. They also are asked to give an offering to Montana Synodical Women's Organization and Women of the ELCA.

This past July, we had 4 women from Montana, who were voting delegates to the Triennial Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota and were joined by 12 other women from Montana for the Triennial Gathering. We joined over 3,000 women from other Synodicals for a time of worship, workshops, and fellowship. The next triennial will be in Phoenix, Arizona in 2020. In September 60 women and men from Montana and Northern Wyoming gathered for our Biannual Convention in Billings. We had Pastor Al Erickson give a workshop on Human Trafficking and has since offered to come back to Montana or Northern Wyoming to put on more workshops. We also had Lois Olmstead as our Main Speaker. We will be in Townsend for our Fall Gathering.

The website for Women of the ELCA is www.womenoftheelca.org has many resources to be downloaded for use in your unit of cluster meetings. You can find them also on Facebook and Twitter. You can find our Montana Synodical Women's Organizations newsletter on the Synod's website or you may sign up at our booth.

The 2017 - 2019 Synodical Board Members are:

Connie Hausauer, Mait Board, Sandy Murphy, Valerie VanVoast, Cheryl Muncy, Ella Tweten, Lin Olson, Myrna Mysse, Sandy Pipal, and Jan Stocks

Connie Hausauer, President MTSWO



NORTHERN ROCKIES INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY

On behalf of the NRIT Advisory Committee, I want to thank the congregations, individuals and groups that have so generously supported NRIT this past year. I also want to thank the Montana Synod Council for their financial support of our ministry.

Did you know that NRIT events are subsidized by the synod? Because of the generosity of the Montana Synod Council, we've been able to keep our prices low in comparison to many other continuing education organizations. We've also kept quality high, offering courses on a diverse range of topics throughout the state.

Since last year's assembly, our courses and collaborations included:

- *The Muslim Threat or the Threat to Muslims?* Taught by Pr. Steve Benson
- *Exploring Worship and Music*, taught by Pr. Julie Long
- *Luther Lectures: Hope, Courage and Wisdom for Neighbor-love in Difficult Times*, taught by Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda.
- *St. Paul: From Saul of Tarsus to the Apostle of the Lutheran Reformation*, digital Class taught by Dr. James Ageson.
- *Midwinter Theological Conference: Witnessing in a Lutheran Voice: Learning to share our faith with confidence and integrity*, taught by Pr. Dave Daubert.
- *Remember and Be Remembered: Faith Formation for Congregations*, taught by Dr. Dick Hardel.
- *QPR Suicide Prevention Training*, taught by Jackie Gittins.
- *Suicide and Spirituality: Bereavement, Support and Prevention*, taught by Dr. Ken Mottram.
- *Community Clergy Training Program: Ministering to Military Veterans*, taught by Pr. Ken DuVall

Attending NRIT events is a great way to:

1. Grow in your skills for preaching, teaching and ministering to your congregation.
2. Work toward achieving your 50 hours of continuing education credits. (Bishop Crist does check this in your report.) (20 hours for LPAs)
3. Engage in discussion and fellowship with your colleagues.

Come join us! We'd love to have you.

Submitted by: Jenny Kunka, Dir. NRIT

Montana Synod Youth Report

Over the past year focus on the youth of the Synod has manifested itself in two areas: The Montana Youth Weekend in April of 2018 and preparation for the ELCA Youth Gathering June 27-July 1, 2018.

2018 Montana Synod Youth Weekend

YOU are the Light of the world. ... “This means that without **YOU**...the world is a darker place.”

This was the theme of the 2018 Montana Synod youth weekend in Helena, MT. In April more than 30 youth and adults gathered for Service, worship, fellowship and education.

As part of this weekend, we were send out to the community for service to the Intermountain Children’s Home to organize their donation center, Family Promise to rip out carpet and clean and rake around their building, and to the Helena Food Share to organize their pantry. It was great hands-on time of service and interaction between the youth and the leaders of these service organizations.

We were also able to engage with Pastor Jessie Obrecht, the Montana Synod World Hunger Coordinator, about issues related to world hunger and the impact we can make for the sake of the world. We met in small groups and created skits that helped to illustrate the needs facing our communities, and how we can address those needs.

We also took time to worship and sing songs, play pew battleship, sardines and who’s your neighbor, eat homemade soup, dance and hangout together. One of the highlights was the Christian Escape room where youth had to use the Bible and their knowledge of church history to figure out the clues that would give them freedom from the escape room.

Thank you to the Hetzel foundation for providing a grant to make this event possible. To St. John’s Lutheran in Helena for hosting the event, and for the volunteers that helped make this event a success: Gretchen Mundinger, Jackie Bartz, Pastor Betty Lou Deuchler, Cheyenne Damron, Pastor Brad Ulgenes, Pastor Jessie Obrecht, John Wiegand, Keith Weatherford, and the volunteers of St. Johns who prepared food and helped to clean up.

ELCA Youth Gathering Preparation.

In June of 2018 270 youth and leaders from 25 different congregations in the Montana Synod will be traveling to Houston, Texas to Join more than 30,000 other Lutherans for the ELCA youth Gathering. The theme for the Gathering is “This Changes Everything” and focuses on the ways that God’s Grace changes us and moves us to action for the sake of the world.

In January Pastor Jason Asselstine attended a training in Houston to be the Synod Coordinator of the Gathering. Following this training he traveled the Synod sharing information with youth and youth leaders about the gathering and recruiting congregations to attend.

The Synod is also organizing transportation to Houston via Bus. 70 youth and their leaders will be traveling on the Synod Bus and will be staying in Churches along the way. We will leave from Billings on June 24th and stop along the way to have fun at Six Flags over Texas.

While at the Gathering we will take a day to accompany the people of Houston and hear their story. We will walk alongside them and serve in a variety of ways. On our Synod Day, all 270 of us from Montana And Northern Wyoming, will gather together to get to know each other better and worship together with our Bishop. Keith Weatherford from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in the Synod Day Coordinator.

Please pray for all those attending the gathering that the Holy Spirit fill them and that everyone travels safely.

Rev. Jason Asselstine, Associate to the Bishop



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN MINISTRIES ANNUAL REPORT

ABIDING AND ADAPTING

For 54 years, St. John's has provided an array of human services that span the arc of life from beginning to end, while abiding in a mission to provide living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love. Amidst rapidly changing resident and healthcare needs among seniors, combined with diminishing traditional sources of revenue, **St. John's is in process of intentional discernment, planning and repositioning in order to adapt, serve and sustain organizational well-being.**



This joint venture of St. John's and St. Vincent Healthcare is now into its second successful year of providing premier quality care to senior residents at location in the Billings Heights. At year-end 2017, independent living apartments were 88% occupied. Assisted living and memory care resident populations are steadily growing. Residency inquiry is gladly welcome.



HOME HEALTH AND HOSPICE

In 2017, Senior Independence of Montana, a joint venture between St. John's, the Billings Clinic and Big Sky Senior Services, provided home health care to 400 patients and hospice care to 92 patients in Yellowstone County. Inquiries are welcome as these valued services continue to expand.

PEOPLE SERVED

In 2017, St. John's Lutheran Ministries provided:

- **1,452** seniors with housing and life wellness experiences.
- **90** children received daily care within the Billings on-campus Center for Generations.
- **191** students received formal internship experience or scholarship support, including a pastoral intern.
- **420** people received outpatient occupational, physical or speech therapy.
- **375** people received inpatient rehabilitative care.
- **110** long-term care residents received a variety of rehabilitative and wellness services.



Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and St. John's Lutheran Ministries have remained united in mission since 2002. In 2017, staff across Montana counseled 65 individuals dealing with an unplanned pregnancy, inclusive of birthparents and related family members. Seven agency adoption placements were completed. Six eligible families await placement with a child and seven more are in the process of becoming eligible. Thirteen birthparents and adoptees received assistance with search and reunion, and two reunions were orchestrated. For the twelfth consecutive year, LSS was awarded a Dave Thomas Foundation Grant to help match children in state foster care with forever families. Our Wendy's Wonderful Kids recruiter, Diana Tolstedt, continues to work with children, families and foster children placement into permanent homes. During Adoption Awareness month U.S. Senator, Steve Daines, honored Diana for her faithful work in guiding Montanans through all aspects of the adoption process. LSS is in process of expanding its counseling and consultative services. In 2017, LSS provided 236 hours of mental health counseling and consultation, including services to Lutheran pastors of the Montana Synod. New staff additions include Trudi Paulson, LCSW, as Director of Family Services and Janet Ross, SWLC, as Birthparent/Adoption Counselor and Mental Health Counselor.

PHILANTHROPY

St. John's and Lutheran Social Services are grateful for generous donors. Our endowed funds currently total \$5 million, providing enough income to meet 10% of charity care for residents in need. Program fees, deferred maintenance and Seeds of Kindness annual fund gifts from staff and friends of St. John's add to providing for charity care needs. In 2018, the St. John's Foundation will launch an Endowment Campaign to increase financial capacity to sustain services and improve quality of care at a time when traditional sources of funding are diminishing.

Please consider these ministries in your annual and planned giving.

Call the Foundation Office at 406.655.5332, or go on-line at www.sjlm.org or www.lssmt.org to send gifts of hope, dignity and love. Thank you!

Montana Synod Strategic Benchmarks

Our Mission: *"Marked by the cross of Christ forever, abundantly blessed, we faithfully serve God and neighbor."*

Our Vision: *"Every person a witness, Every minister equipping witness, Every congregation and ministry, empowered for witness, serving faithfully."*



5. Support congregations.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another (Gal 5:13)

We are a resource to congregations and pastors. The Synod leadership, staff and volunteer, will provide support to congregations to empower them to live out their calling as centers of mission. We will encourage and support the development of networks among clergy, lay leaders and congregations.

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Our Mission: *"Marked by the cross of Christ forever, abundantly blessed, we faithfully serve God and neighbor."*

Our Vision: *"Every person a witness, Every minister equipping witness, Every congregation and ministry, empowered for witness, serving faithfully."*

The Montana Synod will measure its own faithfulness to our mission and vision and to the task of providing leadership to the Montana Synod by the following benchmarks:

1. Meet the future boldly.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart. (Jer 29:11-13)

We will take risks for the sake of the Gospel, remembering that Jesus said that whoever wants to save your life will lose it, and the only way to be a disciple is to pick up a cross and follow. We will learn from our conversations with congregations and we will model faithful, visionary ministry that is more prophetic than safe.

2. Serve the world, especially the poor and those who are in need.

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (John 3:16-17)

We will be able to articulate how everything that we do, everything that we advocate, everything that we commit time and money to will serve the world, remembering that the Gospel of John tells us that God so loved the world as to give Jesus, for the whole world. Through direct action, advocacy and cooperative work, we will minister to the poor, the poor in spirit, the forgotten and neglected. Realizing that this mission field is limitless, we will encourage coalitions, cooperation and establishment of meaningful priorities.

3. Deepen faith and witness.

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matt 28:18-20)

We remember that Jesus called us to go and make disciples of all nations. We will support and encourage congregations to remain faithful in worship, Word and Sacrament. We will support congregations as they encourage their members to grow in faith and to broaden their witness in their communities and beyond.

4. Promote unity.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus (Phil 2:1-5)

We remember Paul's image of the body of Christ. We will maintain a clear sense of who we are and whose we are. We will celebrate our diversity within the unity that is ours in Christ. We will give thanks for our many gifts of the Spirit as we explore our different responsibilities within the body.

5. Support congregations.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another (Gal 5:13)

We are a resource to congregations and pastors. The Synod leadership, staff and volunteer, will provide support to congregations to empower them to live out their calling as centers of mission. We will encourage and support the development of networks among clergy, lay leaders and congregations.