

**OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

1326 1st Ave N  
Great Falls, MT 59401

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Our Savior's  
**News FROM THE PEWS**

OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**Great Falls, MT**

February 2019

In June, at the Synod Assembly, there will be an election for a new Bishop for the Montana Synod. Bishop Jessica Crist has indicated she will not run for a third term and will retire at the end of the summer.

As a part of the MT Synod, we have many ways to participate in this important step in our ministry. One is to pray for the process and whoever the Holy Spirit is calling to that office.

Another is to participate in a Synod Vision Questionnaire. This has been developed as a way for ALL of us to reflect on and communicate our thoughts about the priorities and leadership needs of the synod. In many ways this process is like a call process for a congregation.

With that in mind, each person is encouraged to complete the survey following this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/1FSBEmail>

This link will also be posted on the weekly email update. If completing the survey online is not a possibility, OSLC will have at least one meeting to help folks prepare the survey alternately. Please watch for more information.

The completed questionnaires are due by March 1st. Once the results are in, a summary of the information will be prepared by the Planning, Research and Evaluation department of the ELCA and provided for distribution by the MT Synod Office.

Please join me in prayer as we all prepare for this important transition. And if you have any questions, please be in touch.

Blessings, Pastor Anna

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## Library News



For fans of Father Tim and the Residents of Mitford, you may enjoy reading, To Be Where You Are, by Jan Karon. Thanks to Kay Krezelok for donating to the library The Time Keeper by Mitch Albom and The Christmas List by Richard Paul Evans.



## FISH

Thank you to the following folks who worked at FISH during our short 3 day week: Jerry & Lorraine Myhr, Kay Krezelok, Daryle & Sharon Odden, Anne Schmidt, Wende Curry, Fred Martens, Nancy Traner, Emil Vanni, Carole Miller Gloria Johnson, Juanita Hogenson, Judy Ludtke, Carol Anderson, Shirley Boettcher and Harold Spilde.

FISH provided food to 34 families, 54 adults, 40 children, and gave out 1963 pounds of food.

## Young at Heart

Have you ever heard, “Indian Country is like another world”? Young at Heart travels to that world in February, on President’s Day, no less. Join us on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in Lunde hall to enjoy a stimulating DVD, “100 Years---One Woman’s Fight for Justice.” This film depicts the life and work of Blackfoot woman, Eloise Cobell. Working in banking on the reservation, Eloise was amazed to find that the lands and resources held in trust for Native Americans and which generates millions of dollars to the federal government had no accounting, with vague and inconsistent records showing the value and pay to native people if any. Ms. Cobell made it her life’s goal to find out where the money went, and seek that the federal government to pay what was due to native people across the country. Many elders had been living in poverty for decades and had received pennies on the dollar for what their land and/ or resources were worth. Ms. Cobell was running out of time to right the injustice which 100 years of broken promises had fostered.

We will break for refreshments half way through the video and look forward to authentic Native American goodies. (Carol and Stan Juneau, members of the Blackfeet and the Mandan/Hidatsa tribes will be with us to answer questions.)

## Book Club

Do you enjoy reading a variety of books? Book Club may be for you. The next meeting is Monday, February 25, at Juanita Hogenson’s home. The book for February is The Aviator’s Wife by Melanie Benjamin.



# Our Savior’s Lutheran

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Anna Merritt

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727-4304

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727-4331

Web Site:

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**Office Hours:**

Monday through Friday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

## STAFF

Anna Merritt

Pastor (H - 836-7464)

Emily Durazo

Parish Administrator

Harlan Orham

Treasurer

Ellen Forslund

Worship & Music Director

Madeleine Folkerts

Accompanist

Terry Lee

Custodian

## COUNCIL

Laura Vanni-Kelly 870-2946

**President**

Kathy Maynard 750-5446

**Vice President**

Jerry Ramstead 761-6639

Odetta Arcand 268-8567

Tyler Gunderson 217-7028

Don Marberg 788-7068

Fred Martens 268-1431

Joyce Morgan 761-7894

Michelle Bruner 770-3522

## FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP GROUP

*Darla Dillabough	Don Marberg
Amy Ford	Pat Marsden
Bob & Lynn Lemke	Fred & Bonnie Martens
Sharon LePard	Robbie Martens
Catherine Lowden	* <i>name is the month's coordinator</i>
Judy Ludtke	
Dick Marberg	



Blessings to all who celebrate birthdays in:  
**February!**

*If we have missed anyone's birthday, please call the Church Office.*

Wendy Fiske	2/01	Gary Bjelland	2/15
Wende Curry	2/02	Kailey Rush	
Phil Hogenson		Susan Bueling	2/17
Cara Myers	2/03	Trenton Cross	
Amanda Harvey	2/04	Pat Onstad	2/18
Don Marberg	2/05	Kates Senn	
Adam Vanni		Dusty Molyneaux	2/20
Anelisa Carroll	2/06	Pam Erickson	2/21
Lindy Eberl		Jeff LaRock	
Taylor Curry	2/09	Ann Buen	2/22
Christyl Myers	2/11	Jessica Gee	
Tavia Bangen	2/12	Jim Hill	
Samone Tessmer		Pat Tessmer	
Jerry Myhr	2/13	River Hanson	2/24
Karen Andersen	2/14	Marissa Amato	2/26
Jocelyn Pritchard		Dave Dowson	2/27
Kerrie Ramstead		Blanche Westfall	
William Turville		Brooke Hanson	2/29

### Directory Update

Please update your 2019 directories with the following information:  
Patricia Arcand has married to Michael Kooreny, and their phone number is 509-200-8420.  
Joyce Morgan's cell phone number is 590-7894.

### Kogadus Renewal Ministry—Administrative Assistant Position

Kogadus Renewal Ministry has an opening for an Administrative Assistant. If you, or someone you know may be interested in the position, please email or stop by to see Emily in the church office to get the position description and the instructions for application.

### WELCA News

- ◇ Love Day Quilters plan to meet again February 7 and February 21 at 9:30. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy fun fellowship and putting quilts together for Lutheran World Relief.
- ◇ Circles will meet on February 28. Martha Circle at the church at 10:30 am and Miriam Circle at Clarice Flanagan's home at 1:30 pm.
- ◇ WELCA Board will meet February 13 at 1:15.
- ◇ Looking Ahead, the Lenten Brunch will be April 6 at the Meadow Lark Country Club.



### Concordia Minnesota Choir

The Concordia Choir (Moorhead, MN) will be performing in Great Falls on March 14<sup>th</sup> at Great Falls High School Auditorium at 7:30 pm. It will be an amazing concert featuring music from J. S. Bach to contemporary choral works. Tickets are \$16.52 and available for purchase at: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/4048958>. If you would be able to house students on the evening of March 14, feeding them breakfast the next morning, and returning them to GFHS, please contact Barbara Swaby at swaby1@gmail.com or call 727-2422. Thank you in advance for your help.



### Ladies: Let's Do Lunch

Come enjoy no-host lunch, fellowship, and one another's company at the next Ladies: Let's Do Lunch on Thursday, February 14, at 11:45 am at Maple Garden, 5401 9th Ave S. Please let Pastor Anna know by February 11 that you plan to come. Friends are welcome!!



### Farewell and Godspeed

Mark your calendars for a farewell/shower for Emily Durazo, Parish Administrator, on Sunday, February 24, following worship. If you would like to help with food, etc., please contact Wende Curry (750-5004 or wendecurry@gmail.com) as soon as possible.





### First Quarter Special Offering

The first quarter special offering envelopes are designated for the camperships to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. To learn more about this important ministry, a representative will be with us on Sunday, February 10. Come to hear more about how camp can make a life-long impact on our youth. And how you can help.



### Praying for Others

Everyone has the gift of prayer and praying for others is an invitation everyone can accept. The commitment to praying for others at Our Savior's is that one time each day you remember to God the person chosen for you by random drawing. You may not know their specific needs or even know them well. Simply remembering them by name is sufficient. And just for fun, we keep the person for whom you are praying private until the end of the quarter.

Would you like to have a name given to you for the next quarter? Please let Pastor Anna know by Monday, February 25. The new quarter begins March 1. You will be notified by phone or email (you may also email your interest to Pastor Anna at [pastor@oslgreatfalls.org](mailto:pastor@oslgreatfalls.org)).

### The Montana Synod of the ELCA

Recently Bishop Jessica Crist wrote in her weekly column for the electronic newsletter (to receive the weekly newsletter, see the "sign up for our weekly newsletter tab!" on the [montanasynod.org](http://montanasynod.org) website) answers to the question "Who needs the ELCA? (Hint: we do)."

Bishop Jessica writes: "Our ministry is our community, our Synod, and the wider church. And that wider ministry happens through the ELCA." To help explain about that ministry, she continued: "We are a connected church. We know that we are able to do more ministry and more effective ministry because we are partnered with one another...Congregations send money to the Montana Synod, and the synod sends approximately 40% of that on to the wider church through the ELCA."

What happens to the 60% Montana Synod keeps? Support for: campus ministries; the Northern Rockies Institute of Theology; congregations on Montana reservations; Lutheran Social Services; Freedom in Christ Prison Ministry; training for lay pastors (Sharon Odden and Cynthia Thomas are two LPA's from OSLC); first call pastor continuing education; candidates for ministry and the list widens to companion synods in Bolivia and the Cape Orange Diocese of South Africa. The 40% to the ELCA helps support Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA seminaries and colleges, and more over the budgeted \$11,000 for 2019.

Our Savior's was blessed with an overage of \$3,900 from giving versus spending in 2018. \$1,000 was approved at the annual meeting to be sent to the Montana Synod. Can we do more? How might we learn more and become even more involved in the work of the wider church through the ELCA? Please talk with Pastor Anna about your ideas.

## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH FINANCIAL REPORT

December 2018		YEAR TO DATE	
Beginning Balance	-12,946.56	Beginning Balance	0
General Offerings	33,521.28	Offerings YTD	204,043.91
Disbursements	16,674.50	Disbursements YTD	200,143.69
Ending Balance	3,900.22	Ending Balance	3,900.22

### CHANGE FOR CHANGE

**The December total was \$94.44**

Thank you for your generosity!



### Special Note of Thanks

Dear Friends at Our Savior's Lutheran Church,

I certainly wanted to send along a personal note of gratitude to accompany our standard thank you letter. As I have stated for so long, there is really no way to adequately express our thanks or come close to finding the right words. My/our thanks to you all come from a deeper place than words can say. Your support of our residents once again this Christmas season is appreciated so very much.

However, I will say that Our Savior's was prominently highlighted this year at our Resident and Staff Christmas Celebrations. One of the staff spoke at the Staff and Board party and stated that unconditional acceptance is a reality we truly experience from the good people of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. I know that what you do is for our resident population, but a byproduct is helping staff realize that what they do is valued or recognized by other members of the community. It has been a challenging year for our program and we often do question the true worth of our efforts.

Anyway, we mixed up the Resident Christmas party this year and placed more emphasis on family involvement. We provided games, prizes and took photos in front of the Christmas tree for those who wanted to send them out to loved ones. The feedback we received was very positive and the event had a more interactive feel. I think you would all approve.

Thank you all again, and may you have a happy and healthy new year.

Sincerely, Paul Cory

