

# Northern Rockies Institute Of Theology (NRIT)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Northern Rockies Institute of Theology is a continuing theological education ministry of the Montana Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. NRIT exists to provide and promote lifelong learning for the people of the Montana Synod (and their neighbors), for the purpose of equipping them in their lives of ministry.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION And LIFELONG LEARNING

The Lutheran Church has always valued education, both for its clergy and for its laity. Martin Luther was a professor who advocated not only a learned ministry, but also a well-informed laity. Lutheran congregations are centers of learning and mission. NRIT assists congregations in their teaching of the faith. NRIT offers courses and events that are specifically geared to the congregational level. NRIT offers courses that help the teachers and pastoral leaders of the church in their teaching role. All NRIT courses are open to everyone. If you have any question about a course, contact us.

ELCA pastors, AIMS and diaconal ministers (rostered people) are expected to do 50 hours of continuing theological education annually. As part of the compensation package, congregations are asked to grant two weeks of time for continuing education annually, in addition to funding. This time is not vacation, and the money is not the same as a book allowance. Congregations are encouraged to work with the pastor/ AIM / diaconal minister and the synod to provide opportunities for sabbatical, as well.

NRIT is the Montana Synod's program ministry for clergy and laity, and is accountable to the church. We love to work with you to help put on programs, bring in speakers, address the issues that are at the heart of your community. We are your ministry.

## CELEBRATE NRIT SUNDAY

**October 26, Reformation Sunday is NRIT Sunday.** Celebrate our Reformation heritage by including NRIT in your prayers and special offerings. Watch for bulletin inserts and opportunities to contribute.

### Staff (part-time)

Director: Ms. Jenny Kunka  
Assistant: Patti Horst

### Advisory Committee

Rev. Wayne Pris, Somers  
Mr. Mike Young, Billings  
Ms. Joan Schmidt, Chair, Fairfield  
Rev. Al Beyer, Culbertson  
Ms. Julie Long, Missoula  
Bishop Jessica Crist

**Did you know that your tuition makes up less than 1/3 of the NRIT budget?**

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

**Register early for events.** We refund if you cannot attend.

**Consider a donation,** either individually, or from your congregation's budget or endowment.

**Honor your pastor, AIM, or other minister:**

Make a donation in honor of an anniversary of ordination, consecration or commissioning.

**Give us feedback.** Share ideas, resources, speakers.

### HOW YOU CAN REACH US

NRIT, 2415 13<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
406-453-1461 [www.nrit.org](http://www.nrit.org)  
email: [nrit@nrit.org](mailto:nrit@nrit.org)

### NRIT and Hein-Fry Lecture Series

NRIT has been chosen to administer the ELCA's prestigious endowed Hein-Fry Lecture Series, providing lectures at each of the ELCA's 8 seminaries.

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**Continuing Education  
Life-Long Learning**

**Fall 2008  
Course Offerings**

# Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

## FALL 2008 COURSE OFFERINGS

### New to Montana Workshop

#### Montana Association of Churches

*This workshop is for ministers and their families who have moved to Montana. It is an opportunity to get to know your new state, and some ecumenical colleagues as well.*

Contact the Montana Synod for more information

Sept. 15, 16, 2008

Ursuline Center, Great Falls, MT

### Luther Lectures 2008 Dr. Timothy Wengert

*"Martin Luther's Small Catechism and Parish Renewal" is the topic for the Luther Lectures. Individual lectures are: I. "Luther's Small Catechism: Tasting it Again for the First Time," II. "Dying and Rising: The Ten Commandments and the Apostle's Creed," III. "Thunder: Prayer as Rubbing God's Ears with God's Promises," IV. "Treasure: The Sacraments as 'Signs and Wonders'."*

Oct. 2,3, 2008

8 Contact Hours

Chico Hot Springs, Pray

\$70/\$60

### Growing in God's Field Kathryn Love

*This 2 day evangelism event has something for everyone – keynotes, worship, workshops and ministry models. Group rates make this affordable for congregational groups.*

*Contact the Montana Synod Office.*

Oct. 10-11, 2008 Helena

### Boundaries Training

*This event on sexual misconduct is offered for rostered leaders and LPA's of the Montana Synod.*

Oct. 10, 2008

5 Contact Hours

Helena

\$25

### The Beginning of the Gospel: Living and Preaching Mark Rev. Dr. David Mesner

*This workshop delves into the Gospel of Mark, which is the Gospel for the upcoming liturgical year. Rev. Dr. Mesner will follow the Gospel lessons and speak on both living and preaching the scripture.*

5 Contact Hours

\$50/\$45

Oct. 28, 2008 Bethany Lutheran, Big Fork

Oct. 29, 2008 St. Paul's Lutheran, Missoula

Oct. 30, 2008 Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Billings

### Book of Faith Initiative Dr. Diane Jacobson

*Dr. Jacobson will discuss the Book of Faith Initiative, talk about Lutheran insights and do a Bible study using the methods commended in "Opening the Book of Faith."*

5 Contact Hours

\$60

(Look for discount registration opportunities.)

Nov. 7, 2008 First English, Great Falls

Nov. 8, 2008 Christ the King, Bozeman

Nov. 10, 2008 American Lutheran, Billings

### Plan ahead for these events:

### Midwinter Theological Conference Dr. Jim Limburg

*"First Things First: Creation in the Bible, the Catechism and the Life of the Church." This conference will give attention to the creation theme in the first chapters of the Bible and first article of the Creed.*

Feb. 2-4, 2009

11 Contact Hours

Izaak Walton Inn, Essex

### Sabbath Reflections Richard Bruesehoff and Bishop Jessica Crist

*Take some time to reflect and renew during lent. The presenters will travel to four locations around Montana.*

Mar. 16, 2009 Missoula

Mar. 17, 2009 Bozeman

Mar. 18, 2009 Billings

Mar. 19, 2009 Glendive

### Reformation Neighbors: Lutheran and Hutterite Evangelicals in Montana Pr. Paul Seastrand, PhD

*Alongside Martin Luther's "conservative" reformation developed the so-called "radical" reformation whose descendants include Hutterites, Mennonites and Amish in Montana. Rev. Seastrand will present a history of these groups and provide a view of their faith and way of life.*

Dates and Location TBA

5 Contact Hours

### A Window on the World of Islam Pr. Steve Benson

*Rev. Benson draws on his Master's degree in Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations as well as experience in Muslim-Christian relations in this four lecture series. Benson will speak on "Getting to know the other Sibling," "In Search of Lost Pride – Tradition or Revision?" "Jihad and the Islamic State – Religion or Politics" and "Islam's Challenge to Christianity."*

Dates and Location TBA

5 Contact Hours

### Care for Returning Veterans Pr. John Allen et al.

*As veterans return from wars abroad, there are a host of issues for veterans, families, communities and churches. These workshops will provide resources for pastors and caregivers to help them understand and work with returning veterans.*

Dates and Location TBA

4 contact hours

#### MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CHURCHES LAY MINISTRY INSTITUTE

*The MAC LMI is an ecumenical program preparing lay leaders to serve their congregations and to grow in their own spiritual development. A variety of classes will be offered. For more information contact [info@montana-churches.org](mailto:info@montana-churches.org), or call 406-449-6010.*