

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 31, 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: Ms. Susan Smith

Advisory Committee

Rev. Al Beyer, Chair, Culbertson
Rev. Deb Abbott, Kalispell
Mr. Larry Goehner, Columbus
Ms. Julie Long, Missoula
Rev. Jason Asselstine, Choteau
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 13th Ave. S
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-453-1461 www.nrit.org
email: j.kunka@nrit.org

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*30 Years of
Continuing Education
and Life-Long Learning*

*Fall 2010
Course Offerings*

Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

FALL 2010 COURSE OFFERINGS

Boundaries Training

Barbara Keller

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

Sept. 10, 2009

5 Contact Hours

Our Savior's Lutheran, Great Falls, MT

Social Media

Barbara Keller

The social media workshop should be able to provide guidelines for congregations trying to stay current with all of the social media changes that young people, in particular, are using to quickly communicate. It provides safety suggestions for congregations and ways to help young people protect themselves from risky, impulsive communication.

Sept. 9, 2009 (evening)

3 Contact Hours

Our Savior's Lutheran, Great Falls, MT

Growing in God's Field

Contact the Synod Office at 406-453-1461 to register.

Oct. 8-10, 2010

Colonial Inn, Helena MT

Luther Lectures

Dr. Robert Jenson

Dr. Jenson has served as professor and lecturer at Luther College, Oxford University, Luther Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, St. Olaf College, and Princeton as well as other universities. Jenson was co-founder of "Dialog", co-founder of The Center for Catholic and Evangelical Theology and co-founder of "Pro Ecclesia". He will speak on "Slogans Taken from Luther: Use and Abuse."

Oct. 14-15, 2010

8 Contact Hours

Chico Hot Springs, Pray MT

\$80/\$65

(Plus cost of food and lodging at Chico Hot springs)

Lectionary Preaching from the Old Testament

Dr. Tom Lee.

The Revised Common Lectionary with its inclusion of semi-continuous readings from the Hebrew Bible, along with other changes and additions, now provides more options for preaching from the Old Testament. This workshop will explore new possibilities for preaching using selected texts from Year A and the close of Year C, and will address some of the interpretive issues of using the Old Testament for Christian proclamation.

5 Contact Hours \$75/60

Oct. 18, 2010 Redeemer Lutheran, Great Falls, MT

Oct. 19, 2010 First Lutheran, Havre, MT

Oct. 20, 2010 First Lutheran, Wolf Point, MT

Following Jesus According to the Gospel of

Matthew

Dr. Ray Pickett

These sessions will focus on the Sermon on the Mount as an interpretive key for the lectionary Gospel in the year of Matthew and for the narrative as a whole. We will explore the Gospel of Matthew as an expression of a form of Christian Judaism engaging in mission to the Gentile world and discuss the significance of the vision of Matthew in contemporary contexts.

5 Contact Hours \$75/\$60

Nov. 11, 2010 Bethlehem Lutheran, Kalispell, MT

Nov. 12, 2010 Atonement Lutheran, Missoula, MT

Nov. 13, 2010 American Lutheran, Billings, MT

Biblical Responses to Suffering and Evil

Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker

What does a good God have to do with suffering and evil? We will explore biblical responses to the issue of suffering and the experience of evil, touching particularly on the psalms of lament, the book of Job, the

prophetic writings, the Gospels and the letters of Paul.

5 Contact Hours \$75/\$60

Nov. 5, 2010 Trinity Lutheran, Choteau, MT

Courage to Lead – Introductory “Circle of Trust” Retreat for Clergy and Leaders of all Faiths

Explore paths to renew and sustain leaders' spiritual resources and contribute to the vitality of congregational life.

**Nov. 15-17, 2010 Mountain Top Retreat Center,
Bozeman, MT – Contact Chris Love for more info at
406-961-8846 or ctloveanr@aol.com**

Plan ahead for these events:

Midwinter Theological Conference

Dr. Samuel Torvend

Fostering foundational Christian practices in the congregation. This topic will focus on a) a model for congregational life which b) focuses on attention to spiritual practices (within a baptismal/vocational framework) and c) a concrete plan to help members become aware of and focused on their own spiritual practices.

Feb. 14-16, 2010

11 Contact Hours

Izaak Walton Inn, Essex

The Ecumenical Church in a Globalized World

Dr. Karen Bloomquist

Dates and Locations TBA

5 Contact Hours

Sabbath Reflections **Richard Bruesehoff and Bishop Jessica Crist**

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

Dates and Locations TBA

Transitions Retreat: Closing Well, Starting Strong

Rev. Jean Larson and Mr. Daniel Kemmis

If you have recently made a change in your ministry setting or are approaching a change, consider coming to a Transitions Seminar. Participants will receive handouts and resources. The workshop is ecumenically appropriate and is open to all denominations. It is designed to assist the transition of the minister and family into a new position.

Dates and Location TBA

Pastoral Leadership

Paul Bentley

Bentley, a pastor for twenty years and now Program Dir. for the Leadership Program at MSU in Bozeman, offers a course on leadership within congregations. Effective leadership is a process of serving others and influencing those we serve to do likewise. Christian leaders cannot "take" the role of the leader based on title, their role is given to them by those they lead. The pastoral leadership program is built on this foundation of servant-leadership.

Dates and Locations TBA

5 Contact Hours

Visit NRIT online at www.nrit.org.

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, or call 406-449-6010.