

# 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.

## Staff (part-time)

Director: Ms. Jenny Kunka  
Admin. Asst.: Susan Smith

## Advisory Committee

Ms. Julie Long, Chair, Missoula  
LPA, Larry Goehner, Columbus  
Rev. Miriam Schmidt, Plains  
Rev. Jason Asselstine, Choteau  
Rev. Paul Seastrand, Lewistown  
Bishop Jessica Crist  
Ms. Jenny Kunka, Director

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

**Several people have been able to attend NRIT events through our scholarship help. For more information on scholarships go to [www.nrit.org](http://www.nrit.org) or call 406-452-1663.**

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*Learning for Life for more  
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**Continuing Education  
Life-Long Learning**

**Spring 2012  
Course Offerings**

# Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

## Spring 2012 COURSE OFFERINGS

### Midwinter Theological Conference

**Dr. Cheryl Peterson**

*We are living in a time when survival is on the minds of most mainline denominations. Many congregations are trying to figure out how to "do church better" to bring the numbers back up. However, the real crisis is one of identity, not numbers. The church has forgotten who it is, who it has been called to be by God, and the mission to which God has called it. Dr. Peterson will address this identity crisis and offer her own constructive proposal of the church as a Spirit-breathed people. She will examine the Holy Spirit as the Giver of Life who both equips the church through Word and Sacrament and empowers the church for mission.*

*This retreat includes time for worship, prayer and relaxation.*

**January 30-February 1**

**Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, MT**

**11 Contact Hrs**

**\$80/70 plus**

**room and board**

### Renew: Youth and Family Ministry Retreat

**Dr. Andrew Root**

*The "Renew" Retreat is for those who minister to youth and families in congregations. Those invited include pastors, parents, youth directors and others who volunteer their time to help with youth and family ministry.*

***Relationships Unfiltered:** The first presentation will explore the cultural transitions that have made relationships an essential part of youth ministry. The second presentation will discuss a theological recasting of the practice of relational youth ministry; seeing how using relationships to influence young people may be problematic. We will instead re-imagine relational youth ministry as place-sharing. The third presentation will explore the questions: "How can I go about being a place-sharer in youth ministry? What would it look like personally?"*

**Contact hours available**

**March 1-3 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp**

**Co-sponsored by NRIT and FLBC**

**Retreat begins March 1 with 6:30 supper and ends before lunch on March 3.**

**\$160 for room/board and tuition. To register contact**

**Brooke Ells at [Brooke@flbc.net](mailto:Brooke@flbc.net) or call 406-844-3201.**

### Domestic Violence and the Faith Community: A training seminar for clergy and lay leaders in congregations

**Ms. Mitzi Vorachek**

*This ecumenically appropriate workshop will address the dynamics and issues of domestic violence. Ms. Vorachek will talk about Montana law along with mandatory reporting and confidentiality, orders of protection and legal ramifications. She will also speak to safety planning within congregations, as well as religious responses such as strategies for working with victims and perpetrators in congregations. Participants will learn of helpful resources.*

**9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**5 Contact Hours**

**April 23, Northridge Lutheran Church, Kalispell**

**April 24, Our Redeemer's, Helena**

**May 7, Peace Lutheran, Billings**

**\$45**

### Christikon Continuing Education Retreat

*This annual theological retreat offers a series of lectures along with afternoon free-time for re-creation at Christikon Bible Camp. Cost is \$146 for adults plus a \$146 speaker's fee per family. Children 6-12 are half price and children under 6 are free.*

**July 23-26 For more information contact Rev. Bob Quam at: [christikon@aol.com](mailto:christikon@aol.com) or 406-656-1969 or go to [www.Christikon.org](http://www.Christikon.org)**

### Luther's Spirituality of Prayer

**Dr. Mary Jane Haemig**

**Tentative dates and locations:**

**Monday, Aug 27 St Paul Lutheran, Cut Bank**

**Tuesday, Aug 28, TBA**

**Wednesday, Aug 29, First Lutheran, Wolf Point**

**9am – 3pm**

**\$75/\$60**

**5 Contact Hrs**

### WATCH FOR THESE IN THE FALL

### Luther Lectures

**Dr. Gordon Jensen.**

**Oct. 18-18, 2012**

**8 Contact Hours**

**Chico Hot Springs, Pray**

**\$80/\$70**

### Bishop's Convocation

**Oct. 26, 2012**

### The Old Testament Texts

*A look at the Old Testament texts for the coming year*

**Dates and Locations TBA**

**\$75/60**

### The Gospel of Luke

**Dates and Locations TBA**

**\$75/60**

**YOU MAY SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOPS ONLINE AT  
[www.nrit.org](http://www.nrit.org)**