

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 questions 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

Rev. Al Beyer, Chair, Culbertson
Rev. Deb Koch, Billings
LPA Julie Long, Missoula
Rev. Jason Asselstine, Choteau
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 13th Ave. S
Great Falls, MT 59405
406-453-1461 www.nrit.org
email: 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 or call 406-452-1663.

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**Spring 2010
Course Offerings**

NRIT
Montana Synod ELCA
2415 13th Ave. S.
Great Falls, MT 59405

Address Service Requested

Northern Rockies Institute of Theology

Spring 2010 COURSE OFFERINGS

Midwinter Theological Conference

Dr. Gail Ramshaw

Preparation for Lent:

Dr. Ramshaw, a scholar of liturgical language and professor at LaSalle University, has written many books and liturgical helps. She will present sessions filled with practical theology as well as help for pastors and lay leaders preparing for lent. Bring your Cycle C lectionary as the lectures will look at all the Sunday readings for Lent Cycle C. There will also be time for worship, prayer and relaxation.

January 11 – 13

11 Contact Hrs

Izaak Walton Inn, Essex, MT

\$75/60 plus room

Evangelism and Prayer

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Love

During our time together we will open God's word to understand more clearly and deeply prayer ministry in the hope that it will cause us to become fully engaged in equipping others as a result of our growth and renewed understanding.

Dr. Love will lead us in this evangelism experience which will also be a time of worshipping together and singing from the ELW. Music led by Julie Long and others.

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

5 Contact Hours

February 6 Our Savior's Lutheran, Great Falls, MT
\$75/60 Clergy/LPA

***Discount: Bring a group from your congregation for \$300. Group must register together. Two small congregations can combine for the discount.**

Sabbath Reflections

Rev. Dick Bruesehoff

This event is designed to be a mini-sabbath during Lent. Pr. Richard Bruesehoff and Bishop Jessica Crist will meet with clergy and other leaders in 3 locations across the state for a day of prayer, reflection and renewal.

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

March 15, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Polson

March 16, St. John's Lutheran, Helena

March 17, Kathy Lillis Memorial Chapel, on the campus of St. John's, Billings

\$10

4.5 Contact Hours

Pastoral Leadership Skills

Paul Bentley

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. This retreat will provide an opportunity for participants to reflect upon the unique leadership skills needed within a congregation. Included in the workshop are tools for finding both leadership strengths and weaknesses and chances to connect skills learned to their current roles.

April 22-23 Noon on Thursday to 1 pm Friday

Ursuline Retreat Centre, Great Falls, MT

\$75/\$60 plus lodging at Ursuline 10 Contact Hours

A New Heaven and A New Earth: Cultural Competency Training for the Northwest

Rev. Greg Holler-Dinsmore and others

A two-day ecumenical workshop that assists in building skills to effectively communicate with a diversity of people, to initiate and deepen relationships across cultural, ethnic and racial difference.

Led by an ecumenical staff trained by Eric Law of the Kaleidoscope Institute.

May 6-7

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

\$75/\$60

Approx. 10 Contact Hrs

TRANSITIONS: Closing Well...Starting Strong

Pr. Jean Larson and 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.

May 17-19 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

15 Contact Hours

Cost TBA

Montana Association of Churches Lay Ministry Institute Courses

Courses for lay people sponsored by the Montana Association of Churches:

March 19-20: The Body of Christ: Connecting to the Ecumenical Church, Bishop Jessica Crist

What does it mean to belong to the Body of Christ? What is the history of how the various denominations came to be? How are the MAC denominations like/unlike each other? What are some practical ways the churches can work together?

May 21-22 Mission and Evangelism, Rev. Patti Duckworth
How does faith connect with justice? How can we live out the mandate of the Great Commission to "go and make disciples"? What difference do we make as a church in mission here and now?

July 16-17 Nuts and Bolts of Effective Administrative Leadership, Rev. Dan Krebill

What is the process for preparing a budget? How does a congregation implement a stewardship campaign? How can I lead effective meetings? What are "safe church practices" and why are they important? What kinds of records should congregations keep? How can I recruit and work effectively with volunteers?

For more information go to www.montana-churches.net or contact Rev. Laurie Budlong-Morse 442-3525 or laurie@fcchelena.org

WATCH FOR THESE IN THE FALL

Luther Lectures

Oct. 14-15, 2009

Chico Hot Springs, Pray

Dr. Robert Jenson.

8 Contact Hours

\$75/\$60 plus lodging

The Gospel of Matthew

Dates and Locations TBA

\$75/60

The Old Testament Texts

A look at the Old Testament texts for the coming year

Dates and Locations TBA

\$75/60

ELCA Pilot Program: Clergy and response to domestic violence

YOU MAY SIGN UP FOR WORKSHOPS ONLINE AT www.nrit.org