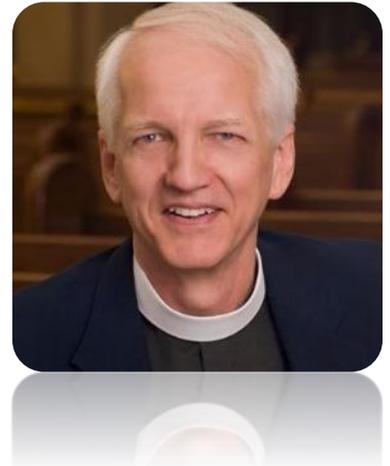




**And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7**

In just the past week we have been advised to stop gatherings of more than 250, then no more than 50, and **today the President asks that there be no gatherings of more than 10 people. It now appears that all church gatherings – worship and others – should be cancelled for at least the next two weeks, or until further guidance is given.**

We're sure you are feeling the whirlwind of ever-changing information and updates on the COVID-19 virus and precautionary steps we are to be taking. Some of you have been asking whether to hold worship. Some of you have already determined that you will worship virtually connecting via Facebook live or other means. Wherever you are in the process of discernment of the best way to stay connected and to worship together, know that your synod staff is here to help.



See our website for resources and means of staying connected as a faith community during this time. [www.scsw-elca.org](http://www.scsw-elca.org)

**SYNOD STAFF AND OFFICE COVERAGE ADJUSTMENTS**

The Synod Staff will for the most part, be working remotely for the next couple of weeks, and our office will be open on a more limited basis. Our main line will be forwarded to Robyn Zimmerman, Executive Administrative Assistant, who will either answer "live" or will retrieve voice mails and forward them to the appropriate staff person. We are reachable via email as well.

Bishop Peter Rogness – [peterr@scsw-elca.org](mailto:peterr@scsw-elca.org)

Rev. Steve Kottke – [stevek@scsw-elca.org](mailto:stevek@scsw-elca.org)

Deacon Vicki Hanrahan – [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org)

Robyn Zimmerman – [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org)

Rev. Walter Baires – [walterb@scsw-elca.org](mailto:walterb@scsw-elca.org)

Jason Xiong – [jasonx@scsw-elca.org](mailto:jasonx@scsw-elca.org)

Mobility & Transitions, Care of Congregations

What Matters, Events, Giving & Worship Resources

Candidacy, Appointments, Zoom Meeting Assistance

Faithful Innovations, Mission, Stewardship, Latino Ministries

Assistance with Streaming Technologies, Webmaster



**WORSHIP AT THE SYNOD OFFICE TRANSFORMED INTO RECORDED MESSAGE BY BISHOP ROGNESS WITH MEDITATION, LESSON & PRAYERS**

Since the synod staff are largely working remotely during the pandemic, worship will not take place on Thursdays. Instead Bishop Rogness will be recording early each week and make available to watch at a time of your choosing or to use for your own worship services. These will be available online. Watch **What Matters** and the synod website for links.

## Resources for A Time Such as This

We are updating the synod website regularly with new resources for worshipping via streaming, on-line giving, safety precautions, messages from our bishops, and more. Today we added a valuable offering from the ELCA:

### 2020 Synod & Congregation Technology Discounts

**Link:** <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/>

The ELCA has provided this list of preferred vendors and associated technology discounts for synods and congregations, "2020 Synod and Congregation Technology Discounts." With the need for creative, virtual communications to enhance community during this pandemic, this resource will help you find reputable vendors and best pricing for streaming, online giving, and more. We are grateful to the ELCA for their ongoing support!

In addition: Augsburg Fortress is offering **temporary expanded licensing for streaming worship services** for those who currently have or purchase licensing from Augsburg Fortress. From March 15 through May 31, 2020, congregations will have new permission to livestream or podcast ALL liturgy and music content under copyright to or administered by Augsburg Fortress when that content is being used for worship. Link below:

<https://go.augsburgfortress.org/temporary-expanded-licensing-for-streaming-worship-services?redirected=true>



Also on the **Coronavirus Resources page.**

<https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/>

There you will find the following:

-  **Statewide Ban on Gatherings of 50+ People**  
March 16, 2020: Order Prohibiting Mass Gatherings of 50 People or More
-  **March 14, 2020 Update from Bishop Rogness**  
Letter to all Congregations Addressing New Information & New Updated Mass Gathering Order from Madison/Dane County
-  **Prayer Resources**  
Prayers in the Midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic
-  **Online Giving Resource**  
Information for congregations to maintain giving levels during times when worship in-person is not possible.
-  **Staying Connected**  
Ways congregations can stay connected during this time of crisis.
-  **March 12, 2020 Update from Bishop Rogness**  
Letter Regarding LEAD Rescheduling & Coronavirus Response

-  **ELCA Public Health Webpage**  
Information & Resources from the ELCA for Congregations
-  **State of Wisconsin Website**  
Website with Information & Resources from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
-  **Madison/Dane County Health Department Resource**  
Resource Specific for Churches from the Madison & Dane County Health Department
-  **Wisconsin Executive Order**  
Declaring a Health Emergency
-  **SCSW Health Department Links**  
Links to County Health Departments Across the Synod
-  **March 7, 2020 Update from Bishop Rogness**  
Response Regarding Initial Steps and Resources for Congregations
-  **March 6, 2020 Letter from ELCA Presiding Bishop**  
Bishop Elizabeth Eaton Addresses Concerns About COVID-19

**A Big thank you to Jason Poole-Xiong for keeping our website especially current even as information changes so quickly!**