

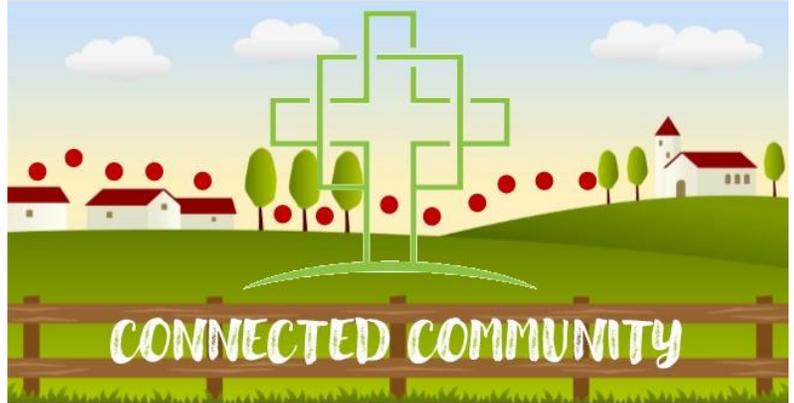
WHAT MATTERS . . . Connected Community Special Edition March 27, 2020

News from Your Synod and Ministry Partners

South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA/6401 Odana Rd./Suite 20/Madison, WI 53719/(608)270-0201/www.scsw-elca.org

CONNECTED COMMUNITY is dedicated to helping you stay connected to each other in your faith communities.

Everything to help stay connected to resources that we are curating including streamed worship services and devotions from other churches in our synod, Messages from Bishop Rogness, News stories and in general, ideas to help you continue to share the Good News of God's redemptive word can be found on this page on the Connected Community page on the synod website:



Our resource lists continue to grow each day (sometimes multiple times a day) during this crisis.

Communication and Health Resources: <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/>

Official ELCA and synod related communications can be found here.

Ideas for Ways to Stay Connected With Your Community: <https://scsw-elca.org/community/>

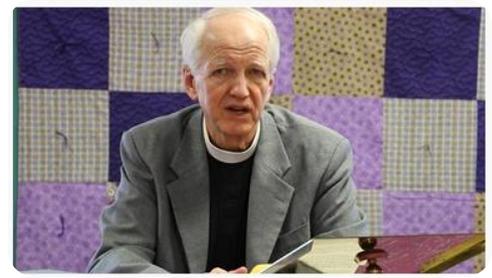
Curated resources for being in community during this time of physical distancing. Bishop Rogness' weekly video can be found here.

Links to Congregation Streamed Services and More: <https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/worship/>

Growing list of synod congregations who are live streaming worship services both on Sundays and Lent Midweek on Wednesdays. Links to these are provided. Recordings of worship can also be found here.

Worship Moments in A Time of Disruption – Video #2 Is posted Messages With Scripture Reading, Message and Prayers to Use in Your Settings from Bishop Rogness for your meditations and worship.

As we have had to stop our weekly Thursday worship in the Synod office, Bishop Rogness has recorded videos for last Sunday and the next two Sundays that follow the lectionary. These will be made available through the synod website on the **"CONNECTED COMMUNITY"** page that we have created. You might use these



as your message for your on-line worship. You might also share them

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

with your communities and invite people to stop in their day for a scripture reading, message and prayers. We're posting the first for this Sunday now and in the succeeding weeks, we will post them on Mondays.

Whatever way you use them, may God bless your worship ministry and our walk together.



Facebook

Follow us on Facebook to receive notices when we go Live! South-Central Synod of Wisconsin

Here's What You Are Telling Us You Need... Your synod staff is listening!

Staff continues to share conversations that we are all having with the leadership in our synod and here are some of this week's questions and answers or opinions that we have shared. Answers might be helpful to all.

Q1: Reassurance that Financial Offerings to Your Churches Will Continue

You will notice that we are sending these communications out to all subscribers of What Matters. That includes a lot more laity than rostered, so this is a request to all of our congregations to help ease the burden on your pastors and deacons and councils during this time who are deeply concerned that the absence of meeting in person will effect offerings. This is a real and genuine concern. Please continue to send in your offerings to the church. Do it in the way that is easiest for you. For some that may be mailing in your offering to the church. For others, you might sign up now for the on-line giving program that your church is offering. Let's have faith that God will continue, through us, to provide the financial resources we need to keep our congregations healthy and vital centers for God's mission. Consider giving a little more than you normally do to make up for those who will struggle to give during this time.

ONLINE GIVING



In March 2018 the ELCA introduced Tithe.ly as an ELCA preferred vendor for electronic giving. Featuring online, mobile and text giving options, Tithe.ly is now expanding its product line to offer

website services and church management software to ELCA congregations at a low cost. Enable members of your congregation to give online, manage your membership data or freshen up your congregation's website using Tithe.ly's suite of tools.



Link: <https://get.tithe.ly/elca>



Vanco invites ELCA congregations to enjoy special discounts on our GivePlus suite of eGiving solutions. For 20 years, Vanco has been serving ELCA congregations, helping them maximize giving and reduce the labor associated with handling gifts. Visit [GivePlus.com/ELCA](https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/elca) to learn about our eGiving tools and why nearly 4,000 ELCA congregations and more than half of ELCA synods already trust Vanco for their giving needs, including giving webpages, text donations, mobile apps and card readers. Call 855.213.3705 to find out more about how Vanco's GivePlus suite can benefit your ELCA congregation.

Link: <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/elca>

ELCA ADVANTAGE PROGRAM FOR CHURCH RELATED PRODUCTS & SERVICES



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCAvantage™ Program
Partners in good stewardship

Now, perhaps more than ever, you will be paying attention to your finances. If you are unaware that the ELCA has an Advantage Program for products and services in which you can piggyback onto discounts, you might be interested in this program.

Click here for details:

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Advantage_Brochure.pdf

Q2: Does anyone feel like they are drinking from a fire hose? How do we manage all this?

Yes! Our days are full of Zoom meetings, zoom "coffee klatches" (ask Rev. Julie Krahn about those!) and webinars. Anyone in business feels this too. Even our church calendars read differently with confirmation classes and council meetings being held via Zoom technology. It's all happening so fast. But we do caution you to take care of yourselves so we don't get "zoomed out."

Our staff is taking healthy approaches to this new way of working. Deacon Vicki takes a walk around the pond and neighborhood at the end of her day to create separation from her work day at home and play time at home. With Robyn's "home office" so close to her bedroom, she needed to respect office hours, "Or it would be too easy while laying in bed to say "Oh I should answer that email." Steve will be able to feed the horses and get up and move around during the day. So, take heed. Bishop Eaton gave her DEMs like Walter Baires an Executive order to unplug for lunch for an hour a day. Put up an away message. Breathe, go for a walk, eat lunch away from your work space. Respecting boundaries is especially important during this time.

Q3: What Should We Do About Communion?

There are many different solutions being discussed, but what is the most faithful solution? Here is a letter from Bishop Rogness addressing this topic:

<https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/HolyCommunion032020.pdf>

Q4: What Transmitter Technology Did St. John's Use to Do Their Outdoor Worship?

The story on St. John's drive-in worship garnered the attention of pastors all over the Channel 3 Now viewing area. Pastor Dale Vlastnik has received calls from pastors in Kokomo, IN, Peoria, IL and Grand Rapids, MI and our pastors in or synod are asking as well. So here is the info from Pr. Dale:

eBerry Hands-Free Wireless FM. <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01982Z5CI?tag=duckduckgo-d-20&linkCode=ogi&th=1&psc=1>

St. John's is adding music to their drive-in service and will add this technology this coming Sunday:

Reteck Portable FM Transmitter Tour Guide System Support AUX Input Music Transmi... https://www.amazon.com/dp/B07FCF94FW/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_c_api_i_omqFEbP5WKf28

Reteck FT11 Portable FM Transmitter Low Power MP3 Broadcast Radio Station Power ... https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XZ7W4WQ/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_c_api_i_3mqFEbCPJC54P

Zoweetek Flexible Wired Microphone with 3.5mm Audio Plug for Voice Amplifier and A... https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XWMZS4Y/ref=cm_sw_r_sms_c_api_i_gnqFEbB53CAQA

Q5: What are congregations doing for worship?

Your worship services and daily devotionals are as varied as our churches with music, message, prayers, single-pastor led to multiple leaders. We have posted links to past and future worship services and devotions that will be streamed with dates and times.

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

Luther Memorial (Madison) said it well: "Virtual worship is not intended to be a replacement for the real experience of gathering together, but we pray that by seeing our beautiful nave, singing familiar hymns of the faith with our majestic pipe organs, hearing the Word proclaimed by our clergy and praying together as a community, you may find peace, comfort and strength for the difficult days ahead."

Please send an email to Vicki Hanrahan @ vickih@scsw-elca.org with your online worship dates and times for this purpose.

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If you have the resources to make a donation to synod ministries directly to help us continue the good work of supporting our congregations and carry out God's mission through our work, individual donations may be made through the synod's Tithe.ly app. Text GIVE to: (608) 571-1576 - Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Every offering helps!