



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

May 14, 2020

We are in the Easter season, which means we proclaim Christ risen and among us still, no matter the circumstance!

This morning the six ELCA bishops in Wisconsin conferred regarding the possible confusion in our congregations as a result of yesterday's ruling by the state Supreme Court. Here is the brief letter we agreed to send to our congregations in this state. Our emphasis is to note that the decision was based on a contested legal issue regarding Secretary Andrea Palm's authority, and does not indicate any change in the cautions and guidelines about our life during a pandemic.

- As you continue to consider decisions about when and how to regather, please study carefully the guidance we have at hand. I suggest you have decisionmakers read and discuss a number of helpful pieces:
- Earlier this week the ELCA published updates guidelines, mentioned in the letter. Link: https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/returning-to%20In-person-worship.pdf?_ga=2.71580436.661164875.1589462851-1842824070.1553531065
- Also earlier this week, Bishop Paul Erickson in our neighboring Greater Milwaukee Synod published a letter with concise and helpful guidance, also citing other pieces worth your attention. Link: <https://milwaukee-synod.org/coronavirus-covid-19-resources-information/>
- The video of Epidemiologist Michael Osterholm's interview with Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen is 30 minutes of highly informative conversation for church leaders. Link: <https://www.facebook.com/implssynod/videos/619998971928161/>

Thank you for your partnership in stewarding the life of the God's church in this place.

Peter Rogness, Bishop
South-Central Synod of Wisconsin