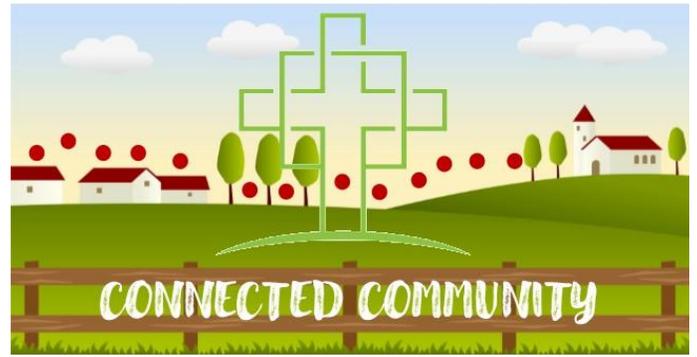


# WHAT MATTERS . . . . .

## Connected Community

### Special Edition . . . May 7, 2020



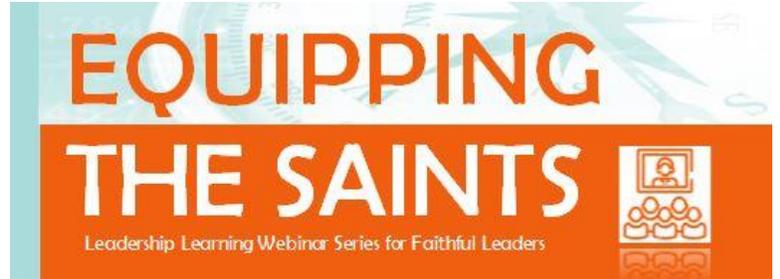
*Curated resources for this time of the pandemic  
– Special Focus this Week on Youth & Family  
Resources as well as Getting Ready to Reopen Our Churches When Orders Have Lifted*

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

## **Bishop Rogness Invites You to A Webinar Conversation About Returning to Church**

*On Monday, Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton will be sending out a communication about procedures for re-opening. On Tuesday and*

*Thursday, we are offering two webinars to discuss re-opening our churches. Rostered Ministers are invited to attend either one; lay leaders are invited to attend the Thursday evening webinar.*



### **Two Webinars are planned next week. Choose one:**

- **Tuesday, May 12, 2:00-3:00 p.m.**  
For Pastors & Deacons
- **Thursday, May 14, 7:00-8:00 p.m.**  
For Pastors, Deacons and Lay Leaders

### **To Register:**

Email Robyn at [robynz@scsw-elca.org](mailto:robynz@scsw-elca.org) and she will send you the link to participate in the Zoom meeting.

We will be framing our conversation in a similar fashion as one we attended from the NW Lower Michigan Synod led by Bishop Craig Satterlee.

- 1) Who are we going to listen to?
- 2) What plans are you making as we wait?
- 3) What will life be like when we return?
- 4) Long-term implications

### **Send Questions in Advance:**

We invite you to send your questions in advance and we will address those first. Please email those to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org) by end of the day Monday.

We will also address live questions as you may think of them during our discussion.

Recordings of the webinars will be made available on the synod website.

## HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!

### Senior Recognition Ideas – Curated by

#### ELCA Youth Ministry

Our Seniors everywhere are missing out on experiences due to Covid-19. These students have worked hard for years and will most likely not have a Prom, Graduation, Scholarship and Award nights, final choir concerts, band concerts, sports banquets, senior musicals and other notable events that everyone else had the opportunity to experience.

Graduation is a meaningful time for the parents as well. They've looked forward to this moment in their child's life and participating in all the traditions both at school and church. In fact, parents have been planning their senior's celebration since last fall when they were first accepted into college, a trade school, military, or gap year program.

It's important for the church to recognize the loss, disappointment, and all the other feelings of the students and their parents. While this is an unprecedented time and there are many questions and unknown answers; supporting our young people during these days and encouraging them to stay connected to their faith is critical.

#### Here are some ideas to show your support. Choose one or more!

- Make one of your online services a Baccalaureate service inviting students to participate wearing their cap and gowns.
- Create Videos for each senior using the recording feature on Zoom. Interview the parent and ask them to look back on special moments and blessings throughout the year/s either together or separately. Interview Sunday School teachers, the pastor, and others giving a special message to the senior naming their gifts and encouraging them to live out their faith wherever they go. Finally interview the senior asking them questions about their dreams and their future plans.
- In high school, Senior week is huge! Consider having a "Senior Week" and honoring the students each day via social media, dropping a coffee, Gatorade, lunch, or donuts at their house, putting balloons and signs in their yard.
- Throw a virtual prom. Set a theme, ask the students to dress up with makeup, hair, and a photo shoot in their home and yard. Then create a playlist from the seniors' favorite songs! Dancing with their computer, phone, pets, and family members are encouraged!
- Ask parents to submit their favorite sports clips and scholarship information if applicable. Create your own honors and certificates and then create a video giving athletes their awards.
- Ask each musician to video themselves playing their favorite piece or singing their favorite song they've learned and posting it on your website and social media sites.  
Create a video with short congratulatory words and verses from the congregational member for all the seniors.
- Consider having a Drive by Celebration at church with balloons, signs, and a laundry basket for each senior. Ask the members to fill the baskets with cards, books, and gifts.
- Drop off "Care Packages" with celebration supplies, cards, and gifts at the student's homes.
- Ask your members to create yard sign posters and place them at the graduate's homes or on their front door.
- Put Yard signs up at your church with their names and school listed.
- Create an autograph book. Ask members to create a "page" for the autograph book. Members drop the pages off at the church. Copies are made of the "page's" and put together in an autograph book for



each senior.

- Have a yard flag made; "Congratulations Sarah, from your family at \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church"
- Feature Seniors on your social media pages with a picture and their future plans.
- Ring your Church Bells at the time of graduation.
- Some congregations create blankets and quilts for seniors to carry with them. This year the "wrap them in blankets of love" will take place at their house rather than the church altar. Video each senior receiving their blanket and showcase the video during an upcoming online worship. Or have the seniors come individually to the church altar to receive their blanket and video them "wrapped in their blanket of love."
- Create a picture collage with all their official senior pictures
- Reading a book like Dr. Seuss "The Places You Will Go" or "The Giving Tree" by Shel Silverstein online and dedicating it to the Seniors and sending a copy to your seniors.
- Theme questions to ask for the seniors or others? Who has influenced you most in your life? What has been your most memorable experience during your school years? What is your favorite passage of Scripture that has helped you live your life? Share your dream for the future of your church? What advice would you give to students?

As we are church together and in these fast-paced days, synod staffs are generously sharing resources with one another. Here are a couple resources from our friends at the **NE MN Synod's Youth and Family Ministry Team** that we especially like.

### How Do We Help Children and Youth Grieve the Losses They are Experiencing?

We appreciated this short, 10-minute information video, shared by the NE MN Synod, that offers helpful insights as to how our youth might be feeling and how we can support them through this time of disappointment. We thought you might too.

<https://vimeo.com/409632141>

The image shows a video player interface. On the left is a logo for the Youth Ministry & Mental Health Initiative, featuring a colorful circular design of people. Text below the logo reads: "YOUTH MINISTRY & MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE", "NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD", and "COVID-19 RESOURCES". To the right of the logo, the title "Tips and Tools to Navigate COVID-19" is displayed in large, bold letters. Below the title, it says "with Joy Hensel". Further down, it lists "Project Coordinator: NE MN Synod Mental Health Initiative Team" and "MA, LADC, ADC-MN, Adult Mental Health First Aid Instructor". At the bottom of the video frame, the website "www.nemnsynod.org/mhccovid19" is shown. The video player includes standard controls like a play button, progress bar, and volume icon.



### Variety of Youth Group Games for Virtual Gatherings!

Check out all these great ideas and links to apps for interacting with your youth and families via Zoom or similar video technology!

LINK BELOW:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/18CH4a3YRYZw8XdE0pBUNtXH0InO6EaBwSVBFSSHsguY/edit>



## ***Synod Prayer Team Devoted to Supporting our Rostered Ministers***

In a spirit of love and care for one another, a Synod Prayer Team has been created to offer prayer for those times when a rostered minister would like either themselves or their loved ones to be lifted in prayer. We are the body of Christ together, and enfolding one another in prayer is a comforting and sustaining expression of this body.

If you would like the prayer team to pray for you, fill out the prayer request form and submit. The prayer request will reach the team without delay! **Prayer requests remain confidential and are not shared outside of the prayer team, unless you desire that and give us permission. The prayer request form will ask for this information.**

Please submit your prayer request using our online form: <https://scsw-elca.org/prayer/>

The members of the Synod Prayer Team are:

Deacon Judy Nolde (co-chair), Diane Padrutt (co-chair), Rev. Amy Waelchli, Rev. Nancy Raabe, Rev. Lisa Nelson, Deacon Meg Nielsen, Bishop Peter Rogness, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, and Rev. Ken Smith.

These are especially challenging and trying times. Please do not hesitate to ask for our prayers. It is our privilege to pray for you.

**Reminder: Deadline to Register for A Hunger Grant by Tomorrow! Applications Aren't Due Until May 22, but must register to begin your applications by tomorrow, May 8**

## 2021 Domestic Hunger Grant Awards

### Applications Due May 8, 2020

The final 2020 Domestic Hunger Grant awards list and \*new\* interactive map are now available on the Domestic Hunger grant website.

2021 Domestic Hunger Grant Applications - <https://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants>

- 2021 ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant applications opened Wednesday, April 1, 2020. Ministries must register to begin their applications by May 8 and submit a completed application by May 22 to be considered for a 2021 award. For a full timeline, criteria, introductory webinar and more, please visit the Domestic Hunger Grant website.



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## Calling all Sewers!

**Our office just checked in with Deputy Juan Bowers and Madison Area Jail Ministry is Still in Need of Face Masks. Can your sewers help?**

Dane County Jail is in need of more face masks for the staff and inmates. With continued heightened precautions and their supply running low, the need is becoming a priority. If you are able and willing to sew masks for the Jail, please contact Deputy Juan Bowers, at 284-6174, or by email at [Bowers.juan@danesherriff.com](mailto:Bowers.juan@danesherriff.com). He will arrange for a deputy to pick up the items, so that everyone avoids contact and stays safe.



**Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.**

Pattern: [Here](#)

<https://files.constantcontact.com/cd02791c201/43db8ced-3294-4c12-8f8e-6f8f3d80cab9.pdf>

Instructions available [Here](#)

<https://www.instructables.com/id/AB-Mask-for-a-Nurse-by-a-Nurse/>

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**Remember that Synod Leadership Has Assembled an Information Resource Team to Assist You with the SBA Paycheck Protection Program Loan – You Can Still Apply!**

Our synod's team consists of an attorney, two business bankers, a certified public accountant and a business advisor. We are grateful to these folks who are volunteering their time to help you.

**Rev. Steve Kottke on synod staff will be the first point of contact who will serve as the Information and Referral Source** and will direct



you to the appropriate person/s on the team depending on the nature of your question/s and situation. If you need assistance, please contact Steve at the synod office: (608) 270-0201.

Before calling, we do recommend that you are very familiar with how the SBA loan program works. Here is a link to the **FAQs** provided by ELCA General Counsel.

<http://bit.ly/PPPFAQs>

**More information on the SBA Loan and application can be found on the synod website:**

**The application can be found on the synod website:**

<https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Final-PPP-Application.pdf>



The ELCA has updated the FAQs on the Paycheck Protection Program loans to include the latest SBA guidance. The updated resource can be found here: [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/FAQ\\_on\\_PPP\\_Loans.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/FAQ_on_PPP_Loans.pdf)

The interim SBA guidance can be found here: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/PPP--IFRN%20FINAL.pdf>

The SBA FAQ for faith-based organizations can be found here:

<https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/SBA%20Faith-Based%20FAQ%20Final.pdf>

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### **Resources with Links that Were Recently Added to Synod Website:**

Considerations for Conducting Remote Council and Congregation Meetings

<https://scsw-elca.org/resources/congregation-council-leadership-resources/>

### **SYNOD WEBSITE IS UPDATED DAILY**

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.



*If you would like to join in the good work that our synod is doing to support each other through this pandemic, individual donations may be made through the [Tithe.ly](#) app.*

***We are doing What Matters in Jesus' name!***

**Text **GIVE** to: (608) 571-1576**

***Thank you for your prayerful consideration. Every offering matters!***