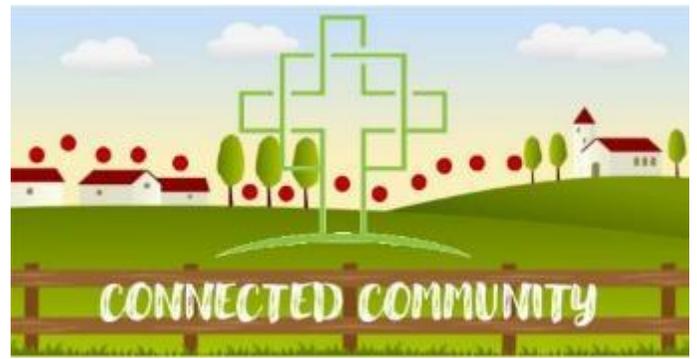


WHAT MATTERS

Connected Community

Special Edition . . . May 28, 2020



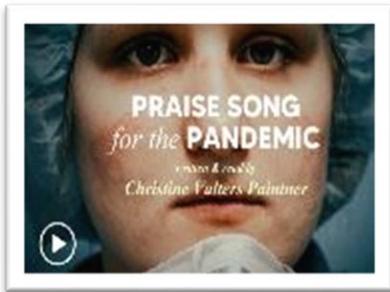
Curated resources for this time of the pandemic and beyond!

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

This issue of Connected Community has a focus **on creative and fun ways that congregations are staying in connected community**. Ideas came from congregations who were willing to share from a survey that the synod office created and from conversations that you are holding in your conferences and from the Rostered Women's gathering this morning. These are just some of the ideas that jumped out at us that could be duplicatable in most settings. We continue to be amazed at your creativity and wanted to share here in case you are inspired to try some of these ideas or find them useful in your settings.



Peace Parade! Invite the congregation to participate in a parking lot parade to pass the peace with pastors and staff. There will be no direct contact. Just waving and honking. Invite families to decorate their cars and create signs to share the peace with everyone they pass by.

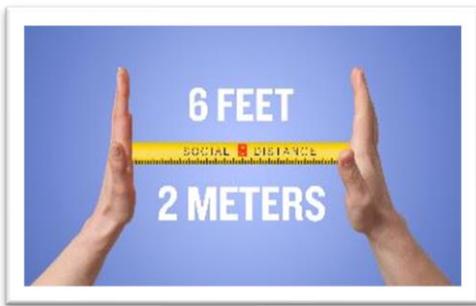


Praise Song for the Pandemic – Wonderful media for worship and devotional time for all ages. Written and read by Christine Valters Paintner, produced by The Work of the People and shared by Pastor Amy Waelchli (Trinity, Fort Atkinson)
<https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/>



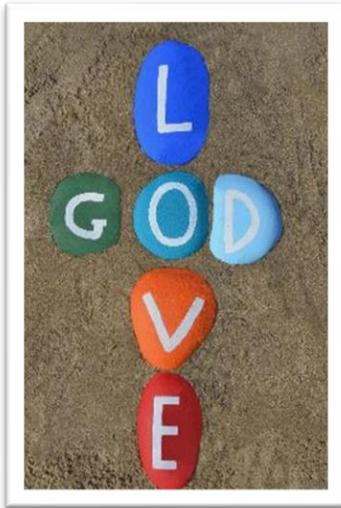
Connecting to Worship Without Video for Congregants with Technical Limitations- two resources - shared by Rev. Gene Talley, Shepherd of the Hills, New Glarus

Sermonbyphone.com
Phonelivestreaming.com



Outdoor Pastoral Office Hours – Pastor Lisa Nelson (St. Mark's-Madison) has just started a new way of connecting with her community...both with church members and the neighborhood surrounding it. She sets up lawn chairs six feet apart at the church and invites congregants to office hour conversations with the pastor. She has signage as well and uses yard sticks with painted safety messages to show the safe distance between the chairs. Anyone in the neighborhood is welcome to sit down for conversation. As reaching out to the neighborhood is St. Mark's ministry focus, Pastor Lisa also gets

out of the sanctuary and moves to various locations in the neighborhood to record her sermons.



Love Stone Messages - In addition to calls, texts and video chats from the pastor, Zion has a couple of children creating "Love Stones." The stones are painted and written on, then parents drive to parishioners homes, a stone is left outside, doorbell is rung and they move away – shared by Pastor Pat Siegler (Zion Faith Community, Madison)



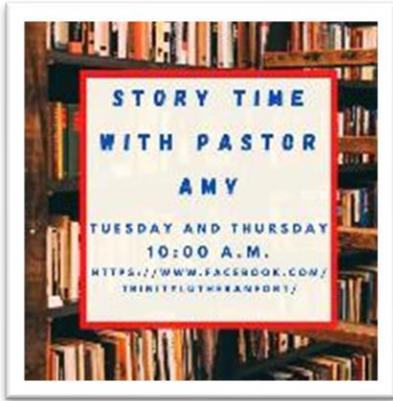
Bedtime Stories for Wee folk in Your Congregations

Pastor Sue Beadle reads a bedtime story each night and posts it to their Facebook page. This night, The Tale of Three Trees, was read. See examples at Christ Lutheran Church (DeForest) on Facebook. Like their page and join in story hour. You don't have to be a member of Christ (DeForest) to enjoy this wonderful, relaxing story hour. You can also record these ahead of time and schedule them for later posting on Facebook.

<https://bit.ly/StoryTimePrBeadle>

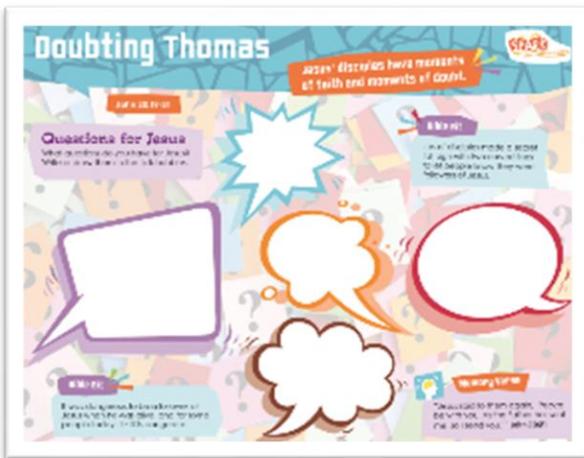


Inspirational Yard Signs – Shortly after the Safer at Home order was given Covenant created yard signs with the message "KEEP HOPE" Covenant Lutheran Church. They placed them on the yards of church members. Pastor Rabe has used this message as a thread throughout the pandemic. On Easter, she requested pictures to create a video of the ways they are keeping hope alive.



Daytime Story Time for Children - Pastor Amy Waelchli (Trinity, Fort Atkinson) is hosting story time Tuesdays & Thursdays on Trinity's Facebook Live. They read a children's story and then a **Spark Bible Story**.

They are also making a chain of hearts – “one every day until we're back together,” shared Pastor Amy. For her part of the chain, she prays for the children as she creates a heart for the chain.



Sunday School Videos by Sparkhouse - Pastor Rebecca Ninke (Brooklyn Lutheran, Brooklyn) highly recommends Sparkhouse Sunday School videos (so well done) plus downloadables for Sunday school at home.

<https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/>



Cambridge Ecumenical Clergy Group participated in a Cambridge/Rockdale **drive around** with 7 clergy taking part. Shown here are Pastors Jennifer Jelinek (Grace, Cambridge) and Pastor Tom Dowling (Rockdale Lutheran).

Feel free to contact any of these pastors if you'd like more details!

This is only the tip of the iceberg of creative ways to connect in our communities. Future issues will include stewardship ideas, supporting our local communities during the pandemic, technical solutions and more!



Virtual Hymn

Arrangement by David Cherwien

O Day Full of Grace

In case you missed this in Tuesday's issue of What Matters...This virtual hymn created for the day of Pentecost is now available for download. This work of the people is a magnificent endeavor and the end piece is amazing!



ALCM thanks all those who participated in the making of this virtual hymn. A total of 1,324 recordings were submitted. Permission is granted to use this virtual hymn recording at all times and in all places.

(Those with a OneLicense subscription are asked to kindly report your use.)

(Note The Story of the Virtual Hymn "O Day Full of Grace" immediately following the below links.)

The following link provides four download options from left to right: **.mv4 (MP4) and .mov files**

1. .mv4 (MP4) with no lyrics (best for watching)
2. .mv4 (MP4) with lyrics (best for singing in church or at home)
3. .mov with no lyrics (best for watching)
4. .mov with lyrics (best for singing in church or at home)

YouTube Links:

[O Day Full of Grace – no text \(YouTube for watching\)](#)

[O Day Full of Grace – with text \(YouTube for singing\)](#)

Audio Only Link:

[O Day Full of Grace – audio only \(mp3\)](#)

Note: When including as a native Facebook post "click HD" or "HD for quality."

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Page where all of the above can be found: <https://alcm.org/virtual-hymn/>

The Story of the Virtual Hymn "O Day Full of Grace" Pentecost, 2020

During Lent of 2020, churches around the world suspended liturgies as a pandemic spread its way around the entire globe, sending people around the world into isolation. Current communities of the faithful had never had to consider faith-life without very regular assemblies for worship. Church musicians had spent their entire efforts "bringing together" – to develop, nurture and encourage a powerful instrument: the assembly at song.

As the world arrived at Easter, many Cantors (Church musicians) were somewhat in a state of shock that we would be going through Holy Week without these gatherings. Many had adapted to new methods of encouraging worship to continue – aided by technology, but nevertheless in isolation, without the ability to accomplish corporate singing.

On Easter Sunday, the Episcopal Church released its video of the hymn "The Strife is O'er" which was put together in a short time span. It was very moving and encouraging to many: to see the church singing together – young voices, older voices, instruments – over 800 people responded with pent-up energy and desire to once again sing together – even if in isolation. This inspired Lutherans to follow their example. In early May, a plan was proposed to Jim Rindelaub (Executive Director, ALCM) by David Cherwien (ALCM member, Cantor, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, and Artistic Director, National Lutheran Choir). The proposal was that ALCM, with its very congregational-song-centric 1,700-person membership, could launch a similar thing for Lutherans to use in their virtual liturgies on Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020. The National Lutheran Choir could help provide what was needed to launch this effort.

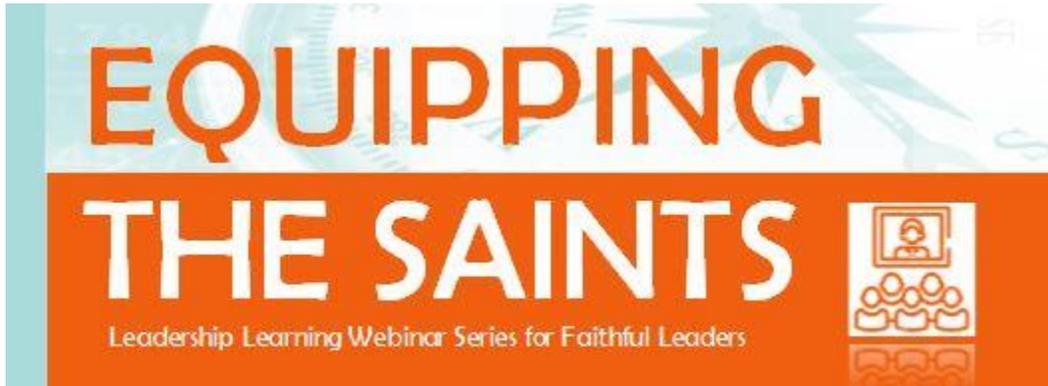
ALCM researched the company that helped produce the Episcopal Easter Hymn, and inquired about a project for Lutherans. Kory Caudill, President of Inside Music Nashville, was happy to take this on. Funding was found by ALCM through the generosity of Pauline and John Kiltinen. Cherwien and the National Lutheran Choir scrambled over one weekend to produce the arrangement and the initial 8 voice and organ parts with which others could create submissions. The initial hope was for at least 400 participants. (This number was surpassed by over 900)

The Hymn "O Day Full of Grace" was chosen, a hymn known to most Lutherans. This choice was solidified by a letter the ALCM membership received from very active and longtime friend, board-member Norma Aamodt-Nelson. The letter was sharing the news of her entering hospice; the end-of-life time for her due to cancer. In this letter she quoted the final stanza "When we on our final journey go,we'll gather in song, our hearts aglow . . ."

The arrangement had to be simple, with a very predictable introduction and interludes as to indicate clearly the point at which to breathe and sing in time. Two stanzas were arranged for 4-part high and 4-part low voices (one for each), the standard hymnal harmonization was included, and a unison with descant final stanza. Instrumental parts (kept simple as to encourage all ages) were also created and made available. The invitation net was cast as wide as possible – including internationally. In the end there were over 1,300 video submissions – 960 singers, 364 instrumentalists. Kory Caudill of Nashville received these, and within one week his company edited them all together, to release in various formats for churches to include in their virtual worship materials for Pentecost Sunday, May 31, 2020.

Soli Deo gloria

Tuesdays with the Bishop



Bishop Rogness Invites You to Weekly Conversations During this Pandemic

As our situations are ever-changing, we know new questions come up every week. Rostered Ministers have expressed interest in a weekly opportunity for conversation. Bishop Rogness has set aside this time for you to bring your questions and concerns so that we can have conversation and learn from each other.

Future Webinars for Pastors, Deacons and Lay Leaders:

- **Each Tuesday – next one is June 2 at 2:00 pm**

All rostered ministers will automatically receive the link from Robyn Zimmerman. Attend as you are able and interested.

Register: All lay leaders can register by simply emailing Robyn Zimmerman:

Email Robyn at robynz@scsw-elca.org and she will send you the link to participate in the Zoom meeting.

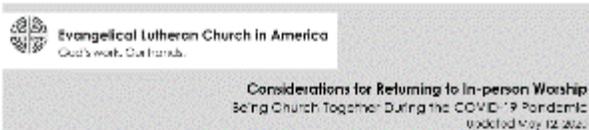
Our conversations are framed each week by these questions:

- 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 or Topics in Advance:

We invite you to send your questions or desired topics in advance and we will address those first. Please email those to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at 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.



ELCA Considerations for Returning to In-Person Worship

Many have found this to be a very useful resource:

<https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/ELCAInPersonWorship.pdf>



Photo Credit Nicole Taylor

Make Our Voices Count...

an Annual Celebration of justice, equity and hope

June 3 | 6:30 - 8 PM

Tune in on the WI Faith Voices for Justice Facebook page

Featuring:

- Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes
- Angela Trudell Vasquez, Madison's poet laureate
- Rabbi Bonnie Margulis, Executive Director WI Faith Voices for Justice
- Reverend Joseph Baring, Pastor, St. Paul's AME & former Board Member of WFVJ and Fabiola Hamdan, Dane County Immigrant Affairs Specialist
- Stories of hope, inspiration and justice
- Mission Moment appeal to make a gift and support our critical work



all are
WELCOME!



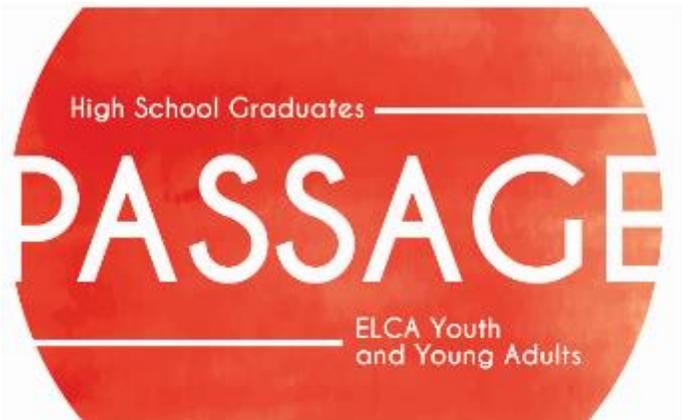
TOGETHER IN MOURNING AND HOPE

Faith in the Time of COVID-19

**JOIN US
JUNE 2
AT 7:00PM**

for an interfaith **Facebook live service**. The service will be accessible on the **Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice** Facebook page.

In this time of fear and anxiety, of loss and mourning, it is most important for us to gather together to remind ourselves and each other that we are not alone.



The ELCA Faith Formation Team Launches A New Young Adult Ministry, "PASSAGE"

The ELCA Faith Formation Team is launching a new ministry called PASSAGE as a sister ministry to the ELCA Young Adults small group ministry, abide. PASSAGE will connect **recently graduated high school students** from across the country with one another and young adult small group leaders. The communities formed through PASSAGE will be centered on mutual support and wrestling with faith and life in times of transition.

Our scripture for this ministry comes from Isaiah 43, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you".

The ongoing purpose of PASSAGE is to connect high school seniors to the next part of their faith journey as a "rite of passage" into ELCA Young Adult Ministry.

Small groups will begin mid June and last for 6 weeks. After filling out your registration, you will be contacted by a Passage Leader.

To learn more and to register: <https://elcayouthministry.com/passage/>



Synod Prayer Team Devoted to Supporting 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.**

You may 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.

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/>

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.