

WHAT MATTERS

Connected Community

Special Edition . . . June 2, 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

The landscape changed significantly this week. While pandemic related conversations are still paramount to our shared work, the aftermath of the killing of George Floyd is top of mind. This week Bishop Rogness invited the Racial Equity team to participate in a conversation with our synod. Following are the ideas they shared and the resources they promised.

Ideas for Congregations to Put in Action Now

There is much to be done to combat racism, and there are many good resources online and elsewhere to get educated and involved.

Pray. Protest. Donate. Listen. Show up. Advocate. Vote.



In the wake of George Floyd's death, here are four ideas for congregations from the Racial Equity Ministry Team:

- 1. Speak out against racism and commemorate the Emanuel Nine:** The ELCA recently released worship resources to commemorate the Emanuel Nine on or near June 17th. The Racial Equity Team encourages congregations to make use of these resources. More information here: elca.org/EmanuelNine
- 2. Identify a Racial Equity Liaison for your congregation:** The Racial Equity Team would like your help in creating an anti-racist network throughout our synod in order to foster collaboration and action. We know many of our congregations are already doing important work – book studies, speakers, dialogue, advocacy – and we believe we can and must do more together. Our goal is to identify a Racial Equity Liaison at each congregation. Fill out this form to get your congregation involved: <https://bit.ly/scswracialequity>
- 3. Doing our anti-racist homework (specifically for those of us who are white):** Often times the emotional labor and burden of racial justice work falls on people of color. For real change to happen and as an act of care for our siblings, white people need to take ownership of their anti-racist education. There are many good books and blog posts about racism and white privilege. Organize a group in your church (or partner with a nearby church) to “do your homework.”

A few good resources for congregational discussion:

- **Church specific resources:**
 - Consider studying the [Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent](#)
 - [“On Behalf of Our Children: Wisconsin's Racial Disparities and the Call of the Gospel”](#) – a Study Guide from the Wisconsin Council of Churches
 - [ELCA Racial Justice Resources](#)
- **Books:**
 - [SCSW Racial Equity Bibliography](#)
 - [Just Mercy](#) by Bryan Stevenson (Book & Movie) – Stevenson spoke at the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. His memoir is a good introduction to systemic racism in our criminal

justice system. The book was turned into a movie. The movie is free to rent online for the month of June on YouTube, iTunes, and Amazon Prime Video.

- [Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US](#) by Lenny Duncan
- [The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#) by James Cone
- [White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk about Racism](#) by Robin DiAngelo
- [How to be Anti-Racist](#) by Ibram X. Kendi
- A list of [31 Children's books to support conversations on race, racism, and resistance](#)
- **Movies:**
 - Emanuel – [Study Guide for Discussion](#)
 - Just Mercy
 - A Time for Burning – About a Lutheran pastor and church in the 1960s in Omaha that tries to cross the race divide with simple dinner meetings between members of two Lutheran churches, one black and one white.

4. Listen to and amplify local black voices: For those of us who are white, perhaps the best thing we can do is listen to our siblings of color and then follow through with action in response. The events of these past weeks have been deeply painful and traumatic for the black community. There are several area churches and organizations that are led by black leaders. Perhaps your congregation can make a point to listen to these leaders and amplify their voices.

Some local voices and organizations:

- [The African American Council of Churches of the Madison-area](#)
- [Nehemiah & Justified Anger](#) – Justified Anger offers educational opportunities
- ["Black Like Me" Podcast by Rev. Dr. Alex Gee](#) – Dr. Alex Gee is a Madison pastor who invites listeners "to experience the world through the perspective of one Black man, one conversation, one story, or even one rant at a time."
- [Madison365 Town Hall featuring Black Leaders and Local Police](#)

[The Racial Equity Team also has a working document with additional ideas for places to donate, actions to take, policies to advocate, and more educational resources.](#)

CONNECT: Please let us know if you have ideas or resources you would like us to add. You can do so by contacting **Rev. Andy Twiton** at pastor@tlcmsn.org.

The African American Council of Churches Has Organized a March for Faith Communities to Gather and March in Solidarity of Faith and Justice in Memory of George Floyd

Sunday, June 7

Gather at 5:30 pm



AACC SPONSORED

FINISHING THE WORK:

**BLACK LIVES MATTER
SOLIDARITY MARCH**

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

GATHER AT 5:30 ON
UNIVERSITY AND PARK STREET.
MARCH WILL BEGIN AT 6:09 PM.
THE MARCHERS WILL STOP EVERY
9 MINUTES TO REMEMBER GEORGE FLOYD





Resources Shared in Tuesday's Webinar with Bishop Rogness and over 80 Rostered Ministers and Laity

Following are chat room comments that we thought would be helpful to repeat in case you missed this week's webinar:

Thank you to our special guests, Eric Holmer (Good Shepherd, Madison & Verona) and Rev. Jim Hearne, Barneveld Lutheran for helping us with streaming questions; thank you to Rev. Gus Barnes, Rev. Andy Twiton and Mary Nervig of our Racial Equity team for adding to the conversation about our Christian response to racism.

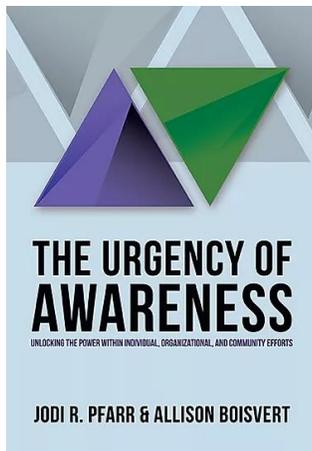
LIVESTREAMING CONVERSATION:

- **Recommended Licensing for LiveStreaming**– Onelicense and CCLI have have a podcast/livestream add on. CCLI covers most “contemporary” music. Onelicense.net covers most “traditional” ELW humns. SundaysandSeasons.com covers all liturgies and bible readings.
- **Connecting from your Phone to Facebook** – If you have the Facebook app on your device and are logged in as your church page, you can “go live” directly from the Facebook app.
- **What upload speed do we need?** At least 10mbps would be ideal.
- **What equipment helps to connecting a high-def camcorder?** Cam Link is one product made Elgato. <https://www.elgato.com/en/gaming/cam-link-4k>
- **Free and Open Source video software for video recording and live streaming:** obsproject.com

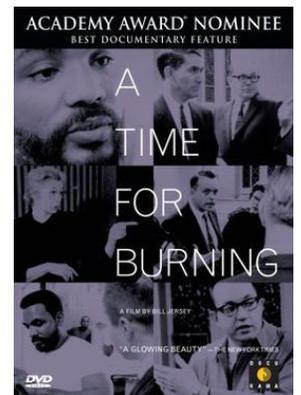
RESPONSE TO GEORGE FLOYD'S DEATH: How do we walk together?

In addition to the resources and ideas shared and summarized on page 1 of this issue from the synod's Racial Equity Team, other suggestions were shared:

- Eric Holmer commends a film, https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Time_for_Burning about a church in Omaha seeking to integrate (1966)



- Rebecca commends for small group study a book coming out later this month (June 16): *The Urgency of Awareness* by Jodi Pfarr. Rebecca has worked as editor on this book that helps people to understand how their experience is not the only one; it offers good discussion questions. <https://www.jparr.com>



- Michael Mueller suggests that Reggie Jackson from the Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee is a great resource for helping us to learn the history that is not normally told. He presented at another synod's assembly. Also noted that Crossways Anti-Racism Training leads an effective 2-day process for congregations.

- Ramie Bakken suggests one good conversation starter for a book study group or other small group is to take the implicit bias test from Harvard.

Thank you to everyone on the call who shared in the conversation. It was better with you there!

Dear Faith Leaders,

We write to you in acknowledgement of the pain, grief and anger of our Black siblings. We bear witness to the most recent incidents of violence perpetrated against them and their communities. To those who would judge, we say: anger can be a righteous response to murders and targeted state-sponsored violence, which has been cascading down for far too long. We cry out against the systems and structures which have perpetrated this violence for centuries.



We call on majority white faith communities to center the voices and experiences of Black and multicultural communities at this time. We ask majority white faith communities, and their leaders, to respond to the needs of communities of color, to serve as allies and supportive partners, and not place additional burdens upon Black leaders or communities, by asking them to interpret or exegete this moment for you.

We have heard offers of help and questions asking, "what shall we do?" We have heard loud and clear from our Black siblings that:

...this IS the time to speak up.

...we cannot end with one sermon, prayer, or phone call

...speaking up, by itself, is insufficient, without additional action.

If you are looking for something to do, please make it concrete, and action-oriented. We have reached out to leaders in the African-American Council of Churches and intend to let their priorities guide us.

In the meantime, be bold in leading your people. Speak and pray as one who longs for systems change. Raise funds for ministries grounded in the Black community, for those jailed in resistance movements, for human needs. Contact public officials and demand systems change, an end to violent, militarized police action. Use your privilege to put yourself between those who would do violence and those who need room to express their pain.

There may yet be an opportunity to show up in person; but we will wait for that call. There are those in our communities who would use this as an opportunity to sow mayhem and division. Some will tire of this message, and grow angry, and ask us to soften our words. We urge you to remain strong. Peace will not come without justice.

We lean on the teachings of our traditions that urge us to love our neighbor, to care for the vulnerable and those who have been mistreated, and to seek the well-being of the place you inhabit.

Rev. Kerri Parker
Executive Director
Wisconsin Council of Churches

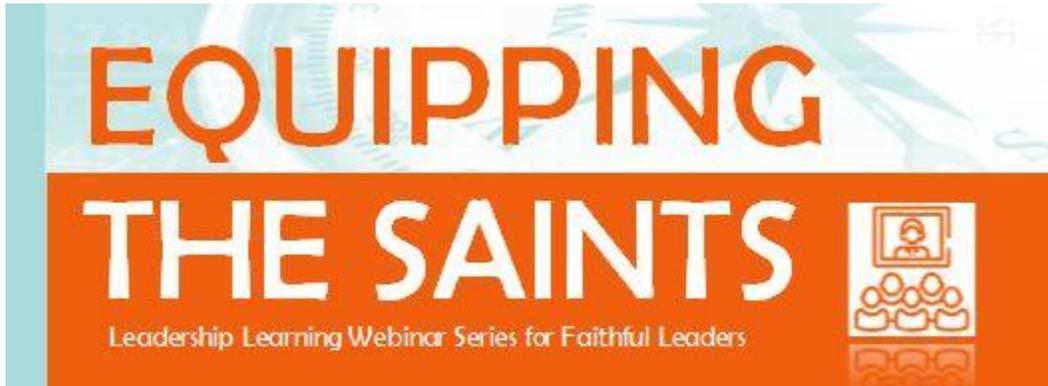
Rabbi Bonnie Margulis
Executive Director
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

As we watch what is happening across our country, we have taken this opportunity to remember that this is not the first time we at the Wisconsin Council of Churches have engaged many of the issues that are being talked about in the news. We invite you to review two policy statements that we have passed as a body and use these as resources to ground yourselves and your ministry in this time.

[WCC's Statement on Institutional Racism and Racial Justice](#)

[WCC's Statement on Nonviolence](#)

Tuesdays with the Bishop Webinar - 2:00 pm



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>

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**

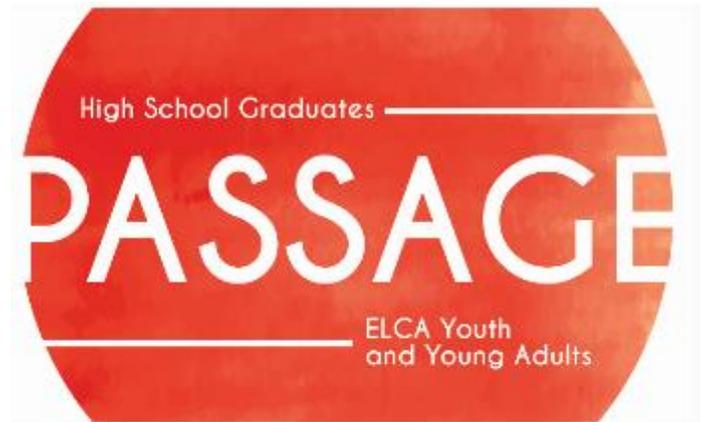
permission. The prayer request form will ask for this information.

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

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

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 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.