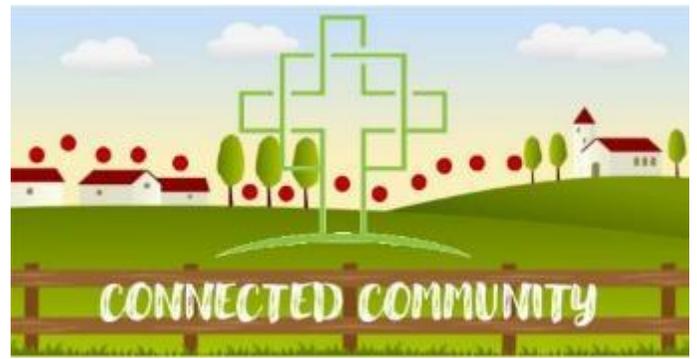


WHAT MATTERS Connected Community Special Edition. . . June 12, 2020



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

We continue conversations around returning to in-person worship. Next week, we would like to emphasize self care during this time of the pandemic. You are invited to a special one-hour webinar with our wellness advocate, Jennifer Prinz who will lead us in a conversation about wellness during this time. See page 2 of this issue and register. Page one is dedicated to faith for your journey and strength for your soul.

Bishop Rogness' Video Recorded Sermon Is Available for Use in Your Settings.



Bishop Rogness – Bishop Rogness prepares a weekly message that follows the lectionary. These are posted to the synod website on

a weekly basis. Use them as you wish. Some pastors are using them when they need a break and we wholeheartedly encourage this! They can be downloaded with ease from the Connected Community page of our website. You may wish to use them for a meditation pause in your day as well.



His message for this weekend or next is particularly poignant for our struggles with and questions about the protests and upheaval this past week and how we might respond and act as followers of Christ. A Transcript is also available on the website under the video.

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



***Take Time to Enjoy God's Creation:
Video Message Minute from
Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton***

Link will take you to it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HBhIEAeWB4k&feature=youtu.be>



“What to Pack When You’re Not Going Anywhere” Webinar

A Self-care webinar for all rostered ministers

We're all doing ministry a little (or a lot) differently these days. Dealing with that much change can be exhausting – mentally, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. We have been listening to you and have invited Portico Regional Representative Jennifer Prinz for some creative ideas of how to take care of yourself, and your people, in this unusual time. She'll also share important updates about benefits and resources that can help you in the era of COVID-19.

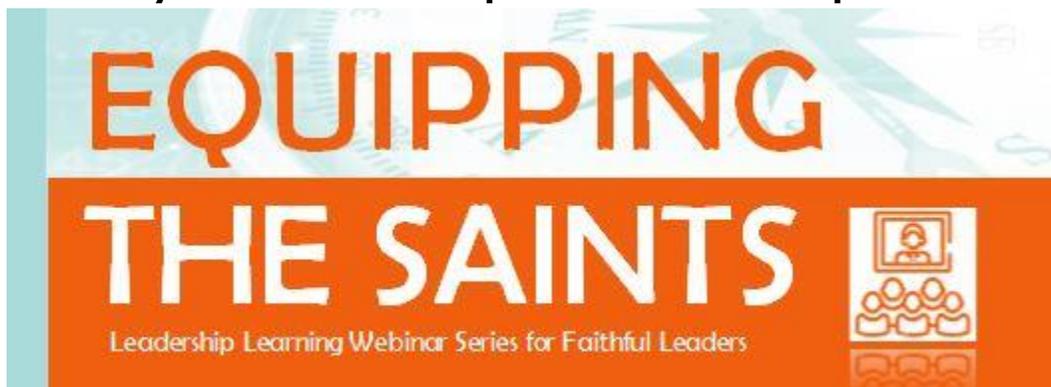
Date: June 17

Time: 2:00 pm

By Zoom

Register: All rostered can register simply by sending an email to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org and she will send you the link. Please register by noon on Wednesday. It's time to take care of yourself!

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. These are for rostered ministers and lay leaders of our congregations.

- **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.

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



Prayer Service for the Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine June 17, 2020

**Emanuel Nine Day of Commemoration and Repentance – ELCA Prayer Service
June 17 at 11:00 am CT – Available On Line**

This press release was sent to media all over the country by the ELCA Communications Department:

(Chicago) June 17 marks the fifth anniversary of the shooting at Mother Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C., where nine people were killed during a Bible study.

To honor this day, the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly [adopted a resolution](#) to establish June 17 as “Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance,” commemorating the martyrdom of the Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, the Rev. Daniel L. Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton and Myra Thompson by Dylann Roof, who grew up in the ELCA. Pinckney and Simmons were graduates of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, one of the ELCA’s seven seminaries.

The ELCA resolution calls for the commemoration to be grounded in prayer, the development of litanies and worship around repentance from racism, and for deepening conversation with the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME Church) on ways of reconciliation and repentance on the matters of racism and white supremacy.

The ELCA Prayer Service for Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine will be available [online](#) at 11 am Central time on June 17. Participants include ELCA leaders representing various leadership groups and ethnic-specific associations, and those who authored and organized the “Emanuel 9 Day of Repentance” resolution. Additionally, several ecumenical partners will participate, including the Rt. Rev. Adam J. Richardson Jr., senior bishop of the AME Church; Mr. Jim Winkler, general secretary and president of the National Council of Churches; and the Rev. Dr. W. Franklyn Richardson, chair of the Conference of National Black Churches. The Rev. Herman Yoos, bishop of the South Carolina Synod, and the Rt. Rev. Samuel L. Green Sr., presiding bishop of the 7th Episcopal District of the AME Church, will co-host the service. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop, will deliver the sermon.

The service will conclude with a call to action from three ELCA leaders, including the presiding bishop, Vice President William Horne and the Rev. Tracie Bartholomew, chair of the Conference of Bishops. More information about the ELCA’s ecumenical relationship with the AME Church and resources to help congregations honor this day are available [here](#).

About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s work. Our hands.,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

In case you missed last week's issue of Connected Community, these invaluable resources from the Racial Equity team are repeated here. Then you can find them on the racial equity page of our website.

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.

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.

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.