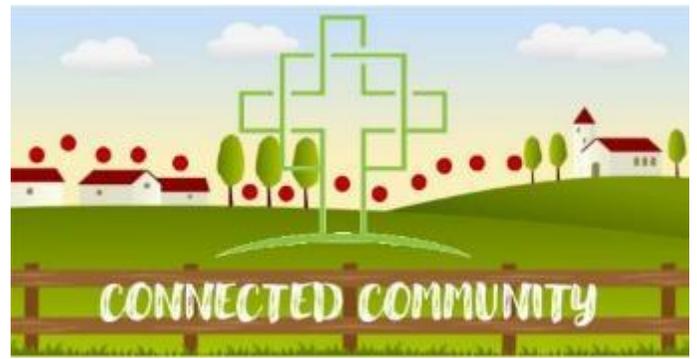


# WHAT MATTERS . . . . .

## Connected Community

### Special Edition. . . June 18, 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

My apologies! I missed a whole page of anniversaries of ordinations in Tuesday's issue of What Matters. These are important celebrations, so I am not waiting until next Tuesday. Here are the ones I missed and blessings on you!

- Rev. George Carlson, June 13, 1971, Retired Pastor, Stoughton, WI  
[georgecarlson@outlook.com](mailto:georgecarlson@outlook.com)
- Rev. Ronald Mach, June 07, 1964, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI [machronald@yahoo.com](mailto:machronald@yahoo.com)
- Rev. William Redman, June 14, 1959, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI
- Rev. Charles Peterson, June 14, 1970, Retired Pastor, DeForest, WI [cdpete1@centurytel.net](mailto:cdpete1@centurytel.net)
- Rev. Robert Beckstrand, June 14, 1953, Retired Pastor, Stoughton, WI [rbecks@charter.net](mailto:rbecks@charter.net)
- Rev. Sheryl Erickson, June 14, 1987, Pastor of Good Shepherd Madison & Verona, WI,  
[serickson@gslcwi.com](mailto:serickson@gslcwi.com)
- Rev. Jon Enslin, June 14, 1964, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI [anthop2@gmail.com](mailto:anthop2@gmail.com)
- Rev. Michael Rehak, June 15, 1975, Retired Pastor, Cambridge, WI [mcrehak@cong-id.org](mailto:mcrehak@cong-id.org)
- Rev. Wm. Gary Kobs, June 15, 1958, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI, [kobshull95@gmail.com](mailto:kobshull95@gmail.com)
- Rev. Linda Winkelman, June 15, 2007, Pastor of Jefferson Prairie, Poplar Grove, IL  
[prlindawinkelman@gmail.com](mailto:prlindawinkelman@gmail.com)
- Rev. Todd Iverson, June 15, 1997, Pastor of Immanuel Evangelical, Watertown, WI  
[tiverson.immanuel@gmail.com](mailto:tiverson.immanuel@gmail.com)
- Rev. Mark Teslik, June 15, 1984, Synod Call, Columbia Correctional Institution, Portage, WI,  
[mark.teslik@gmail.com](mailto:mark.teslik@gmail.com)
- Rev. Marlayne (M.L.) Jacobson, June 16, 1963, Retired Pastor, LaValle, WI,  
[mjacobson@mwt.net](mailto:mjacobson@mwt.net)
- Rev. Al Wahl, June 16, 1963, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI, [aandgwahl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aandgwahl@sbcglobal.net)
- Deacon Peggy Haeger, June 16, 2014, Deacon at First, Janesville, WI [ekedahlp@gmail.com](mailto:ekedahlp@gmail.com)
- Rev. Reinhold Markwart, June 16, 1963, Retired Pastor, Madison, WI,  
[reinmark2002@yahoo.com](mailto:reinmark2002@yahoo.com)



Prayers to Pray during the Pandemic – from “Christianity Today”

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2020/march-web-only/covid-19-coronavirus-20-prayers-to-pray-during-pandemic.html>

## Stewardship Ideas for This Time . . . And the Survey Says!

Being good stewards of each other's feelings is a loving thing to do. Some of our congregations are surveying their members to come to decisions about in-person worship that best serve everyone. We think this is a wonderful way to let members give voice to these decisions. We asked these congregations if we could share them in case you want to use them as a starting point for your own surveys. Note: It's tempting, but please don't fill out these online forms unless you are a member of the congregation! 😊

**Bristol Lutheran (Sun Prairie)** – One of the first to survey their congregation and we thought this was a wonderful way to let members give voice to these decisions. See the attachment with this issue.

**First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam used this survey:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfGuGEOtiAKdNR-YJyGs8NMjvHJdEGIIA-0cgeOwwOu57ONw/viewform>

**St. Martin's in Cross Plains used this survey:**

<https://forms.gle/f5E1FP3DvyHgEFQw8>



### More Creative Stewardship Ideas from Our Congregations:

We surveyed our congregations for other **creative stewardship ideas** and have curated them here for inspiration! If you have surveys or creative ideas you'd like to share, please send them to Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org). We appreciate your willingness to share all for the glory of God!

- We put out a YouTube from the president of our congregation. He spoke from the heart. We haven't had a significant loss in tithes and offerings. Additionally, we encourage people to give to two special ministries our church is involved in. The result is that people are giving to the special ministries and our general fund in greater proportions.
- We are sharing stories of how our "essential" workers are doing, what life is like for them right now, etc. We've gotten stories from our grocery store owners, a nurse, and police officers.
- We just made sure people know our mailbox was locked and checked regularly. Giving has been steady so far. It's been pleasing to see how many offerings we've gotten from people we don't know watching the online worship.
- We started a Facebook fundraiser to give people another way to give to the church.

- We're set up with tithe.ly now. It's great! We've increased our online giving.
- Inviting folks to "be church" in their homes, neighborhoods and community. Using Tithe.ly as an easier way for guests to give joining our online stream.
- In the worship resource I send out and in the worship video we sing a hymn specifically in remembrance of the importance of financially supporting God's mission and ministry through our congregation.
- We applied and received a PPP loan and have made some simple appeals for those who are able to give more at this time so that others who have lost income during this time can give less.
- We've started a Covid relief fund to support local and ELCA relief efforts.
- Each of our council members is getting \$100 in chamber dollars to give to someone in need. Our stewardship is mostly aimed outward at this point.
- Primarily we are encouraging our members to give online through Simply Giving.
- Telling people it's OK if they can't give a lot right now and inviting people to give extra if their finances are strong.
- Making phone calls to givers checking in to find out how they are doing and thanking them for their continued financial support of the congregation. Using the pledge list to contact individuals who aren't keeping up with pledges to find out if they have been laid off and out of work due to the pandemic.

## ONLINE GIVING



In March 2018 the ELCA introduced Tithe.ly as an ELCA preferred vendor for electronic giving. Featuring online, mobile and text giving options, Tithe.ly is now expanding its product line to offer

website services and church management software to ELCA congregations at a low cost. Enable members of your congregation to give online, manage your membership data or freshen up your congregation's website using Tithe.ly's suite of tools.



Link: <https://get.tithe.ly/elca>



Vanco invites ELCA congregations to enjoy special discounts on our GivePlus suite of eGiving solutions. For 20 years, Vanco has been serving ELCA congregations, helping them maximize giving and reduce the labor associated with handling gifts. Visit [GivePlus.com/ELCA](https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/elca) to learn about our eGiving tools and why nearly 4,000 ELCA congregations and more than half of ELCA synods already trust Vanco for their giving needs, including giving webpages, text donations, mobile apps and card readers. Call 855.213.3705 to find out more about how Vanco's GivePlus suite can benefit your ELCA congregation.

Link: <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/elca>



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



## ELCA Presiding Bishop Responds to Today's Supreme Court Decision on DACA Program

*This church urges "flexible and humane ways for undocumented persons who have been in this country for a specified amount of time to be able to adjust their legal status."*

— ELCA social message, "Immigration" (1998)

Today I rejoice in the renewal of dreams and the transformation of heartbreak into hope that today's Supreme Court decision brings to our nation's more than 700,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, their families and their communities. Today's decision recognizes the American identity of these young adults and values the long and deep contributions that these DACA recipients are making and will make to our nation.

Since 2012, DACA has provided protection from deportation to young people who have grown up as members of our churches and as neighbors enriching our common life. It has allowed them to remain in the only home they have ever known, pursue their educations, and work to strengthen our communities. For these reasons the ELCA has been on record in support of such a program since 2011 (CA11.04.26; <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Faith-and-Society#Socialresolutions>).

These protections can now continue, easing individual anxiety for the future and ensuring that families can stay together.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us that our health and future cannot be separated from the well-being of our neighbor. Even as we celebrate, there is more to do to provide permanent protection for DACA recipients. Today's important decision must be reinforced by legislation that ensures our immigrant neighbors can continue to pursue educations, develop careers, raise families and worship alongside us without constant threats of deportation.

We look ahead and urge passage of H.R.6, the American Dream and Promise Act, which passed the House of Representatives in June 2019. It would provide legal status and a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients while promoting just treatment for other undocumented communities.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

<https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8043>



**The Care of God's Creation Committee invites you**

June 24 – 1:00 pm



To join: **LOPPW** Facebook page

Join **Bob Lindmeier**, long-time WKOW meteorologist, to a conversation about the state of the climate change crisis and what difference, if any, is made by the disruption to business-as-usual created by the COVID-19 pandemic. The conversation will be hosted by Rev. Cindy Crane on the LOPPW Facebook page on Wednesday June 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Bob will make a 15-minute presentation and then we will respond to your questions and comments. Please join us, bring your questions, and stay engaged in this important aspect of our life together on this good Earth.

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



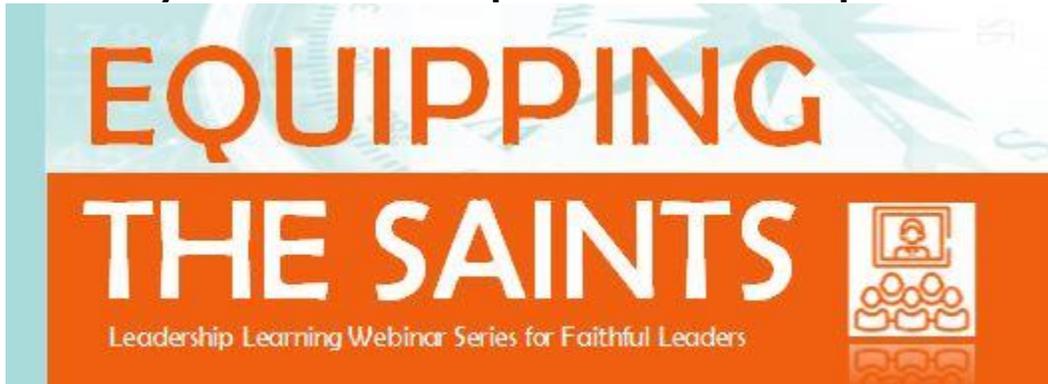
**Bishop Rogness** – Bishop Rogness prepares a weekly message that follows the lectionary. These are posted to the synod website on a weekly basis. Use them as you wish. Some pastors are using them when they need a break and we wholeheartedly encourage this! They can be downloaded with ease from the 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/>

## 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. 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](mailto: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](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.

### 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.