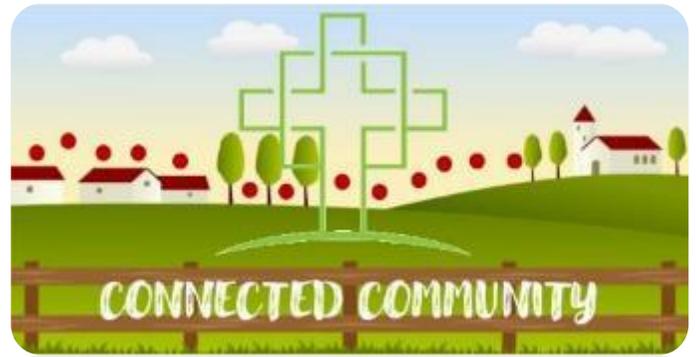


WHAT MATTERS Connected Community Special Edition. . . June 26, 2020



*Curated resources for this time of the pandemic
and protests and beyond!*

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



SCSW - CYF Ministry

BRAINSTORMING TOGETHER! TUESDAY, JUNE 30 1:00PM VIA ZOOM

We are asking similar questions, and have unique ideas of how to answer them. This is an open source time to share ideas, concerns and support as we think through the future of confirmation and youth programming in the fall.

**South-Central
Synod of WI
Children, Youth &
Family Ministry
Team Invite You to
A Conversation!**

**Tuesday, June 30th
1:00 pm**

**Brainstorming Fall
Confirmation and
Youth Ministry**

How has youth ministry changed and how will we make modifications for the future? We are asking similar questions and will share unique ideas of how to answer them during this open source time to share ideas, concerns and support.

For Zoom Invite, please email:

Heather Greenley - youth_clc@yahoo.com or

Jay Kiel - jkiel@stlukes-elca.org

A Conversation About Race with Bishop Rogness and Rev. Everett D. Mitchell

NEXT WEEK, OUR WEEKLY WEBINAR WITH BISHOP ROGNNESS WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 1 AT 2:00 PM (Not Our Usual Tuesday Next Week)

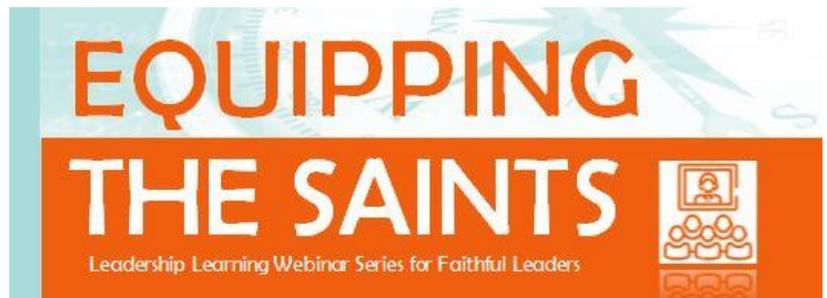
JOIN IN THE CONVERSATION ABOUT THE RECENT PROTESTS AND WHAT IT MEANS TO RESPOND AS CHRISTIANS

We will be joined by special guest, the Honorable Rev. Everett D. Mitchell.



Coping with the pandemic, trying to chart life ahead for our parishes and get a broader frame of reference for how our congregations are dealing with things we are facing has been our topic of conversation at these weekly meetings, but next week, we are going to organize our conversation around the topic of racism. We will spend the hour in conversation with **Rev. Dr. Everett D. Mitchell** as we continue to unravel our reactions to the killing of George Floyd and the resulting upheaval from that. One of the names we hear most in this part of the synod as we talk about leaders in the community is Everett D.

Mitchell who is a judge but is also an AME pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church. Dr. Mitchell will bring a helpful perspective for our conversation. Bishop Rogness has been in conversation with him and as he is in the courtroom on Tuesdays, so for this week only, we have switched our time to Wednesday at 2:00 pm.



The Honorable Rev. Everett Mitchell is very passionate about community engagement and social justice. A graduate of Morehouse College, Mitchell also holds a master's degree in theology and divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary and a Juris Doctor from the University of Wisconsin Law School. In 2016, Mitchell became the third elected African-American Dane County Circuit Court judge in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin. Previously, Mitchell served as associate director of the Madison Area Urban Ministry from 2004-2010 where he worked extensively with restorative justice programs for ex-offenders. As a restorative justice coordinator with Madison-area Urban Ministry, he and his team developed a system so men and women who return from prison would have a residence, employment, support, treatment and education.

Send Your Question to Bishop Rogness - If you have a question you would like to see addressed during this conversation about racism, please send it to Bishop Rogness by tomorrow afternoon. peter@scsw-elca.org

To Register: Rostered Ministers will receive the link to the webinar from Robyn Zimmerman. Lay leaders should email Robyn for the link: robynz@scsw-elca.org

Webinars Are Recorded: Whether you were on the call and would like to review the information shared, or you were unable to attend today, the recordings are available on the synod website.

<https://scsw-elca.org/healthresources/webinars/>

RECORDINGS OF WEEKLY GATHERINGS FOR ELCA LEADERS

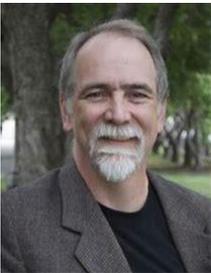
The ELCA Coaching Ministry hosts a weekly webinar themed, **“Being the Church in Times of Crisis.”** For your convenience, they are recorded and can be watched at a time convenient for you. We commend these excellent offerings to you. Click on the links to watch!



“Lament & Accountability” – Special Guests, Judith Roberts, ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice

Link: <https://www.elcacoaching.org/podcasts/media/2020-06-17-lament-and-accountability>

What we especially liked is the way Judith includes a unique meditative framework for self-reflection on our own attitudes toward race.



“Best Practices for Re-entry with Rev. Dr. Dave Daubert, Lead Consultant and Managing Partner for Day 8 Strategies, which does coaching and consulting for faith based organizations and their leaders. We know Dave from leading us at our own events.

He talks to us about the importance of being adaptive and offers suggestions for the most helpful things we should be thinking about as we adjust to our new contexts and how to be forward-thinking. The hardest part is behind us...find out why!

Link: <https://www.elcacoaching.org/podcasts/media/2020-05-27-best-practices-for-re-entry-with-dave-daubert>



“Children & Youth,” led by Linda Stantz, Creator of ELCA's Generosity Project and Founder of Home Grown Faith Ministries; **Cory Newman**, Executive Director of the Evangelical Education Lutheran Association; **Lyle Gryner**, National Director for Peer Ministry; and **Janelle Hooper**, ELCA Program Director for Children's Ministries

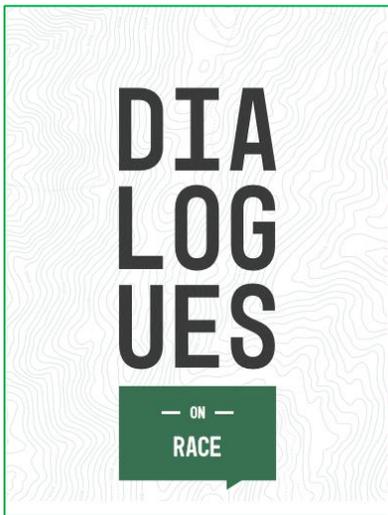
They share observations of how the GenZ and Alpha (ages 23 and under) are responding to this pandemic and how we as parents and nurturers can navigate through these times and help our children as well.

Link: <https://www.elcacoaching.org/podcasts/media/2020-05-20-children-and-youth>

Resources highlighted in these webinars:

- How to talk to kids about race: <https://www.livinglutheran.org/2018/02/talk-kids-race/>
- ELCA Children's Ministry Resources: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Childrens-Ministry>
- Church Mutual has a wealth of helpful resources and a nice checklist for congregations.

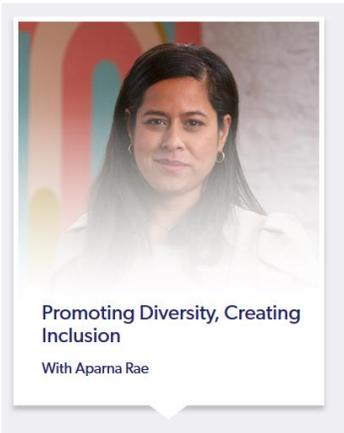
Link: <https://coronavirus.churchmutual.com/resource/safely-returning-to-worship/>



For Conversations About Race

Sparkhouse **Dialogues on Race** are an excellent resource for continuing the conversations. As many of you know, Sparkhouse is an ELCA publishing ministry dedicated to faith formation. Rev. Paula Geister-Jones (Christ, Stoughton), commends this resource, "Another resource we have found powerful is Spark House's Dialogues on Race. I used it as an Adult Bible study last year and it was well received."

Deacon Hanrahan on synod staff offers, "The section I found especially insightful was that written by Rozella White who talks about the ways people have been careless and malicious with sacred texts, misguiding others through the use of proof texting as a means of oppressing people based on the color of their skin. This irresponsible treatment of scripture had and continues to have dire consequences and should compel us to find ways to repair and rebuild trust in the Christian community."



Portico Offers New Being Academy: "Promoting Diversity, Creating Inclusion"

Interested in creating a community of equity and justice? Whether you're looking to understand your own blind spots, foster conversation in your congregation, or build a culture where all can belong, a new Being Academy course *Promoting Diversity, Creating Inclusion*, featuring educator Aparna Rae, offers practical exercises and thought-provoking questions that can help. Though some of the course is directed at developing a diverse workplace, Portico believes the tools and topics are of value for church leaders in this important time.

Portico members with ELCA-Primary health coverage can [access the course here](#) or via myPortico. If you waive health coverage or have ELCA Medicare-Primary coverage, The Big Know (Portico's partner and Being content developer) has made the course available at no charge to everyone for a limited time to support learning and promote equity. Click [here](#) and scroll to the bottom of the page – you will be asked to sign up before you can begin the courses.

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.



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

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

Being good stewards of each other's feelings is a loving thing to do. Many 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! 😊



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. 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>



To find your local health department's Covid-19 Health Updates, visit:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>



Celebrate Sauk County Farmers!

Drive Thru Ice Cream Social for Farmers

The tradition of farm families gathering at dairy breakfasts and county fairs has been put on "pause" for this summer – yet as "essential workers" farmers work hard every day to feed our nation. The Farmer Angel Network has partnered with area agri-businesses to Celebrate and Thank You Farmers!

You are invited to drive thru to receive individual ice cream cups and other goodies for everyone in your vehicle at

anyone of the above locations. **This is a "Farmers Only"** event – so let your farmer friends and neighbors know they are welcome. Like us on Facebook "Farmer Angel Network" to keep updated with any changes.

Dates and Hosts

Wednesday, July 15 5-7 PM – Lime Ridge Agri Supply, 115 Minor St. Lime Ridge

Friday, July 17 1-3 PM – Compeer Office, N Ridge Dr. Prairie du Sac

Friday, July 24, 1-3 PM – River Valley Vet Clinic, 395 Main St. Plain

Saturday, July 25, 4-9 PM – Scenic Bluffs Equipment, 1139 8th St. Baraboo

Synod Prayer Team Devoted to Supporting Rostered Ministers

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.



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>

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.