

WHAT MATTERS

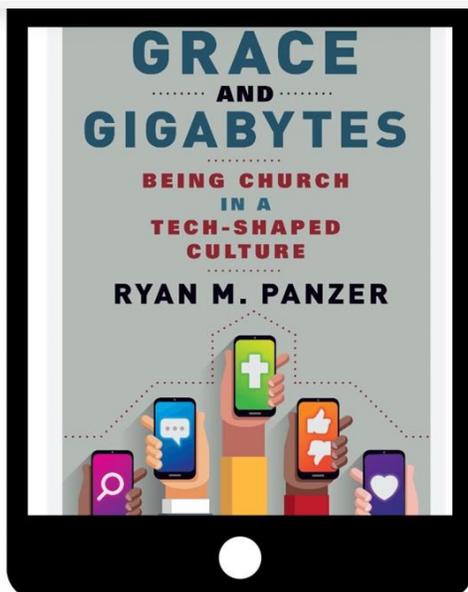
Connected Community

Special Edition. . . July 9, 2020



Curated resources for this time of the pandemic and protests and beyond – this week's emphasis is on ministry in a digital age and paying attention to our children, youth & families.

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



Ministry in a Digital Age

Begins July 13, 2020 | LIVE ONLINE

What does it mean to minister in a digitally-savvy culture? Join Ryan Panzer in a four-week exploration of what it means to reach out to digital natives who have been shaped by values of curiosity, connection, collaboration, and creativity.

Ryan Panzer is one of our speakers on the synod's Speaker's Bureau and was to be one of our workshop leaders at the LEAD event that we had to cancel due to the pandemic. Ryan has graciously offered to lead us in a one-hour webinar in September to cover the material he would have covered at LEAD.

This opportunity that begins on July 13, however, is a more comprehensive exploration of the intentional work of cultural transformation to which God is calling the church. This opportunity to learn could not have come at a more opportune time. Ryan's Book **Grace and Gigabytes: Being Church in a Tech-Shaped Culture** will be published and released by the ELCA's publishing ministry in December...this gives us a head start.

The fee to attend four 2 hour webinars is just \$55.00. Here's how you register:
<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/class-catalog/ministry-in-a-digital-age/>

What You'll Learn:

- Skills to help you reflect theologically on discoveries made about being church online during COVID-19
- What a "tech-shaped culture" means and how digital technology is changing the way we know, learn, and believe
- How to create experiments, practices, lessons, and curriculum to reach the Christian learner of the digital age
- Strategies to evaluate the feasibility of adopting congregational leadership models that reflect digital natives' values and expectations
- How to align Christian worship with tech-shaped culture's new forms of connection
- Ways to evolve your outreach efforts to engage the whole person both online and offline



Ryan Panzer (MA, Luther Seminary) is an author, instructional designer, and consultant.

Ryan started his career working in digital marketing at Google. At Google, Ryan helped non-profits to craft a digital strategy using tools like Google Analytics, YouTube, and Google Ads.

SCSW Children, Youth & Family Ministry Team Share Their Brainstorming Session Ideas!

The synod's Children, Youth & Family Ministry Team met recently to brainstorm ideas for the fall and what things are looking like and will look like in the future. Here are some of the ideas that were shared, and as important, some of the questions you may also want to be asking yourselves for your CYFM.

Ideas Shared by Attendees:

- * Families are creating videos to incorporate into online worship for Welcome and Sharing of the Peace
- * Youth are recording a small part of a Bible story and then they videos are edited and put together to share the whole story
- * Sending out Sparkhouse Videos to families each week
- * Sending Flat Jesus to the kids to encourage them to share pictures of Flat Jesus traveling around
- * Zoom meetings with youth
- * Science Experiment Videos
- * Pre-recorded fun Children's messages, emailed to families with accompanying devotional
- * Providing Youth with stamps to encourage them to send notes to connect them with other church members - someone they sit by in worship, a younger child, and church shut-ins
- * Texting Prayer Chain/ Sharing Prayer Concerns - for Youth Group
- * Outside/parking lot Affirmation of Baptism Service

CYF Resources During Covid-19 and Protests

ELCA Network - 3rd Tuesday Conversation Podcast
- Episode 23 Black Lives Matter

<https://elcaymnet.org/3TCepisode23>

Discord Media Platform for church -

<https://www.godsquadchurch.com/discord>

Sparkhouse Remote Sunday School resources -

<https://go.wearesparkhouse.org/creating-remote-sunday-school>

Lament and Accountability June 17th - guest speaker Judith Roberts -

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

ELCA Racial Justice Blog -

<https://blogs.elca.org/elcaracialjustice/>

Talking about Covid-19 with our families -

<https://scsw-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Talking-About-Covid-19-With-Our-Families.pdf>

Questions brought up:

- * What will it look like to collectively gather for Education Hour while still maintaining social distance?
- * For older youth are you asking them how they want to be included during this time? Are you finding ways to engage with them and connect them with the larger church community?
- * What will children's messages look like for in person worship with social distancing?
- * How are you starting to plan for fall? (in person, online, or a hybrid?)
- * If you are doing drive-in or outside worship are any families with children showing up?
- * How do can we structure online worship to engage people of all different ages?
- * Are you surveying your church families to find out their feelings and empowering them to help structure what is coming for fall?
- * Youth are discussing the Racial Justice and how can we help them with that in a faith based way? What can we learn from youth about it as well?
- * With so much to plan, process and decide I need concrete ready to use resources for my youth. Would anyone be willing to collaborate and share what is working for them?

Jamie Reising - Vicar at First English - shared an idea about using the Discord Platform to have Youth Lead online youth group. Maybe even a Podcast. Emphasizing having Youth Lead this. If you have any interest in helping with this please let Jamie know - internpastorjamie@gmail.com

If you would like a copy of the survey or if you would like to participate in the next CYFM brainstorming session in late July, contact:

Heather Greenley - youth_clc@yahoo.com

Jay Kiel - jkiel@stlukes-elca.org

Tips for Planning During Covid-19 in Children, Youth and Family Ministry

* These tips are shared for general information purposes and to help facilitate the beginning steps of planning for regathering in person. You should not solely rely on these tips, please contact qualified professionals for further advice and counsel on opening safely and responsibly.

- ◊ Be safe, Be Careful and Be Intentional - keeping health and safety of those in your ministry and community and those they come into contact with as your #1 priority
- ◊ Check with your school district, local, state, and federal guidelines.
- ◊ Talk to your volunteers and families - survey their thoughts and feelings. Reinforce and support their feelings and decisions wholeheartedly. Understand that they are making the best decision for their family.
- ◊ As you plan make sure you have flexible options for online, in person, or a hybrid of both to keep children, youth and families connected.
- ◊ Have safety protocols in place for each of the different plans. Assume check-in protocols will take longer than expected. Walk through it a few times yourself to get the feel of it. Imagine you are a young child when you go through it and try to view it from their perspective. See if there are ways that you can soften the sterile and unwelcoming feel. Look for ways you can make the process less scary for children, or those with sensory needs.
- ◊ Be ready to make changes to your protocols, take notes on what is working and what is causing issues and be ready to adjust. Be flexible and patient.
- ◊ Have a build up/progressive strategy (don't rush it) but recognize that you may have to go back to phase 1 if the number of cases in your area rise
 - * for example - this month we will have outdoor worship, with no other ministries or meetings in person yet. Then next month we may add small group meetings.
- ◊ Lastly - Communicate, Communicate, Communicate - the best thing you can do is help people understand each step of the process. Communicate changes to protocols. Be open to input.

As we start to piece together ideas, protocols and different plans for our ministries, we ask God to strengthen our hearts and renew our spirit as we navigate this unusual and stressful time in our world.

HOW DOES A GLITTER JAR CALM CHILDREN?

When kids are in a reactive emotional state such as anger or fear, the amygdala's natural fight, flight, or freeze response kicks in making rational decision making nearly impossible. Using a glitter jar can help the amygdala send information to the prefrontal cortex—the thinking part of the brain. Watching the glitter swirl to the bottom of the jar gives kids time to calm down, regain control, and process emotions and sensory input.



This and many other creative ideas for helping kids through this anxious time of the pandemic can be found on the synod's website:

Page of resources: <https://scsw-elca.org/community/>

Faith at Home Link from this page:

<https://www.ministrylinks.online/faith-at-home.html>

This project: <https://www.firefliesandmudpies.com/how-to-make-glitter-jars/>

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/>



Our goal is to have every one of our 86,911 members signed up for What Matters & Connected Community. There is an easy way to sign up for synod news, so all congregational newsletter editors, please help us reach the people in your pews by including this link in your newsletters: Thanks!

WHAT MATTERS
News from Your Synod and Ministry Partners

Don't Miss Out! Get Connected! Sign up to receive the SCSW synod e-newsletter today!
<https://scsw-elca.org/news/>



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

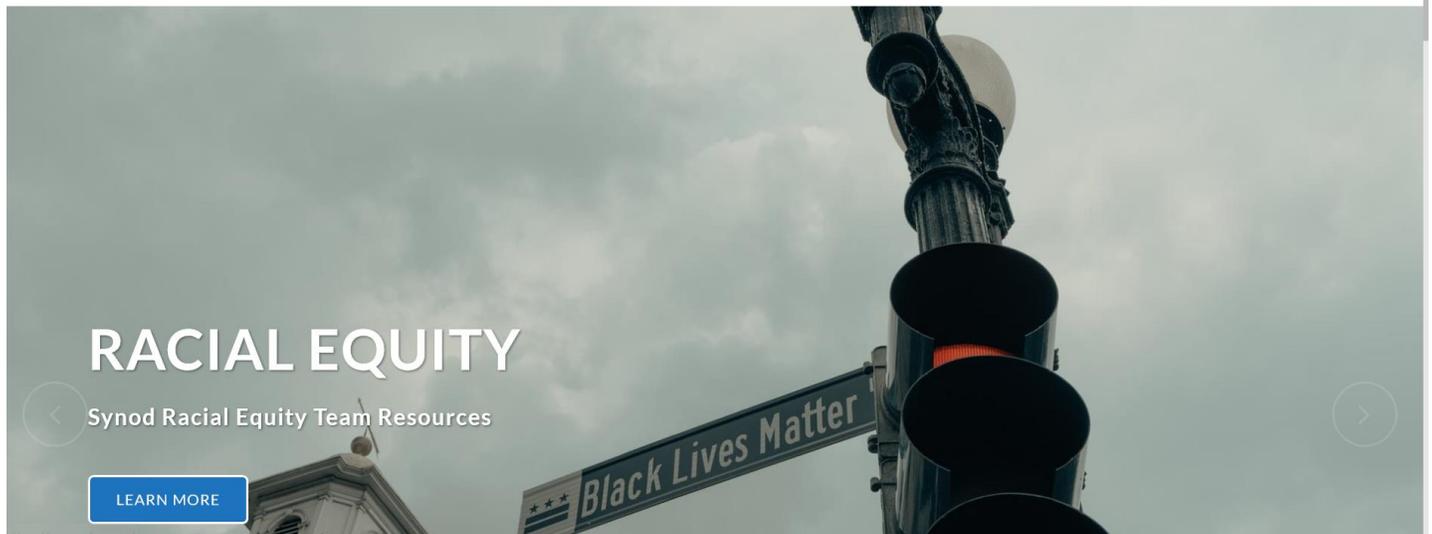
<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lh-depts/counties.htm>

The synod has launched its new website! www.scsw-elca.org



South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our Hands

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RACIAL EQUITY

Synod Racial Equity Team Resources

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WEEKLY WORSHIP

Join us for Worship on Facebook Live!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Visit our website and stay a while!

As we are always being made new, so is our website! It is the same web address, but it has a whole new look and feel. Do take a minute to check it out and enjoy its easy navigation, organization, and visual interest.

Some of our most visited pages are now easy to reach from the quick links on the home page. You like to visit the Congregations in Transition page, What Matters and Connected Community, the About Us page, and Resources, so we've made these easy to find.

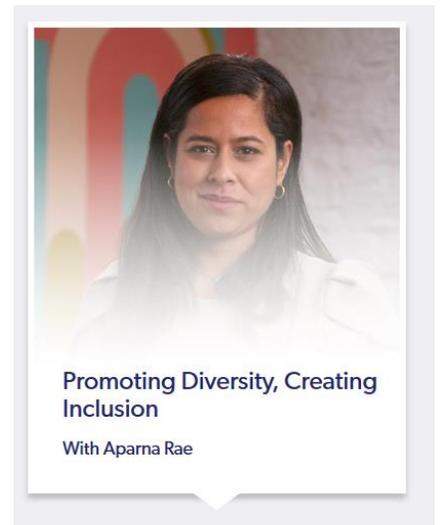
A Big Thank You to our webmaster, Jason Xiong who has created the new site, has worked closely with staff and ministry teams, and has worked tirelessly to bring this new website to life! It is truly a labor of love.

Send us your feedback and ideas. We'd love to hear from you! jasonx@scsw-elca.org

Portico Offers New Being Academy: “Promoting Diversity, Creating Inclusion” Featuring Educator, Aparna Rae

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.



Gratitude for Our Intercessory Prayers,

If you have joined us for on-line worship, you know that each week we pray for other kingdom workers. We often receive notes of gratitude from those that we pray for, so we are sharing here:

“Thanks for the prayers, they are much appreciated, especially during these challenging times. It’s also strong affirmation for our mutual commitment to be church together for the sake of the world. I will also pray for all of you on the synod staff that your work may be fulfilling and your health good.” Grace and Peace, *Mark Burkhardt, Director, Faith Formation Team, ELCA Domestic Mission unit*

“Thank you for the prayers. In these days of social distancing and Covid knowing that we are remembered and prayed for is a great lift to the spirit. May God richly bless you, the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and those to whom you are touching. I pray that the Holy Spirit is alive and doing great things in your synod during these challenging days. Stay safe, stay healthy. In the Power of the Spirit, God Bless, *John Sundquist, ELCA Director of Men in Mission*

“Please pass along my gratitude for the synod staff and your prayers during the Thursday devotional time.” *Rev. Ramie Bakken, Region 5 ELCA Candidacy and Leadership Manager*

“We are grateful for the prayers! Walking with you,” *Bishop Jeff Clements, Northern Illinois Synod, ELCA*



We Are Here for You

Remember, you can submit a prayer request on-line now too...another one of our website enhancements. Our prayer team is privileged to pray for you. All prayer requests are kept confidential.

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