

A Message from Outreach for Hope: Register Now for Our 2020 Ride | Run | Walk



Outreach for Hope is proud to announce that our 2020 Outreach for Hope Ride | Run | Walk is going virtual!

We are inviting bikers, runners and walkers to remotely participate in 25 fitness and fundraising challenges in honor of Outreach for Hope's 25th anniversary. You decide the time and place of each activity, as long as it's between now and September 30th.

With your help, we want to register a minimum of 625 participants, log 25,000 miles, and raise \$150,000! Your financial support is more important than ever before in our 25 year history. Can we count on you to help us get there? Register now, check out our blog for helpful resources, and join our Facebook Group to receive important updates and #connect with fellow riders, runners and walkers in the weeks to come!

Learn More at OFHbikeride.com

Outreach for Hope Names Rev. Chris Manke as Executive Director

The Board of Directors of Outreach for Hope, a partner ministry of the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA, has chosen the Rev. Chris Manke to serve as Executive Director. Manke has served as pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa for over 24 years and will begin his role with Outreach for Hope on August 1, 2020.

Read the Full Press Release at <https://bit.ly/30ME7eG>

COVID-19 Appeal Wrap-Up

The numbers are in, and we're thrilled to announce the final donation totals for our COVID-19 appeal. Together, we raised \$43,785 for the OFH COVID-19 Relief Fund and \$41,581 for Project LunchBox-- for a total of \$85,366, exceeding our original \$50K goal!

Your generosity is already at work at ministries serving low-income communities in Southeast Wisconsin:

- **PROJECT LUNCHBOX:** So far, 390 boxes of food have been delivered that will feed 1,500 people in Milwaukee and Kenosha.
- **OFH COVID-19 RELIEF FUND:** 17 OFH-supported ministries have each received a \$1,000 stimulus check to be used at their discretion. For example, ELCA Outreach Center is using their check to provide Mobile Market vouchers that will allow guests to buy fresh fruits and vegetables. Grace Welcome Center, meanwhile, is using a portion of their check to upgrade the electrical system for their pantry.

Upcoming Events



Conversations on Race and Our Faith
Jun. 24, 6:30-7:45pm & Jun. 28, 3-4:15pm
Virtual Event
Sign up at <https://bit.ly/30XivfE>



Substance Abuse and the Faith Community: Faith Partners Interfaith Readiness Training (Virtual) Workshop
Sep. 26, 9-11am + Sep. 28, 6 - 8pm



Fall Leadership Conference
Oct. 12 - 14, 2020
Lake Lawn Resort, Delavan

Learning & Telling the Story: Deconstructing Racism
Oct. 16, 5-9pm + Oct. 17, 8:15am-4pm
Faith Lutheran Church, Cedarburg
Nov. 13, 5-9pm + Nov. 14, 8:15am-4pm
Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church, Racine

More information: milwaukeesynod.org/events



Greater Milwaukee Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 E-news/Google Group:
bit.ly/2JLPmba

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2020 Synod Assembly Cancelled

On May 21, the Synod Council cancelled the August 14-15 Synod Assembly. All registrations have been refunded. The Synod Council prepared the following letter with full details of this action.

Read the full letter at <https://bit.ly/2YapFvm>

Life Together

June 2020

Issue 15

Notes from the Bishop

*The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*
- Jeremiah 3:22-23

As I think back to what life looked like in early March, it's hard to grasp all of the changes that have taken place. Few of us could have imagined the impact that the novel Coronavirus has had on the world, and the changes from this global pandemic in how we travel, work, worship, eat, and play are likely with us for many months and even years to come. Then, in late May, the death of George Floyd and others forced us to pay attention, once again, to the long, tragic, and painful history of race relations, law enforcement, and economic injustice and the ways that our country and our church have not only allowed injustices to persist, but in many ways have perpetuated the inequities that have plagued us for centuries.

With so much change and uncertainty in the air, I'm aware that many of us are struggling to know what to think, say, feel, and do. In times like this, I'm drawn to recall the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness." The fact that God's steadfast love is never changing, yet always new reminds me to not hold too tightly to the forms and structures of this life while clinging ever more tightly to the eternal truths of God's righteous reign.

There is a lot in our world, our churches, our communities, and our hearts that needs to change so that God's justice, mercy, love, and peace might be become more than lofty thoughts and pious phrases. God is calling us, I believe, into a time of radical renewal and innovation, not just to find a new way to do what we've always done, but to find new ways to do what God has always wanted to get done, building a world that more closely resembles the dream God had when creation began.

In many ways, these past three months have been the most challenging and exhausting of my 30+ years of ordained ministry. But they've also been among the most rewarding times, as I have witnessed and been a part of so much creativity, resiliency, and dedication to figuring out how best to follow Jesus in the midst of so much change. Through it all, what has grown most in my heart is hope. This hope is born not so much in the fact that we've got it all figured out, but because we know that we don't. We have to trust in God, whose love never ends and whose mercies break open new possibilities each and every morning. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us all.

In Christ,

Bishop Paul D. Erickson

A Message from ELCA Youth Gathering Staff

Gathering leadership continues to work through a variety of scenarios of what this ministry may look like in the time of COVID-19. We have decided to pause our upcoming webinars, the release of the Getting Ready Materials and the start of financial assistance, so that all may be adjusted accordingly for any possible changes. We also hope this pause allows congregational leaders to continue focusing on serving their young people during these unusual times, without needing to devote special attention to Gathering readiness. The Gathering timeline will be adjusted accordingly as updates are announced, so that adult leaders have the necessary time to prepare. All updates will be shared on our social media as well as on our website at elca.org/YouthGathering/COVID19.

SAVE THE DATE

SEP. 21, 2020: registration opens
JUN. 26 - 29, 2021: MYLE + TheAble pre-Gathering events
JUN. 29 - JUL. 3, 2021: ELCA Youth Gathering

More information at
elca.org/YouthGathering

A Message from GMS Anti-Racism Team Co-Convenor Esther Rusch

As I write this, what feels like a moment of major historical significance is unfolding around me. What started as deep concern for the social inequities revealed by how the COVID-19 pandemic was disproportionately striking communities of color has morphed into a worldwide cry for deep soul-searching and systemic change. People are marching in the streets demanding an end to the racism which permeates our society and has once again resulted in the murder of a black man, George Floyd, at the hands of the local police.

We find ourselves asking – “How did we get here?” “Where is the place of the church in this?” “What can I, as an individual Christian, do?” “What does it mean to say ‘Black Lives Matter’?” – and many other questions. Some of us may not even know what to ask.

Some of us may be looking at the meaning of the impact of racism on the lives of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) for the first time. Some of us are asking new and deeper questions, and some of us may be wondering how this could be new to anyone.

All of us are on different points along a lifelong journey of learning and unlearning the things that have gotten us here. Within the United States of America, which was founded on a premise of white supremacy, we have all been touched by our common heritage and legacy of systemic racism. We have all internalized the system in different ways, depending on our identities and experiences, and we have all learned to deny, exist, get along, or resist.

This is a time of soul-searching. It is a time to reflect on where we are and how we take a step into learning. That step looks different, depending on where we are. But collectively, we can ask questions together, support one another, and seek to learn and grow together as church—with curiosity, courage, compassion, and collaboration. Recognizing that many of our communities include people on different places on the journey, the GMS Anti-Racism Team suggests the following as beginning resources for reflection and conversation:

1. **The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-blindness, Michelle Alexander (2012).** One of the most influential books of the last 20 years, “this book struck the spark that would eventually light the fire of Black Lives Matter.”
2. **Trouble I’ve Seen: Changing the Way the Church Views Racism, Drew G.I. Hart (2016).** “Challenges the church to take a long, hard look at its complicity with the racism that still permeates our society and to be transformed in thought, word, and deed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
3. **Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race, Debby Irving (2014).** One woman’s story of transformation – a journey of opening herself to learning about the realities of racism and the unintended impacts of white privilege.
4. **Just Mercy, Film (2019).** Based on the book by Bryan Stevenson, attorney and founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, the movie tells the story of Stevenson’s fight to overturn the wrongful conviction of Walter McMillian for the murder of a white woman in Monroeville, Alabama in 1987.
5. **13th, Film (2016).** Director Ava DuVernay explores the history of race and the criminal justice system. The film’s title refers to the 13th Amendment to the Constitution which abolished slavery within the United States of America.

Congregations and Ministers in Transition

as of June 17, 2020

Congregations in Transition

Note: PACT stands for Pastors Accompanying Congregations in Transition. A PACT includes the following types of positions: “Interim Pastors” provide pastoral support, and lead a MET process. “Transition Pastors” provide pastoral support, and do not lead a MET process. “Transition Consultants” help lead a MET process, and have limited pastoral support responsibilities. “Bridge Pastors” offer short term pastoral support until an interim or a called pastor begins. “Consistent Supply Pastors” cover weekly worship for an extended period of time and have limited additional pastoral responsibilities. PT = part time / FT = full time

Vacancy covered by supply pastors or current staffing:

- Good Shepherd Trinity – PC/USA & ELCA (solo pastor)
- Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Oconomowoc (senior pastor)

PACT begun and/or Mission Exploration Team (MET) in process:

- Abiding Savior, Milwaukee (solo pastor) - Rev. Dean Natterstad, PT interim pastor
- Ascension, Milwaukee (FT bi-lingual co-pastor) - Rev. German Novelli, PT bridge pastor
- Bethlehem, Muskego (solo PT pastor) - Rev. Molly Doreza, PT interim pastor
- Capitol Drive, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Bill Mains, PT bridge pastor
- Dr. Martin Luther Church, Oconomowoc (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Steve Samuelson, FT interim pastor
- Emaus, Racine (PT pastor, bi-lingual) - supply pastors for Spanish language service
- Gethsemane, Brookfield (PT pastor) - Rev. Karen Natterstad, PT interim pastor
- Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls (PT solo pastor) - Rev. David Patterson, PT interim pastor
- Living Christ, Germantown (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Michael Anderson, PT interim pastor
- Living Faith, Racine (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Bill Mains, PT interim pastor
- Lord of Life, Kenosha (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Carol Jeunnette, interim pastor
- Lutheran Church of the Great Spirit, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - supply pastors
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine (solo pastor) – Rev. Harvard Stephens, bridge pastor
- Luther Memorial, West Allis (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT interim pastor
- Mt. Hope, West Allis (solo pastor) - Rev. Kathy Brown, FT interim pastor
- Our Savior’s, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Wendy Wirth-Brock, PT transition pastor
- Spirit of Peace, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - supply pastors and Rev. Frank Maxwell, PT Transition Consultant
- St. Paul, Kenosha (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Cindy Aasen, PT transition pastor
- St Paul, Random Lake (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Marilyn Borchardt and Rev. Dale Erickson, consistent supply pastors

Ministry Site Profile (MSP) Posted:

- Adoration, Greenfield (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Debra Trakel, PT interim pastor
- Bethel, Muskego (PT solo pastor) - Rev. Molly Doreza, PT bridge pastor
- Incarnation, Milwaukee (PT solo pastor) - Char Gulliani, PT bridge pastor
- Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Racine (FT associate pastor)

Candidate Name/s Submitted to Call Committee:

- Ascension, Waukesha (FT associate pastor)
- Christ the King, Delafield (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Jim Holmberg, FT interim pastor
- Our Saviors, West Bend (FT senior pastor) - Rev. Paul Ihlenfeld, PT interim pastor
- Redemption, Wauwatosa (PT solo pastor) – David Rebey, pastoral leadership contract
- Vernon, Mukwonago (PT or FT solo pastor) - Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, supply pastor

Calls Extended (*=started the new call):

- Advent, Cedarburg (FT solo pastor) - Rev. Alexis Twito
- First, West Allis (FT solo 3 yr term call pastor) - Rev. Joshua Graber*

Rostered Ministers in Transition in the Past 5 Months

Rostered Ministers Who Have Changed Calls:

To the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

- Rev. Robert Trendel, from Metro Chicago to GMS – retired
- Rev. Paul Nuechterlein, from North/West Lower Michigan Synod to GMS – retired

Within the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

- Rev. Steve Bogie, from called pastor at Gloria Dei, Menomonee Falls to called associate pastor at St Luke, Waukesha.
- Rev. Jim Lynch, from called pastor at St John’s, Kenosha and Holy Nativity, Kenosha to called pastor at Lakeside Lutheran Church, Kenosha
- Rev. Jennifer Olson, from OLC to synod call to chaplaincy with Ascension At Home

From the Greater Milwaukee Synod:

- Rev. Patrick Keen, from GMS to Gulf Coast Synod
- Rev. Kristin Rice, from GMS to South Central Synod of WI
- Rev. Jamie Stall-Ryan, from GMS to New England Synod

Rostered Ministers Who Have Moved to On Leave from Call (OLC):

- Rev. Amanda Christensen, from called pastor at Good Shepherd Trinity to OLC
- Rev. Larry Harpster, from called pastor at Dr. Martin Luther, Oconomowoc to OLC
- Rev. Chad Kline, from called pastor at Living Faith, Racine to OLC
- Rev. Harvard Stephens, from term call pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine to bridge pastor at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Racine

Rostered Ministers Who Have Retired:

- Rev. Steve Clingman, from OLC to retirement
- Rev. Rod Resheske, from called pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Oconomowoc to retirement.
- Deacon Jeanne Solik, from OLC to retirement

Rostered Ministers Who Have Died:

- **Rev. Bob Scheuermann** died on Feb. 8. Funeral services were held on Feb. 21 at Bay Shore Lutheran Church, Whitefish Bay.
- **Rev. Paul Kuenning** died on Mar. 9. Memorial services TBA.
- **Rev. William Truby** died on Mar. 9. Memorial services TBA.
- **Rev. James Davis** died on Apr. 3. Memorial services TBA.

COVID-19 UPDATES

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Synod has taken the following steps:

- **Synod staff are working from home.** Hours and lines of communication remain the same, with the exception of our **new mailing address:** PO Box 341695, Milwaukee, WI 53234
- **We are connecting with rostered ministers** in regular emails and weekly Zoom calls.
- **We launched a joint relief fund** with Outreach for Hope that raised over \$80K.

Visit milwaukee-synod.org/covid for more info!