

# ELCA presiding bishop addresses concerns about COVID-19

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In 1527 the plague returned to Wittenberg, Germany. Two hundred years earlier the plague had swept across Europe killing up to 40% of the population. Understandably, people were anxious and wondered what a safe and faithful response might be. In answer to this, Martin Luther wrote "Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague." In it, he emphasized the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine and common sense.

To provide care for the neighbor, Luther recommended that pastors, those in public office, doctors and public servants should remain in the city. Luther himself remained in Wittenberg to care for his people. He recommended that public hospitals be built to accommodate those with the plague. He condemned those who took unnecessary risks that put themselves and others in danger of contagion. Luther also encouraged the use of reason and medicine, writing, "God has created medicines and has provided us with intelligence to guard and take care of the body. ... Use medicine; take potions which can help you; fumigate house, yard, and street; shun persons and places wherever your

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neighbor does not need your presence" ("Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague," 1527).

We are living in the time of the coronavirus. We are also living in the time of social media and constant, relentless news coverage. Many of our people have the same concerns as those in Luther's day. Many of our people are anxious. Luther's counsel, based on Scripture, is still sound. Respect the disease. Do not take unnecessary risks. Provide for the spiritual and physical needs of the neighbor. Make use of medical aid. Care for one another, especially the most vulnerable.

The churchwide organization recommends the following for churchwide staff: Wash your hands, stay home when you are sick, wear a mask if you have symptoms, consult your medical provider. Bishops and pastors will provide [guidelines](#) for worship and church gatherings.

Luther also reminded his people and us that we should trust God's faithfulness and promises, particularly the promise of eternal life. Paul writes: "If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:8).

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

-- **Rev. Ben Worley**  
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**Emanuel-St. John  
Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2020**

Secretary Cindy Souder called the meeting to order. Present were Pastor Ben, Cindy Souder, Rhonda Johnson, LaVerne Arndt, Keith Berry, Nicole Meyer, Jeff Ellerbrock, Pauline Lange, Dar Lake and Brian Lantz entered after meeting called to order and took over presiding the meeting. Pastor Ben gave devotions. Motion by Dar Lake, second by Nicole Meyer to approve the agenda. Motion passed. Motion by Dar Lake, second by LaVerne Arndt to approve the February minutes. Motion passed. Rhonda Johnson presented the February Treasurer's report with a balance of \$8435.51. Motion Laverne Arndt, second Dar Lake to approve the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

**Old Business:** Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Dar Lake to designate the church to be an Emergency Shelter during RAGBRAI in case of bad weather. Motion passed. One person from the congregation will be designated to open the church if it is needed.

**President's Report:** No report

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Ben reported that he will not be visiting any nursing home because of the recent virus outbreak. The "Right Now Media" sight will be launched this Sunday. During the Easter morning sunrise service music will be a cappella.

**Worship and Music Committee:** Dar Lake present. Good Friday services will be moved to 6:00 p.m.

**Parish Ed Committee:** Kari Lantz reported that they will be doing the Easter Breakfast. Vacation Bible School will be June 22-25<sup>th</sup>. Looking at dates for the Teacher Appreciation Breakfast

**Outreach Committee:** Committee working on the recognition for confirmation students on Palm Sunday.

**Property and Management Committee:** LaVerne present. Committee was asked to look at door on education wing. It is hard to get it locked. Fire extinguishers were inspected. He has a list from the insurance company to address.

**Stewardship and Finance Committee:** Keith Berry present. No report

**WELCA:** The spring meeting will be in April. There is a box in church entry for Lutheran World Relief items to be donated. The shoes collected for Soles4Souls was approximately 238. The site in Sheldon will no longer be accepting shoes after May 2020.

**New Business:** The next council meeting will be changed to April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Dar Lake, second by Nicole Meyer to adjourn. Motion passed. Lord's Prayer.

**Special Church Council Meeting  
March 16, 2020**

Meeting was called to order by President Jo Grodahl. Present were Brian Lantz, Kari Lantz, Jeff Ellerbrock, Randy Souder, Karen Cerra, Pauline Lange, Jean Matter, Alison Greene, Scott Greene, Rhonda Johnson, Cindy Souder, and Pastor Ben. Pastor Ben led the group in prayer. Jo explained the reason for the meeting was to discuss what the church should be doing because of the serious outbreak of the coronavirus in the state. Council discussed different ideas on how to still conduct services, but with the recommendation of only gathering in groups of 10 or less, council decided to try a different approach. Suggestions were to tape the service with just Pastor Ben in attendance and a camera man. Council stated that there would be no worship services on Saturday night. Pastor Ben said that he will postpone First Communion and Confirmation. The council discussed ways that the congregation can still give money to the church. Options are: the online VANCO account, direct deposit to the church, or just mailing a check to church or Rhonda Johnson, church treasurer. Discussion was done about how as a church can we help other people in need of help. Motion by Jeff Ellerbrock, second by Randy Souder to suspend church activities (i.e. Worship services, Sunday School, Lenten services, confirmation and first communion classes, etc.) until April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. DVD's and online videos of worship services will be available. Motion passed.

A letter will be sent to all members of the congregation explaining the cancellations, postponements, how to see a worship service online or obtain DVD, how to keep giving money to the church, and how we can help other people in need of help.

Council adjourned with singing Amazing Grace.





- Apr. 1 Katelyn Bruns
- Apr. 2 Cody Glasnapp
- Apr. 3 Mitchell Hinrichs, Grant Meyer
- Apr. 4 Katie Conger, Scott Greene
- Apr. 5 Doug Riley
- Apr. 6 Kim Fjerstad, Jeff Grodahl, Elodie Mentzer
- Apr. 8 Brian Lantz, Debra Rix
- Apr. 9 Kortney Riley
- Apr. 10 Alex Peterson, JoAnn Wilson
- Apr. 11 Mia Morgan, Sara Pibal, Chase Segebarth
- Apr. 12 **Lorene Hinrichs**
- Apr. 15 Nelda Bartels, Harlan Meyer, Tonya Ramsey, Jo Scharn
- Apr. 17 Aidan Albright, Kassara Heimdal
- Apr. 19 Ryne Cerra
- Apr. 21 Melissa Barnett, Jack Bartels, Ruth Bartels
- Apr. 22 April Diersen
- Apr. 24 Justine Nelson, Alicia Segebarth, **Hanford Voyles**
- Apr. 26 Mary Daniel, Kelly Clecker, **Marlene Meyer**
- Apr. 27 Lyn Bruns, Reef Lankford, Andrew VanHulzen, Sadie Wheelock,
- Apr. 30 Edna Rockafellow



- Apr 5, 1986 Rodney & Joleen Grodahl
- Apr 10, 1976 Jeffrey & JoAnn Ellerbrock
- Apr 11, 1965 **David & Margie Sands**
- Apr 16, 1994 Timothy & Darsi Huddleson
- Apr 26, 2008 Eric & Erin Gifford
- Apr 29, 2000 Charles & Melissa Barnett
- Apr 29, 2017 Cody & Darcy Picard

## Perfect SS Attendance February 2020

Sunday School students present every Sunday in February:

- ☆ Nursery-Pre-Kindergarten: Jack Bartels, Adelaide Worley, Bradlee Aden and Lily Bartels;
- ☆ Kindergarten & Grade 1: Johnny Worley;
- ☆ Grades 2 & 3: Lille Greene, Elodie Mentzer and Abigail Worley;
- ☆ Grade 4: Benjamin Worley;
- ☆ Grades 5 & 6: Jossa Hauptert, Sadie Wheelock and Derek Greene;
- ☆ Confirmation Class (Grades 7 & 8): Jayci Graeve, Onna Hauptert, Jewel Talbott and Adlen Wheelock
- ☆ High School: Eli Wheelock, Laura Greene, Taylor Greene and Kortney Riley.

Class with best attendance this month was Grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 taught by Nate and Shelley Hauptert.



Condolences to the family of Lee Greene who died Tuesday, February 25, 2020 in Mesa, Arizona. Lee's funeral service was held Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Jolley Community United Methodist Church in Jolley, IA. Lee was the uncle of **Scott Greene**.

Condolences to the family of Dale Ross who died Friday, March 6, 2020 in his home in Jefferson. Dale's funeral service was held Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Gospel Open Bible Church in Jefferson.. Dale was the brother of **Darrell Ross**.

Condolences to the family of Lynn Ramsey who died Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Loring



Hospital, Sac City. Graveside service was held Monday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at Ferguson Cemetery, Lake View. Lynn was married to **Marlene Purdie-Ramsey**.

**MAY GOD COMFORT ALL THOSE THAT MOURN!**



### National Child Abuse Prevention Month

According to the Iowa Department of Human Services, 8,967 Iowa children were subject to abuse or neglect in 2018. The most common forms of abuse included denial of critical care, physical injury, exposure to illegal drugs or dangerous substance, and sexual abuse.

Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) helps combat child abuse through prevention, safety, and stability services, as well as mental and behavioral health care.

Through regular in-home visits to families, LSI's Early Childhood Services prevent child abuse by giving parents the support, education, and resources they need to build a healthy, stable home for their children. In 2019, our Early Childhood programs provided more than 11,000 in-home visits to families.

LSI's Family Safety, Risk, and Permanency Services help children and families already involved in a crisis or abuse situation to become safer and more stable, and LSI's Bremwood and Beloit Residential Treatment Centers serve many children and youth who have experienced trauma from past abuse or neglect. You can make a direct impact on these children and families through your support of LSI. For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI director of philanthropy and church relations, at [Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org](mailto:Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org) or 563-676-2065.

*Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at [LSIowa.org](http://LSIowa.org) and [Facebook.com/LSI.iowa](https://Facebook.com/LSI.iowa).*

### A Future Full of Hope

Last year, Jaqashia didn't know what to do.

She was expecting her first child, and she felt stressed and overwhelmed. She didn't have a job or a home to provide for her new baby.

When she was referred to LSI's Early Childhood Services, she didn't know if the program could help her. But after just two months with her LSI worker, Jaqashia says the services made a life-changing difference.

Her LSI worker, Pam, helped Jaqashia find an apartment. Every week, she visited Jaqashia in her new home to provide helpful parenting tips she could use to raise a happy, healthy baby. With a comfortable home ready for her child, Jaqashia felt confident and empowered to find a job. And Pam was there, ready to encourage her and walk alongside her every step of the way.

Jaqashia is now the proud mother of a baby boy, A'Kani, and she is determined to be the best parent she can be. Pam still stops by for her regular visits but now, Jaqashia feels ready to raise her son in a safe and loving home.

"LSI made a huge difference. They made a big positive change," Jaqashia says. "I feel very confident that I can actually raise my son now, and I have my own place. I'm feeling great."



Dear Friend,

Some people just know who to make big things happen. **You are absolutely one of those people.**

I didn't want to let another day go by without acknowledging all the hard work, time, and energy you invested in our work together. Your efforts made a real difference to people in that room—and a lasting difference to people all around the world.

Together with the help of generous, compassionate folks like you last year we were able to distribute nearly 6.5 million pairs of shoes and articles of clothing to people all across the globe. And now, kids are in school and adults are at work. Families are rebuilding after natural disasters. Entrepreneurs in developing countries are launching meaningful businesses. Communities are protected from injury and disease.

It's amazing to think it all starts with shoes, isn't it? **Actually, it all starts with you.** And I'm so grateful.

With deepest thanks, Buddy Teaster  
CEO, Soles4Souls

*On February 14<sup>th</sup> a group of our ladies delivered 238 gently worn pairs of shoes to Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon that were collected here in Lytton last fall.*