

Being Church in the Time of COVID-19

Online Opportunities to Connect, Share, and Learn from One Another

Sponsored by ELCA's Coaching Ministry

Discussion on Caring for One Another – March 19, 2020 - Chat Area Summary

Guest presenters:

Rev. Gene Talley – Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church; New Glarus, WI

Rev. Dr. Johan Bergh – St. Philips Lutheran Church; Mount Dora, FL

- physical distancing and (or in) social solidarity - an important reframing of the language of "social distancing," especially as the church
- the "old school" phone tree!
- From Gene Talley to Everyone: 01:25 PM
- Exactly Jason - "There's nothing new under the sun."
- We are all developing ways to pivot in our core, but what have you found to best share and communicate these changes appropriately with different groups
- The Shamgar Principle based on Judges 3:31
- Start where you are
- Use what you have.
- Do what you can.
- Yes, home is church too!
- Excellent question! What do we want those patterns to be?
- What behaviors do we want to cultivate? How can we celebrate when those are done?
- What an unexpected opportunity for God to be loose - outside the brick and mortar of the church building.
- Beyond the small assistance forthcoming from the federal government, are any of your communities considering income sharing or leadership from employers and landlords who can offer direct relief for members who are or will soon be struggling?
- What new habits can we cultivate as we journey through this wilderness of Covid-19?
- My kids are literally doing a scavenger hunt with their cousins (from our own homes) right now!
- I like it. I like it. New habits cultivated.
- Stephanie- awesome!
- Winston-Salem City Gov't has come up with \$1M and is asking businesses and individuals to match it to help people in need
- I was on a conference call today with the Mayor of Chicago and she told us that the Chicago Community Trust
- and here is a link to a list of curated resource for assisting congregations and household in developing new habits: <http://homegrownfaith.net/coronavirus-resources-for-home-congregation/>
- Yay scavenger hunts - that's awesome Stephanie!

- Definitely check out the link Linda Staats just posted - they have some great ideas.
 - From Linda Staats to Everyone: 01:34 PM
 - Gene :)
 - Karen, Kent and Jenny, know I will continue to hold you up in prayer. Thank you for your faith filled leadership!
 - Thank you, Linda! I'll be praying for you too!
 - I miss Janice praying!
 - Great job, Gene and Johan
 - Have to go everyone. Bless you all! Jill, thank you for this space!!!
 - Hey all! Thanks my friends!
 - Thank you and GOD's blessings now and always
 - Concerns: the # of funerals that might be coming, grief stacking up, missed milestone events like graduations, weddings, birthdays, etc.
 - Yeah, Charlie - the grief that is coming - but also the grief people are already experiencing.
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Thursday (Caring for one another):

- Caring for others starts with caring for self. How are you doing? Who is pouring hope into you?
 - We practice personal devotions, try expanding that to spiritual companionship (prayer and accountability partners). Solitude is important, but not isolation.
 - SWOT analysis for new reality and asset mapping. What do we already have and are already doing? How can we "pivot" that?
 - If this pandemic stretches on, new patterns will develop. What do we want those practices and patterns to be? We can have a part in shaping the future of the church!
 - From the chatroom, we mostly talked about self care, but I got a few cool ideas: invite members to create an altar in their home. This could tie into holy week by adding a new item to the altar during each day (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday).
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As you read the thread, we hope you find your own nuggets of wisdom nestled therein. Perhaps even some of these comments will cause you to imagine what might be possible in your own context? And help you take your next most faithful step?

If you have answers to share to any of these questions, please send them to me at jill.beverlin@elca.org. We will create a response document and post here under this topic area!

Peace and health,
Jill

