



THE LUTHERAN NEW YORKER

summer
**2020
ISSUE**



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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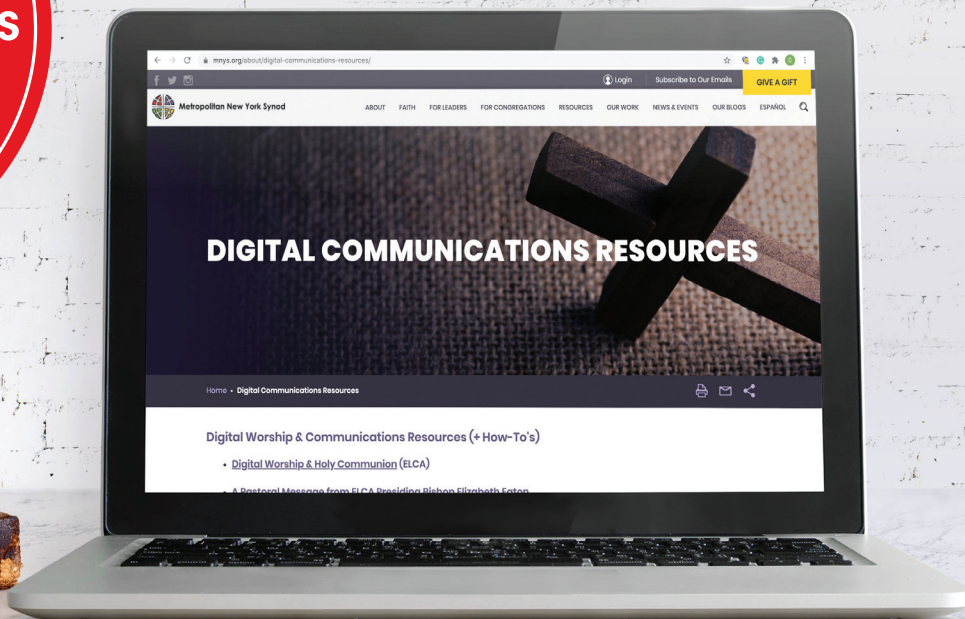
DIGITAL COMMUNICATION RESOURCES

Interested in livestreaming your service?
Curious how to use Zoom?
In need of digital worship, video or audio recommendations?
Want to stay up-to-date on online faith formation?
MNYS is here for YOU!

Whether you are a technological beginner just entering the digital world in need of basic information and How To's, or a seasoned virtual communicator who is looking to optimize your congregation's digital presence and online faith programs, we have an answer for you.

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!

Visit the
digital
communications
resources
page here



DIGITAL *church*

A MESSAGE FROM MNYS BISHOP PAUL EGENSTEINER



Grace to you, and peace from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ, in the power of the Spirit. Amen

Reading the news headlines this morning of July, my original hope back in March for returning to in-person worship by Easter seems naïve at best.

Remember way back then?

It can certainly seem like we were living in a different world and, in many ways, we were. In the space of four months we have been through dramatic changes in our society and in our communities. Concerns that were almost non-existent (COVID-19), or unjustly relegated to the background (racism), have emerged front and center. **And despite the sense of powerlessness in the face of the pandemic or hope in response to a renewed determination to eradicate racism (a goal that deserves the full commitment of God's people, as it is a matter of justice and our integrity as people of faith), we may feel numb or inadequate to the magnitude of these challenges. That is, if we look only to ourselves.**

Unfortunately, one of the most meaningful ways we look to and wait upon God and find strength collectively for our mission as disciples of Christ, is not now available to us: in-person worship in a way that was habitual and formative. There is a longing in our hearts to gather, to sing, to share the peace, to receive Holy Communion, to interact with the preacher and to pray. It feels like, when we need to worship most, to pour out our hearts and fears and hopes to God in community, we cannot. **(Thankfully, many of you are finding creative ways to gather within the limits of safety and care.)**

Given these urgent challenges in society and these severe limitations in our communities of faith, what can we do? You already know! And you, dear people of God, have been doing it! **We can and must worship!** And just because we cannot do so in the same way does not mean it isn't worship. (I will express a little exasperation here with the term "virtual worship." Worship, even when shared over the internet, is still worship, real worship. I prefer the term "remote worship.") Ask your living ancestors in the faith what worship was like when they were kids. I remember the pastor (always a man) facing the altar to consecrate the elements for Holy Communion.

Worship always evolves. And as I worship with many of you on the weekends, I see how you have evolved, too. Such a beautiful and uplifting variety of services and ways of encouraging God's people to be together, to turn their hearts to God, one another and the world. Music and musical gifts shared in so many creative and inspiring ways. Art and images such as might not be used in in-person worship. Still central is the Word, preached and prayed and sung and heard.

And Jesus is present!
Not virtually. Not remotely.
Truly present,
beyond and through
the limitations of
our current reality.
The Resurrected Christ
breaks down barriers,
be they locked doors
or the space between
physically
distanced disciples.

Many of you have shared with me that worship attendance has actually gone up in this time of closed buildings, as people tune in from all over. It reminds me of Paul's words in Second Thessalonians, "Finally, dear siblings, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you." This desire is being fulfilled in our day because of YOU. We are equipped for spreading the Word in a way that continues to transform lives and, through our deeply rooted faith, in the world in which we live. **We have found a way to worship in Spirit and in truth, and we will not, must not abandon it, even when we can be physically together again.**

I am so proud of and thankful for you, for your commitment, creativity and flexibility. I am thankful that I get to be your bishop through these transformative times. You, dear people of God, are a gift, testifying to the unlimited power of God's Spirit. Keep the faith. Share the Word.

And carry this truth in your heart and into the world:
God loves you.

And so, do I.

**Yours in Christ,
+Bishop Egensteiner**

*"Finally, dear siblings,
pray for us,
so that the word of the Lord
may spread rapidly
and be glorified
everywhere,
just as it is among you."*

2 Thessalonians 3:1

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**METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

TRANSCENDENT MOMENTS OF REALIZATION IN MY (DIGITAL) SUNDAY JOURNEYS

MNYS VICE-PRESIDENT RENÉE WICKLUND

Several years ago, on a girls' weekend away with some of my best friends from high school, we put together a Sunday morning schedule. Four friends would go to the local Roman Catholic Mass (I went to Catholic school, so I got to be a loaner Protestant); I would take a separate car to the earlier ELCA service; and one car would remain at the rented house, in case the two friends who weren't attending church wanted to go out for brunch.

"Glad we got that sorted out," I said.

"Agreed," replied my friend Bridgette, who was headed for Mass. "I love to be in church."

"Me too!" I exclaimed. "I love to be in church." It was the kind of outburst you don't regret, even if it's made without thinking. Although I hadn't dwelt on the precise sentiment before, Bridgette's statement resonated with me immediately. I **do** love to be in church. Entering the sanctuary. Sliding into worn pews, or sidling (late) into a chair. Sitting amongst fellow believers, knowing we share the most essential truths. Leafing through the bulletin for favorite hymns. Checking the announcements to see what I've missed, and what I have to look forward to. Hearing a different take on the day's lessons. Worshiping. Receiving Holy Communion.

As of March 13, for the safety of congregants across our synod, Bishop Egensteiner recommended the cessation of in-person worship. At the time, I thought the break would be short, maybe a few weeks, and I was impressed when so many of our pastors almost immediately began offering online Services of the Word or homilies. By the second Sunday, I fell into a routine. While making breakfast or drinking my coffee, I watched the homily posted by my

pastor, Charley Vogeley, from Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Port Washington. At 10:00 a.m., I tuned in for the premiere of the synod-wide service from the bishop's office, and at 11:00 a.m., I joined the Facebook Live liturgy from my former congregation, Trinity Lower East Side, in Manhattan.

I particularly enjoyed the Facebook Live service, because I could see text bubbles indicating which friends were watching with me. It felt almost as if we sat side-by-side.

Throughout the time of social distancing, I've tried to take daily walks, both for exercise and for a break from being at home. Not long into virtual worshiping, I began to miss my practice of visiting congregations around the synod, and I expanded my Sunday schedule to include the worship services of two or three other parishes each week. On Low Sunday, around 11:30 am, my husband walked into the kitchen (I had a homily playing on my iPad) and exclaimed, "Seriously? You've been worshiping since like 8:00 am." (He was right, and my poor family might have been feeling a little neglected each Sunday.) So I moved my "visits" around the synod to my afternoon walk, listening on my phone. The whole thing snowballed; I realized how much I liked hearing a Service of the Word while walking, and I began saving Sunday services to enjoy throughout the week, one for each afternoon's walk. **By May, I was "attending church" six days per week, and several times on Sunday. It wasn't uncommon for me, walking alone, to say aloud, "...and also with you," or softly to murmur the Lord's Prayer, hearing my voice join a pastor's. More than one passerby looked curious upon seeing me, hurrying along in workout apparel, making the sign of the Cross.**

Twice, I cried while walking.



The first time, I was on Radcliff Avenue in Port Washington North, approaching the intersection with Soundview Drive. It was May 25, Memorial Day, and I was listening to the previous day's service from Trinity Lower East Side. Pastor Will Kroeze was speaking of balancing safety with the wish to return to in-person worship.

"You need to prepare yourselves," Pastor Will said, "for the possibility that we may not meet again in person until the fall." Not until the fall? Memorial Day is the unofficial start of summer; Pastor Will suggested that Holy Communion with fellow worshipers might be an entire **season** into the future. I'd been drifting along, continuing to assume that we'd all be back together "soon." Pastor Will's admonition—"You need to prepare yourselves"—took me aback, and I felt the full weight of all this pandemic is costing us.

I cried again, a week later, on June 2. By then, I knew that George Floyd had been murdered, by suffocation, on May 25, and knew that COVID-19, a disease that impairs lung function, was killing black and Latino Americans at higher rates than white Americans. I set out on my walk and called up the Pentecost sermon that Pastor Kevin Vandiver, assistant to Bishop Egensteiner, had given at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, Manhattan. Preaching on John 21:19-23, Pastor Kevin spoke of the crucified, suffocated, risen Jesus returning to breathe on the disciples, to breathe with them. "I'm so glad that Jesus breathes on us still," Pastor Kevin said, evoking the eternal life and truth of the Kingdom, and the cry for justice for its inhabitants. I stopped walking, on the Sands Point Road hill, just past my son's elementary school, and felt Jesus breathing for me, breathing for George Floyd, for Eric Garner and Ahmaud Arbery, for victims struggling under the weight of COVID-19, for the world in trouble, His restored breath sustaining us. **The sensation overwhelmed me with both sadness and relief.**

In February, just before the pandemic really picked up speed, I had the privilege of joining a delegation to Africa, to visit our synod's ministry partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The first morning, in Dar es Salaam, we visitors attended the 6:00 a.m. Service of the

Word at the Azania Front Lutheran Church. It was a weekday, a Wednesday, and the sanctuary was packed with Christians worshipping before they headed to work. (Later, I would learn that Azania Front's 6:00 a.m. service is full, **every** weekday.) During the sermon, many in attendance took notes, presumably to reference later; after the service, they broke into small groups for discussion. A few days later, across the country in Bukoba, our delegation joined a local "cell" of the ELCT Northwest Diocese, a dozen Lutherans who meet every morning before work, for Bible study with a ministry student. These Christians work full days and still choose to rise early for time to contemplate the Word.

As I told my friend Bridgette, I love to be in church. I'm not sure any experience will ever supplant being physically present in church.

Still, today, I find myself pondering the example of these Tanzanian Christians, how they carry church into, and throughout, each day with them. Despite the fellowship I've missed, and despite my craving for unavailable Holy Communion, the last four months have made faith feel more **present**, more integrated into the habits that seem ho-hum, but in fact structure my life. So here's a confession: Maybe, in the past, I've trapped church in a building. Maybe I've confused attending Sunday services with allowing the Gospel to guide my week. Maybe the easy availability of a sanctuary has made me forget that I also possess the tools for "everyday church," like a Bible, a catechism, Christian friends for discussion, and (nowadays) video homilies on demand.

Did you notice how, weeks later, I can still recall the words of Pastor Will and Pastor Kevin that moved me to tears, even remembering where I was standing when I heard them? **That's because they were transcendent moments of realization.** Those moments can really happen anywhere, and anytime, if we open our hearts, create the space, and invite the Spirit. If I take nothing else from my months of virtual worship, it will be this: Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life. Wherever I go, there too can be church.

THE LUTHERAN
NEW YORKER

WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU FULFILL YOUR MISSION



"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 3:28

"If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it."

1 Corinthians 12:26-27

"Racism - a mix of power, privilege, and prejudice - is sin, a violation of God's intention for humanity"

ELCA Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture

Dear Pastor,

In the current environment, advocating for gender justice, racial justice, justice for immigrants, justice for queer siblings, and other social justice efforts, is a crucial part of our mission and what the Gospel is calling us to do, even if some would label it as "political." However, we acknowledge that not all our congregations are at the same level of understanding these efforts. While some are ready to take advocacy actions, others are just at the beginning of an educational process to understand systemic racism, systemic homophobia, gender inequalities, etc., and how these issues are deeply integrated in our society, and in our Church.

Based on this, my staff, in collaboration with our Advocacy Taskforce, has compiled a wealth of anti-racism resources to help you fulfill your mission. Some of them will work in your particular ministry setting, others won't; but what is important for us is to provide you with resources to help you keep working toward the mission of God's Church on earth, and be faithful to our vows. In addition, we, as the staff of the Office of the Bishop, are here to assist and guide you in these efforts, along with our synodical anti-racism efforts from our 2025 VISION Taskforces.

Thank you for your ministry.

**In Christ,
Bishop Paul Egensteiner**

*"Care for God's people, bear their burdens,
and do not betray their confidence.
So discipline yourselves in life and teaching
that you preserve the truth,
giving no occasion for false security or illusory hope.
Witness faithfully in word and deed to all people.
Give and receive comfort as you serve within
the church.
And be of good courage, for God has called you,
and your labor in the Lord is not in vain."*

From the ELCA Ordination Service

**VISIT OUR
ANTI-RACISM
RESOURCES
PAGE, HERE**

THE (DIGITAL) *church* OF CHRIST

ROBERTO LARA, ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP
FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT



If we have learned something uplifting during this crisis, it is that Church is so much more than a building—Church transcends the brick and mortar sanctuaries we are so accustomed to worshipping in. **Our buildings may have been closed, but Church remained open, and our churches have been diligently serving our communities.**

2 Timothy 3:16-17 tells us that “All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.” **The Bible guides us in the importance of efficient and effective communication:** when communicating the word of God, the methods we use and the ways we equip our members are essential. Therefore, these methods must be flexible and are subject to change and advancement in

order to reach everyone. In this way, all God’s children may “be proficient [and] equipped for every good work.”

In the absence of physically thriving churches in which members gather in-person to pray and learn together, communicating became a challenge. Therefore, **digital communication channels quickly became our primary tools to stay relevant and connected with our members.** Thanks to these digital channels, we learned that regardless of the method we use to share the Good News, **our mission of sharing the Word of God has to be the main focus.**

During a pandemic, the enveloping care and God’s boundless love that Church provides for its members and communities has been maintained, and even increased, due to digital communication methods. Rapidly, we are realizing what a **great evangelism strategy** they represent.

Our digital Services of the Word are reaching new audiences like never before, and these new participants represent potential new members for our congregations.

Additionally, many of our congregations have seen an increased number of people attending their digital services, as well, and in some cases have even experienced an increase in their mission support numbers. While we don't know when this crisis will end, what is certain is that we cannot abandon these new digital ways of communicating with our members, our potential new members, and our communities, moving forward. **It would be beneficial to congregations and to our very mission of sharing the Word of God, to continue livestreaming services and providing digital fellowship opportunities even after the crisis is over.** These digital communication strategies are particularly crucial at this point, especially since there is some evidence suggesting that not all churchgoers feel safe going back to in-person services. Further, if we continue to uphold our goals to share the Good News, and reach and connect with people rather than merely filling pews, Church must remain relevant, inclusive, and embrace these new methods of communication and evangelism, even in a post-COVID world.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In the sentiment of being **CHURCH TOGETHER**, we would like to offer some digital evangelism recommendations that will help your congregation stay connected with its members and remain relevant in an ultra-competitive digital space:

1. Production is secondary; focus on your message and the quality of your service content.

Often, we worry too much about production elements (i.e., lighting, space, microphones, etc.), and these components are only important if the content of our services is pertinent to our audiences. Ask yourself: Is my messaging creating real connections? If yes, then great, go ahead with the production stages; otherwise, continue improving your content to ensure it is relevant—first with your members, then with external audiences.

2. Interactive services are the way to go.

Some initial studies suggest that services via teleconference services, such as ZOOM, have a positive effect on the digital embodiment of your congregation's members, the way they both experience the Word of God through their senses and experience themselves as humans united as the Church of Christ via digital technologies. However, don't forget to livestream your teleconferencing services for external audiences, as they represent potential members for your congregation.



ZOOM PRO ACCOUNTS TO BE GRANTED

The Office of the Bishop is offering ZOOM PRO accounts to our congregations that are in need of one. If you are part of a congregation that requires this service, please have your pastor send an email to info@mnys.org.

3. Less is More.

Simple services with great engaging content can create a real difference without costing you and your congregation millions of dollars. Don't believe us? Just ask a TikTok-er!

4. It's more than just Sundays!

Find ways and opportunities to stay connected, beyond your Sunday services. Wednesday Bible studies, agape feasts, and digital coffee hours are just some of the many ways you can reinvent, be creative, and stay connected with your members and audiences.

5. Be careful with email.

Social media is a great way to deploy messages without annoying the user; email is not. However, email is an excellent way to stay connected with your highly-engaged members, so while you want to create email campaigns for them, you should be careful with your scheduling rhythm, in order to avoid high unsubscribe rates.

6. More than just videos.

Explore new ways to push great and meaningful content, other than videos. Podcasts, phone messages, and print materials offer great opportunities.

7. Be Yourself. Be Curious. Be Courageous.

Don't be afraid to explore new and creative ways to develop content for your members. Some of those ways will work; others won't, but what remains important is to keep trying. Every congregation has its own personality, and only with a deep test-and-try will you be able to discover the best ways to engage with your members and future members.

STAY CONNECTED, STAY UPDATED, STAY INFORMED WITH US!

THE MNYS WEEKLY NEWSLETTER is an excellent tool to stay **connected** and **informed**. Now, more than ever, we must remain engaged with one another, relevant in our faith communities, and prepared for what lies ahead.

From providing continually updated COVID-related resources, to offering access and information regarding digital synodical events, to raising awareness of congregations' upcoming online events, **MNYS email is here for ALL of us.**

WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!



SIGN UP

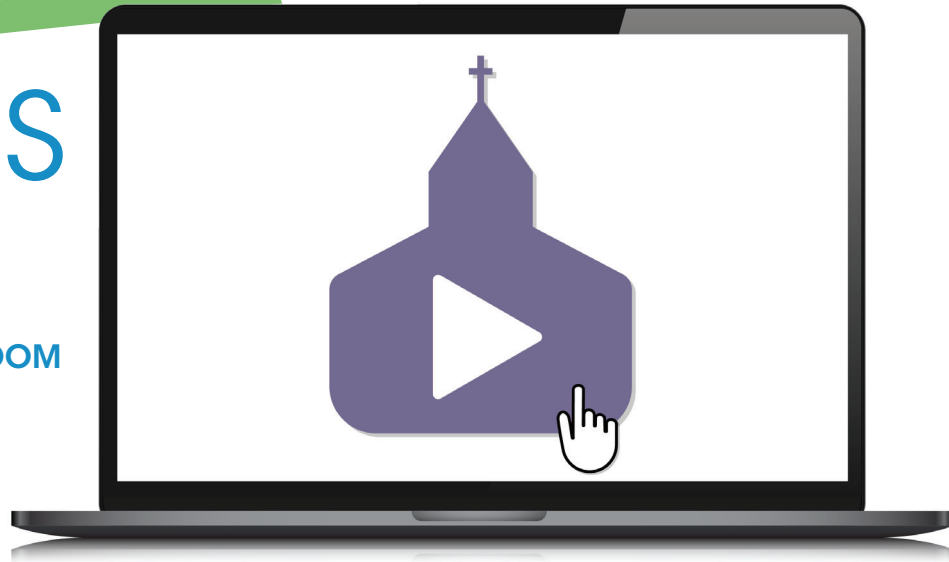
Help us **create awareness** of our email program among your congregation members!

To list your congregation's digital Service of the Word or online event, please send us an email with the pertinent information and links, at info@mnys.org.

DIGITAL *communication* HOW TO'S

HOW TO: DIGITAL SERVICES BY ZOOM

Here is a Beginner's Guide
to sharing your
digital services via ZOOM.



WHAT DO I NEED?

- **A ZOOM account.** You should already have one, or will have been provided a licensed ZOOM account, courtesy of the MNYS Office of the Bishop.
- **A camera and internet connection.** A smartphone, tablet or laptop with a built-in camera and internet service capability.
- **Good lighting.** While candlelight is a popular choice for in-person church services, "the more light the better" is a general rule of thumb when videoing. We want members to feel truly engaged, after all, and for this to happen, they will want to see your face.

THEN WHAT?

The easiest thing to do is just:

1. **DOWNLOAD** the ZOOM application
2. **SIGN IN** to your account
3. Start a **NEW MEETING**
4. **INVITE** participants to join
5. Provide invitees with a **MEETING ID #** and optional **PASSWORD**
6. **MUTE** the audience participant's devices during select parts of the service, so as to reduce ambient sound, but also inform members that they have the ability to un-mute themselves if they would like to participate or share during the service
7. Make sure the **ENTIRE SERVICE CAN BE SEEN IN THE FRAME**
8. **PRAYERFULLY ENJOY THIS VIRTUALLY COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE!**

HOW DO I SPREAD THE WORD?

Provide the **DATE, TIME** and **MEETING ID**, and the optional **PASSWORD** for your Digital Service via ZOOM, using the following platforms:

- **Social media.** Broadcasting the upcoming service through channels, such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, are important, otherwise your audience may not know when and where to tune in.
- **Newsletter emails.** Especially for those who may not be connected through social media, your congregation's email newsletter is an important place to communicate with your members.
- **Website.** Your website is the digital front door of your church. Make sure your website is up-to-date and providing members with resources for staying faithfully engaged, such as your ZOOMed worship services. You may consider moving this information to the homepage of your congregation's website.

DONATIONS

- **Create an electronic donations page.** In this way, members can still remain active and involved in church, through contributions to Mission Support. Ideally, this should be easily accessed on your website, and you can advertise this at the end of your Digital Service.
- The ELCA's preferred digital giving platform is Vanco. Congregations receive special discounted rates on eGiving services. To learn more about this platform, click [HERE](#). A helpful article about other donation platforms can be found [HERE](#).

COPYRIGHT INFORMATION

- Please note that your services may contain music that is copyright protected. In order to avoid any potential issues, consider subscribing to [CCLI Church Copyright License](#), [OneLicense](#) or [Augsburg Fortress](#).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [Video and Audio Recommendations for Live-streaming or Recording](#)



HOW TO: COFFEE HOUR BY ZOOM

Host a Coffee Hour via ZOOM!

You can remain in faithful and thought-provoking discussion with your fellow siblings using ZOOM after your digital worship service. Though we may be physically at a distance, we can still maintain our sense of community and collaboration in the name of the Holy Spirit, with the use of this user-friendly digital interface.

As a **HOST**, you can:

1. **SCHEDULE** a meeting within the ZOOM application
2. **INVITE** members of your faith community to join
3. **INVITE** members of your faith community to share their gifts and talents
4. Provide invitees with a **MEETING ID #** and optional **PASSWORD**
5. **ENJOY COFFEE HOUR!**

In addition, if you would like to then break off into **separate groups** to discuss various subjects, before coming back together, you can create **VIDEO BREAKOUT ROOMS**. See a tutorial on how to do this [HERE](#).



HOW TO: FAITH FORMATION ONLINE

TEXT MESSAGES

Please note, these applications can be run via your web browser, or through an app on your smartphone.

“REMIND” Application: For One-Way Communications:

- When you want to get messages out to your folks, announcement-style, the consensus is that the app REMIND is the best way to go. Many schools use this application to blast announcements and reminders. (Hence, the name.)
- **Feature:** You can create “classes” as you would for small groups or to split your youth group into middle school and high school, or to separate your Adult Sunday School classes from the Congregation Council, or the Women of the ELCA circles. And any group you put together, you can split those folks into smaller groups, as needed. All kinds of ways to get creative with this.
- You can also control whether or not folks can reply to your messages. Most folks just use REMIND to send out messages to people’s phones. Typically, if they are looking for interaction, we recommend another application.
- Click [HERE](#) to get started. Remember, it’s FREE!

“Groupme” Application: For Texting Conversations

- GroupMe is a wonderful application that enables you arrange your contacts into groups, and it is very much about developing conversations. In addition to using this application to send reminders, GroupMe allows for sending pictures, taking polls, and much more. Just like Remind, you can use the app for your smartphone to drive this, or you can log into your account via your web browser. Also, with GroupMe, you can directly message one individual, or the entire group.
- Click [HERE](#) to get started! Yes, it’s free, as well.

ONLINE GATHERINGS

When you are looking for that small group feel, but have to be isolated, we recommend meeting via **Zoom** or **Google Meet**. On our synod website for Online Resources, we share how you can sign up for and create a gathering via Zoom. You can find that page [HERE](#).

While that page says “Worship Resources,” Zoom can be used for so much more, like your youth group or children’s gatherings, or adult Sunday School classes or book studies. So, if you decide to use Zoom, please know that you can pretty much set up all the small group spaces you need.

You can meet at separate times (with separately scheduled meetings) to have a “Middle School” and a “High School” group separate from one another, for example. However, if you wish for EVERYONE to meet at the same time, in one scheduled meeting, you can use the Breakout Rooms feature. Breakout Rooms enable folks to gather in large groups, share greetings and receive instruction, then break out into virtual small groups. Regarding Adult Sunday School, you know how sometimes you ask folks to turn to their neighbors to discuss some questions? Same concept. Use Breakout Rooms to allow deeper conversations; then, the host of the meeting can close out the virtual small group rooms to bring everyone back together for sharing.

No matter what platform you are using, **be sure to safeguard your online gathering space**. You want as many people as possible to SEE the link to your online gathering, but we have seen predatory practices from some people seeking to sabotage online meeting space. Click [HERE](#) to see what that is all about. And note, this is not just for Zoom, but for any online meeting platform. Fear not. You are most likely not going to get taken over by someone, but it is best to consider these safety practices before that happens.

RESPONDIENDO A LA CRISIS DEL CORONAVIRUS: RECURSOS EN ESPAÑOL

COLLECTIVE EFFORT: MNYS COVID-19 RESOURCES PAGE

En esta página podrá encontrar recursos que le ayudarán a navegar la crisis del coronavirus con su congregación.
#SomosIglesiaJuntos

Visit our comprehensive **Coronavirus Resources** page, with continually updated resources, articles & how-to's.

VISITA MNYS.ORG PARA
ENCONTRAR RECURSOS PARA
NUESTROS MIEMBROS DE HABLA
HISPANA

VISIT THE MNYS COVID-19
RESOURCES PAGE AT MNYS.ORG

SYNODICAL EFFORTS: *cop*ing DURING COVID

During the pandemic, the Office of the Bishop has worked hard to remain engaged with its rostered and lay leaders, members, and communities. See, below, **a list of the various online events, initiatives, and resources** MNYS has provided.

We are Impactful Together.
We are Community Together.
We are Church Together.



- [**MNYS WEBINAR: DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS, eGIVING, & CARES ACT**](#) [took place April 3]
- [**MNYS DIGITAL MINISTERIUM**](#) [took place June 4 via Zoom]
- Collective Effort Webinar Series:
 - [**RESOURCES FOR RE-OPENING OUR BUILDINGS**](#) [took place June 10 via Zoom]
 - [**MNYS DIACONAL MINISTRIES**](#) [took place June 13 via Zoom]
- [**PRIDE 2020: QUEER & FAITHFUL**](#) full-day digital livestreamed event [took place June 27 via Zoom]

- [**ANTI-RACISM RESOURCES**](#) reflective of the Bishop's Advocacy Taskforce efforts as anti-racism efforts are actively implemented as an essential element of the Bishop's 2025 Vision
- Launch and daily update of our [**COVID-19 RESOURCES PAGE**](#)
- Launch and daily update of our [**RECURSOS COVID-19**](#) en español
- A weekly premiered [**DIGITAL SERVICE OF THE WORD**](#) from the Office of the Bishop, with the option of providing our interested pastors a copy of the sermon for their own congregational use
- A platform for congregations to create awareness of their [**DIGITAL SERVICES OF THE WORD**](#) via the MNYS website and Weekly Newsletter
- Weekly messages from [**OUR BISHOP & LEADERS**](#) during these challenging times
- A bi-weekly highlight of [**HEROES ON THE FRONT LINES OF OUR SYNOD**](#)
- [**WELLNESS RESOURCES**](#) for self-care during these anxious times
- [**DIGITAL WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES**](#) to stay connected and engaging all members of our communities



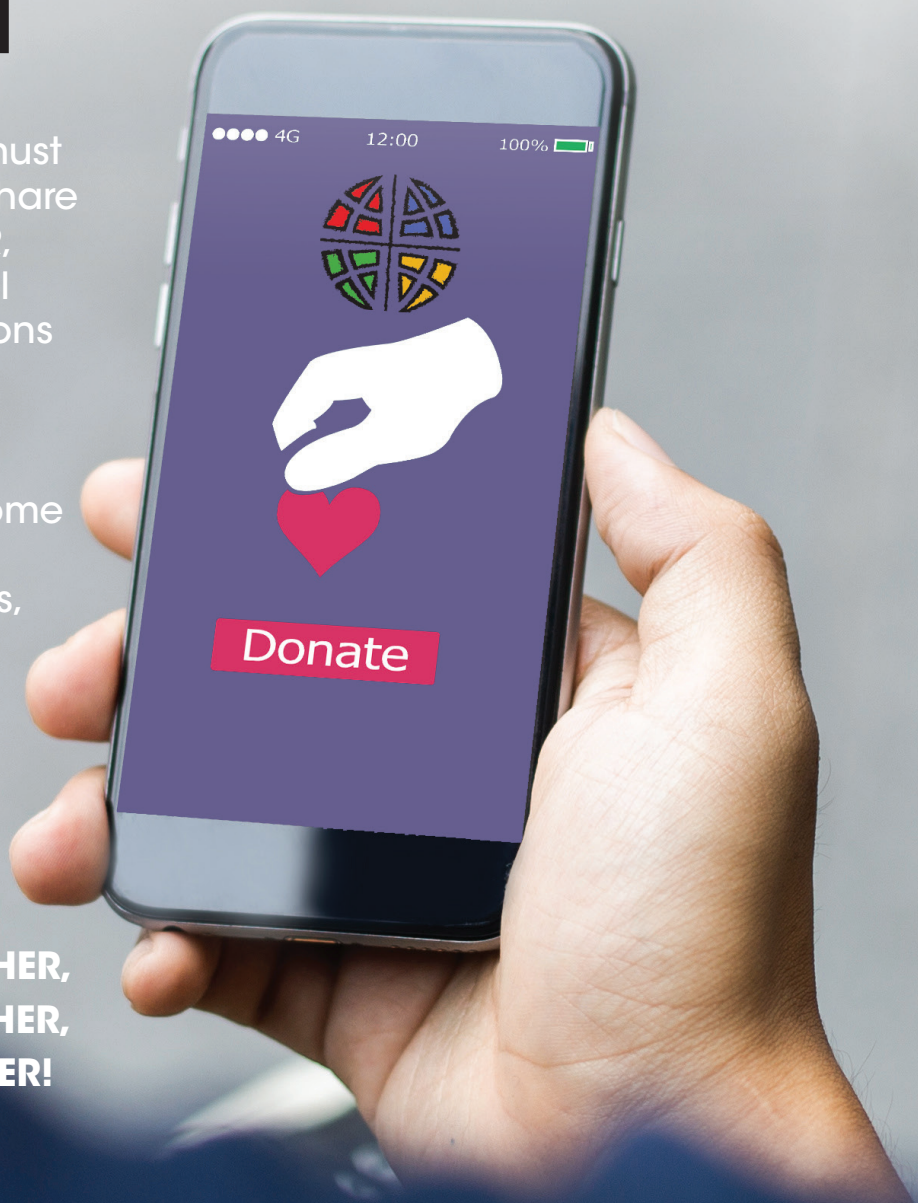
2020 MISSION SUPPORT

Your
commitment
embodies our
partnership
in the
Gospel!

Now more than ever, we must support each other and share the Good News TOGETHER, as we will remain essential TOGETHER. Your contributions ensure the success of this collective effort.

Mission support dollars come back to congregations in the form of grants, services, programs, and resources, **and this support is more important than ever for ALL our congregations during this crisis.**

**WE ARE DEPLOYED TOGETHER,
WE ARE ESSENTIAL TOGETHER,
WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER!**



DONATE NOW BY CLICKING HERE

THE LUTHERAN NEW YORKER

THANK YOU!

Bishop Egensteiner with our AMMPARO/Sanctuary Ministry
distributing food in the metro NY area.



Metropolitan New York Synod
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God's work. Our hands.