



WHAT'S NEXT

To see a video version of this month's headlines, click on the image above.

What's Next

In light of the cancellation of the 2020 Nebraska Synod Assembly, Bishop Maas would like to take this opportunity to share more about what it means to be the Nebraska Synod. Bishop Maas will be presenting, in three brief videos, how the synod is Growing Disciples, Walking Together, and Serving God's World. These videos will be available on the synod website (nebraskasynod.org) beginning the final week of July.

As follow up to the videos, the Bishop and Synod Staff would also like to invite congregations to join them on Wednesday, August 19 at 7:30pm CST or Sunday, August 23 at 7:30pm CST live online to discuss What's Next. We encourage congregations to

watch and share the videos, then attend one of the discussion sessions. It is in this time of physical distancing that it is more important than ever for us to connect and find ways to continue to be the church together.

We hope to see you there!

Bulletin of Reports

The 2020 Bulletin of Reports is now available for download on the Nebraska Synod Website. [Click this link](#) to download.

Seeking the Spirit Within

Seeking the Spirit Within is currently accepting applications for cohort 7 of our two year spiritual direction formation program. Here is what a spiritual director certified through the program had to say about their experience:



STSW

“My time in Seeking the Spirit Within has been transformative in my life. At the age of 61, my strong faith in a **loving** God was faltering. This training gave me the chance to dig deep and sort my own faith issues. With guidance from those who have gone before me, and the faculty of the program, I am excited to have the training to accompany others who ask, ‘Is this all there is?’” (Shirley from cohort 6)

For more information about this program and to receive the application materials contact Connie Stover (conniestover@nebraskasynod.org; 308-440-4450). The application process needs to be completed by August 1, as this cohort will begin their journey of formation and training on August 17, 2020.

Resources for Caring Faithful Conversations

In May there were three online discussions related

to how people in the Nebraska Synod might be encouraged and equipped to have caring faithful conversations outside of worship settings even in this time of physical distancing. A curated list of hands-on resources that can be used as a basis for caring faithful conversations is available on a Google drive at [this link](#). These resources are sorted by age group and by source (Milestones Ministry, ELCA, etc.). If you would like a conversation partner regarding these resources and their use, please contact Lisa Kramme, Director of Faith Formation with the Nebraska Synod, at lisa@nebraskasynod.org.



Taking Faith Home

You may have made use of the Taking Faith Home resource from Milestone Ministry that was offered free for a limited time to congregations in the Nebraska Synod. The remainder of Year A Taking Faith Home resources are available at a reduced cost of \$29.95 at [this link](#). For a user guide on how to use this resource with your congregation, please [click here](#).

5 WAYS TO PREP YOUR BUILDING FOR PEOPLE

Ministries, like yours, are busy making plans to get their church buildings ready this summer to welcome people back for worship. Here's a great video mini series that can help your team, and it's free. Brotherhood Mutual produced each segment at a church with Tim Cool, chief solutions officer with Smart Church Solutions. You'll get some expert advice on how to minimize the spread of germs and how to maximize social distancing in different areas of your building.

[Here is the link to the videos.](#)

NLOM Ministry Update

We value your partnership and want to keep you informed of changes happening within Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

While NLOM was fortunate to receive a Paycheck Protection Program loan to sustain our staff for the last three months, the economic implications of the pandemic have forced staffing reductions.

As of July 15, our Pastor, Director of Development, Program Specialist, and Manager of Retreats and Volunteer Programs positions will be eliminated. Behind these positions are talented, valued members of our ministry whom we will miss greatly. Their responsibilities will be taken on by current year-round staff members. In addition, eight positions within our Guest Services team have transitioned to on-call status, and the rest of our staff have experienced a reduction in pay or hours.

While we work through this incredibly difficult time, our Board of Directors and year-round staff remain hopeful. Our mission to share God's love is more important than ever, and we are grateful for all who continue to help us live out that calling. We are all looking forward to summer camp 2021, and know it will be the best summer yet!

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering Webinar

You're invited to join Amy Wagner, Amy Woods and Lisa Kramme for a free webinar on Thursday, July 23, from Noon-1pm Central Time/11am-Noon Mountain Time. Amy Wagner serves as the Nebraska Synod's Gathering Coordinator, and Amy Woods is Nebraska's Synod Day Director for the 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering. As you may have seen on [the website for the ELCA Youth Gathering](#), next steps for registering and volunteering for the Gathering have been paused due to the pandemic. Amy and Amy will share updates on the Gathering and respond to questions from participants. Lisa, Amy and Amy hope you can (virtually) join them to eat lunch together and learn with one another. To register, click [here](#).



Save the Dates

Please save the dates for the following state-wide faith formation ministry events. More details will follow in future editions of this ENews.

Lutheran Youth of Nebraska (LYON) Assembly for youth in grades 9-12 and their adult leaders

- November 20-22, 2020
- At Messiah Lutheran Church in Aurora and/or online as appropriate

- Nebraska Synod Middle School Gathering for youth in grades 6-8 and their adult leaders

- January 16-17, 2021
 - Location to be determined
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Resources

Resources for Congregations and Leaders can be [found here](#).

Links to Forms and Pulpit Supply can be [found here](#).

[PMA Program Handbooks](#)

[Parish Paper](#)

[Careers](#)

[Nebraska Synod. Blog](#) and [Facebook](#)

Can't find what you're looking for on the synod website, search the [website directory](#).

[Interim Ministry Network Webinars](#)

[The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Webinars](#)

[Contextual Pastoral Institute- Theological Classes in Spanish](#)

[Bloom! Children's Ministry Curriculum](#)

[The Being Academy](#) (Portico's Partner, The Big Know): *Promoting Diversity, Creating Inclusion*



Lutheran Giving

During this time of uncertainty, knowing that you have your affairs in order can be a source of

comfort. Lutheran Giving has assisted individuals and couples in Nebraska establish gifts for ministry for nearly 40 years. Lutheran Giving can help you every step of the way by providing free one-on-one planning assistance (in person or remotely) to ensure your objectives and plans for both family and charitable beneficiaries are met.

If you have charitable intent for one of our ministry partners, we would love to meet with you to discuss ways to support your legacy. Please contact us at (402) 342-5728 or info@lutherangiving.org or visit our website for more information, www.lutherangiving.org.

Events

Nebraska Synod Events:

July 13, 2020- Deacon Nichole Lyons Ordination 1pm will be livestreamed at [this link](#).

Sept 13, 2020- [God's Work. Our Hands \(day of service\)](#)

32nd Annual Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction

While the 2020 Quilt Auction will look a little different, supporting camp through this fun-filled day is as important as ever.

As we thoughtfully created our COVID-19 safety plan for the Sarpy/Cass Health Department, we took into consideration the best practices of other events in the area as well as current county and state recommendations. **We want to make sure everyone has a fun and safe time at the Quilt Auction, so we ask that you:**

- stay home if you are not feeling well. Absentee bidding will be available.
- consider wearing a protective mask at the event. (Masks are highly encouraged.)
- keep a respectful distance (about 6 feet) from other families and households.
- do not touch the quilts as you are viewing them.
- bring your own hand sanitizer to use throughout the day—or use the sanitizer we'll be providing throughout the Quilt Auction area.
- pre-swipe your credit card at check-in for contactless check out.

For more information about this year's procedures, visit CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction.

Not able to attend the Quilt Auction? Prefer to watch from a distance? You can still be a part of this important day! Our website includes **absentee bidding instructions** (available now), **and a video live stream** of the Quilt Auction (available on July 25). All information can be found at: CJHCenter.org/quilt-auction.

Rostered Ministers Gathering- This event has been cancelled.

2021 ELCA Youth Gathering- June 29-July 3, 2021

Pre events: MYLE & the tAble: June 26-29, 2021

Other Events (You're Invited):

Please visit the [Nebraska Synod Website Calendar](#) and select the month/year for which you would like to search the event calendar.

[Lombard Mennonite Peace Center- Advanced Clergy Clinics](#)

[Leadership in the Times of Crisis Webinar](#)

We Want to Hear Your Good News

The Nebraska Synod is looking for stories of Good News, Congregations at work- serving their communities, and more to share across the synod. Please share your story by sending a summary and any photos to communications@nebraskasynod.org.

To Help Support the Nebraska Synod Ministries, click on [Give Now](#).

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