



For a video summary of this month's news, click on the image above.

## A Message from Bishop Brian Maas

George Floyd.  
Breonna Taylor.  
Tony McDade.  
James Scurlock.

These four people are only the most recent of a long list of individuals, God's own beloved ones, who have died violently because of their race. Because they were black.

Arguments about the specifics of how each died are simply distractions from the reality of racism and its consequences. Their race contributed directly to their deaths.

As I watch protests in the media I see expressions of grief, rage, frustration, and despair. I also see and hear and feel those same intense expressions as I listen to people I know, to friends, to people I care about, who because of the color of their skin have lived with the reality of racism all their lives. And who are exhausted in their wait for change.

As a white man with a very privileged existence, I can't pretend to know their experience, their pain, their frustration. I know only that it's real and I know I cannot ignore it. The time for words alone has passed. It passed a long time ago. Now is the time for honesty and for action.

My honesty is in confessing how ill-equipped I am for such work, how overwhelmed I am when I acknowledge the pain I see in the streets and in the faces of people I care about. My action—my action is to step into the pain, ill-equipped but trusting God will get me, get us, where we need to go.

I don't know what form that action will take. I am seeking the help of others in determining what it will be, so that it is not yet another half-step that lets us pretend we've done something. My commitment is to doing something soon.

In the meantime, I ask for your prayers. Pray for those victimized by racism. Pray for those whose lives and communities are torn by its consequences. Pray for the protestors and the police and for all who strive to stand as one with those who are suffering. Pray by name for the loved ones of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and James Scurlock. And pray that our church seizes this moment to confront the reality of racism, ready for the hard, hard work that that's going to be.

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## **Bulletin of Reports**

The 2020 Bulletin of Reports will be available for download on the Nebraska Synod website in June. Please check [this link](#) in the coming days for the file.

## **Seeking the Spirit Within**

Applications are being accepted for the 2020-2022

cohort of Seeking the Spirit Within: The Nebraska Synod Institute of Spiritual Direction Formation. Contact the Director of Seeking the Spirit Within to receive further information and to request the application materials. Personal interviews will be scheduled with all applicants, and written letters communicating the Institute's decision regarding admittance will be delivered by postal mail. Those individuals who receive admittance to our program will need to confirm their commitments to participate in the 2020-2022 cohort by August 1, 2020.



To learn more about the program [click here](#). Email [Deacon Connie Stover](mailto:Deacon Connie Stover), Director of STSW with any questions.



## Nebraska Corona Bible

The Nebraska Corona Bible is a project intended to be a low-tech means to stay connected during physical distancing and inviting everyone into a faith practice. What we're envisioning is people across Nebraska each copying a chapter from the Bible in their own handwriting. The final result will be a "Nebraska Corona Bible," a powerful testimony to hope and connection in this time of crisis.

People can add their commentary and art in the margins, and once collected, we believe this hand-written manuscript will be a beautiful witness to this time.

Rev. Adam White and his colleague from the PCUSA invite you to review the website, <https://nebraskacoronabible.com/>, and to share this with others. They would love for the Nebraska Synod to have wide-spread participation.

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## 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](mailto: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](#).

### **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](mailto:communications@nebraskasynod.org).

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### **Act now to volunteer at the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer**

Would you like to volunteer at the Gathering and help our young people grow in faith and encounter Christ? Volunteering is a great way to experience this triennial event and deepen your understanding of the greater church and its work in the world. Serve as either a Gathering Volunteer Corps (GVC) member or a Servant Companion. Volunteers must be 19 years old, have been out of high school for one year by the time of the Gathering, and commit to being in Minneapolis for one week, likely arriving Sunday, June 27, and departing Saturday, July 3, 2021. You can learn more about each opportunity on the Gathering website, <https://elca.org/YouthGathering/Attend/Volunteer>, and discern which

opportunity is right for you.

Apply for this life-changing experience and we hope to see you and many Nebraskans in Minneapolis next summer.

- GVC applications open May 21-July 21, 2020
- Servant Companion applications open Nov. 21, 2020-Jan. 21, 2021



## 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

## Children's Ministry Webinar

You're invited to join Julie Hestermann and Lisa Kramme for a free webinar on Thursday, June 18, from Noon-1pm Central Time/11am-Noon Mountain Time. Julie serves on staff with Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and will be sharing her experiences of ministry with children and their families during the pandemic. Practical ideas for congregations of all sizes will be shared along with information about the Christian Education Network of the ELCA, through which Julie serves as a Network Advocate for Region 4. Lisa and Julie hope you can (virtually) join us to eat lunch together as we listen and learn with one another. To register, click [here](#).

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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](#)

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

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

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## Events

### Nebraska Synod Events:

July 6-12, 2020- [The Journey with Nashville](#)- Cancelled

### **32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Carol Joy Holling Quilt Auction**

Saturday, July 25, 2020 \* 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Carol Joy Holling Camp

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, and our ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, let us not fear, but with confidence use this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus through our prayers and our care for others.

The 32nd Annual Quilt Auction is still scheduled for July 25. We are hopeful we will be able to gather once again by that time. Like the rest of the world, we are learning more about COVID-19 every day. We will wait until closer to the event to decide if any changes to the date or format of the auction need to be made.

The delivery or packaging of donated quilts will change this year.

- This year, each quilt or item must be individually wrapped in a plastic bag with the paperwork inside.
- If mailing, please place all plastic bags into one mailing container and mark "Quilt Auction" on the package.

· If delivering to the Carol Joy Holling Camp office, please place the wrapped packages in the container near the front door marked for quilts.

## Questions?

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Heather Abbott by email at [HAbbott@NLOM.org](mailto:HAbbott@NLOM.org) or by phone at 402-944-2544.

Direct Link for Event:

<https://www.cjhcenter.org/quilt-auction>

Additional information and a special video message from NLOM leadership can be found at [CarolJoyHolling.org](http://CarolJoyHolling.org) and [SullivanHills.org](http://SullivanHills.org).

**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](#)

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