

A Simple Way to Give Food

Sometimes being a good steward of what God has entrusted to us can be very complicated, like forming a trust.

Sometimes being a good steward can be ridiculously simple, like putting food where someone in need can get it.

As I write this there are 33 million newly unemployed Americans. We can anticipate this will put a strain on our food shelves and food banks. Plus, the newly unemployed may be hesitant to utilize a local food shelf.

This is where the Little Free Food Pantries can be so helpful. Already, 15 congregations in our synod have set up these little boxes with the theme “take what you need, leave what you can.”

If you can donate to a food shelf or a “Little Free Food Pantry,” remember that while a can of beans or Ramen noodles are appreciated, items like diapers, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning products are especially helpful.

For a list and map of the Little Free Food Pantries, please visit www.neiasynod.org/ministries/hunger.



— Pastor Mark A. Anderson
Assistant to the Bishop

Synod worship service is available online

Thank you to the congregations that chose to celebrate the Ascension of Our Lord with the worship service prepared by the Northeastern Iowa Synod staff. The service was offered as an option to give rostered ministers, musicians and other worship planners a week of respite and opportunity to be fed while worshipping with family, without the responsibilities of preparing or leading worship.

The recording is still available on the synod website for congregations that want to use it on another date or for individuals and families to view on their own. The service features Bishop Steven Ullestad preaching the sermon, with synod staff and others also participating.

The video can be viewed at www.neiasynod.org/event. A printed version of the order of service and Bishop’s sermon is available to download.

Reopening Video

The Disaster Response Network hosted a Zoom forum on May 8, 2020, to discuss how congregations can plan ahead to safely reopen in response to COVID-19. Dr. Natalie Del Vecchio of the University of Iowa College of Public Health and Steve O’Neil, coordinator of Cerro Gordo County Emergency Management, were guests.

The video of that forum can be viewed and downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response.

COVID-19 Webinar for Women of the ELCA

Lutheran Services in Iowa is offering a special webinar created for its Women of the Church ELCA partners. A mental health therapist from LSI will share expertise on how to “Navigate Change During COVID-19.”

The webinar will be offered Wednesday, June 3, at 9 a.m.; Thursday, June 4, at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, June 6, at 9 a.m. Women can register at register.gotowebinar.com/rt/1047529324077418507. Those who would prefer to call in and listen should contact Anna Jetson, president of the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization, 952-240-9569, or amjetson@yahoo.com.

ELCA Service Day

The ELCA “God’s work. Our hands.” service day is still on for Sunday, Sept. 13. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, congregations are invited to explore ways to participate in the homes or from a safe distance. Congregations that can’t participate on Sept. 13 are encouraged to consider another day for service activities. Visit ELCA.org/DayOfService for planning resources and promotional items.