Dear partners,

It has been two weeks since my second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. I still wear a mask everywhere I go, but I am smiling a lot more. Thank God for science.

Watching this holy work gave me a booster of hope in humanity. As I acknowledged my patients' hopes and fears while administering the vaccine, I was encouraged to mark this day locally. Please email worship@elca.org for a full overview of the workshop in Kristen Opalinski's recent blog post.

In hope,

Benedicta E. Eaton, Presiding Bishop and LWF President

---

Love thy neighbor. Get vaccinated. | Faiths4Vaccines: A Multifaith Movement

Faiths4Vaccines provides a platform for faith leaders to advocate for equitable distribution of vaccines. This movement is led by The Rev. Dr. Protopresbyter Nicolas Kazarian, Director, Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical, and Religious Communities Affairs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, in collaboration with ecumenical partner bishops serving geographical areas along the southern border of the United States and with the staff of the National Institute for Interreligious Understanding (NIIU).

The Orthodox Church Launches "Greening the Parish" Resource Page

The Orthodox Church, represented by the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical, and Religious Communities Affairs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, has launched a "Greening the Parish" resource page. Designed for both the parish and the home, this page provides resource materials for environmental stewardship within ecumenical and inter-religious contexts.

Over Fear, Shoulder to Shoulder "Faith Over Fear" Training, May-June

The ELCA has resumed bilateral dialogue in March on the topic of "the role, place, and power of the sacraments and the Confessions in shaping our ecclesial identities as church." The dialogue session, the first since 2004, focused on resuming the conversation on the role, place, and power of the sacraments and the Confessions in shaping our ecclesial identities as church. The meeting took place virtually amid ongoing global challenges and affirmed the need for renewed inter-denominational cooperation and the importance of the sacraments in the life of the church.

To mark Earth Day 2021, the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical, and Religious Communities Affairs of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America launched a "Greening the Parish" resource page. Designed for both the parish and the home, this page provides resource materials for environmental stewardship within ecumenical and inter-religious contexts.

Sessions centered on a variety of themes including Christian hospitality, creation care, confronting racism and responding to human migration. You can learn more here.

The Future Earth Summit, launched in 2014, is the world's leading and longest-running event bringing together governments, civil society, and businesses to catalyze global action on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Summit focuses on the key global challenges that the world must address in order to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

To celebrate the enduring work of religious and spiritual leaders in the movement online, the ELCA convened "Shoulder to Shoulder: Faith Over Fear," a virtual gathering on May 4th. This event focused on leaders from a variety of faith traditions. The conversation was hosted by Harvard Divinity School.

The National Council of Churches (NCC) continues to face challenges in the wake of a global pandemic, but the organization remains committed to advocating for the common good.

This year's Ecumenical Advocacy Days also made the transition to a fully digital experience. Participants gathered April 18-23 under the theme "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored." Workshops tied together the climate crisis, racial inequity, and migration, and sessions centered on a variety of themes including Christian hospitality, creation care, confronting racism and responding to human migration. You can read a full overview of the workshop in Kristen Opalinski's recent blog post.

Participants gathered April 18-23 under the theme "Imagine! God's Earth and People Restored." Workshops tied together the climate crisis, racial inequity, and migration, and sessions centered on a variety of themes including Christian hospitality, creation care, confronting racism and responding to human migration. The conversations of the event took place online amid ongoing global challenges and affirmed the need for renewed inter-denominational cooperation and the importance of the sacraments in the life of the church.

The LWF and the World Council of Churches (WCC) co-organize the Parliament of the World's Religions, the world's largest interfaith gathering. This year's parliament will gather the world's global interfaith leaders virtually to celebrate the momentous success of the COP26 climate summit and to chart new ways forward. Registration is now open for the Eighth Parliament of the World's Religions Oct. 17-18. This year's parliament will gather the world's global interfaith leaders virtually to celebrate the momentous success of the COP26 climate summit and to chart new ways forward.