Greetings in this fourth week of Lent.

It has been just over a month since I humbly accepted Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton’s invitation to serve permanently as assistant to the presiding bishop and executive for worship. The ministry of the Worship team in the Office of the Presiding Bishop includes developing and implementing strategies that support worship in synods, congregations and other local worship assemblies across the ELCA. With my colleagues, Jennifer Baker-Trinity, program director for resource development, and BethAnn Lynch, coordinator for worship and liturgical resources, this team also develops and reviews worship resources intended for use throughout this church.

During this time of pandemic, the approach to worship suddenly looks very different. I am proud of the pastors, deacons, bishops and other leaders of this church who continue to cultivate relationships and build community in unique ways. We will learn from each other in these next weeks. Remember, you are not doing these things alone. God walks with us as we seek to be the body of Christ in new and different ways. Remember the words of Paul’s letter to the Romans:

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
(Romans 8:38-39)

In Christ’s peace,
Deacon John E. Weit
Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, Executive for Worship

COVID-19

In the midst of the spread of COVID-19, resources that offer guidance for congregations and members are available at ELCA.org/PublicHealth.
Worship in the Home
Available now on the ELCA worship blog is a weekly post, “Worship in the Home.” Although various formats of livestreaming worship work well in many contexts, you are encouraged to worship as you are able in homes on Sunday and throughout the week. Consider ways to pray and sing using this resource at home. If you don’t have a hymnal at home, perhaps churches might safely distribute copies for home use. Additional entries for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter will be available in Holy Week.

All Creation Sings
As we anticipate the fall release of All Creation Sings, a liturgy and song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship, the ELCA Worship Blog will highlight different features of the resource over the next few months. Visit the blog this month to learn more about this collection’s assembly song.

If you would like additional information or do not find the question you need answered, we invite you to contact the worship staff at worship@elca.org.

We enjoy hearing from you! It is a gift for those of us here at Worship to hear about the breadth and depth of worship practices around this church. If your particular context has a story, practice or resource to share with our staff, please send it to worship@elca.org. Although we cannot share everything we receive, we may contact you for further information.

Resources and Events

World Council of Churches Assembly
2021 Karlsruhe, Germany

The World Council of Churches (WCC) is inviting prayer and music submissions for its 11th assembly, to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany, in 2021. Guidelines for submissions have been released describing how materials will ideally reflect the assembly theme “Christ’s Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity.”

Music and prayer submissions are due on March 31, 2020.

Institute of Liturgical Studies
April 20-22, 2020

A message from the co-directors:
Due to concerns surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and policies
regarding large gatherings, and for care of the most vulnerable in our midst, ILS 2020 will not be held April 20-22, 2020.

**Augsburg Fortress**  
**Summer Music Clinic 2020**

Led by John Ferguson and Christopher Aspaas

Read through new seasonal music, attend workshops, participate in a hymn festival, attend handbell workshops and more!

Visit our website for locations and more information!

**Hearts • Hands • Voices**  
**July 20-23**  
**Valparaiso, Ind.**

Registration is now open for a special Hearts • Hands • Voices event at Valparaiso University, sponsored by ALCM Region 1 in conjunction with the 2020 Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival (LSM).

View full event information.

**Lutheran Summer Music 2020**  
**June 28-July 26**  
**Valparaiso University**

Applications accepted until May 15. With only a few months to go until the application deadline, go to the LSM website to learn about the ways to make sure no young musician in your congregation misses out on this incredible opportunity!