



Region 1 Disaster Preparedness and Response
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

November 2, 2020

United for Ministry in the Days of COVID-19
 Lutheran Social Service Agencies, Synods
 and ELCA Church Members Together

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"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

This Issue of the Hammer and Dance is published a day early so that we might invite you to an [Election Day Prayer Vigil](#) offered cooperatively by three different Region 1 congregations.



[The Art of Sandy Roumagoux November 3 at the Prayer Vigil.](#)

Election Day, November 3, 9am-12midnight PST Online

Central Lutheran (Portland, OR), in partnership with Immanuel Lutheran (Seattle, WA), and The Flame (Portland, OR), is hosting an online vigil. [All are invited to sit vigil with us - Learn more here.](#)

It will be my privilege to host the 9 AM hour of this vigil, sharing the art of [Sandy Roumagoux](#), some of my poetry, and music of hope and healing. Lift Every Voice and Sing as people around the Region bring their hopes, prayers and votes to our country. ([Or available at your convenience here.](#))



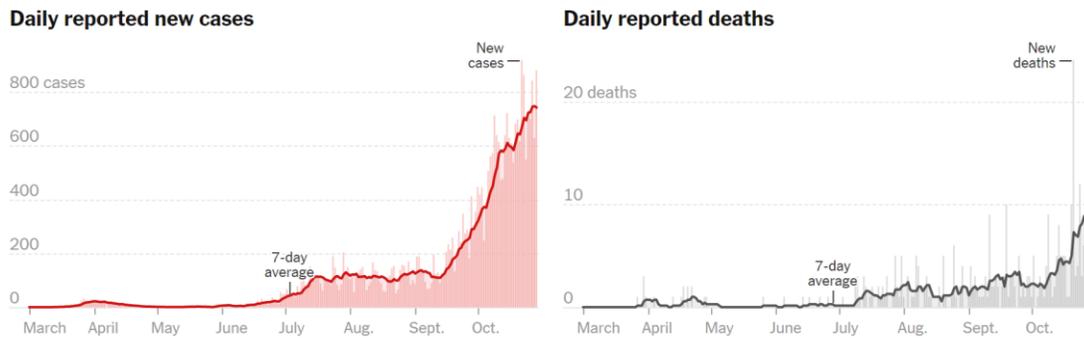
Dave Brauer-Rieke



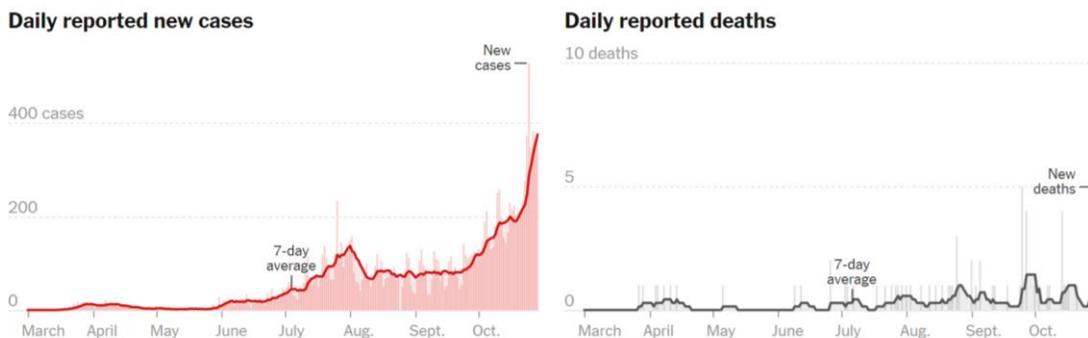
COVID is Back! *(Not that it every left!!)*

The U.S. is experiencing what is likely the beginning of a devastating new wave of COVID. The five states of ELCA Region 1 are all experiencing new highs in both infection and death rates. The following graphs are not cumulative. What they show is the skyrocketing increase in daily rates over the past weeks and months.

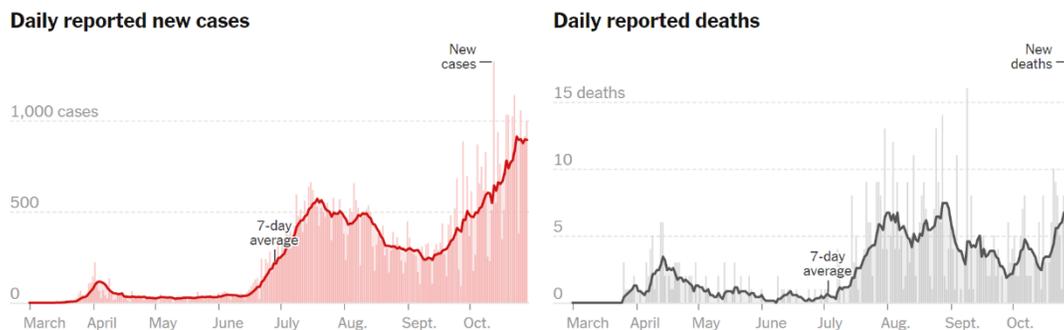
Montana “At least 13 new coronavirus deaths and 881 new cases were reported in Montana on Oct. 29. Over the past week, there have been an average of 742 cases per day, an increase of 21 percent from the average two weeks earlier.”



Alaska “At least 5 new coronavirus deaths and 364 new cases were reported in Alaska on Oct. 29. Over the past week, there have been an average of 375 cases per day, an increase of 95 percent from the average two weeks earlier.”



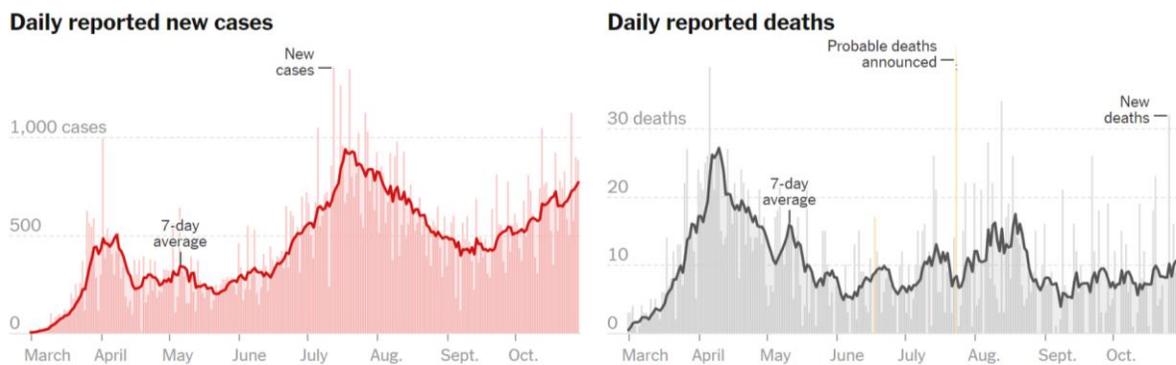
Idaho “At least 18 new coronavirus deaths and 998 new cases were reported in Idaho on Oct. 29. Over the past week, there have been an average of 893 cases per day, an increase of 35 percent from the average two weeks earlier.”



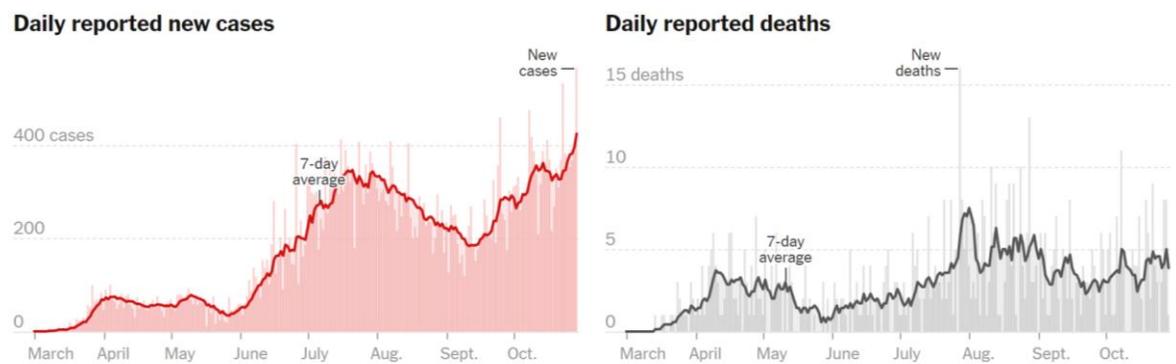
Montana, Alaska and Idaho are among those state considered to have high rates of infections and deaths overall. And, they are getting worse. Some hospitals in these states are now near or over capacity and are beginning to look for places they can 'outsource' their patients to. Neighboring states are beginning to wonder if it is their responsibility to helps such states which, to a large degree, have not chosen to enforce CDC mask wearing recommendations or community gathering sizes.

Washington and Oregon have lower infection rates but are also seeing increases.

Washington "At least 9 new coronavirus deaths and 883 new cases were reported in Washington on Oct. 29. Over the past week, there have been an average of 769 cases per day, an increase of 17 percent from the average two weeks earlier."



Oregon "At least 1 new coronavirus death and 565 new cases were reported in Oregon on Oct. 29. Over the past week, there have been an average of 424 cases per day, an increase of 23 percent from the average two weeks earlier."



The maps and statistics proved here all come from the [New York Times Coronavirus Outbreak Report](#). These figures are from the report for October 30, 2020. If one looks back to March, April and May it is clear that our situation is *significantly* worse today than when we closed churches, sent employees home and states began to enact radical Public Health measures. We know such measures work where implemented consistently. Yet, some churches are re-engaging public worship, businesses have been opening, and families have been gathering like they used to. What has changed? Do we know enough to support such behaviors given the state of the virus? These are questions we must address honestly.

The Great American Shakeout

The [Great American Shakeout](#) was October 15, 2020.

This is an annual and global event for earthquake education and practice. At a designated time participants, wherever they are, take shelter in a mock earthquake drill.

This last month over 1.5 million individuals participated in this earthquake drill in the five states of Region 1 alone. More than half of those were Washingtonians (way to go Washington!) but all of our states had significant participation. This, of course, is critical in the Pacific Northwest due to an anticipated Cascadia Subduction zone event.

Earthquakes can, and always should, be reported to <http://www.Earthquake.usgs.gov/data/dyfi/> for tracking purposes. Tuck that web address away!

And a pop quiz! According to the [University of Alaska Alaska Earthquake Center](#), 3,462 Alaskan earthquakes were recorded during ... what?

1. This past Reformation Sunday., October 25, 2020.
2. The month of September.
3. The years of WWII.
4. So far this century.
5. 2020 to date.
6. The last Ice Age.
7. This past summer.
8. The Obama Administration.
9. The last decade.

(Answer on last page.)

Oregon Lutherans take cover!



Preaching and Praying thru Disaster

Sunday, November 15, 2020 – [Matthew 25:14 - 30](#) – **It Will End**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them.” Stop. Stop! Is it like that? Have we been entrusted with something? What? Jump back to the beginning of Matthew 24. Remember the conversation here is about the upcoming destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem and the loss of Jewish identity and meaning. What has been entrusted has been defiled. People of God let us not dig a hole and put our faith, our sense of justice, our democracy, our decency, fairness, justice or compassion into it. We will reap what we sow. This is the point.



Christ the King, November 22, 2020 – [Matthew 25:31 - 46](#)

“You know that after two days the Passover is coming, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.” These are the words Jesus speaks immediately after today's text. They reflect the Jesus we know, not the Jesus who separates the sheep from the goats. My crystal ball can't pierce the veil of November 3. My guess, however, is that there will be a lot of judging and sifting going on. I believe this text expresses Matthew's anxiety more than the risen Lord we cherish. Either way, though, “What are the first words you'll speak in this time?”

Thanksgiving Day, November 26, 2020 – [Luke 17:11-19](#) – **Gratitude!**

“Keeping their distance, the lepers called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” I never noticed before that this traditional Thanksgiving Gospel is really a social distancing text. These lepers call out to Jesus *“keeping their distance”* because that is the law. And Jesus sends these lepers to the priests because the priests are the state Health Authority. Only they can grant access back into society. The fact that these lepers go, still sick, is an act of faith. The fact that they are healed along the way is a miracle. The fact that nine of them continue their journey to see the priests is necessary, obedient, and only logical. The fact that one skips this last step and returns to Jesus is, well, what is that? Jesus sees it as thanksgiving, and he is mystified that others don't likewise live out of gratitude. Apparently, gratitude is the difference between being “healed” and being “made well.” It is an inexplicable mystery. *“¿Dónde están los otros nueve?”* Where are the other nine?!



No Thanksgiving worship this year? Give your folks a sermon option anyway. Invite them to www.Region1BePrepared.org/sermons for a sermon by Dave Brauer-Rieke. **Gratitude!**

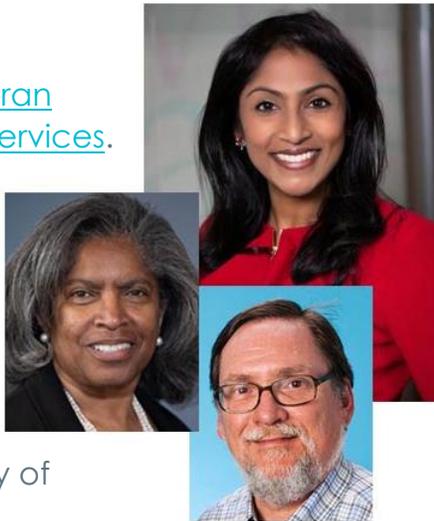
Revealing Relationships: Environmental Racism, Climate Migration and Disaster Preparedness

Saturday, November 14, 2020
9 AM Alaska Time, 10 AM Pacific,
11 AM Mountain

Join these amazing teachers and advocates for learning, inspiration, community and conversation.

Krish O'Mara Vignarajah is [President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services](#).

She previously served in the Obama White House as Policy Director for First Lady Michelle Obama and with the State Department as Senior Advisor under Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of State John Kerry.



Ruth M. Ivory-Moore is ELCA's [Program Director for Environment and Energy](#). She has had careers in chemical engineering and as corporate legal counsel, and so will bring legal specialties including environmental law and climate change to our conversation.

Stephen Deal is a Regional Representative for [AMMPARO](#) and [ELCA Global Missions](#). He will be joining us from San Jose, Costa Rica where he sees first-hand the impacts of Climate Change and other factors driving Central American citizens away from their homes.

[Webinar Details and Registration: Region1BePrepared.org/webinars](#)

Great American Shakeout Quiz Answer – 2
According to the [University of Alaska Earthquake Center](#), 3,462 earthquakes were recorded in September of 2020.

Don't miss out!



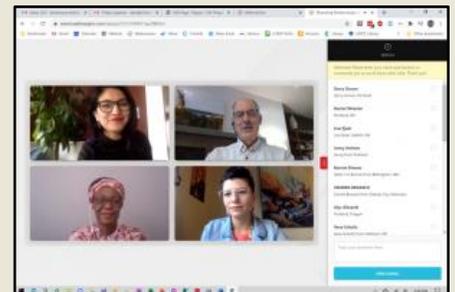
"The content was excellent. I learned a lot, and presenters



shared 'real' information from their personal experiences."

"Just Thank you!!"

"The presenters were wonderful! I am so grateful they shared with us from their experiences and wisdom."



[If you missed Revealing Relationships: Racism and Disaster Preparedness it's not too late.](#)

[Replay the webinar just as it happened live.](#)

[More options here.](#)