



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

ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

October 20, 2020

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

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How does one prepare for a disaster that the mind fundamentally can't process? This is a problem with, say, our response to the looming Cascadia Subduction Zone event. "Ah, that will never happen." With Climate Change the problem is just the opposite. It's not that we don't see the problem coming. We simmer in slow motion death! No, here the issue is that we are bored as the crisis emerges in incrementally. We're a people hooked on speed.

For the first time in history the president of the United States has refused to guarantee a peaceful transition of power after the November 3 election. How can that be? What does it mean? I don't know that I'm able to process the implications of such a thing. As with Climate Change I feel this refusal is just one more insult to our democracy. It's like the fact that half of all the coral on the Great Barrier Reef have died over the past quarter century. Is that suppose to mean something significant? Or, it's like the truth of a 9.0+ Magnitude Subduction Zone Earthquake. That's not really going to happen, right?

What does it mean to prepare for disasters? It seems to me the first step is to wrestle with the possibilities. *Dave Brauer-Rieke*



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Pandemic Fatigue and a New Wave

“Coronavirus cases in the United States are surging [toward their third peak](#) in eight months. More than 70,000 new infections were recorded on Friday, the most in a single day since July, and the country recently surpassed eight million total cases.



How did we get here — gain?

The communal rituals of hope that helped people endure the initial outbreak have given way to exhaustion and frustration. And with no end to the pandemic in sight, a public weariness is sinking in, sending people flocking to bars, family parties, bowling alleys and sporting events.

The same dynamic is playing out in Europe, which had largely beaten back the virus with harsh lockdowns in the spring, but is now facing a terrifying new wave. Countries across the continent [are announcing fresh restrictions](#) at a time when researchers from the World Health Organization estimate that about half of the population is experiencing “pandemic fatigue.”

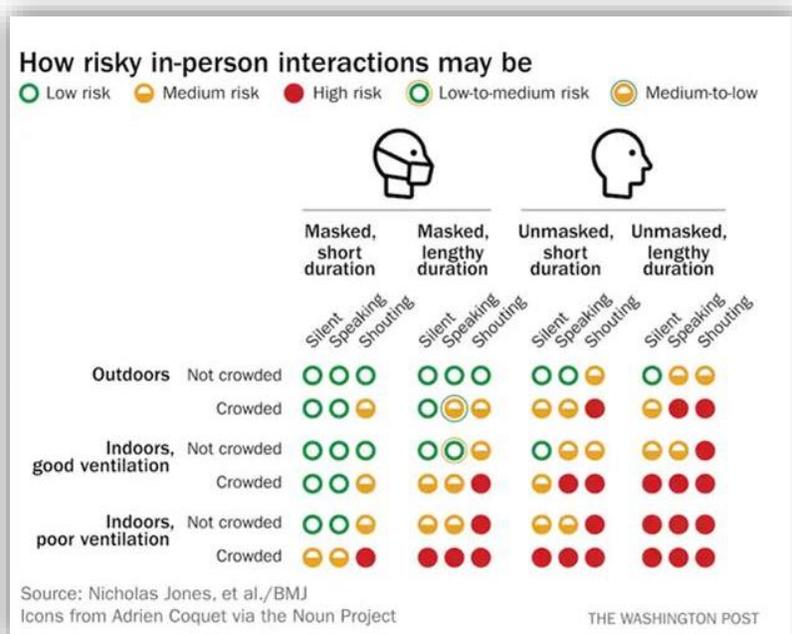
The New York Time – October 19, 2020

It is important that we in the Church continue to behave in ways that are responsible and caring for Public Health. Thank you for your care and the example you set.

As we enter the Holiday Season it will be important for our employees and families to keep in mind appropriate social distancing and safety precautions. Just because family are people we know and love does not mean their service and work does not put them at risk of exposure.

It would be a gift for you to be proactive in speaking about the opportunities and risks inherent in family gatherings. You are called to serve.

Silence is not service.



Preaching and Praying thru Disaster

All Saints Sunday, November 1, 2020 – [Revelation 7:9-17](#) – *It Will End*

The angel said to me, *“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”* There will be



no avoiding preaching and praying on politics this Sunday, and possibly no forgiveness when you do. One cannot read the names of the saints without asking if we are on the right path, as they were. One cannot reflect on the light of the courageous without damning the darkness of cowardice. Revelation 7 is a political text about hunger and thirst and leadership. *“These are they who have come out of the great ordeal.”* It will end. We will be heard.

Sunday, November 8, 2020 – [Matthew 25:1-13](#) – *Uncertainty*

Jesus concluded, *“Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”* The Season of Pentecost drives us towards an

ending of which we know nothing – nothing other than that the crucified Christ will be there waiting for us. In this parable the arrival of the Bridegroom is delayed. Some did not prepare for this uncertainty, and they paid the price of the unprepared. Last Sunday we lit candles in remembrance of those white robed saints who have gone before us. Did you choose to remember the great ordeal that stands between our “now” and their “tomorrow?” What do you see? What might be? *“Keep awake!”*



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. *“The Gospel of the Lord.”*

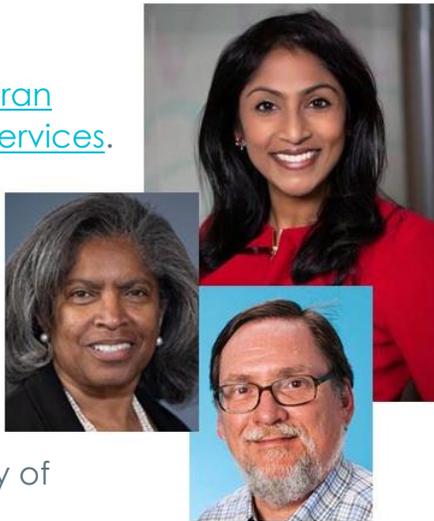
Revealing Relationships: Environmental Racism, Climate Migration and Disaster Preparedness

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](#)

Don't miss out!



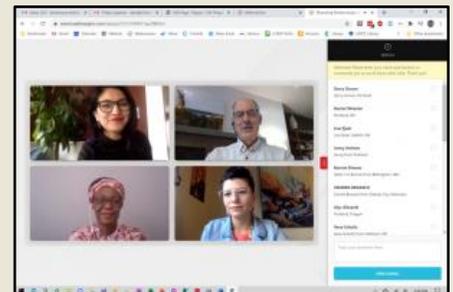
"The content was excellent. I learned a lot, and presenters



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.](#)