



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

## ELCA REGION 1 HAMMER & DANCE

January 11, 2022

United for Ministry in times of Rapid Change  
 Lutheran Social Service Agencies, Synods  
 and ELCA Church Members Together

### Region 1 Lutheran Disaster Preparedness & Response

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The New Year always invites one to review the year just passed, Then, we might make decisions around what we want or anticipate for tomorrow. One does not generally “anticipate” disasters, or the loss of a job or people they love. Yet, in the case of aging parents or a changing job market one might indeed anticipate such possibilities and plan accordingly. How does this flesh out in the world of fire, floods, and freezing rain?

As I write, Kentucky and other parts of the mid-west are reeling from devastating tornados. Tornados in this part of the country aren't surprising. However, [serious tornados in December are almost unheard of!](#)

One might say the same about the wildfires in Colorado. [Colorado knows fire. The three worst wildfires in the state's history were in 2020, and now – once again in December - the state is ablaze.](#) Really?!

Where and when fires or floods might strike, we cannot say. That they will happen - this we know! In the year ahead we are called to building community **resilience** in every way we can. This issue of the [Hammer and Dance](#) invites you into this work.

**Dave Brauer-Rieke, Region 1 LDR Disaster Preparedness Project Manager.**



## Embrace the Invitation

- [Omicron](#)
- [Afghan Update](#)
- [Climate](#)
- [Equity](#)
- [Region 1 Network](#)

## Masks, avoiding crowds, physical distancing and testing still work!

"The methods we've used since the beginning of the pandemic will still help us now. If you're going to be around other people inside who are not from your household, particularly if some of those people might be unvaccinated or the group is a large one, wear a properly fitting mask over your mouth and nose.

People who have relaxed some of their COVID-19 precautions in recent months might want to be a bit more careful with omicron spreading. That means mask-wearing in the grocery store, avoiding crowded events or wearing a mask when visiting older relatives, for example.

Testing is helpful. If you are going to gather in a group or travel, it's a good idea to get tested at a testing site — PCR tests are the most accurate. The at-home versions aren't perfect, but they do a pretty good job of detecting infectious cases, Wohl says. If you test positive, you need to stay away from others and slow transmission.

And while COVID-19 is an airborne disease, keep up regular handwashing and disinfection of surfaces, which will also help reduce the transmission of flu, RSV and other common winter infections. With health care systems already struggling to take care of patients with the delta variant and yet another surge at hand, it's best for all of us to stay as healthy as possible."

**Dr. David A. Wohl UNC  
School of Medicine.**

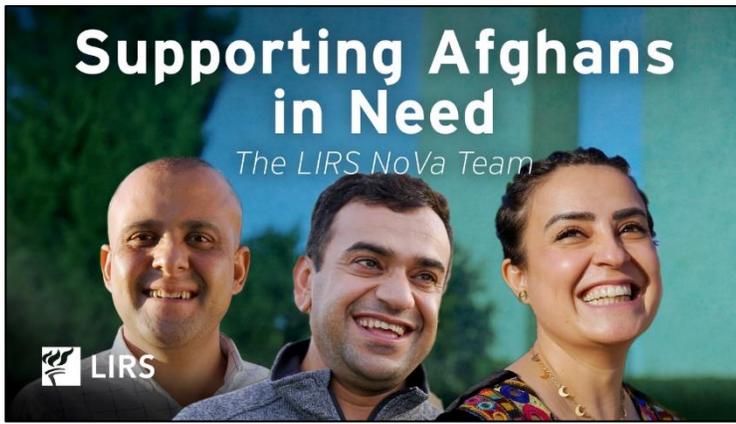


# COVID 2022

**A**t present we are experiencing a significant wave of COVID-19 infections once again. There is certainly a lot we don't know, but there is also a lot we do know. Consider the following and give thanks.

1. We know that vaccines and boosters continue to be effective. Yes, some who are vaccinated experience break through infections, but these are rarely life threatening. If you're vaccinated, boosted and careful your personal risk profile really hasn't changed.
2. Lots of people say they know friends and family who are getting COVID during the current Omicron wave. This is true, rates are up. But testing positive is not the same as being sick. Spread and serious illness are not necessarily the same thing. Vaccination is associated with milder symptoms, if any - and there are now medications available.
3. We now know how COVID is passed, by aerosol. This is why we wear masks, so that aerosols are not passed between us. Likewise we know our original concerns with "fomite transmission," that is the virus being spread through touch or contaminated objects, has not been borne out. Please wash your hands as always, but you won't get COVID from dollar bills or doorknobs.

The concern we have with the current COVID wave is once again overwhelming our medical systems. This is not because Omicron is more dangerous, but because it is more contagious. A smaller percentage of a much larger number equals a lot of sick people, most of whom are unvaccinated. Please get your vaccinations and boosters. Please wear your masks for the protection of others. We don't wish anyone ill, but COVID is not the existential threat it once was. Give thanks and live responsibly.



Happy new year from Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service! They're thrilled to kick off 2022 by introducing their [dynamic team at LIRS Northern Virginia.](#)

LIRS' NoVa office was opened in late November to serve newly arrived Afghans and has since grown to a team of 20, 90% of whom are themselves

Afghan. As LIRS continues to expand, they look forward to creating more opportunities for new Americans to engage in the work of welcome.

## In the Press

Last week, LIRS President & CEO Krish O'Mara Vignarajah joined **PBS NewsHour** to talk about their work resettling Afghan refugees, including families and unaccompanied children. [Watch now.](#)



**ABC News** shared the story of LIRS staffer and SIV recipient Muzhgan Azizy (Pictured above!). [Check it out.](#)

LIRS was featured in an **AP** story about immigrants supporting newly arrived Afghans. [Read here.](#)

Then join LCSNW for an update on the Afghanistan refugee crisis and Lutheran Community Services Northwest's response. They will have an amazing group of people sharing about their focus area within LCSNW and their part in the refugee care and support process.

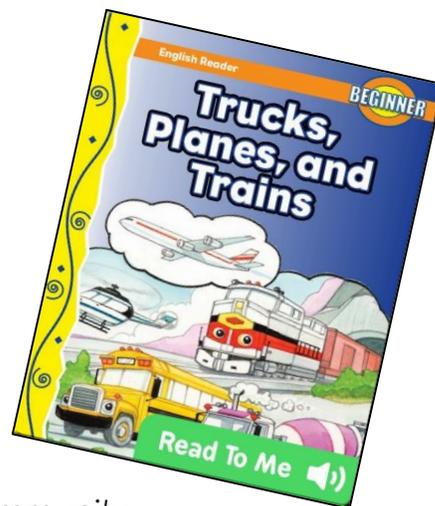


**FEATURING:** David Duea, CEO & PRESIDENT;  
Salah Ansary, Director of Multicultural Community Services Programs; Nandini Rao, Immigration Staff Attorney and Program Manager; Darian and Daisa Lightfoot, host family.

[Join them online Thursday, January 13, 2022 5-6 PM PST. Please Register Here!](#)

# Climate Resiliency

“Want to make a change around climate concerns? My preferred modes of transportation are walking, biking, bus, carpool, driving, trains, planes and boats in that order. I’m not a vegetarian, but I eat low on the food chain, etc. All this just strikes me as good stewardship, both of my body and the earth. But I know this is possible only because I am a person of means and semi-retired with time to burn. I also know that climate concerns are global. Community concerns and my personal life choices alone can’t fix what we all must address together. Interested in community action? Here are some suggestions. (Your editor.)”



## Act of Caron Pricing

In March 2021, the Lutherans Restoring Creation Board of Directors unanimously endorsed an “Advocacy for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act” template resolution [\(see here\)](#) modeled by the version already adopted by the Upper Iowa River Conference of the Northeastern Iowa ELCA Synod at their June 2021 Assembly.



**JOIN THE ACTION TO BRING THIS RESOLUTION TO YOUR SYNOD NOW**

**AND THE ELCA ASSEMBLY AUGUST 8-12, 2022.**

Next steps:

- 1) Find out if your synod is taking resolutions and what the deadline and process is.
- 2) Work with your [Green Teams](#) to make adjustments to the template as needed.
- 3) Find other congregations to support it the work.



Thursday, January 20, 2022  
7:30pm-9:00pm ES  
[Register Here](#)

After another year of record-breaking climate disasters, environmental injustices are degrading our communities, God's Creation, and democracy. This year, we're changing the script. Let's move from degradation to resilience, from brokenness to restoration, from death to revival!

[Join Climate Reality virtually on January 20, 2022 to launch a year of "Resilient Creation & Restored Communities: Voting for Climate Justice in 2022!"](#)

## Bug the Banks!

Here's the problem: Despite the climate crisis, our biggest banks are huge funders of coal and gas and oil companies. In the years since the Paris climate accords, they have given more than three trillion dollars in loans to these companies, even as scientists have told us we must stop the expansion of this industry.



Ending these loans will play a big part in speeding the energy transition—and it's a job that older Americans are especially qualified to work on.

Join the action and excitement at <https://thirdact.org/what-we-do/bug-the-banks/>

# Racial Equity Opportunities



**THE LiVE PROJECT**  
living into vocational engagement

## Culture Course “Interrogating Privilege in Church and Our Lives”

January 19 - March 10 (No class Feb. 16)

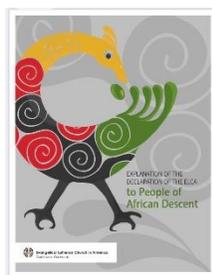
Wednesdays 6:30-8pm (During Lent, meet on Thursdays)

The LiVE Project presents this 8-week course on Zoom - designed specifically for lay leaders to open up transparent and honest conversation around the ways privilege shapes and impacts our lives and communities of faith. If you've read some anti-racist books, and are looking for next steps as an individual, family or congregation, this course offers additional ways to move forward. The learning format includes active, thoughtful engagement from all participants, and we ask that participants come with a spirit of mutual openness to sharing and receiving.

[Learn more or register - here:](#)

## Day of Repentance - National Day of Racial Healing

As the ELCA continues its work of racial healing and implements its “Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent,” it will **observe an annual day of repentance for racism on Jan. 18, 2022.**



This date, which follows Martin Luther King Jr. Day, is observed by several organizations as the National Day of Racial Healing, to encourage acts of service and raise awareness of racial justice.

[Download congregational worship resources to mark this day of repentance and healing.](#)



## Region 1 Disaster Preparedness Network

**Your** Region 1 Congregational Disaster Preparedness Network enters the New Year excited and ready to work with you and your congregational team on Disaster Preparedness.

**What?!** You don't have a team? We'd love to help you get one started!!

**When?** Our next Regional Gathering is Thursday, January 20, 2022 at 7 PM MT; 6 PM PT and 5 PM Alaska Time.

## [REGISTER HERE!!](#)

**Who?** You – absolutely you. Bring other teams members if they're available or just come yourself to see who we are. There is not better New Year's Resolution you might make!

