



# ELDA

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*Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association*  
*a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)*



Mark Koterwski  
ELDA President

## From the President

Mark Koterwski

Greetings to everyone!

We had faced some horrifying news when we found out about George Floyd's death at the hands of the Minneapolis police. It was a sad and heart-broken time for many of us in the world. There were a lot of people who protested, not only in America, but all over the world. We wondered if protests are a good positive in our life. I found some good quotes from Waterford.org which stated:

- 1) Try giving back to your community.
- 2) Stand up for causes that you care about.
- 3) Do random acts of kindness for loved ones or people you meet throughout the day.
- 4) Find like-minded people who are committed to the same cause as you and can help you make an impact.

Also we learned from history during the 1960's that Dr. Martin Luther King was inspired as he used methods for civil rights. He was successful using peaceful protests. The reason for most people wanting to have



a peaceful protest is for a good cause. We saw those people who were involved in riots on the news. It was not for George Floyd's death. They took advantage of his death for their own benefit and blamed the cause. I am sure that George Floyd

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# Letter from the President

## continued

would not have been pleased with those people who were involved in the riots. I learned from the news that he was a great guy and he loved his family and community. We pray for George Floyd's family and community!

### **Announcements:**

We will not have an ELM conference this year or next year. We had an ELM Seeds meeting last month. We agreed that the ELM Conference will not be hosted indefinitely. We will have an ELDA Board meeting on July 20, 2020 to discuss about having an ELM/ELDA conference in the future. If you have any input or thoughts about the ELM/ELDA conference, please feel free to email me at [mkoterwski@gmail.com](mailto:mkoterwski@gmail.com) I will share with the ELDA Board.

FYI: The ELM committee will host a virtual ELM Retreat sometime in the summer. The date will be announced. Please watch for it. Thanks!

Please continue practicing the CDC and your county's guidelines to be safe from COVID-19!

Keep Healthy and may God Bless you all!

**Mark Koterwski**  
ELDA President

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## ELM Mission and Vision Statements

*Mission Statement: "In the Presence of Jesus Christ, with mutual love and respect, the Episcopal Conference of the Deaf (ECD), the Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) and the United Methodist Congress of the Deaf (UMCD) partner together to inspire and transform the lives of Deaf people."*

*Vision Statement: "Together as one, with God's help we strive to build a spectrum of ministries with Deaf people, passionately engaged in creating and supporting diverse ministries, outreach, communication, worship resources, and leadership development that show the love and grace of Jesus Christ to everyone we meet."*

## The ELDA Mission Statement

*The Evangelical Lutheran Deaf Association (ELDA) is a national Lutheran organization of Deaf ELCA congregations, interpreted ministries, and their members which supports a core value of ASL and American Deaf Culture. ELDA advocates Deaf spirituality and empowerment, Deaf global missions and youth outreach, interpreter training, and a biennial conference.*

# Spiritual Article

## “Love Thy Neighbor” by Donald Rosenkjar

For many years, I've become so accustomed to going to church on every single Sunday. People at the church are my important friends. A Sunday without going to church is an incomplete Sunday. Suddenly, COVID-19 is everywhere, and suddenly, the doors to our churches close. This is a very strange experience for me, as well as many others who regularly attend religious services. Some churches provide services through streamlining, and that is a wonderful alternative.

### What is the true definition of “church”?

Well, I Googled this one and I got this: in our modern English Bibles, the word “church” is supposedly translated from the Greek word “ekklesia” which simply means: people assemble.

So, it is not necessarily a building. It is you and me. It is you and your family. It is you and God. You are the church! During the COVID-19 pandemic, the first thing that comes to my mind is the importance of “love thy neighbor”. You certainly don't love your neighbors by putting their health and their neighborhood at risk. You show your love by keeping distance, at least six feet apart, by wearing masks, and also, by staying at home. I do miss shaking hands with friends, and hugging them. It's always our custom, especially in the Deaf community, to express our love to our friends and loved ones through hugging, but it is different now, and we have to act differently. We need to keep

our love for our neighbors in our hearts and in new and different ways. One important thing we can do is to keep in contact with friends and loved ones, and we are blessed to have videophones, so that we can keep the warmth of friendship by making calls.



When COVID-19 becomes a thing of the past, I think many of us will appreciate our friends more, and appreciate going back to churches. This should give us all a fresh perspective on how important this quotation is: “Love Thy Neighbor”.



# ELCA Deaf Ministries

## Director's Report



Dear Brothers and Sisters in ELDA--

God's peace be with each of you in this crazy strange time of a global pandemic, severe economic recession, a national mourning and protest of police brutality and our sin of racism, and the countdown to a long awaited presidential election. We are living in a historic year we will never forget and one we wonder who will or will not survive. It is normal to feel worried, anxious and sad.

I think people are beginning to understand we are NOT as independent as we thought we were. We cannot control our health and wealth. We are interdependent on each other. We need our health care workers, grocery store and delivery workers, pastors, teachers, social workers, and meat packers, mail carriers, and janitors/housekeepers. These people are essential/important to helping us survive. These people need our prayers for protection and energy.

Most of all, hopefully, we understand we need God among us to guide and protect us through the sickness, death, loss of jobs, lack of income, anger, pain, rioting, hunger, and fear. Many of us have lost loved ones and have family members and friends struggling to live. It is not only us but our brothers and sisters all over the world. We are suffering together. God sees and cries with us. We need to build our relationship with God so we can walk with God through each day.

It has helped me to list God-winks in my life and other's lives to see how God is reaching out to us in different ways. When I list these ways, I feel God is near to me.

I am inspired by how churches are quickly trying

to stay in touch with people in new and creative ways. In a few months, we have learned two years' worth of technology. (I'm trying to learn! )

Churches are live streaming, using PowerPoint slides, YouTube, parking lot worship, and meeting online with Zoom and other tools for Bible study, chatting, Pub theology, classes, and even VBS. the Church is NOT a building but God's people coming together. We are not closed, we are deployed/sent to do God's work in different ways. Remember to send your church your money gifts. God's work continues!

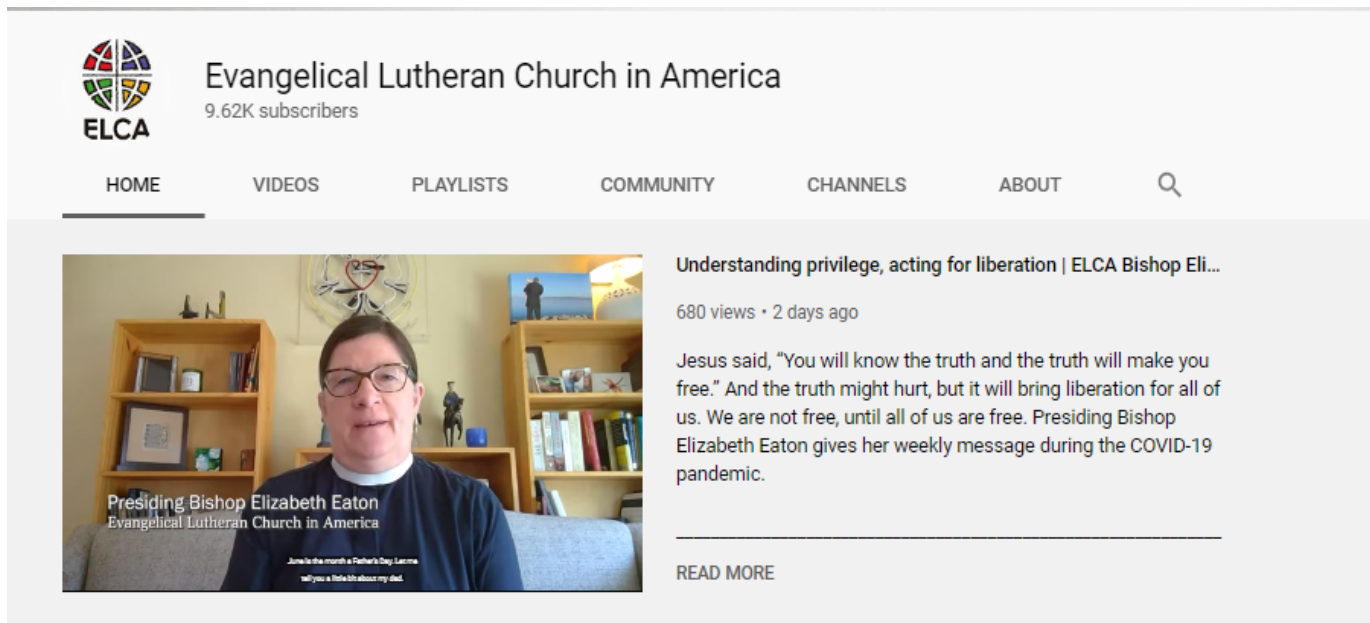
We will NOT be going back to "normal." We are discovering the changes we need to make in our way of life, our relationships, systems, our health care, our government, and even our churches. Making changes can be painful. We want to stay in our comfortable "bubbles." The pandemic and other challenges are pushing us to open our eyes and see things differently. Not everyone is ready for change.

New things we are learning are wearing masks, washing our hands better, protecting ourselves and others from COVID-19, voting by mail, choosing leaders who care about people. Now is the time to contact others and tell them we love them! Now is the time to invite your friends to watch your church service online! Now is the time to contact DeafBlind people (text, email), call Deaf seniors on the VP or visit through windows, write letters to Deaf in prison, teach a Deaf immigrant ASL on Zoom or VP. We can show the world LOVE is stronger than the pandemic!

Peace and prayers, Pastor Beth  
ELCA Director of Deaf Ministries

# ELCA Prayer Service

## Remembering Emanuel Nine



The screenshot shows the YouTube channel page for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The channel has 9.62K subscribers. The video being featured is titled "Understanding privilege, acting for liberation | ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton" and has 680 views, posted 2 days ago. The video description reads: "Jesus said, 'You will know the truth and the truth will make you free.' And the truth might hurt, but it will bring liberation for all of us. We are not free, until all of us are free. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton gives her weekly message during the COVID-19 pandemic." Below the video is a "READ MORE" link. The video thumbnail shows Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton speaking in front of a bookshelf.

The ELCA Prayer Service for Commemoration of the Emanuel Nine on June 17, 2020 marks the fifth anniversary of the evening nine people were shot and killed during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. We join in a time of repentance, mourning and prayer as we remember these nine martyrs and renounce the sins of racism and white supremacy.

The prayer service was 12 Noon to 1:25 p.m. on June 17th.

Make some time this week to watch this video and pray as we watch and pray with those around us protesting and asking for justice. It is captioned. Pastor Beth+

<https://elca.org/EmanuelNine>  
#ELCA4Justice



### ***Archbishop Musa Filibus in Nigeria***

Bishop Ann Svennungsen of Mpls Area Synod received an email plea from LCCN Archbishop Musa Filibus requesting assistance from our synod in dealing with the rapidly increasing hunger situation in part, Archbishop Filibus wrote:

By midnight Friday 24 April, the government is most likely to announce national lockdown. (NOTE: This lockdown did take effect). This is extremely difficult because an estimated 60% or more struggle daily for their livelihoods and they cannot afford a 14 day lockdown. Hunger and COVID-19 lock-

down cannot go together. We can see already that crime will increase - people have to eat to stay indoors. Already the bishop of Abuja where the lockdown has been more intense tells us that people are now caught between COVID-19 and hunger. Many have no choice but to go out against the restrictions for their survival.

While this is a clear Macedonian call for help (Acts 16:4-10), it should also be noted that the LCCN (Lutheran Church of Christ in Nigeria) is far from helpless in the fight against the coronavirus. Archbishop Filibus and the

bishops of the nine dioceses in the LCCN are seen as credible leaders in their communities. Filibus has posted public service announcements to explain and demystify how coronavirus works, and the government officials have asked to broadcast his video on television. LCCN will also launch an appeal to receive donations in anticipation of worsening hunger conditions in the coming weeks and months.

BUT OUR SIBLINGS in Christ have asked for help. The Minneapolis Area Synod Council is responding to Archbishop Filibus request by sending 35,000 from the synod's Resurrection Fund to provide financial support for food assistance. This amount comes out of the "Tithe" portion of the Resurrection Fund that is designated to support ministries outside of the boundaries of their Synod. This is a tangible, timely action to live out the mantra we have been hearing about the coronavirus battle that "we are all in this together."

Anyone interested in contributing additional funds to this LCCN hunger relief effort may send a check to the Minneapolis Area Synod and designate it to "LCCN COVID-19 Relief."

Meanwhile, we continue to reach out to the churches of our synod to listen, encourage, and respond to ministry needs and opportunities as we are able. We are in this together, in the unity of the Resurrected Christ who brings light and new life in dark and difficult places.

(Nigeria needs 75,000 face masks and

more.)

Update as of June 15, 2020 from Rev. Beth Lockard, ELCA Liaison...

The John Hopkins Coronavirus tracker reports Nigeria has 16,085 reported cases and 420 deaths. The numbers are probably much higher due to undertesting.

News reports tell us that the Christians in NE Nigeria are more worried about two Muslim terrorist groups, Boko Haram and the Fulani Herdsmen, who are killing more people than the coronavirus outbreak. During January–May 2020, at least 620 Christians have been killed by these two groups and others have been kidnapped. The politicians and military are not doing much to help while churches and homes are destroyed and burned and cattle are stolen.

This is close to where LCCN and Pastor Ruth Ulea's ministry is located. We need to keep them in constant prayer. Nigeria is ranked 12th on Open Doors' 2020 World Watch List of countries where Christians suffer the most persecution.

ELDA Treasurer Jeff Panek reported at the last Board meeting that our Deaf ministries have raised almost half of our \$10,000 goal for a used van plus gas and repair expenses that we hoped to raise by June 30. The pandemic hit and hurt our fundraising efforts. If you or your church can give, please contact Mr. Panek ([jbpanek@iw.net](mailto:jbpanek@iw.net)).



# Ministry News-

News from our Churches/ministries, by Linda Fairbanks

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, there is no news from our churches or ministries. Nearly all of them are offering livestreaming or live interpreting on Facebook or the internet. There are good choices if anyone wishes to view interpreted services. BOLD and WOLD in partnership with CTK offers Deaf worship. Some like HEM out of Sioux Falls, SD offers weekly interpreted church services and also offers religion classes for the Deaf community via Zoom. Most of us miss attending church and interacting with church members. We do understand why it is so important to stay home in order to protect ourselves from the coronavirus.

There are elderly Deaf people in nursing homes, independent living apartments and their own homes. They are staying home and have very little contact, if any with their families and friends. Their meals and groceries are brought to their doors. Some people might have contracted COVID 19 and are in hospitals alone without seeing their families. For those elderly in memory care centers, there is mass confusion for them when family members cannot visit. Others have died alone. This is so sad! Stay safe! Stay healthy! Remember our vulnerable people!

I would like to thank those of you who took the time to let me know if you had anything to report or send in for the newsletter. Our summer issue is only a few pages, yet still important. For the fall issue, I hope to be able to bring more human or church interest stories. This newsletter belongs to all of you and we need to offer news and updates in a timely matter.

## Zoom into the Bible Heartland Ephphatha Virtual Bible Study

This summer the Heartland Ephphatha Ministry group (South Dakota) decided to have Bible Study on Zoom. We meet the first and third Sundays of each month at 10:15 AM (Central). Please let us know if you'd like to join!





# Ministry News-

Congratulations!

## Dr. Fischer Congrats to the Fischer Family



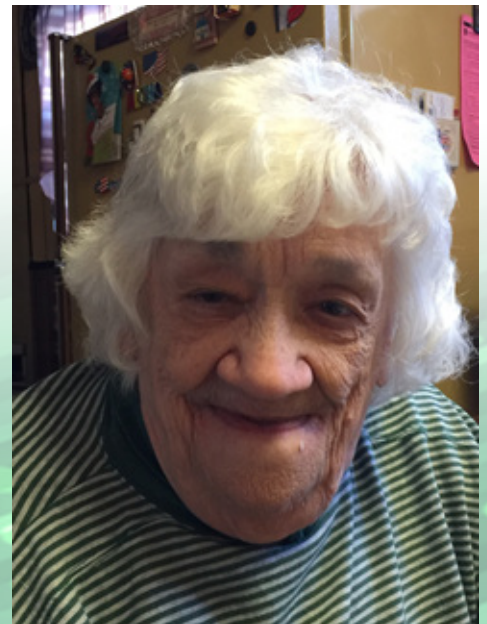
Jeannine Fischer along with her husband John are excited to announce that their son, Ryan Fischer graduated from Penn State on May 17th with a Doctorate of Medicine and a Master of Education in Lifelong Learning and Adult Education. He will be starting this summer as a Resident Physician at the Lancaster General Family Medicine Program.

ELDA Community would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to Ryan for his huge amazing accomplishment! We thank God for giving you the strength to complete the intense program and embarking on this new chapter of your life as a Resident Physician this summer! Blessings to you and your family from ELDA!

## 90 Years Young Christ the King Member turns 90!

Katherine Glenney, a member of Christ the King Deaf Church and former member of St. Philip's Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Philadelphia, is celebrating a milestone birthday this month. She will turn 90 years young on June 21. Church members, family, and friends are planning a surprise drive by birthday celebration with cupcakes and bottled drinks under a tent on her driveway. She will stay socially distant near the garage door while the visitors stop by to say hello, chat a bit, and share some cards and gifts.

Kathy is a woman of faith and also a woman of humor! She worked many years sewing men's suits. She loves crafts and puzzles. She has done many thousand-piece puzzles, 3D puzzles, and more than a few have been glued to a board, framed, and hung on the wall. Kathy is the widow of ELDA's 2010 Shining Light Award recipient Daniel Glenney. Her two daughters, Janet and Karan, are Sorenson interpreters. Kathy has five grandchildren and three great grandsons. We thank God for blessing Kathy with 90 years and shining her faith to others.



# Ministry News-

## Information on the Coronavirus

Symptoms	Coronavirus* (COVID-19) Symptoms range from mild to severe	Cold Gradual onset of symptoms	Flu Abrupt onset of symptoms	Seasonal Allergies Abrupt onset of symptoms
 Length of symptoms	7-25 days	Less than 14 days	7-14 days	Several weeks
 Cough	Common (usually dry)	Common (mild)	Common (usually dry)	Rare (usually dry unless it triggers asthma)
 Shortness of breath	Sometimes	No**	No**	No**
 Sneezing	No	Common	No	Common
 Runny or stuffy nose	Rare	Common	Sometimes	Common
 Sore throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes	Sometimes (usually mild)
 Fever	Common	Short fever period	Common	No
 Feeling tired and weak	Sometimes	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
 Headaches	Sometimes	Rare	Common	Sometimes (related to sinus pain)
 Body aches and pains	Sometimes	Common	Common	No
 Diarrhea	Sometimes	No	Sometimes for children	No
 Chills/repeated shaking	Sometimes	No	Sometimes	No
 Loss of taste or smell	Sometimes	Rare	Rare	Rare

Your symptoms may vary. \*Information is still evolving. \*\*Allergies, colds and flus can all trigger asthma, which can lead to shortness of breath. COVID-19 is the only one associated with shortness of breath on its own.

Sources: Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. edited 4/29/20 • [aafa.org/covid19](http://aafa.org/covid19)

# How long the new coronavirus can live on surfaces

SURFACE	LIFESPAN OF COVID-19 VIRUS
 <b>Paper and tissue paper**</b>	<b>3 hours</b> 
 <b>Copper*</b>	<b>4 hours</b> 
 <b>Cardboard*</b>	<b>24 hours</b> 
 <b>Wood**</b>	<b>2 days</b> 
 <b>Cloth**</b>	<b>2 days</b> 
 <b>Stainless steel*</b>	<b>2–3 days</b> 
 <b>Polypropylene plastic*</b>	<b>3 days</b> 
 <b>Glass**</b>	<b>4 days</b> 
 <b>Paper money**</b>	<b>4 days</b> 
 <b>Outside of surgical mask**</b>	<b>7 days</b> 

\*At 69.8 to 73.4°F (21 to 23 °C) and 40% relative humidity

\*\*At 71°F and 65% relative humidity

Source: New England Journal of Medicine\*; The Lancet Microbe\*\*

BUSINESS INSIDER



# GOD:)

WINKS

Recently, we had a string of thunderstorms and tornadoes travel 1600 miles through the United States. When they hit Pennsylvania, we lost our electrical power one day and our Christ the King Deaf church building was inaccessible because of being locked electronically.

We also learned that the day before, our next door neighbors and their five children were camping in their tent outside in their backyard in the warmer weather we were having. The father was working at home because of the pandemic. They had an enjoyable time together as a family. But they decided against camping a second night due to the humidity. You guessed it, during the storm that second night, a huge tree branch fell in the exact place where their tent had been. The family was thankful for God's protection!

When the police in Minneapolis killed African American resident George Floyd on Memorial Day May 25, many residents of all colors were upset with what happened. The police station is five blocks from Deacon Dorothy Sparks' home. She watched the news and protests happening. Wednesday night she participated in the Zoom Bible study led by Deaf seminarian Lori Fuller and went to

sleep. The next morning, she looked out her apartment window and was shocked to see the next door auto repair building had been heavily damaged and looted. Glass was all over the parking lot. She ran downstairs to check her car parked behind the apartments and it was not damaged. Her pastor, Michelle Lewis, texted her to warn her that riots were increasing, and the police station was burned down Thursday. Dorothy quickly left for a hotel to be out of harm's way. All the stores and businesses on Lake Street were heavily damaged or burned including the Walgreen's across the street from her apartment. Holy Trinity ELCA Lutheran, one block from the police station, was not damaged. Deacon Dorothy reported the church gave out food and water because other food stores had all been damaged and were closed. Dorothy went to stay a few days with the Duncan family from BOLD. She was also thankful for God's protection.

These stories show us God's care for His people in both natural and human disasters.

-Pastor Beth Lockard

## ELDA Online

Remember our website is [www.ELDADeaf.org](http://www.ELDADeaf.org)  
our facebook page is:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ELDADeaf/>

## NEWS

Please help our newsletter! Send me your pictures and stories about your ministry. We'd love to put it in our next newsletter.

### September, December, March and June

This is your newsletter; we want to know what topics and articles that you want to see in the newsletters. If there is a person, a church or something of interest that you want us to spotlight on, let us know! Feel free to send your feedback to Linda Fairbanks, [lindafairbanks22@gmail.com](mailto:lindafairbanks22@gmail.com) Thanks!