



'Till We Meet Again!

Week of April 17 and 18, 2021

SOCIAL JUSTICE LENTEN NIGHTS

Our Lenten journey brings us closer to the cross and is a time for self-reflection as we as Christians move closer to Christ. This year we were fortunate to have speakers who shared some truly thought-provoking ideas about justice. Here's what you may have missed.

WATER JUSTICE

Ryan Cummins, ELCA's Program Director for World Hunger, shared information to make us stop and think about how fortunate we are to turn on a faucet and get water. Water is a means to economic improvement in many areas.

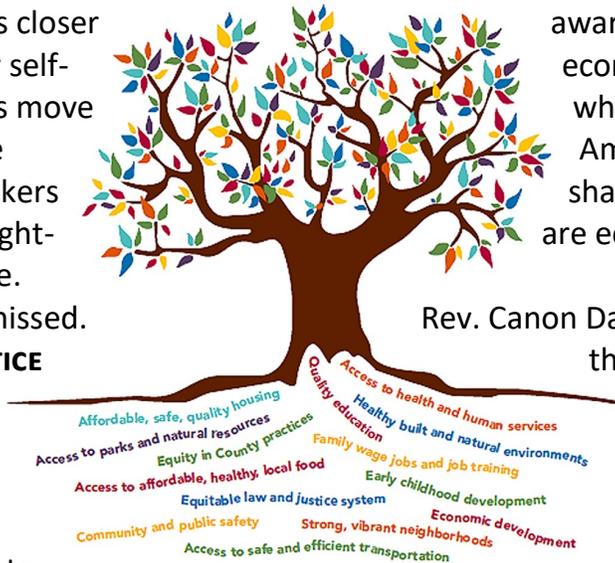
Tracy Pasqual from Lutheran Advocacy in Ministries in PA (LAMPa) told us that Pennsylvania is one of the states with many waterways but they are becoming compromised. She stated that by 2025 half of the people in the world will live in water distressed areas.

RELIGIOUS JUSTICE

Rabbi Rebecca Einstein-Shore reminded us simply that all mankind came from Adam. When we Christians are jovial and wish others Merry Christmas, we are excluding many who do not believe yet are forced to partake in a calendar and school system that appears to cater to our holidays, not theirs. She implores those who use social media to use that voice to stop the hatred when something awful happens to a particular group; don't ignore it. Speak out about it. Lastly, ask questions of others to learn and respect differences.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Ryan Cummings presented again and went way



back to Martin Luther who was aware of and discouraged by the economic disparity of that time which still exists today. Amongst other information, he shared that 27% of Americans are economically insecure.

RACIAL JUSTICE

Rev. Canon Dale Grandfield from the Cathedral Church of the Nativity spoke on a timely topic that is so very old. White privilege is rooted in the economic system that held down people with

black and brown skin for hundreds of years. Our "addiction to Whiteness" compromises others and will only change through a transformation in our way of thinking about ourselves and others. Assume the best in others across cultural differences.

So many ideas, facts and thoughts to ponder. So many of us are in a position to help make our world a more just place. What can you do to help?

Some websites to consider:

- www.elca.org
- www.lutheranadvocacy.org
- www.greenfaith.org
- www.Creationcare.org
- www.powerinterfaith.org

Joining our Social Justice Committee is another place to start.

TRAINING FOR EUCHARIST MINISTERS

Lutheran Congregational Services is offering a two-part virtual training session for Lay Eucharistic ministers. Those interested must attend

both sessions on Saturday, May 8th, and Saturday, May 22nd. The fee is \$25 (reimbursement is possible). To register, please visit Lutheran-CongregationalServices.org or contact Julia Menzo at jmenzo@libertylutheran.org. Please also inform the office (610-868-0519) or Michel Lloyd (484-695-3921) of your interest. Please consider becoming part of this vital ministry that serves the homebound members of our congregations. Thank you.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

Help us celebrate the end of Earth Week by joining Board members for the annual cemetery cleanup on Saturday, April 24, from 9 AM until Noon at Fountain Hill Cemetery. (Rain date is May 1.) The harsh winter left us with a “list of things to do” to rehabilitate the cemetery, such as picking up debris from small branches, replanting the garden in front of the cemetery sign, and raking and reseeding the Green Meadow. Tools and supplies will be provided. Borrowing from the Earth Day 2021 theme of “Restore Our Earth”, let us “Restore Our Cemetery” on April 24! See you there!



WATER WELL #3



The combined God’s Work. Our Hands and Stewards, Angels in Ministry teams invite members of each campus to resume contributing to the 2020 water well project which was postponed (like so many things) by the pandemic.

We have \$1,680 toward a 3rd well and an additional \$820 would enable us to provide a 3rd well for the ELCA World Hunger program who determines where wells are most needed. You may send a check to your respective church office with Water Well on the memo line (please include your envelope #) or wait until we are able to worship in person to drop your contribution in the offering plate. Thank you for your generosity; it will provide safe, clean water for a whole community.

THIS WEEK IN THE UPG

APRIL 17—APRIL 25

Saturday April 17

4:45 PM Worship from St. JW

Sunday April 18

Worship available on YouTube and the UPG website (upgbethlehem.org)

10:30 AM 36ers Zoom

1:00 PM Li’l Le Hi Trout Nursery
Youth & Family Event

6:00 PM Zoom Confirmation Class

Monday April 19

Tuesday April 20

9:00 AM Staff Meeting

Wednesday April 21

7:00 AM Fellowship Ministry

Thursday April 22

Friday April 23

Saturday April 24

4:45 PM Worship from St. P

Sunday April 25

Worship available on YouTube and the UPG website (upgbethlehem.org)

6:00 PM Confirmation Class