

WEEKLY NEWS ~ APRIL 22, 2022



LOGAN MCCLEAN STRIKE ORDINATION SERVICE THIS SUNDAY!

Here is your friendly reminder that Logan McClean Strike will be ordained on **Sunday, April 24th at 4pm Pacific** at [Spirit of Grace](#) in **Beaverton, Oregon**. She is and has been serving Florence United Methodist Church part-time! Pastors and Deacons are welcome to join in person or on Zoom. There will be a gathering of ministers at 3:30pm Pacific in person and on Zoom to pray for Logan before the service.

Zoom Link for Ordination at 4pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89867792262?pwd=OEt0SEpzbUxVRjk0YkJDWVdsems2dz09>

[Meeting ID: 898 6779 2262](#)

[Passcode: 461842](#)

FROM ANGELA

To all my Gloria Dei Family,

I just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for all the hospitality I was shown while I was in town, the meals, the places I stayed, the visits, everyone and everything was perfect! Thank you all so much! I felt just like I was coming home.

On a separate note I also wanted to thank everyone for all the prayers for my family and my Grandma Violet. When I left Arizona to come to Oregon she was doing good, she took a rapid turn while I was in Oregon but I made it back to Arizona on Thursday and was able to be with her for her last days on this earth. She died on April 11th. My mom and I struggled for the first week, trying to stay busy yet still allowing for the grief times and sharing many great memories with many friends here at the park. The cards I have received from you have been a blessing!

Again Thank you All and many Blessings to you,

Angela

South Coast Hospice looking for volunteers. Training provided, must be at least 18 years old. Please contact Amy Basil, Volunteer Manager, for more information: 541-297-0035.

FOOD CUPBOARD NEEDS

Coos Food Cupboard would appreciate jars of jelly and/or jam and dog and cat food for their clients. They are well stocked on most other foods at this time.

COUNCIL INSTALLATION

Congratulations and thank you to our Council members who were elected to serve as leaders of our congregation! Council members are being installed this Sunday during our worship service at 10 am.

CRISIS IN UKRAINE

The war and upheaval in Ukraine continues. Here is a link to a video detailing Lutheran Disaster Response in Ukraine:

ELCA Disaster Response to Ukraine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMUyCUfKcNY>

Here is a link to donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response:

<https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

You can also give through Gloria Dei (make a note in the memo on your check) and it will be forwarded to Lutheran Disaster Response.

IT'S EARTH DAY - Lutherans act for climate justice

As we prepare for Earth Day, [Presiding Bishop Eliabeth Eaton shares some examples](#) of how Lutherans are caring for creation and addressing climate justice. The ELCA collaborates with ecoAmerica's [Blessed Tomorrow](#) program to train creation care ambassadors. In Washington, D.C., we seek solutions to the impacts of climate change through advocacy, building relationships with elected leaders. Globally, the ELCA participates in the Conference of the Parties (COP) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference. Lutheran delegates have witnessed action on climate issues including options to improve soil and meet a growing demand for food.

God calls us to be stewards of the earth and to fully integrate creation care into our love of God, neighbor and everything in our environment. [Watch the video](#) and [get involved](#).

FROM THE SYNOD



Kościół Ewangelicko-Augsburski
w Polsce

First women to be ordained May 7! After seventy years of discussion, our sister synod, The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland voted in favor of ordination for woman pastors (10-16-21). The first ordination will be at the Holy Trinity Church in Warsaw on May 7 at 11 am; nine women will be ordained. The ordination service will be live streamed on the [YouTube Channel of the Holy Trinity Church](#) (beginning 2 am our time) or you can watch a recorded version after the service. **Congratulations to our sister synod for taking this historic step!**

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Spiritual retreat: "A Day with Dietrich Bonhoeffer," reading, reflection, and prayer. Saturday, June 11, 9:00 am-4:00 pm at Benedictine Sisters Monastery, Mt. Angel, OR. Led by Pastor Terry Allen Moe. [Check out the flyer](#)

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Answering God’s call to serve refugees: LCS Northwest is grateful for church partners who support this work with hands, hearts and prayers. With your help they have resettled more than 700 Afghans since August. But the work is far from done. Today we stand at an Easter season crossroads, preparing for a wave of Ukrainian evacuees, plus more Afghans. The pace is also quickening for refugees arriving from other continents. Answering the call is no less urgent than it was nine months ago. [Donate here.](#)

Lunch & Learn series: Here is [the recording](#) from last week’s session about their Portland programs.

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[Ecumenical Advocacy Days](#) is an annual gathering of Christian advocates and activists. The theme for EAD 2022, "Fierce Urgency: Advancing Civil & Human Rights," calls us into solidarity to restore, protect, and expand voting rights in the United States and to realize human rights around the world. As people of faith, we know each person to be created in God’s image, imbued with dignity and having a voice that demands to be heard, heeded, and treated justly. The ELCA is an EAD sponsor. [Learn more here.](#)

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REVILLAGE CHILD CARE CO-OP IN BEND

We’ve all heard the saying “It takes a village to raise a child,” but when was the last time we seriously considered the implications of this for our faith communities and relationships? [ReVillage](#), a ministry of the [Storydwelling community](#) in Bend, is doing just that.

Storydwelling is a young faith community born out of a shared commitment to centering relationships and building community power for love and justice in the world, in partnership with the Oregon Synod of the ELCA and the United Methodist Church. In 2019, after Storydwelling community members began having children and struggling with costs of childcare, Storydwelling and First Presbyterian in Bend partnered with several other collaborators to begin imagining what it might look like to birth a new kind of village into being: a village that can support the children and families in their community through quality accessible childcare. Just as the project began to build momentum, however, the global COVID-19 pandemic hit and caused a moment of pause.

This difficult time of pause from life as usual, invited Storydwelling to take courage and ask hard questions about childcare equity in their neighborhoods. While many childcare facilities were closing their doors and families were opting out of childcare because of pandemic-related safety concerns, many other families did not have the privilege of opting out and suddenly found their options even more limited than before. Single-income families, families without local relatives for whom childcare assistance was possible, parents who work in the service industry, education, and others were in a childcare crisis.

The question at hand for Storydwelling and their partners: What does a faithful response to this childcare crisis look like? How can we accompany these families through grace, love, and

relationship? Through their process of listening, research, and discernment it became clear that the most faithful next step was to become a state-certified childcare center and create a new nonprofit, play-based, certified childcare cooperative hosted in Bend by families in the community. And thus, ReVillage was born.

ReVillage currently provides full-time childcare to 17 children between the ages of two and five years old using a co-operative model where families each commit to a certain amount of volunteer time in the classroom. In addition, they have staff and paid teachers who are held to the highest standards of care the state requires. They accept DHS and other subsidy payments for tuition and have committed to charging families no more than 7% of their income (the federal guidelines for what the average family can afford to spend on childcare). For most families, this has been around \$350 per month for full-time care compared to the thousands of dollars charged by traditional childcare facilities. In addition, having learned in their research that (as a result of soaring property costs in the Bend area) opening new childcare facilities has proven nearly economically impossible, ReVillage has leveraged relationship and resources to utilize church building space which has otherwise gone unused during the average Monday-Friday work week and repurposed that space as quality childcare facilities for their neighborhood.

When asked what they've learned about their community through the process of co-creating ReVillage, Erika Spaet (lead pastor & organizer at Storydwelling) spoke about the necessity for faith communities to be engaged and committed to this work. She shared that families in their community (and in all of our communities) need unjust systems to change in the long term and they also need a solution to their day-to-day pressures now. In other words, we cannot wait to provide accompaniment to these families until after the systems change. Rather, we must do the faithful work of loving our neighbors in the liberating Spirit of Jesus through big systems change and through the very urgent day-to-day pressures.

The community of Storydwelling has blessed this work and out of the pressures and ashes of broken systems, they are working with their community to re-birth and resurrect a new kind of village for these precious young lives and their families to flourish. For Storydwelling and their partners, this is not a ploy to increase Sunday attendance or tithing dollars. This is a decision to prioritize necessary expressions of faithful communities in the world that are presenting themselves in daily life and relationships. It may not look like our traditional measures of congregational thriving, because the needs for many of our communities have changed. Storydwelling and ReVillage are one example of how new ministries of the Oregon Synod are leaning into vulnerability, relationship, and the practice of letting go of models that no longer serve our community's needs in order to re-birth something even more beautiful from the ashes.

In the next five years, ReVillage hopes to open 4 additional childcare sites with the help of partners, collaborators, and people who care about the important work of co-creating these villages of support. Are you one of these people? During this season, as we reflect together with our congregations on the meaning of the Easter story and on Christ's own life, death, resurrection, and invitation into vulnerable relationship and community, we invite you to pause and discern your own role in the work of nurturing new embodiments of life in today's world.



ReVillage received a 2022 Domestic Hunger Grant from ELCA World Hunger for their work towards eliminating a root cause of hunger!