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April 23, 2020



# Lake Union HERALD

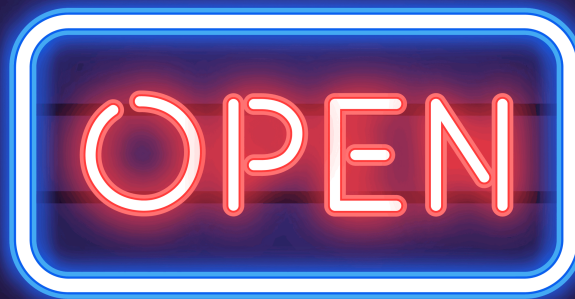
THIS WEEK

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Adventist Community Services sees surge in demand; *Hope Awakens* draws big numbers; AMITA Health participates in plasma program; Lake Union hosts program on health disparities; Illinois extends order; Michigan camp meeting replaced by week of prayer; Lake Region to host conference-wide service; Andrews University plans virtual graduation celebration

## NEWS AROUND THE UNION

THE CHURCH IS



Buildings are closed but that hasn't stopped the Church's mission in the Lake Union.

*(Illustration by Sarah Divivier for Lake Union Herald)*

## Adventist Community Services step up to

Escanaba Adventist Community Services food pantry located in Escanaba, Michigan and is one of the only food pantries in the Upper Peninsula which operates mobile service to different counties. They are currently working with the Feeding America hunger relief organization and were asked by the CEO to step up, when other pantries have either shut down or are unable to open. Director Robin Wycoff reported that they had over 1,200 families lined up for miles hoping to receive food. "It was such an amazing yet sad day," she said. "They served so many but had to also turn away just as much because they ran out of food."

The Escanaba food pantry is open Mondays and Fridays and will run three mobile pantries in April and May.

-Source: *Michigan ACS*

Harbor of Hope Church in Benton Harbor, Michigan is also seeing increased traffic to its food pantry.

"When Covid-19 hit our community, we felt committed to remain open," said Rosa Hires who serves as co-executive director of the pantry. "We had to change our procedures to keep our volunteers and clients safe, however, and now offer curbside, no-contact service. As with most of the world, we've had to become very agile with a learn-as-you-go approach. We didn't know if we would have fewer clients because of the stay-at-home orders, or if we'd have the average number."

They soon had their answer. The first day after the crisis began, traffic at the pantry shot up from the average of 70-100 families served to 170. On Easter Sunday, the numbers were closer to 200. The food pantry is also taking in overflow from the local Boys and Girls Club families that are relying on the club to provide breakfast and lunch and responding to emergency food requests rolling in from the United Way 211 line. It's an unprecedented situation for many community service organizations.

"One client shared with me that she just has no way of feeding her five children three meals a day as a single mom now that they are out of school and she has just lost her job," explained Hires.

-Source: *Whirlpool Corporation [blog](#)*

Meanwhile in Wisconsin, Adventist Community Service volunteers are making much needed tie and elastic strapped masks for facilities and individuals. Recently they sent over 100 tie masks to a very grateful nursing home in Madison, Wisconsin.

They were recently asked to make masks for a 300-bed facility in Pennsylvania which has so far experienced 38 deaths due to the virus. "This facility just cannot seem to get and keep enough masks," said Wisconsin's ACS Director, Alice Garrett. "We sent them six masks we had on hand, and are making a bunch to send later in the week."

They have been contacted by another nursing home needing homemade masks and will be checking with them for their specific needs. "The requests seem to keep coming in," said Garrett.

If anyone would like to help with this project, you can contact Garrett, at [garrett@wi.adventist.org](mailto:garrett@wi.adventist.org), or call 608-345-3883. She also suggests that you can check with your local nursing facility and make the kind they prefer.

-Source: *Wisconsin Conference*

## **Hope Awakens attracts 1,000 Hoosiers**

Presently, we have almost 1,000 people who are watching the live series throughout the state of Indiana. There are over 335 members in our churches who are volunteering as trained Virtual Bible Workers. Yesterday, It Is Written (IIW) Television reported that there are over 60,000 people who are watching the virtual meetings across the country. Praise God for how He is working. Where the enemy intended to bring harm by closing everything down, God has turned events around in such a dramatic manner to reach many more hearts for His kingdom.

Of course, Satan is not happy when God's message is being proclaimed. He will do all he can to oppose the work of the gospel, bringing major obstacles to prevent its success. There have been two clear reminders of this already in our series. First, as reported to you last week, deadly tornadoes touched down in Chattanooga, Tennessee, very near to the IIW media center, and God protected the facility from damage. Second, fifteen minutes before the opening night of the series, IIW experienced a targeted, malicious cyber attack. Similar attacks have brought down banks and other Silicon Valley companies. The host server was overwhelmed and crashed, preventing thousands of people from registering and watching the first presentation. Thankfully, the IIW technical team was able to redirect much traffic to alternative viewing options, resulting in tens of thousands of views on the opening night.

- Source: Vic Van Schaik, Indiana Conference President

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## **AMITA Health participating in national convalescent plasma program**

AMITA Health is joining the national fight against Covid-19 by partnering with the Mayo Clinic and Versiti blood centers to collect and deliver convalescent plasma.

Convalescent plasma, plasma collected from those who have recovered from Covid-19, is under investigation for use as a treatment for the illness. The donor must have recovered from the illness, be healthy, and pass the usual screening tests for blood donation. The patient is transfused with the donor's plasma, which contains antibodies that are believed to attack the virus, helping patients recover more quickly.

AMITA Health critical care physicians, pulmonologists and infectious disease specialists are now able to request convalescent plasma for their hospitalized, Covid-19 positive patients through the national Convalescent Plasma Expanded Access Program, coordinated by Mayo Clinic. Patients considered are those with or at risk for severe or life-threatening Covid-19. [READ MORE](#)

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## **Lake Union hosts program examining coronavirus health disparities**

The Coronavirus pandemic is shining a bright light on the racial health disparities within urban centers in the Lake Union.

New figures highlight grim [statistics](#) on how Covid-19 has affected the African American community:

- In Milwaukee, they make up 26% of the population but account for 73% of deaths;
  - In Chicago, they're 32% of the population, yet 67% have deceased;
  - In Michigan, they account for 33% of cases and roughly 40% of deaths, despite comprising only 14% of the population. (The state does not offer a breakdown of race by county or city, but more than a quarter of deaths occurred in Detroit, where African Americans make up 79% of the population.)
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Williams, Harvard University sociologist; Ingrid Weiss Slikkers, Andrews University International Trauma Education Center director; and Nia Johnson, PhD candidate.

The program, part of "The Church and the Coronavirus" series, can be viewed in its entirety on the Lake Union Herald [website](#), along with the other episodes: Theology, Church History and the Coronavirus; and Physical and Emotional Health in Quarantine.

You can watch this week's program live on the Lake Union Herald [Facebook page](#) on Sabbath, April 25 at 5 p.m. The topic is The Coronavirus: Natural Disaster, Human Folly or Divine Judgement?

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Meanwhile, today, Thursday, April 23 at 6:30 p.m., Andrews University will also examine the topic, "Covid-19: Understanding and Breaking the Socio-Economic and Racial Disparities" as part of the Eighth Annual Summit on Social Consciousness.

It will be streamed live on the [Andrews Facebook](#) page.

The Summit is co-sponsored by Spectrum Health Lakeland, the Andrews University Office for Diversity & Inclusion, our Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation Campus Center, the Office of Research & Creative Scholarship, and the Office of the Provost.

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Lake Region Conference Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department will host a panel discussion, "Voices of First Responders in LRC." It airs Saturday, April 25, 7 p.m. EST at [www.lrcsda.com](http://www.lrcsda.com)

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## Illinois extends stay-at-home order

Today, April 23rd, the Governor of Illinois announced he would be extending the stay-at-home order for Illinois residents until May 30<sup>th</sup>. This order, which will be signed next week, will include the lifting of some restrictions, but will add some new expectations, like the requirement of face coverings in places where the 6 ft social distancing practice is not possible. Stay tuned for more information next week.

As you already know, last week, I announced Illinois Conference schools would continue with stay-at-instruction until the end of this school year. Our education team continues to work hard to provide the best at-home instruction possible and to plan for end of the year celebratory events for our graduates.

As for our churches, until further notice we will continue to worship in virtual ministry mode. We are planning a Conference-wide virtual event for May 16<sup>th</sup>, to focus on our Conference Theme, Knowing Jesus Intimately. This will be both a morning and afternoon event. Special programming is being developed now for our time together.

Also, Conference administration is developing a re-opening plan for our churches and Conference office that goes along with the **Guidelines for Opening Up America Again** outlined by President Trump last week. More on that as our Governor allows.

Lastly, let's continue to lift each other up in prayer as we navigate the challenges COVID-19 has brought into our lives. May God bless you and keep you, and may we be found faithful as we move forward.

- Source: Illinois Conference President, Ron Aguilera

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## Alternative plans announced for Michigan camp meeting

meeting was scheduled to take place at Cedar Lake, Michigan from June 12-20. Camp meeting will be replaced with a conference-wide week of prayer, a decision made in conjunction with the Michigan Conference Executive Committee.

"Due to the current situation, our Executive Committee has decided to replace camp meeting with a conference-wide week of prayer, recognizing our great need of the Holy Spirit," said Micheff. "Details of this event will be communicated as they are developed." At the present time, the plan is to offer fellowship time during the week-long event that incorporates singing, praying, sharing testimonies, and watching a live-streamed message.

Understandably, many are disappointed that the long-standing tradition of camp meeting will not take place this year. With the addition of the week of prayer, Micheff emphasized the positive. "This is our opportunity to come before the Lord as a Conference, pleading for the presence of God to equip us for what lies just ahead." A decision has not been made regarding the U.P. camp meeting, which is scheduled to take place from September 3-7, at Camp Sagola.

### Summer Camp

A decision has not been made regarding the cancellation of events during the summer season at Camp Au Sable. A [statement](#) was released from the Camp Au Sable leadership stating, "Presently, the staff are busy making plans for the 2020 summer camp season to go forward as scheduled. . . That being said, we are regularly monitoring and evaluating the current COVID-19 situation with the state of Michigan and the Michigan Conference administration." Once a decision is made, a news release will be made available.

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## Lake Region plans conference-wide worship service

The guidelines for "Opening up America Again" describe three stages through which governors may ease their lockdowns and get their economies up and running again. Some states are banding together in their response to President Trump's decision to leave it up to the states to decide when they will reopen. Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin formed a pact to work together, agreeing that four factors, including a sustained drop in infections and hospitalizations, will help them determine when to reopen the economy in these parts.

As a result of these latest developments, Lake Region Conference schools and churches will remain closed until further notice, and Conference office personnel will continue to work from home. Guidelines as to what Conference operations will look like during the three phases of the reopening of America are under review.

Please note that the next Conference-wide virtual worship service will take place on Sabbath, April 25, 2020, at 12 noon (EST). James Black, Director of Prayer Ministries for the NAD, will be the speaker, and the focus or emphasis of the worship experience will be Adventist education. Please join us on this journey to excellence. At 2 pm (EST) on the next several Sabbaths, our Youth and Young Adult Ministries Department will stream a service for our young people.

*-Source: R. Clifford Jones, Lake Region President*

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## Andrews University to hold virtual graduation celebration

While the familiar lining up in regalia on the sidewalks of our Berrien Springs campus, surrounded by the country flags of those who are graduating, will be changed this year, we plan to take the opportunity to confer degrees and celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates during the weekend of May 1-3, 2020.

social media channels. Those discipline/program specific celebrations will continue.

During the weekend of May 1–3, we'll also gather together as a global community for some familiar, and new, ways to celebrate our graduates. This will include the following online events:

- \* A Friday evening dedication service by New Life Fellowship
- \* Sabbath church services with Pioneer Memorial Church and New Life Fellowship
- \* A series of five virtual commencements on Sunday, organized by college (and the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary). Those will include the names and details for each graduate who has completed requirements for her or his degrees, and those degrees will all be formally conferred by President Andrea Luxton.
- \* Additional celebrations and dedications will also be presented and broadcast online over the weekend.

The graduation website will be updated with service information as it becomes available. Please check [andrews.edu/graduation/schedule](https://andrews.edu/graduation/schedule) periodically for updates.

Also, spring Class of 2020—even as we confer degrees and celebrate together online this May, we want to make sure you know that our invitation stands to invite each one of our spring Class of 2020 graduates back for a face-to-face graduation celebration as soon as that becomes possible.

*Source: Andrews University*

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## In the News

Dr. **Lowell Hamel**, the Spectrum Health Lakeland chief operating officer is stricken with Covid-19 and has received a plasma donation. Hamel and his twin brother, **Loren**, who serves as president of the hospital system, are well-known members in the Michigan community. An [article](#) from The Herald-Palladium features an interview with Loren, describing the pioneering use of convalescent plasma.

An Upper Michigan news station [aired a story](#) on the Escanaba food pantry which is working overtime to make sure no one in their community goes without food. They interviewed **Marquette Church Pastor, Tony Ludwig** who talked about the partnership with the Feeding America hunger relief organization and other area churches. "The unemployment is at an all-time high. So if community churches and pastors can work together, when the food need is so great, we can do food mobiles like this," he said.

The Daily Press also published an [article](#) on pantries helping the needy. The article mentions **Escanaba Church Pastor, Daniel Rodriguez** acknowledging that he and the volunteers have missed talking with people when they would come into the pantry to get their box together. Due to the coronavirus pandemic boxes are made up before people arrive and they do not get to enter the food pantry to decide what they want. He also appealed for help meeting their growing needs. "The donations we receive have held steady so far, but the need at the food pantry has more than doubled."

An Indiana [radio station](#) reported that the Koontz Lake Volunteer Fire Department recently received a generous donation of supplies from several organizations, including the **Plymouth Seventh-day Adventist Church**. Items donated include masks, glasses, hand sanitizer, other Personal Protective Equipment, and cleaning supplies which will help keep first responders safely equipped during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[A Chicago station](#) announced a virtual candlelight vigil Thursday night, April 23,

Church.

## ADDITIONAL NEWS & INFORMATION

### GENERAL CONFERENCE

#### **Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson gives April 16 video message to World Church**

It's so good to connect with you again. I hope you've had a good week, a good week in the Lord, as He has protected you and cared for you. Yes, there are challenges all around. People have been losing their lives. We've been praying for people and for families who have lost loved ones. We've been praying for people who are fighting this coronavirus. [WATCH HERE](#)

#### **#DearCoronaviurs: Thanking our Medical Staff**

The latest in the viral social media series #dearcoronavirus visits with medical staff from 15 countries to share their commitment and passion during this difficult time. [WATCH HERE](#)

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Church announces new 2021 Missionary Book of the Year**

One piece of business discussed annually at Spring Meeting is the Missionary Book of the Year. Especially now, when the world is in such turmoil, this special resource gives the 22 million members, pastors and leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church the perfect opportunity to share hope and peace with their friends and neighbors. [READ MORE](#)

### NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION NEWS

#### **Uber Outreach!**

Uber drivers Alex and Janeth Partyka found that one of the more difficult — and intimidating — aspects of witnessing was knowing when and how to witness in a non-invasive way. When Janeth started driving full time, she came up with an idea that has opened up many more opportunities to witness to their riders in a natural, personal way. [READ MORE](#)

#### **Seventh-day Adventist Higher Education in North America Issues Statement During COVID-19 Pandemic Closures**

Although the current COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted our campuses, temporarily transitioning us to remote education, the mission of Seventh-day Adventist higher education remains the same. Driven by passionate care for our students, our faculty and staff are innovating to sustain a quality, whole-person education for the duration of this crisis. [READ MORE](#)

#### **Local Church, Union, and Division Team Up to Provide Lunches for Healthcare Workers at a Maryland Hospital**

provide two separate meals to the approximately 1,000 healthcare workers on staff at Howard County General Hospital. [READ MORE](#)

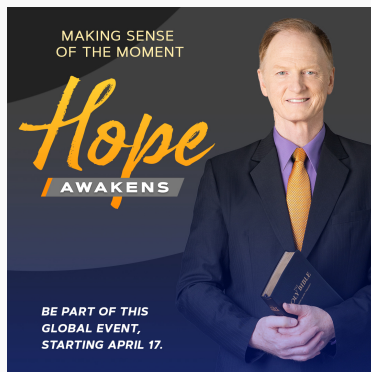
## EVENTS AND RESOURCES



**We want to hear from you!** Take the *Lake Union Herald* Reader Survey.

By answering [these questions](#), you're helping us gain a clearer understanding of what you expect to see in these pages, which will help us produce a magazine that is a true reflection of interests and concerns to our Lake Union members.

Submit your answers by June 30 for a chance to win a \$50 Amazon gift card. Watch for survey results in the a future issue of the *Herald*.



*It Is Written* will conduct a virtual, online evangelistic event starting April 17 that will reach all of North America. Livestreamed from Collegedale, Tennessee, in English, Spanish, and American Sign Language, this event will share hope especially needed in a time like this.

Register [here](#).



With many church buildings closed because of COVID-19, children aren't able to pick up copies of their favorite Sabbath magazines. **Pacific Press Publishing Association has decided to make its weekly children's publications — *Our Little Friend*, *Primary Treasure*, and *Guide* — available in PDF format on each magazine's own website for free.**

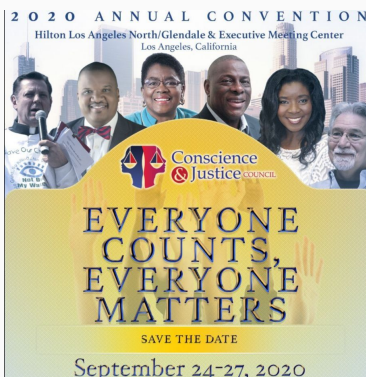
The weekly magazines will continue to appear for as long as the coronavirus threat keeps church buildings closed.

### 100 DAYS OF PRAYER

From **March 27 – July 4, 2020** join Seventh-day Adventists all around the world in calling on Jesus in our urgent need!

- To submit a prayer request regarding the needs of your local church or conference, [click here](#).
- Material for translators now available [here](#).





**ONE YEAR IN MISSION PLUS** is an initiative in the Lake Union and an expansion of the [C.A.M.P.U.S.](#) Missionary Training Program.

If you know of committed Seventh-day Adventist young people with a desire to take the 2020-2021 year off from school to make a difference in the lives others, please contact: [www.campushope.com/oyim](http://www.campushope.com/oyim)

### Conscience & Justice Council Conference

Los Angeles | September 24- 27

Featured speakers include:

**Michael Pfleger**, The Faith Community of Saint Sabina

**Carlton Byrd**, Breath of Life

**Barbara Williams-Skinner**, Skinner Leadership Institute

**Larry Johnson**, Brotherhood Against Drugs

**Andrea Trusty-King**, 16th Street Church

**Robert Ericksen**, author, *Theologians Under Hitler*

More info at [cjcouncil.org](http://cjcouncil.org)

### Adventist Medical Professionals

Clinician Well-being Conference and Family Retreat

"Restoring Faith in Medicine"

October 2 and 3

The Hyatt Lodge - Oak Brook, Illinois

Registration coming soon!

[www.amp.lakeunion.org](http://www.amp.lakeunion.org)

For additional information, email:

[heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org](mailto:heather.hoffman2@amitahealth.org)

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### The 31st annual convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators

takes place October 15-17, 2020, at the Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort & Conference Center in Oak Brook, Illinois.


[www.adventistcommunicators.org](http://www.adventistcommunicators.org)



## What's inside this month's *Herald*



## Featured Video



**In Your Kingdom**  
Broken lives are made new, You make us new

**PRAISE AT HOME**

With the stay-at-home home order still in place, our churches, academies, and universities have found creative ways to worship together and continue to share hope. Today's featured video is a praise segment from the Pioneer Memorial Church service. [WATCH HERE](#)

Thanks for reading the *Lake Union Herald* newsletter.  
Tell your friends to follow along by signing up [here](#).

Don't forget to check out our [Vimeo](#) channel and visit the *Herald* [website](#) for the latest news and information.

We're open to your feedback. If you really like something we're doing on here — or really don't — or have ideas that can help shape our newsletter, let us know. We're all ears. . . Email us your thoughts at [herald@lakeunion.org](mailto:herald@lakeunion.org).

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