



Schedule

8:30 a.m. Registration at Neumann Auditorium Lobby		
	Description	Speaker(s)
9:00-10:00 a.m. "A" Workshops		
A01 Ukraine - Moral Trauma (will repeat B03)	This presentation will highlight a mission trip to train Ukrainians on Moral Trauma along with teaching the participants as to why we need to continue to support our brothers and sisters of this war-torn country.	Rev. John Sheahan
A02 Enabling Your Congregation To Be Stronger and Your Youth Be Safer (will repeat C04)	After my third daughter was trafficked, God revealed to me two major Biblical mandates missing in my ministry to save kids. First, equip parents and grandparents to pass on the faith and safeguard their children. See our free curriculum for doing this. Luther said that parents are bishops, apostles, and priests. They deserve training. Secondly, all congregational members be prayed for. We will share ways for congregations to get this to happen. This workshop will introduce you to these resources, show their importance, and how to use them. Go show your people our website and what resources we have for you.	Rev. Al Erickson and Kathryn Koob
A03 Dinner Church (will repeat C05)	What would you do if you could try anything? One teenager's answer to this question resulted in a sanctuary redesign, a new ministry even after the closing of the congregation, and an exciting opportunity to rethink what church can be like. Come to get a taste of Dwelling in Faith Dinner Church and whet your appetite for new possibilities in your own setting!	Rev. Sarah and Karis Nye
A04 Faith Formation and Volunteer Recruitment: Thinking Outside of the Box (will repeat D01)	Join us for an engaging workshop that delves into innovative approaches to faith formation and volunteer recruitment. We'll explore current practices and then stretch our imaginations to consider fresh alternatives. Whether you're a pastor, educator, or lay leader, this session will inspire you to think creatively and take practical steps toward revitalizing your faith community.	Deacon Jackie Schilling and Lisa Acton
A05 Faith Formation that can Last Past High School	Everyone is talking about the drop-out rate in youth ministry - and it is getting depressing. This seminar will re-look at this whole issue of discipleship and faith formation. Tiger will present some ideas about how to be more intentional and will share what he has learned after researching this topic for years. He will share his "7 Faith Factors" that can help build a faith that sticks. We will look at issues involved in deepening faith that includes family, relationships, youth ministry and some surprise variables.	Tiger McLuen
A06 What is a Mutual Ministry Committee and Why Do We Need One?	In the Model Constitution for Congregations, the ELCA has provided that each congregation should have a Mutual Ministry Committee (C.13.04). Mutual ministry is basic to our Lutheran theology. This workshop will present the reasons why a Mutual Ministry Committee is a good idea and present best practices for the composition and function of the committee in supporting pastors, deacons and the people and ministries in which they serve.	Rev. Steve Brackett
A07 The Dwelling: The Church That Started as Three Showers and a Trailer (will repeat C08)	Come and learn about The Dwelling, a congregation comprised of currently or formerly housing insecure people. Led by Rev. Emily (Harkins) Norris and Redeemers intergenerational trip to Winston-Salem, North Carolina to be a part of the ministry. Our Spirit and Service Learning Experience included relationship building, learning about justice issues, storytelling and service. Find out how your congregation can become a part of The Dwelling's ministry.	Paula Letsche and Audra Cherry
A08 Discover the Possibilities with Mosaic	Join us for an insightful journey as we share the essence of our mission and the impactful work we do. Embark on a quick tour that encapsulates our mission, delves into our rich history, and highlights our varied services and programs. Among these discover the serene experience of Rejoicing Spirits, our unique, hush-free worship initiative designed to inspire and uplift.	Jackie Cooper
A09 Rocks and Roots: The Outdoors as a Spiritual Playground (will repeat B09)	Have you ever experienced the Word of God come to life in the outdoors? It's an incredibly common experience of faith. Explore the intersection of the great outdoors and the Christian faith with Frank Johnson, who draws on years of experience as a long-distance hiker, angler, adventure racer, pastor, and camp director to pursue what it is about the outdoors and our Lutheran camps that forges deep spiritual connections.	Rev. Frank Johnson, Executive Director at Camp EWALU
A10 Providing Spiritual Care for Those Who Are in the Hospital or in Hospice Care is an Important Role for Congregations (will repeat C11)	These visits are very different from visiting people in their homes and can be intimidating for those who are not familiar or even are uncomfortable in these spaces. Join in a discussion of the different types of visits and support, and helpful ways to support patients and families. Discuss how to provide connection to the congregation, spiritual support and how to ask what information the patient and family want shared with the congregation.	Rev. Liz Retz
A11 Jesus said: You Feed Them. How? (will repeat C12)	How do you start and maintain a food ministry? What is food rescue? We will share what we have learned from starting a Mobile Food Pantry in 2016 and turned that into a food pantry that owns its own building. We will talk about how to source food and the importance of building partnerships. We want to hear your questions which will shape our presentation.	Rev. Kim and Diane Wills
10:00-10:15 a.m. Break		

**Workshop availability subject to change



Schedule

10:15-11:15 a.m.	"B" Workshops	
B01 Reflecting on Your Congregation's Legacy (will repeat C01)	There will come a time when your congregation may need to make difficult decisions about the ongoing ministry of the congregation. Perhaps that means closure, or a different radical change. Either way, it can be helpful to think about the options your congregation has for an enduring Christ-focus legacy now. Together we will consider how to best steward the congregational legacy you've inherited for the sake of future mission.	Rev. Dione Stepanek, Director for Evangelical Mission
B02 Band Practice	This will be the practice time for anyone that would like to play in the band for the worship service.	Rev. David Efflandt
B03 Ukraine - Moral Trauma (repeat of A01)		Rev. John Sheahan
B04 What's Campus Ministry Got To Do With It? (will repeat C02)	Coffee, Cookies, Conversations, and ... Charcuterie? What's Campus Ministry got to do with that? Join us in conversation to learn more about the students we meet, trends in spiritual life we see at a public university, and the impact we believe campus ministry has on the future of the church.	Robin Kime
B05 Talking Out Loud About Addiction (will repeat C03)	The Substance Abuse Network was formed to proactively provide resources and support for rostered ministers, congregation members, and community members who are in recovery, who are supporting someone in recovery, or who are coping with the effects of addiction on family and friends. The network will advertise and develop resources for recovery through the congregations of our synod. This workshop will introduce the Substance Abuse Network, hold a panel presentation on the need to talk openly about substance abuse and addiction, and provide information on how to respond to an opioid overdose.	Rev. Tom Martin
B06 The Messy Reality of Ministry to Parents	Today's parents are overworked, exhausted, and untrained but they are still the primary faith shapers in kids' lives. We all talk about partnering with parents or "home is church". With clarity and honesty, Tiger will help you understand the messy reality of parents and learn how your ministry can actually support and encourage them. Go beyond nice phrases and good intentions.	Tiger McLuen
B07 Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (will repeat C07)	Come learn more about the expansion services of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (IRCS) now being offered in the Cedar Valley.	Mike Knipp, Lutheran Services of Iowa
B08 Strategic Ministry (will repeat D03)	Begin thinking strategically about your ministries and be equipped to continue the conversation with congregational leadership. Explore ways to build relationships with your youth and adults in worship and outside of worship. Find ways to make worship interactive and a place for all ages and all people.	Brittney Swanson, Executive Director, Lutheran Lakeside Camp
B09 Rocks and Roots: The Outdoors as a Spiritual Playground (repeat of A09)		Rev. Frank Johnson, Executive Director at Camp EWALU
B10 Racial Disparities in Incarceration in Black Hawk County	The US system of mass incarceration gives us one of the highest per capita incarceration rates of any country in the world. However, the good news is that, nationally, incarceration rates have dropped substantially since their peak in around 2010, thanks to numerous reform efforts across the country. The problem for us in Iowa is that our rates have not decreased at all over the last 15 years but have stayed at the high they achieved earlier. We also have one of the greatest disparities between black and white incarceration of any state. This presentation will explore the main dimensions of mass incarceration in Iowa, the reasons why reforms have stalled, and what reforms are needed to bring Iowa's incarceration rates under control.	R. Allen Hays, Emeritus Professor of Political Science and Public Policy at UNI, and Co-Chair of the Iowa Justice Action Network
B11 Intro to Stephen's Ministry (will repeat D07)	Discover how Stephen's Ministry can benefit your congregation--both as a lay person and pastor. The benefits of being both a care giver and care receiver will be presented. We will also have information about getting a program started in your congregation.	Rev. Mike Ashman, Joyce Schoulte, Gwen Dettbarn
B12 Coaching as a Creative Process: Cultivating an Entrepreneurial Spirit for an Uncertain Future	In this workshop you will learn how coaching can be used as a creative process to cultivate an entrepreneurial spirit in your ministry in the midst of uncertainty and transition. You will learn what makes coaching distinct from other tools, how it can be used to build a healthier culture, activate your mission, or discern where God is calling you individually or as a community. You will have the opportunity to apply these tools during the workshop and walk away with practical ideas and next steps to implement in your context and everyday life. Rev. Kristi V. H. Grieder is a rostered leader of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. She is an ELCA Coach, a Certified Life, Grief, and End of Life Coach (expected by June 2024) and working towards her credentials to be a Professional Certified Coach with the International Coaching Federation. Having worked in multi-vocational ministry as a pastor, hospice chaplain, and coach she specializes in coaching individuals and organizations who are in the midst of transition, processing grief, discerning where God is calling them, and distilling what's most important for today.	Rev. Kristi Grieder



Schedule

11:15-11:30 a.m.	Break	
11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Worship	
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Lunch/Break Please join a table with the topic of your choice if you would like to be a part of the discussion. Or feel free to gather with colleagues, meet new friends or take time outside enjoying the day.	
1:30-2:30 p.m.	"C" Workshops	
C01 Reflecting on Your Congregation's Legacy (repeat of B01)		Rev. Dione Stepanek, Director for Evangelical Mission
C02 What's Campus Ministry Got To Do With It? (repeat of B04)		Robin Kime
C03 Talking Out Loud About Addiction (repeat of B05)		Rev. Tom Martin
C04 Enabling Your Congregation To Be Stronger and Your Youth Be Safer (repeat of A02)		Rev. Al Erickson and Kathryn Koob
C05 Dinner Church (repeat of A03)		Rev. Sarah and Karis Nye
C06 Qualities of an Effective Leader to the Next Generation	Grounded in Scripture, this session gets to the heart of what makes a leader into someone who can impact the life of a teenager, and will inspire you to be clear about your role in the busy world of adolescence. This will encourage, equip and inspire you in your important work with students, and will give you something practical to use as you equip and encourage your own ministry team.	Tiger McLuen
C07 Immigrant and Refugee Community Services (repeat of B07)		
C08 The Dwelling: The Church That Started as Three Showers and a Trailer (repeat of A07)		Paula Letsche and Audra Cherry
C09 Art as Spiritual Practice: A Hands on All Ages Faith Practice (will repeat D04)	Let's make some art! It is amazing what happens when we quiet ourselves and enter into the quiet spaces of this world and let our hands be busy. It is in these quiet spaces that God speaks to us and offers encouragement, healing, discernment and a whole host of responses. Join us as we busy our hands and quiet our minds and create together. We will have mixed media art supplies for your use and will walk you through the process of creating sacred space for this prayer practice. We will have handouts for you to take home so you can lead this practice with any group. I promise it's fun, easy and a safe place for us to play and encounter God. All ages are welcome and encouraged! And I cannot wait to see what you create!	Rev. Kate Johnson
C10 A Sound Experience to Rest and Renew (will repeat D06)	Discover the power that rest can provide by attending a sound bath using crystal sound healing bowls. The sounds that the bowls create allow your brain to slow down simply by listening to the bowls. This allows for a deep rest that is similar to sleep. You may also discover clarity to problem that a solution has been eluding you. Other benefits include reduced anxiety and stress, lowered blood pressure, improved mood, and a calmer nervous system.	Heather Egts
C11 Providing Spiritual Care for Those Who Are in the Hospital or in Hospice Care is an Important Role for Congregations (repeat of A10)		Rev. Liz Retz
C12 Jesus said: You Feed Them. How? (repeat of A11)		Rev. Kim and Diane Wills
C13 Divina Moments: Many Ways to Listen for God (will repeat D08)	Lectio divina, "divine reading," involves listening for God through prayerful, reflective reading of scripture. In this workshop, you will learn about and experience this ancient spiritual practice, as well as a few creative variations of Lectio divina that involve music, doodling, and artwork. These practices can be incorporated into worship services, and work especially well for midweek evening services during seasons like Advent and Lent.	Rev. Joy Edeker
2:30-2:45 p.m.	Break	



Schedule

2:45-3:45 p.m.	"D" Workshops	
D01 Faith Formation and Volunteer Recruitment: Thinking Outside of the Box (repeat of A04)		Deacon Jackie Schilling and Lisa Acton
D02 Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Calling a Pastor or Deacon	We will explore what is leading to much longer call process in the ELCA and other denominations, and strategies and resources that may help to bridge the gap between calls and shorten the length of a call process.	Rev. Steve Brackett
D03 Strategic Ministry (repeat of B08)		Brittney Swanson, Executive Director of Lutheran Lakeside Camp
D04 Art as Spiritual Practice: A Hands on All Ages Faith Practice (repeat of C09)		Rev. Kate Johnson
D05 Tips and Tricks for Church Communications: Making The Most of Your Emails, Website, and Social Media	Do you ever hear from people, "I didn't know that was happening?" You and the folks at your church put a lot of time and energy into events and programs, and you want to make sure people know about them! Not to mention, you have parish news to share. It's hard to cut through the clutter of all the other mail, email and social media that people are getting every day. We'll talk about resources to pump up your church communications, how to make your website and social media be the most welcoming "front door" they can be, ways to make your work do double-duty, and how to make sure people are actually getting your message.	Steph Boeding, EWALU Director of Marketing and Communications
D06 A Sound Experience to Rest and Renew (repeat of C10)		Heather Egts
D07 Intro to Stephen's Ministry (repeat of B11)		Rev. Mike Ashman, Joyce Schoulte, Gwen Dettbarn
D08 Divina Moments: Many Ways to Listen for God (repeat of C13)		Rev. Joy Edeker
D09 Learning From Our Hungarian Lutheran Siblings in Christ	Our synod shares a companion synod relationship with the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church in Hungary Magyarországi Evangélikus Egyház (MEE). Since 2022 a number of grassroot delegations have traveled to Hungary to build relationships and learn from our brothers and sisters there. Join this workshop to discover how our relationship is growing and what we are learning about what God is doing through the mission and ministry of the MEE.	Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen and Rev. Susan Friedrich
D10 Dying Generously: Planned Giving as Part of Your Legacy	We have all been blessed by a loving and generous God. How, then, do we respond to the generosity shown to us? By returning to God that which belongs to God. Through your generosity, you will help create the kingdom of God on earth with a planned gift. Mike will lead a conversation about giving using your assets, primarily at the end of your life, so that your generosity ensures the continuation of God's work in the world — for years to come.	Mike Klinefelter, Regional Gift Planner
D11 Lay Training for Congregations/Individuals	Four area Synods have joined together to create a training program to equip people to lead worship, preach and preside at the sacraments, and provide pastoral care in a congregation when an ordained pastor is not available. This two-year program includes participation in a certified ELCA Lay School, additional training for those hoping to serve in Synod Authorized Ministry (SAM), and semi-annual retreats to focus on practical experiences. In this workshop, Bishop Kevin Jones will provide information for interested individuals and congregations, and answer questions about the program starting in September 2024.	Bishop Kevin Jones and the Rev. Dr. Kristin Wedland
D12 Information for Churches Wanting to go Solar	This session will provide information about how to fund solar installations and other green energy projects on church property using new funding opportunities available to non-profits through the Inflation Reduction Act, as well as green loan programs and other ways of financing the project. Information will also be provided about local entities that can provide assistance to congregations for conducting energy audits, planning green energy projects and obtaining funding assistance.	David Voigts, Donna Rasmussen
Thank you for joining us today!		