



Grace Gathering

August 10 - 13
New Orleans

CONNECT | REFLECT | DISCOVER



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Freed & RENEWED
in Christ 500
YEARS OF GOD'S
GRACE IN ACTION

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Grace Gathering Covenant

Being joined by a covenant in a Christian context means coming together, guided by the Gospel. At the Grace Gathering we are coming together to connect, reflect and discover as a community that will continue to live on past this event in the connections we make with each other and the new lessons we learn. As Christians, we know that we are called to treat others with the respect and kindness we would want for ourselves, the respect and kindness that we merit as children of God.

As members of the body of Christ, let us commit to enriching each other's experiences, treating everyone with gracious respect, and not turning a blind eye when we see injustice. In the event that an attendee behaves in a way that is deemed illegal, unsafe, disruptive, or discriminatory, or causes excessive discomfort to another person, their presence will no longer be allowed at the event.

If there is cause for concern, please contact Grace Gathering staff at 773-380-2770. In case of an emergency, call 911 immediately.

For a full list of Grace Gathering's Terms and Conditions, see the Grace Gathering mobile app.

Welcome

“Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor. They live in Christ through faith and in their neighbor through love.”

– Martin Luther,
“The Freedom of a Christian”

Grace and peace to you from our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Welcome to the Grace Gathering! All of us who have been preparing for this event are excited that you have come to experience the vitality of this gathering of Christ's body and to share in our observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

As we approach the 500-year milestone in our history as Lutherans, The Lutheran World Federation has said that we have an opportunity “for the joyful celebration of the power of the Lutheran witness to the gospel and at the same time a space for the self-critical acknowledgement of failures in faithfulness and of the continuing pain of division among Christians.”

Martin Luther wrote about the freedom Christians have in Christ, a freedom that leads them to serve their neighbor out of love rather than guilt or fear. The grace that Luther proclaimed 500 years ago is still radical in the greater landscape of American Christians today. Though our world is very different from that of the reformers, their witness of the gospel still rings true today and continues to liberate people all over the world who are hearing it for the first time.

Let us claim this time together to explore how a Lutheran witness of the gospel can act as a compass, pointing us toward the way of Christ. Let us learn from our brothers and sisters who are preaching, presenting and across from us at dinner how we can better listen to and help our neighbor in the next pew or down the street.

We can also rejoice that in the ecumenical and inter-religious dialogues of the last 50 years we have come to a new place in our relationships with Roman Catholic, Jewish and other religious communities. For those of you planning anniversary observances back home, you should have all the tools you need here to build on that progress in ways that would not have been possible 100 years ago.

I pray that the Holy Spirit moves us in this place so that when we return home safely we are recharged with energy and purpose in service of Christ.

God's peace,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

Rev. Elizabeth Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

General Information

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center:

The Grace Gathering registration desk will be open from Monday, Aug. 8 through Saturday, Aug. 13 outside of Hall B should you have any questions throughout the event. Convention center hospitality desks will also be located throughout the space should you have any questions about navigating the event or the city.

Grace Gathering Lounge: Starting on Monday, Aug. 8, room 242 will be open to Grace Gathering participants as a place to connect with one another throughout the week.

Please contact **773-380-2770** with questions or concerns. In case of an emergency, call **911**.

Guidebook App: The information in this booklet, and more, will be available on the ELCA Grace Gathering mobile app.

Three ways to access the Guidebook:

1. As an "App" you install on your iPad or iPhone. For Apple devices go to the Apple App Store and search for **ELCA Organizations and Events**. After installing that app, download the 2016 ELCA Grace Gathering guide.
2. As an "App" you install on your Android phone or tablet. For Android devices, go to the Google Play Store and search for **ELCA Organizations and Events**. After installing that app, download the 2016 ELCA Grace Gathering guide.
3. Some functions are available through any web browser, just go to this web address:
www.guidebook.com/guide/56832.

Social Media:

You can follow the **2016 Grace Gathering** Facebook event for any updates throughout the event. Other channels to connect with will be:

Facebook: **ELCA Reformation 500** page & **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** page.

Twitter: **@ELCAGG16**

Please feel free to share posts throughout the Grace Gathering using the hashtag: **#ELCAGG**

Special offerings for Grace Gathering participants:

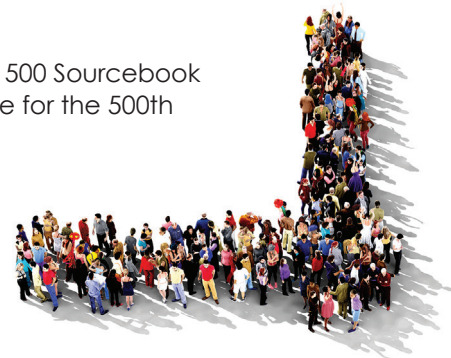
Wartburg Theological Seminary will be offering an exclusive opportunity for those attending the Grace Gathering to continue the conversation through a free online course the weeks immediately following the gathering.

The course will build upon the central themes from the Grace Gathering with special attention to the observance of 500 years of Reformation in 2017 and living out the freedom of the gospel of Jesus Christ in service to the neighbor, "God's work, Our hands." The course will have three tracks: 1) Continuing education for rostered leaders (continuing education units available), 2) Exploring the Lutheran faith for church members, and 3) Integrating faith and life for young adults.

Learn more at WartburgSeminary.edu/GraceGathering.

Reformation 500 Sourcebook: Each Grace Gathering participant with the Reformation 500 Sourcebook available through Augsburg Fortress. This essential guide will help congregations prepare for the 500th anniversary up to and through October 2017!

We give a special thanks to the Thrivent Financial Foundation whose generous grant has made the Grace Gathering possible.



2016 ELCA Grace Gathering Schedule

Please note: Many events will be held in conjunction with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Wednesday, Aug. 10	7:30 AM–7:00 PM	Registration desk open – outside of Hall B
	7:00 PM–8:30 PM	Grace Gathering opening session – La Nouvelle Orleans

Thursday, Aug. 11	7:00 AM	Morning Meditation: Awakening Body, Mind & Spirit – Rivergate Room
	7:30 AM–4:00 PM	Registration desk open – outside of Hall B
	8:00–10:30 AM	Churchwide Assembly Plenary – Hall C
	11:00 AM–12:00 PM	Holy Communion – Great Hall
	12:00–1:00 PM	Boxed Lunch – Hall B
	1:00–4:00 PM	God's Grace in Action Afternoon – See pg. 7 for locations
	4:30–5:30 PM	Workshop session 1 – Rooms 235–257
	5:30 PM	Dinner on your own
	9:00 PM	Beer and Hymns – Sheraton Hotel (500 Canal St.) Armstrong Ballroom

Friday, Aug. 12	7:00 AM	Morning Meditation: Awakening Body, Mind & Spirit – Rivergate Room
	7:30–6:00 PM	Registration desk open – outside Hall B
	8:15–9:15 AM	Workshop session 2 – Rooms 235–257
	9:30–10:30 AM	Workshop session 3 – Rooms 235–257
	11:00 AM–12:00 PM	Holy Communion – Great Hall
	12:00 PM	Lunch – Hall B
	1:15–2:00 PM	Bible study – La Nouvelle Orleans
	2:15–3:15 PM	500th Anniversary Keynote, Leymah Gbowee - La Nouvelle Orleans
	3:30–4:30 PM	Workshop session 4 – Rooms 235–257
	4:45–5:45 PM	Workshop session 5 – Rooms 235–257
	6:00 PM	Reception – La Nouvelle Orleans
	6:45 PM	Dinner followed by a celebratory program – La Nouvelle Orleans

Saturday, Aug. 13	8:00 AM–1:00 PM	Registration desk open – outside of Hall B
	8:30–10:00 AM	Holy Communion – Great Hall
	10:30 AM–12:30 PM	Grace Gathering closing session– La Nouvelle Orleans

Hall B Information

Be sure to visit the Exhibit Hall where you can take a break, get some exercise, shop and relax.

- Check out the ELCA Churchwide Ministry exhibit — it rotates daily!
- Visit our friends from the ELCA Federal Credit Union, Portico Benefit Services, Augsburg Fortress, Women of the ELCA, ELCA colleges and universities and more.
- Wake up your mind and muscles along the ELCA Walking Path. Two courses let you *Walk for a Healthier ELCA* (sponsored by Portico Benefit Services) and *Walk for Water* (sponsored by ELCA World Hunger). Find the 0.2 mile walking course in the Exhibit Hall.
- Shop for books, vestments, handcrafted housewares and jewelry, accessories and clothing.

Exhibit Hall schedule

Monday, August 8: 1:00-7:00 PM

*Churchwide exhibit open 1-3 PM, 4:30-6:30 PM

Tuesday, August 9: 12:00-7:00 PM

*Churchwide exhibit open 12:00-2:30 PM., 4:30-7:30 PM

Wednesday, August 10: 12:00-7:00 PM

*Churchwide exhibit open 12:00-2:30 PM

Thursday, August 11: 12:00-5:00 PM

*Churchwide exhibit open 12:00-2:30 PM

Friday, August 12: 12:00-4:00 PM

*Churchwide exhibit open 12:00-2:30 PM

Saturday, August 13: Closed

Vendors

A Thread of Hope, Bethlehem Christian Families, CM Almy, Colores del Pueblo, Cottonpatch Designs, Crafts from Jerusalem, Day 8 Strategies, Jeff Wunrow, Tree of Life Imports and WomenSpirit.

Exhibitors

Augsburg Fortress, ELCA Colleges and Universities, ELCA Federal Credit Union, ELCA Foundation, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Portico Benefit Services, Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Women of the ELCA, Women of the ELCA and Lutheran Men in Mission.

ELCA Churchwide Ministries Exhibit

Be sure and visit the ELCA Churchwide Ministries exhibit each day to collect each of the five buttons that will be given away. Quantities are limited!

Monday, August 8: Leadership, Global Ministries in China and South Sudan, Living Lutheran and 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

Tuesday, August 9: Ethnic-specific and Multicultural Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission & International Women Leaders and Campaign for the ELCA.

Wednesday, August 10: Poverty and Justice Ministries, AMMPARO, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran World Federation

Thursday, August 11: Faith Formation, Peace Not Walls, ELCA Foundation, Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations

Friday, August 12: Advocacy, Peace Not Walls, ELCA Global Church Sponsorship and Theological Discernment.



GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION AFTERNOON

THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2016 1:00 – 4:00 P.M.

As Lutherans, we believe we are freed and renewed in Christ. On Thursday, August 11, we will have an opportunity through experiential learning to explore a basic conviction as Lutherans: All of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. The unique context of historic New Orleans provides a launching point for learning, action, and reflection on significant issues. Each track also includes take-away ideas to apply your experiential learning back home.

Each participant will select their top-three choices from a listing of experiential learning tracks. Some tracks may have a limited space capacity. Please note that choices are final once you submit and are assigned a track, ensuring an accurate count of participants for each track. Here are the featured tracks.

Locations:

La Nouvelle Orleans	Music, Justice & Peace
Room 210	Promoting Peace
Room 206	From Doctrine of Discovery to #BlackLivesMatter
Rooms 218 and 219	Human Trafficking
Room 208	Access to Housing
Off-site	Resurrection Care for Creation Immigration: Children of God Education New Orleans Cuisine Food Security

MUSIC, JUSTICE AND PEACE: New Orleans is known for its music. Explore how music has been a catalyst for social change in the past. Enjoy the diverse and vibrant sounds from musicians from the South. How can music be used today to inspire us to strive for justice and peace?

PROMOTING PEACE: Promoting peace begins with each of us. Learn from the experiences of ELCA companion churches how they engage in conflict resolution. How can these be applied in your context? What does the baptismal reaffirmation "strive for justice and peace in all the earth" mean for daily living?

FROM THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY TO #BlackLivesMatter: What is the Doctrine of Discovery? How did it support the oppression and colonization of indigenous peoples of all continents? How did the U.S. become a nation of white privilege? What really happened after the emancipation proclamation? Were black people free to pursue happiness and enjoy justice for all? Or, does today's #BlackLivesMatter confront us with a different story? What contributes to the U.S. prison population disproportionately being represented by black and brown people? And, what is the church's response? Through the use of film and facilitated conversations, people of God will engage in dialogue that links the historical context of race and slavery and the current criminalization of communities of color.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Human trafficking is the second largest criminal industry, exploiting men, women and children. Learn how to prevent human trafficking, protect kids and offer pathways of engagement to be a part of the solution to end slavery. What does "strive for justice" look like?

RESURRECTION: Explore New Orleans 11 years after Hurricane Katrina and the breach of the levees. Focus on the process of renewal of a community. Visit the areas impacted by the hurricane. How might we become ambassadors of hope when the journey is difficult and justice seems far away?

CARE FOR CREATION: Our Christian faith compels us to the care and redemption of all that God has made even as it calls us into relationship with those who suffer from the impacts of environmental degradation. Come learn about the intersections between environmental and economic issues in New Orleans while rolling up your sleeves and helping to care for God's good creation. How can we act in solidarity with God's creation?

CHILDREN OF GOD: "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs" (Luke 18:16). Join us in visiting Project Ishmael in New Orleans to learn about its legal clinic for unaccompanied children seeking asylum in the U.S. We will also hear from the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants in Chicago to learn about its pastoral care and accompaniment to migrant children. This workshop is hosted by the ELCA Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

EDUCATION: Hear from a panel of educators, parents and children about the diverse approaches that promote safe, healthy learning environments for our children New Orleans. Participate in assembling backpack kits with school supplies for the students in New Orleans. Optional activities could include: donating books for school libraries and/or paper plate letter writing campaign for healthy school lunches. How might we help promote safe, healthy learning environments in our local communities?

NEW ORLEANS CUISINE AND HOSPITALITY: Food and hospitality are a significant part of the culture of New Orleans. Come and learn more about how cuisine and hospitality have evolved in New Orleans and about what we as the church can learn from them.

ACCESS TO HOUSING: Lives and communities can be transformed and prosper through investments in Equitable Access to Quality Affordable Housing. Hurricane Katrina pulled back the curtains on an American city where communities were abandoned by civic leaders, and where the business community divested economically years ago. Hear from high profile leaders, learn from those living day-to-day in distressed underserved communities, explore how to assess the affordable housing needs in your own communities, and discover funding opportunities available to create affordable housing.

FOOD SECURITY: More than 7 percent of households in Louisiana struggle to keep food on the table. That's nearly 127,000 households. Immerse yourself in New Orleans with ELCA World Hunger on a walk through the heart of the city where we will hear from local leaders responding to hunger, discover the treasures of the city, and learn practical tools to help your congregation join in God's work of building a world where all will be fed. In this immersion experience, we will learn about local responses to hunger and poverty, faith, and what it means to seek God in the Crescent City and our own backyards.



Grace Gathering Workshop Schedule

*Offered twice

Room #	Thursday 4:30-5:30 PM	Friday 8:15-9:15 AM	Friday 9:30-10:30 AM	Friday 3:30-4:30 PM	Friday 4:45-5:45 PM
252	Called Forward Together in Christ – Conversation about Future Directions for the ELCA	Lutheran-Jewish Relations*	Lutheran-Jewish Relations*	Lutheran-Muslim Relations	Art and the Reformation: Connection to Hearts and Minds*
257	The Heart of the Lutheran Witness to the Faith*	The “Noble Art” of Music	Worship that Includes Diverse Voices	What is an Eco-Reformation and Why are Many Asking for One?*	How can an Eco-Reformation Help Bring Hope and Healing to God’s Earth and People?
237	The Modern-Day Pilgrimage: Reformation 500*	Having Helpful Conversations about Race: But Our Congregation Is All White	With New Voices - The Small Catechism in the 21st Century	ELCA Responses to Gender-Based Violence	Rostered Women of Color
255	Lutheranism in Asia: Its Relevance and Importance*	Connecting the Reformation with Children, Families, and the Home	What’s Lutheran Social Ministry Got to do with the Reformation?	Lutheranism in Asia: Its Relevance and Importance*	The Heart of the Lutheran Witness to the Faith*
235		De-Ciphering the 95 Theses for Reformation Today*	The Modern-Day Pilgrimage: Reformation 500*	Art and the Reformation: Connection to Hearts and Minds*	Lutheran Vocation: Vocation and Discernment in the Real World
254		Women and the Reformation: Mothers of Faith*	Women and the Reformation: Mothers of Faith*	Introducing Queer Theology and Its Intersections with Lutheran Theology	The Pulpit and the Catechism
241		Telling Our History Together, Praying Together, Moving “From Conflict to Communion”	Claiming How Far We Have Come; Looking Toward Next Steps “On the Way”	The Lutherans on and the Lutherans of Turtle Island	LWF Young Reformers Network
239		Luther, Lutherans, and a Stand Against Poverty	What is an Eco-Reformation and Why are Many Asking for One?*	The Medium is the Message: Teaching the Catechism in the Digital Age	What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran in a Multi-Religious World?
240		More than a Party — a Reformation Anniversary that Serves the Gospel Today	Connect, Reflect, Discover: Journey through Time with Ordained Women of the Lutheran Persuasion	When Lutherans Open the Scriptures	De-Ciphering the 95 Theses for Reformation Today*

Grace Gathering Workshop Schedule

Workshop Descriptions

THURSDAY: SESSION 1 OPTIONS

Called Forward Together in Christ – Conversation about Future Directions for the ELCA

Presenter: Lyla Rogan

Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 252

Called Forward Together in Christ is a process that will help the leaders of this church make decisions about the future identity, direction and priorities of the ELCA. This workshop provides an opportunity to learn about some of the key messages that have emerged from conversations to do and to contribute to the ongoing deliberation that will lead to recommendations presented to the ELCA Church Council in November.

The Heart of the Lutheran Witness to the Faith

Presenter: Kathryn “Kit” Kleinhans

Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 257 and Friday 4:45–5:45 p.m., Room 255

Martin Luther's Small Catechism is famous for the question “What does this mean?” For Luther, this question wasn't just a formula to memorize. Luther wanted to provide real and meaningful answers for the deep questions of people's lives. What was the core of Luther's understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why was Luther convinced that “faith alone” was at the heart of a saving relationship with God in Christ? What made this gospel “good news” for Luther – and for us? Five hundred years later, how can we Lutherans share the gospel in a way that speaks good news in response to the deep questions, to the hopes, longings and even sufferings of others?

The Modern-Day Pilgrimage: Reformation 500

Presenter: Robert Moore

Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 237 and Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 235

Take time to plan your travel for the near future as Germany prepares for the 500th anniversary observance of the Reformation. Such travel becomes a pilgrimage when faith is deepened and historical understanding is illuminated. A visit to the Luther sites is not so much a step into the past as a step into the present as one experiences how Lutheran theology has affected the events of history. The cultural legacy of Lutheranism is alive and well in the land of Bach, Handel, Telemann and Cranach. Join the Rev. Robert Moore, ELCA Reformation 500 representative to Wittenberg and Leipzig, for a helpful approach to a modern-day pilgrimage.

Lutheranism in Asia: Its Relevance and Importance

Presenter: Chandran Paul Martin

Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 255 and Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 255

The workshop will be a unique space to seek information while exploring the theological and ecclesial life, witness and service of the Lutheran churches in Asia. The vision is for workshop participants to receive and discuss important developments in the Lutheran churches in Asia. Currently, Lutheranism in Asia has become stronger and creative in its mission efforts by learning and sharing together. A common search for an Asian Lutheran identity is emerging, and the ELCA is a strong companion that facilitates mutual accompaniment in the minority Lutheran context in Asia. The ELCA engages 19 countries of this region accompanying some of the oldest Lutheran missions, the newest Lutheran churches, and some of the world's largest Lutheran churches.

FRIDAY: SESSION 2 OPTIONS

Lutheran-Jewish Relations

Presenters: Peg Schultz-Akerson, Darrell Jodock and David Sandmel

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 252 and Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 252

Martin Luther's anti-Judaic legacy is among the most troubling aspects of our heritage. In a 1994 declaration, the ELCA repudiated Luther's anti-Judaic writings and reached out in relationship to our Jewish sisters and brothers. This workshop will 1) explore the history of ELCA's Lutheran-Jewish relations; 2) lift up the resources available to help ELCA congregations and members understand Judaism and actively engage with our Jewish neighbors; and 3) offer a perspective from one of our Jewish partners on the importance of this work for our shared life together in a multi-religious society.

The "Noble Art" of Music

Presenter: Chad Fothergill

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 257

An able musician in his own right, Martin Luther understood the power of music to nourish and teach God's children of all ages and abilities. Pastors and musicians in his circle and throughout the following generations penned texts and tunes that were rooted in Scripture, yet spoke to the diverse experiences of people who sang them at home, school and worship. This workshop takes a closer look at how music – from Luther's hymns to global song – can be incorporated into different congregational contexts in both 2017 and beyond. Using suggestions in the Reformation 500 Sourcebook as a starting place, additional ideas will be offered for seasons and festivals of the church year, home devotions and special services, such as "The Church's Journey in Art and Song" that premiered at the 2015 Worship Jubilee. Finally, participants will have an opportunity to share their planning ideas and questions for the 2017 anniversary year.

Having Helpful Conversations about Race: But Our Congregation Is All White

Presenters: Angela Shannon and Cynthia Ishler

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 254

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has made talking about racism a priority this year, including launching the first web-cast titled "Confronting Racism." How can the Lutheran witness frame the way we think about racism in our society and equip us to work against it? Whether or not there are people of color in your congregation, racial issues are still a concern for those dedicated to God's justice in our nation. This workshop will give you resources to begin these discussions in whatever congregation you attend.

Connecting the Reformation with Children, Families and the Home

Presenters: Debbie Streicher and Janelle Hooper

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 255

The power of the word of God to save and transform lives is as important today as in Martin Luther's time. As the church observes 500 years of the Reformation next year, what resources are available to equip and empower young families for use in the congregation and the home to help them observe and participate in the ongoing reformation of the church today? This workshop will introduce a variety of resources for all sizes of congregations and for members of all ages, with a focus on young families and the home.

De-Ciphering the 95 Theses for Reformation Today

Presenter: Tim Wengert

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 235 and Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 240

Most people associate the beginning of the Reformation with Martin Luther's 95 Theses, but few know what they said or why they created such an uproar in the church of his day. By closely examining this document and other early writings of Luther (including "Freedom of a Christian") participants will discover how 500-year-old documents can still reform congregations and lives today.

Women and the Reformation: Mothers of Faith

Presenter: Kirsi Stjerna

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 237 and Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 254

Women have been instrumental in fostering the Lutheran faith. From the earliest days of the Lutheran movement, women have contributed by their own examples of confessing and in their varied vocations and locations. Embracing the “Scripture Alone” principle and concerned for justice and freedom, Reformation women expressed a theology of compassion and emerged as mothers of faith. Since then, women have creatively defined their own place within the tradition and exercised leadership, even from the margins. As we will get to know several of the Reformation mothers of faith, we will reflect on the ongoing leadership and needs of women in the Lutheran faith and spirituality. We will start threads for new narratives of the Lutheran story, ones that include women from the beginning and honor women’s experience of faith and theological orientation for the sake of the future.

Telling our History Together, Praying Together, Moving “From Conflict to Communion”

Presenters: Don McCoid, Dirk Lange and Susan Wood

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 241

In 2017, Lutherans and Catholics look back at 500 years of separation – but they also see new paths toward deepened mutual understanding and closer relations. Two complementary sessions will explore how the observances of 2017 can claim the fruits of recent ecumenical engagement and take further steps forward. On Oct. 31, 2016, Pope Francis will join world Lutheran leaders in a service of Common Prayer in Sweden’s Lund Cathedral that will inaugurate commemoration of the Reformation anniversary. Drawing on liturgy for this Common Prayer and From Conflict to Communion, the resource prepared by the international Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity (as well as on the study guide especially for the U.S. context), this workshop will 1) explore the fruits of developing shared narratives of our history, of emphasizing and strengthening “what is held in common,” and of praying together; and 2) look at ways that these commitments can be carried out at all levels, including in local communities and in relations also with other Christian traditions.

Luther, Lutherans and A Stand Against Poverty

Presenter: Tiffany Chaney

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 239

Drawing on content about Martin Luther’s writings on poverty, the workshop will connect participants to how anti-poverty work is a part of Lutheran history and theology. Through stories of anti-poverty ministry happening in Lutheran congregations and in ecumenical ministries, the workshop will share modern examples, giving participants tools, including ideas for funding, to explore how they can engage in anti-poverty ministry in their own contexts. The Rev. Tiffany Chaney will draw from her training in community organizing and experience serving at The Intersection, where the community developed initiatives to help low-income neighbors stay healthy, including hosting cooking classes that taught participants how to prepare affordable, tasty, healthy meals.

More than a Party – a Reformation Anniversary that Serves the Gospel Today

Presenter: Marcus Kunz

Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 240

In the coming year, congregations have a timely opportunity to serve the gospel by growing in their faith, strengthening their relationships with other Christians, renewing their service in the community, and making a fresh witness of Jesus Christ in the world. This workshop will explore the ways congregations and other interested groups can engage this opportunity. Come prepared to take some first steps with resources and planning!

FRIDAY: SESSION 3 OPTIONS

Lutheran-Jewish Relations

Presenters: Peg Schultz-Akerson, Darrell Jodock and David Sandmel

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 252 and Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 252

Luther's anti-Judaic legacy is among the most troubling aspects of our heritage. In a 1994 declaration, the ELCA repudiated Luther's anti-Judaic writings and reached out in relationship to our Jewish sisters and brothers. This workshop will 1) explore the history of ELCA's Lutheran-Jewish relations; 2) lift up the resources available to help ELCA congregations and members to understand Judaism and to actively engage with our Jewish neighbors; and 3) offer a perspective from one of our Jewish partners on the importance of this work for our shared life together in a multi-religious society.

Worship that Includes Diverse Voices

Presenters: ELCA Global Musicians

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 257

Martin Luther said that "Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." What better way to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation than to join together to learn songs and stories from around the world? During this workshop, we will story our songs, ignite our imagination, delight God and sing our way to be co-creators of justice in our global and local contexts.

With New Voices – The Small Catechism in the 21st Century

Presenter: Marcus Kunz

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 237

The Small Catechism is a treasure for believers of all ages and circumstances. It's too good to ignore or abandon to the past. And now Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is inviting all ELCA congregations and members to engage the Small Catechism anew with an ear to voices we may not have heard before and with an openness to a renewal of our own voices in service of the gospel. Come and find out about new resources and opportunities for rediscovering this treasure. Be ready to share thoughts and even begin some planning.

What's Lutheran Social Ministry Got to Do with the Reformation?

Presenters: David deFreese, James Bosse and Charlotte Haberaecker

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 255

Learn how Lutheran social ministry evolved from the Reformation, how it continues to respond to God's grace, and share the excitement about its future direction. A panel of leaders within the movement will frame the past, the present and the future of the church's on-going service to the world.

The Modern-Day Pilgrimage: Reformation 500

Presenter: Robert Moore

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 235 and Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room, 237

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Women and the Reformation: Mothers of Faith

Presenter: Kirsi Stjerna

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 254 and Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 237

Women have been instrumental in fostering the Lutheran faith. From the earliest days of the Lutheran movement, women have contributed by their own examples of confessing and in their varied vocations and locations. Embracing the "Scripture Alone" principle, and concerned for justice and freedom, Reformation women expressed a theology of compassion and emerged as mothers of faith. Since then, women have creatively defined their own place within the tradition and exercised leadership, even from the margins. As we will get to know several of the Reformation mothers of faith, we will reflect on the ongoing leadership and needs of women in Lutheran faith and spirituality. We will start threads for new narratives of the Lutheran story, ones that include women from the very beginning and honor women's experience of faith and theological orientation for the sake of the future.

Claiming How Far We Have Come; Looking Toward Next Steps "On the Way"

Presenters: Don McCoid, Joy Schroeder, Kathryn Johnson, John Crossin and Susan Wood

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 241

In 2017, Lutherans and Catholics look back at 500 years of separation – but they also see new paths toward deepened mutual understanding and closer relations. Two complementary sessions will explore how the observances of 2017 can claim the fruits of recent ecumenical engagement and take further steps forward. This workshop will be shaped by the 2015 ecumenical text, "Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry and Eucharist," whose "Statement of Agreements," 32 common affirmations already made by Lutherans and Catholics in dialogue, will be considered by the Churchwide Assembly. The session will explore 1) how far Lutherans and Catholics already have come together; 2) how these agreements can be taken more fully into the lives of our churches; and 3) what local communities can do to claim progress made "on the way" to visible unity. Copies of the text will be available for participants in the workshop. Leaders of the workshop were participants in the task force producing the "Declaration on the Way."

What is an Eco-Reformation and why are many asking for one?

Presenters: Nancy Wright and Richard Perry

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 239 and Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 257

For 2,000 years we have read the Bible with blinders. Even when we have rightly focused on God and social justice, we have not embraced God's relationship with all creation. The Eco-Reformation movement within the ELCA reminds us that the ecosystem of the planet is in trouble. As we look toward the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and acknowledge that for Martin Luther God is in all aspects of creation, we confess that God's life is being diminished by disregard of the health of the planet and that care for the most vulnerable, central to Jesus' gospel, depends on a healthy earth. It is high time that the Christian community and all religions embrace the larger creation as the realm of God's activity and saving grace.

The workshop will cover the theological and ecological background to Eco-Reformation, as well as its progress within synods across the country and parallel movements world-wide. (Another workshop will cover the how of Eco-Reformation. Grace Gathering participants are invited to attend both workshops.)

Connect, Reflect, Discover: Moving from the 45th to the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women

Presenters: Gwendolyn King and Elise Brown

Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 240

To mark the 45th anniversary of the ordination of women last year, a survey was developed by ELCA Research and Evaluation and sent out to approximately 2,000 people. Compensation, wait time and retention rates were among the topics explored. Come hear some results from that survey. Personal stories of women in ordained ministry will be shared. After 45 years of ordaining women, come talk with others about how you think women's ordained ministry is viewed within your synod, within your congregation and within yourself. Within your congregation? Within yourself? Share and discover ways to lift up and strengthen the ministry of ordained women!

FRIDAY: SESSION 4 OPTIONS

Lutheran-Muslim Relations

Presenters: Mark Swanson, Sayyid Syeed and Carol Lahurd

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 252

Though Martin Luther in his day had a mixed response to “the Turks,” the ELCA and its predecessors have had a rich and evolving relationship with our Muslim brothers and sisters. This workshop will 1) explore the history of ELCA’s Lutheran-Muslim relations; 2) lift up the resources available to help ELCA congregations and members understand Islam and actively engage with our Muslim neighbors; and 3) offer a perspective from one of our Muslim partners on the importance of this work for our shared life together in a multi-religious society.

What is an Eco-Reformation and Why are Many Asking for One?

Presenters: Nancy Wright and Richard Perry

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 257 and Friday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Room 239

For 2,000 years we have read the Bible with blinders. Even when we have rightly focused on God and social justice, we have not embraced God’s relationship with all creation. The Eco-Reformation movement within the ELCA reminds us that the ecosystem of the planet is in trouble. As we look toward the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and acknowledge that for Martin Luther God is in all aspects of creation, we confess that God’s life is being diminished by disregard of the health of the planet and that care for the most vulnerable, central to Jesus’ gospel, depends on a healthy earth. It is high time that the Christian community and all religions embrace the larger creation as the realm of God’s activity and saving grace.

The workshop will cover the theological and ecological background to Eco-Reformation, as well as its progress within synods across the country and parallel movements world-wide. (Another workshop will cover the how of Eco-Reformation. Grace Gathering participants are invited to attend both workshops.)

ELCA Responses to Gender-Based Violence

Presenters: Antonia Clemente, Karri Whipple

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 237

As a nation, we’re becoming increasingly aware of how gender-based violence is pervasive in our communities. The new ELCA Social Message on Gender-Based Violence can help us think through how Lutheran theology addresses this embedded sin and how we can work against it. Come hear about the message and best practices from two specialists from the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod.

Lutheranism in Asia: Its Relevance and Importance

Presenter: Chandran Paul Martin

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 255 and Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 255

The workshop will be a unique space to seek information while exploring the theological and ecclesial life, witness and service of the Lutheran churches in Asia. The vision is for workshop participants to receive and discuss important developments in the Lutheran churches in Asia. Currently, Lutheranism in Asia has become stronger and creative in its mission efforts by learning and sharing together. A common search for an Asian Lutheran identity is emerging and the ELCA is a strong companion that facilitates mutual accompaniment in the minority Lutheran context in Asia. The ELCA engages 19 countries of this region accompanying some of the oldest Lutheran missions, the newest Lutheran churches, and some of the world’s largest Lutheran churches.

Art and the Reformation: Connecting to Hearts and Minds

Presenter: Mary Button

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 240 and Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 252

While initially hostile to art, Martin Luther eventually embraced the power of artwork to convey complex theological issues. Among a largely illiterate populace, the work of artists like Lucas Cranach and Hans Holbein transcended the tightly knit boundaries of the Reformation era and connected to an audience well beyond those reached by the written word. In this workshop, artist and theologian Mary Button will ground participants in the rich history of Lutheran art and share with them devotional art practices for individual and community devotion. Workshop participants will also work together to produce art projects in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Introducing Queer Theology and Its Intersections with Lutheran Theology

Presenter: Mary Lowe

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 254

Queer theology emerged as a unique form of Christian theology in the 1990s. Queer theologians have developed transformative, challenging and more inclusive ways of understanding God, Jesus Christ and the human person and have helped redefine family and church. In this workshop we will explore what queer theologians are teaching and writing about these doctrines and how some key claims of queer theology surprisingly align with Lutheran teachings.

The Lutherans on and the Lutherans of Turtle Island

Presenter: Vance Blackfox

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 241

We will take a brief look at the history of Lutheranism and Lutheran people as they began arriving on the American Indian lands of the North American continent, in particular the lands that would become the United States. How did they affect the cultures of native peoples, what did the Lutheran mission look like then and what might it look like now? We will also learn about the relationships that existed between the Lutheran church bodies in the 20th century and native peoples during the era of the American Indian Movement – the characters, the movement, the forged relationship, the result. This will include information about the former National Indian Lutheran Board and the current relationship status.

The Medium is the Message: Teaching the Catechism in the Digital Age

Presenter: Keith Anderson

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 239

When it was created, the Small Catechism took advantage of the great technological breakthrough of the day: the printing press. By leveraging this new technology, Martin Luther was able to create an innovative, ubiquitous and portable resource that included images, a conversational style, and short – today we might even say tweetable – explanations to the foundational elements of faith. It was the 16th century equivalent of putting a smartphone in every person's hand. In this sense, the Small Catechism is a perfect fit for forming faith in our digital age. In this workshop the Rev. Keith Anderson will present on the groundbreaking technology of the Small Catechism and offer practical examples of how to teach the catechism with youth and adults using today's digital technologies.

When Lutherans Open the Scriptures

Presenters: Kit Kleinhans and Tim Wengert

Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 235

When Lutherans and other Christians open the Scriptures following the lead of Martin Luther, they are enriched by convictions and approaches that attune their ears to a Christ-centered witness of God's mercy. This workshop provides an opportunity to explore these distinctive Lutheran principles in conversation with two contemporary Lutheran scholars.

FRIDAY: SESSION 5 OPTIONS

Art and the Reformation: Connecting to Hearts and Minds

Presenter: Mary Button

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 252 and Friday 3:30-4:30 p.m., Room 240

While initially hostile to art, Martin Luther eventually embraced the power of artwork to convey complex theological issues. Among a largely illiterate populace, the work of artists like Lucas Cranach and Hans Holbein transcended the tightly knit boundaries of the Reformation era and connected to an audience well beyond those reached by the written word. In this workshop, artist and theologian Mary Button will ground participants in the rich history of Lutheran art and share with them devotional art practices for individual and community devotion. Workshop participants will also work together to produce art projects in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

How Can an Eco-Reformation Help Bring Hope and Healing to God's Earth and People?

Presenters: Phoebe Morad and Louis Tillman

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 257

Utilizing the integrity of theological articles and social statements: What can we do every day and in all communities to live out the promise of resurrection through ecological restoration? We will explore ways to customize the ministry of caring for creation to respond to the needs of the land and people you serve and commune with. How do you find local groups already working toward the hope and healing that your congregation can support? How can your community cooperate, raise up and serve the efforts of existing groups or populations that need an amplifier? Talk with GreenFaith Fellow Vicar Louis Tillman and National Program Coordinator of Lutherans Restoring Creation Phoebe Morad as we take the next step of Eco-Reformation from words to action.

Rostered Women of Color

Presenter: Cheryl Pero

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 237

Did you know that there are more than 150 rostered (pastors, associates in ministry, deacons) women of color in the ELCA? These sisters have come together to pool their ministry wisdom and experiences, and we are collecting it. We will share these experiences with The Lutheran World Federation as we observe the 500th anniversary of Lutheranism. In this workshop, we will share information about this project and introduce those participants who are present at the Grace Gathering event. Come and experience us!

The Heart of the Lutheran Witness to the Faith

Presenter: Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 255 and Thursday 4:30-5:30 p.m., Room 257

Martin Luther's Small Catechism is famous for the question "What does this mean?" For Luther, this question wasn't just a formula to memorize. Luther wanted to provide real and meaningful answers for the deep questions of people's lives. What was the core of Luther's understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Why was Luther convinced that "faith alone" was at the heart of a saving relationship with God in Christ? What made this gospel "good news" for Luther – and for us? Five hundred years later, how can we Lutherans share the gospel in a way that speaks good news in response to the deep questions, to the hopes, longings and even sufferings of others?

Lutheran Vocation: Vocation and Discernment in the Real World

Presenter: Martin Lohrmann

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 235

With so many voices competing for our attention, how do we learn to listen to the voice of God? In this workshop, we will cover key ideas from the Lutheran Reformers about vocation and we will sort through some of the leading voices competing for our attention in today's world: voices that stake a claim on who we should be, what we should value, and what makes us happy. The workshop will also invite participants to reflect on who they are as beloved children of God and how their daily work matters to the people around them.

The Pulpit and the Catechism

Presenter: Shauna Hannan

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 254

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is a great opportunity to re-connect with Luther's catechisms. This workshop will offer a variety of ways the Small and Large Catechisms might be engaged by congregations in their preaching ministries.

Lutheran World Federation Young Reformers Network

Presenters: Christine Shander and Nicole Newman

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 241

What is the Lutheran World Federation Young Reformers Network, and how is it taking shape in North America? Join this session to talk about the intersections of faith, justice and reformation. Hear from two young adults about how they are translating a learning journey to Germany into a cohort of people who support and walk with each other as we figure out where God is calling us as a church and as individuals.

What Does It Mean to Be Lutheran in a Multi-Religious World?

Presenters: Carol Schersten Lahurd, J. Paul Rajashekar, Joseph Kempf, Darrell Jodock, David Sandmel and Sayyid Syeed

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 239

How do we understand and live out our inter-religious calling and commitments as Lutherans living in a rapidly changing, religiously diverse world? This workshop will equip participants with knowledge of the history of ELCA inter-religious relations and the various resources available for study, dialogue and engagement. Using a case-study approach, this workshop will also explore examples of ELCA inter-religious relations in a variety of ministry contexts in order to inspire new ideas and activities.

De-Ciphering the 95 Theses for Reformation Today

Presenter: Tim Wengert

Friday 4:45-5:45 p.m., Room 240 and Friday 8:15-9:15 a.m., Room 235

Most people associate the beginning of the Reformation with Martin Luther's 95 theses, but few know what they said or why they created such an uproar in the church of his day. By closely examining this document and other early writings of Luther (including "Freedom of a Christian") participants will discover how 500-year-old documents can still reform congregations and lives today.

2016 ELCA Grace Gathering Workshop Presenters

Please see ELCA.org/GraceGathering for extended bio on each presenter.



Keith Anderson



Vance Blackfox

Keith Anderson speaks regularly with local and national church groups, synods and other organizations on digital ministry and the impact of digital culture on face-to-face ministry. He is a pastor at Upper Dublin Lutheran Church in Ambler, Pa.

Vance Blackfox received his Master of Arts in Theological Studies from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and now is the executive director for Oaks Indian Mission in Oaks, Okla.



James Bosse



Elise Brown

James Bosse is vice president for community and organizational care for Graceworks Lutheran Services, which provides residential and personal services in more than 50 locations in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

Elise Brown has spent many years as a parish pastor. She currently is a consultant for Kairos Christian Resource Development.



Mary Button



Antonia Clemente

Mary Button is a mission developer at Evergreen Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tenn. Her artwork has been exhibited across the United States and the United Kingdom.

Antonia Clemente is the co-founder and executive director of the Healing Center, which partners with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New York City to help families affected by violence understand their options and how to take steps toward healing and self-sufficiency.



Tiffany C. Chaney



John W. Crossin

Tiffany C. Chaney is pastor and mission developer of Gathered by Grace, a newly forming synodically authorized worshipping community of the ELCA in Montgomery, Ala.

John W. Crossin, Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, is a Catholic priest and executive director of the Secretariat for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.



David deFreese



Chad Fothergill

David deFreese is vice president of church relations for Mosaic, the largest faith-based provider of services for people with intellectual disabilities in the United States. From 2000 to 2012, he served as bishop of the ELCA Nebraska Synod.

Chad Fothergill is a practicing church musician in the greater Philadelphia area. He holds a university fellowship at Temple University's Boyer College of Music and Dance in Philadelphia, where he researches the vocations of Lutheran church musicians in their Reformation-era and present-day contexts.



Charlotte Haberaecker



Shauna Hannan

Charlotte Haberaecker is the president and CEO of Lutheran Services in America, a network of more than 300 Lutheran health and human services organizations across the country that serve 1 in 50 Americans each year.

Shauna Hannan has research interests that include preaching public issues, connecting the arts (e.g., film, theater, music, photography, short-story fiction) and the craft of preaching, preaching the Psalms, and Latin American homiletical pedagogy. She is associate professor of homiletics at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif.



Janelle Rozek Hooper



Cynthia Ishler

Janelle Rozek Hooper writes for "Family Matters" in the Women of the ELCA's Gather magazine. She serves as the Ministry with Children program director for the ELCA churchwide organization and as interim campus pastor at the University of Houston.

Cynthia Ishler has worked for more than 15 years with the Racial Justice Advocates of the Women of the ELCA, helping members of the ELCA understand racism and white privilege. She is passionate about helping people understand the insidious nature of racial inequality in our country.



Darrell Jodock



Kathryn Johnson

Darrell Jodock is the Drell and Adeline Bernhardson Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., a pastor in the ELCA, and chair of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish Relations.

Kathryn Johnson is a life-long Lutheran, a lay person by vocation, and is passionate about ecumenical dialogue with many traditions and about religious reconciliation. Previously she served as assistant general secretary for ecumenical affairs for The Lutheran World Federation, and currently she is director for ecumenical and inter-religious relations for the ELCA churchwide organization.



Joseph Kempf



Gwendolyn S. King

Joseph Kempf looks to everyday experiences for humor and insights when talking about interfaith dialogue, preferring to listen and learn and not to "hold all of the answers." He is a 2016 graduate of Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

Gwendolyn S. King is an ELCA pastor whose service includes chaplaincies at Augustana College, Dartmouth College, and with the U. S. Air Force Reserves. Currently, she lives in Philadelphia and serves on the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA.



Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans



Marcus Kunz

Kathryn "Kit" Kleinhans has a passion for making Lutheran history and theology come alive for people today. She sometimes describes herself as living with one foot firmly planted in the 16th century and the other planted just as firmly in the 21st century. She holds the Mike and Marge McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa.

Marcus Kunz shares in the responsibility for planning the ELCA's observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. He serves in the ELCA churchwide organization as assistant to the presiding bishop and executive for theological discernment.



Carol Schersten LaHurd



Dirk G. Lange

Carol Schersten LaHurd serves as adjunct professor at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and outreach consultant for A Center of Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice, and is a member of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Muslim Relations.

Dirk G. Lange, an ELCA pastor, is the Fredrik A. Schiotz Professor of Worship and associate dean at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He is a member of the international Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity and was a principal author of the Common Prayer liturgy.



Martin Lohrmann



Mary Lowe

Martin Lohrmann is assistant professor of Lutheran Confessions and heritage at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. He is the author of "Book of Harmony: Spirit and Service in the Lutheran Confessions."

Mary Lowe often speaks to congregations on topics ranging from the theology of Martin Luther to feminist views of God. Her recent research focuses on new understandings of the human person with special attention to the doctrine of sin, the image of God and human sexuality. She is an associate professor at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.



Chandran Paul Martin



Donald J. McCoid

Chandran Paul Martin brings a wealth of experience in the global Lutheran community, including service as deputy general secretary of The Lutheran World Federation. Currently, he serves with ELCA Global Mission as consulting regional representative for South Asia.

Donald J. McCoid, bishop emeritus of the ELCA Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, served the ELCA as executive for ecumenical and inter-religious relations. He has participated in ecumenical dialogues on many levels, including the task force for the "Declaration on the Way."



Robert Moore



Phoebe Morad

Robert Moore has organized 15 tour groups to Leipzig, Wittenberg and other Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach sites as pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Houston. He coordinates the ELCA's involvement in Wittenberg and Leipzig now through 2019 for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation on behalf of ELCA Global Mission.

Phoebe Morad has led dozens of workshops across the country helping "green sheep" of congregations discover their role in a ministry that is too often mired in despair and guilt. As a mother of two young children, an animal lover and hiker, she finds that this work feeds her hunger for making her faith relevant and active in daily life. She is the national program coordinator for Lutherans Restoring Creation.

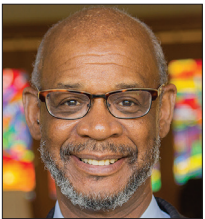


Nicole Newman

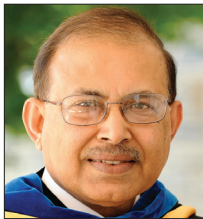


Cheryl Pero

Nicole Newman is one of the ELCA representatives of The ... She has spent time working at local non-profits getting hands on experience in providing services, building coalitions, coordinating volunteers, working in development and community organizing.



Richard Perry Jr.



J. Paul Rajashekar

Cheryl Pero is collaborating on a project that is gathering stories from ELCA rostered women of color in conjunction with the 45th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church in North America. She currently serves as director of the Multicultural Center at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Richard Perry Jr. is a leading contributor to the Lutheran church's theological and ethical engagement with the challenges related to racism and sexism. He is a professor of church and society and urban ministry and director of the Urban Ministry Program at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.



David Sandmel



Joy A. Schroeder

J. Paul Rajashekar is the Luther D. Reed Professor of Systematic Theology, director of the Asian Theological Summer Institute at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, a pastor in the ELCA, and a member of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Muslim Relations.

David Sandmel is the director of interfaith affairs for the Anti-Defamation League and the former senior adviser on interreligious affairs for the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism.

Joy A. Schroeder, an ELCA pastor, holds the Bergener Chair in Theology and Religion at both Trinity Lutheran Seminary and Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. Peg Schultz-Akerson, an ELCA pastor serving in the ELCA Southwest California Synod, is a certified spiritual director and a member of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Jewish relations.



Christine Shander



Angela Shannon

Christine Shander is passionate about biblical studies, ecumenical and interfaith dialogue and mental health awareness. She is a Christian educator at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield, Wis., and serves as the practice discipleship coach for the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synod, where she is also an active contributor to youth and young adult ministry developments.



Kirsi Stjerna



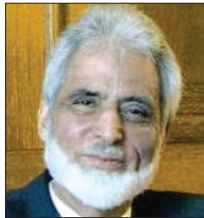
Debbie Streicher

Angela Shannon has demonstrated effectiveness in creating and implementing ministries and programs that build community in addition to deepening the spirituality of participants in a variety of denominational, ecumenical and interfaith settings. She serves as associate pastor at King of Glory Lutheran Church in Dallas.

Kirsi Stjerna, an ELCA pastor, is also a pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. She currently is a professor of Lutheran history and theology at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., and has specialized in the Reformation with a focus on women.



Mark Swanson

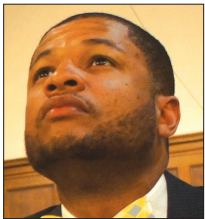


Sayyid Syeed

Debbie Streicher has facilitated and developed programs in congregations with a vision to involve all ages in faith formation, strengthen family relationships through spiritual growth, and empower God-given gifts to do ministry. She is president of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA and co-director of Milestones Ministry.

Mark Swanson is the Harold S. Vogelaar Professor of Christian-Muslim Studies and Interfaith Relations at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and chair of the ELCA Consultative Panel on Lutheran-Muslim Relations.

Sayyid Syeed is the national director of the Islamic Society of North America's Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances and pioneered the formation of the society during his presidency of the Muslim Students Association of the U.S. & Canada in the early 1980s.



Louis Tillman



Timothy Wengert

Louis Tillman is a student at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is tri-executive for international & ecumenical relations at the seminary. He was one of 100 young faith activists from around the world chosen to attend the Green-Faith Emerging Leaders Multi-faith Climate Convergence in Rome.

Timothy Wengert is a retired ELCA pastor and former professor at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.



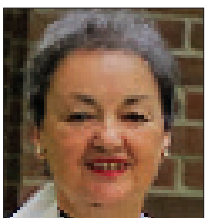
Karri Whipple



Susan K. Wood

Karri Whipple is a doctoral student at Drew University, Madison, N.J., studying the New Testament and early Christianity. She also serves as the chair of the ELCA Metropolitan New York Synod's Domestic Violence Awareness Task Force.

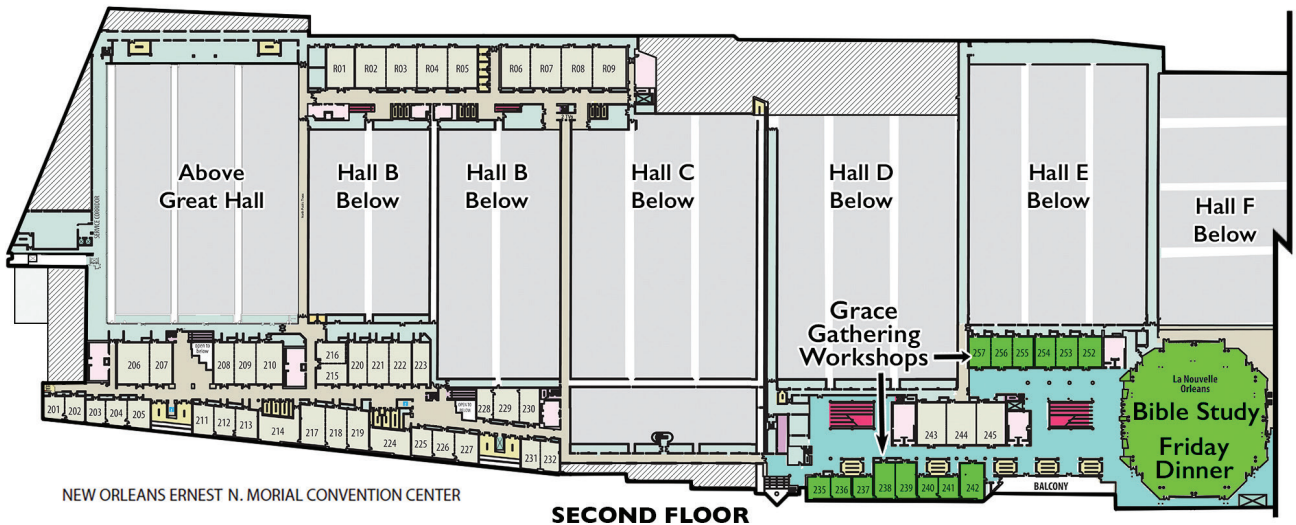
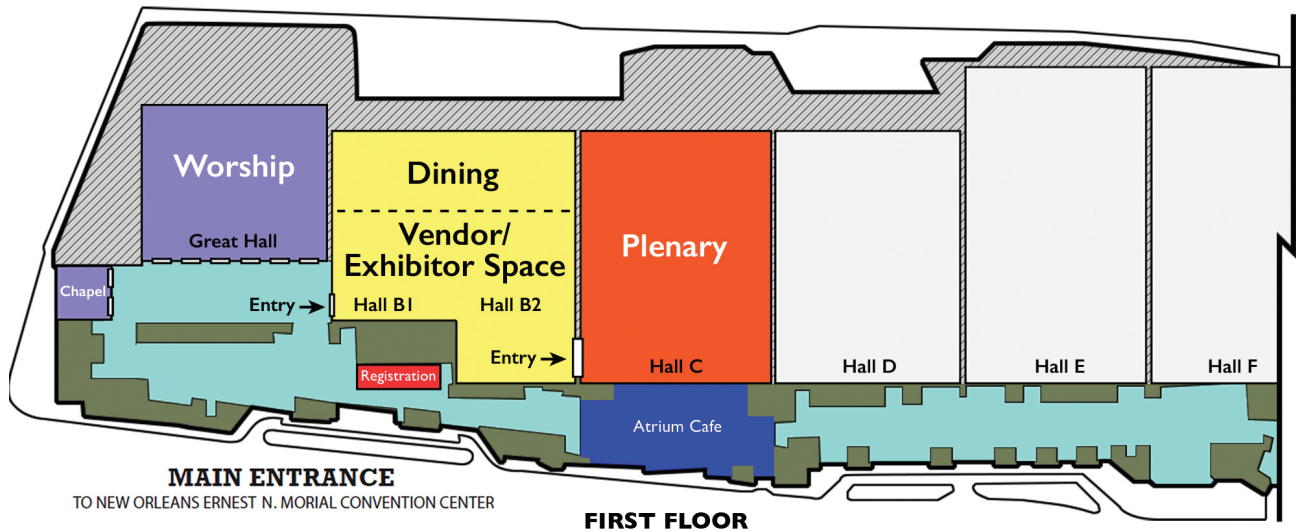
Susan K. Wood, a Sister of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas, is professor of systematic theology at Marquette University in Milwaukee. She is a member of both the international and U.S. Lutheran-Catholic dialogue commissions and also of the task force for the "Declaration on the Way."



Nancy Wright

Nancy Wright has been active at the intersection of environmental activism, ecumenical cooperation and Christian faith. She is an environmental liaison for the ELCA New England Synod and has served as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, South Burlington, Vt., since 2006.

New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center



Shuttles will run between the Sheraton New Orleans (500 Canal St.) and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center continuously throughout each day. They will drop off and pick up at the main entrance.

Freed & RENEWED in Christ 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION



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We give a special thanks to the Thrivent Financial Foundation whose generous grant has made the Grace Gathering possible.