



News and Events

SAINT PAUL AREA SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

July 22, 2024

Mission Support Celebration Dinner

**Monday, Aug. 19 - 6-8 p.m. |
St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi**

*For leaders involved with financial decisions
in the congregations of our synod.*

In celebration and gratitude for generous giving to the Saint Paul Area Synod, we want to say thank you! This dinner is an opportunity to hear stories of how programs and ministries are making a difference to the people and congregations of our synod.

Congregations are invited to send up to three people, such as the council president and treasurer, as well as the rostered minister who oversees finances. We'll eat together, celebrate ministries that make a difference, and express our gratitude for our congregations, which make it all possible. We are church together! **Registration deadline: August 2.** [Learn more.](#)



[Click here to watch Bishop Lull's invitation video!](#)



you're invited to a **SYNOD LISTENING SESSION**

Thursday, August 8 - Grace, Apple Valley
Thursday, September 5 - Gloria Dei, St. Paul
6:30-8:00 p.m. | no registration necessary; just show up!

Lutheran Night at the Twins

Tuesday, Aug. 12 - 6:40 p.m. | Target Field, Minneapolis

Get your group together soon to watch our Minnesota Twins take on the Kansas City Royals during this year's Lutheran Night at the Twins on Aug. 12. Group discounted tickets are available in a variety of seating areas with tickets ranging from \$19-48 depending upon the section. (Event Coordinator Pastor Seth Perry says Legacy Landing tickets are the best value at \$48 because they include all-you-can-eat ballpark fare.) This is a fun outing for your congregation, youth group, Bible study group, etc. To reserve group or single tickets, contact Ryan Thomson at 612-659-3582 or ryanthomson@twins.com. [Watch Seth's invitation video.](#)



National Anthem Choir:

Join the National Anthem Choir at the start of the Twins game on Aug. 12! You need to be at the field by 5:40 p.m. Singers still need to purchase tickets at the promoted rate. If you wish to be part of the choir, email lutherannight@gmail.com. Watch [this video](#) for what you need to know!



Interns Discuss Mental Health

Last week Pastor Seth Perry joined the synod interns' cohort gathering for a conversation on the stigma of mental health. Seth, who leads the "Our Stigma" initiative for change and understanding around issues of mental health, shared his personal journey of living with bipolar disorder. He also led a text study on Acts 19 and facilitated conversation about how we might make faith spaces more welcoming and safe for people living with mental health conditions. You can learn more about Seth and his work at giveupthestigma.com.

Building a Culture of Generosity

Are you looking to expand your generosity ministry? Encourage people to grow in giving to make more ministry possible? Relieve financial anxiety? Building a Culture of Generosity (BCG), a process co-led by GSB Partner Rev. Pete Reuss, provides a practical path to inviting families to consider growing in giving. As one leader shared, "Our Generosity Team found the materials easily accessible...with just enough material and support without being overwhelmed with too many resources."



Congregations in BCG receive:

- An easily implemented program designed to stimulate generosity
- Professionally designed, adaptable materials including letter templates for a stewardship drive
- Six virtual, live training events with a GSB consultant to guide congregations through a sound stewardship appeal running from August through November
- Clear tactics for sharing information and inspiration about your congregation's ministry
- 1:1 guidance from your GSB consultant
- At least 7 videos teaching the principles of this program
- The ability to achieve a strong financial response even in uncertain times
- 3 copies of *Abundance: Creating a Culture of Generosity* by GSB Partner Michael Ward

The process kicks off on August 22. [Learn more.](#)

Grand Opening: LSS Early Learning Center - East Side Wednesday, Aug. 14 - 3-5 p.m. | Grace, St. Paul

You are invited to join Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota, in partnership with our synod and Grace Lutheran Church, for the grand opening of the LSS Early Learning Center - East Side. This is a revised name for the Families Together Preschool that has been funded in part by our synod's Planting Hope Campaign. We are excited to see the transformation in the lower level of the church! If you plan to attend, please [RSVP here.](#)



Grant Writing for Congregations Webinar Monday, Aug. 19 - 6-7 p.m. | Online

As communities work to find ways to fuel their ministries that incorporate other streams of funding, grant writing can be confusing and intimidating. Though not all communities of faith are eligible for all grants, there are some grants for those who are doing new and innovative ministry, especially with communities on the margins and vulnerable populations.

This webinar will explore both the technical side of grant writing (what are you funding and why?) as well as the process of finding grants and deciding if you fit the criteria. Though finding and writing grants can be intimidating, it can also be rewarding, as you're able to bring something new to life in and for your community through outside fueling. No registration is necessary for this ELCA sponsored opportunity.

[Join the Zoom meeting.](#)

Meeting ID: 847 9500 8544

Passcode: 869038

Lutheran Campus Ministry Referrals

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities and campus ministries across the country are busy preparing to welcome new students this fall, to walk alongside them as they grow in faith throughout their time at college. But we need your help! Referrals are our best chance of meeting and connecting meaningfully with students, and inviting them into this thriving ministry. There are a couple of ways you can refer your students:

- Fill out the [referral form](#)
- If you know an incoming Gopher, email dana@umnlutheran.org with their name & connect info, and one of our staff will reach out with a warm welcome and an invite to coffee before the year begins!
- If you have students going to other colleges, [click here](#) to individually refer students.
- You can select which college/university your student is attending, and then enter details that will help campus ministers reach out to your students and get them involved.
- You can also email dana@umnlutheran.org a list with your graduates' names/best contact info/which college they're attending, and our staff can pass along names and get them connected to the campus ministry at their school.



EVENTS OF INTEREST

Lutheran Campus Ministry: Conversations That Matter

July 24 - 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Alumni and current students, church folks from across the metro, faculty and staff, and board members are all invited to join Lutheran Campus Ministry-Twin Cities for conversation about our shared life together and our shared call in the world. Around the theme, "Knowing, Being Known, and Our Call to Repair," we'll be engaging with the recent work of David Brooks, [How to Know a Person](#); and/or a subsequent lecture he offered at UVA on the theological underpinnings of this book. This event is a way LCM is continuing and expanding the conversation students began during the school year on division and polarization, this time focusing on what might be done on a more intimate level in our neighborhoods, schools, and homes. Emerging research and political thought locates loneliness and isolation as some of the root causes of our discontent - as individuals, as communities and as a nation. Once you RSVP, you'll receive more details. [Learn more and RSVP here.](#)



Family Systems Sessions

There are two remaining Family Systems Sessions this summer:

- **Thursday, July 25 - 1-3 p.m. | Systems and Spirituality: The Self and the Inner Life.** Our discussion will include the self and ego. As we go deeper, we'll include brain and body, self-differentiation, self-integration, soul liminality, the unconscious and shadow, divine immanence, and creation.
- **Thursday, Aug. 22 - 1-3 p.m. | Systems and Spirituality: The Self and the Outer World.** We'll start with the self and ego as they relate to self-integration, daily life, relationships, communities, and the outer world, including the human elements of cooperation and altruism, competition and selfishness. Expanding our perspective, we'll

explore spirit liminality, consciousness and shadow, serendipity, divine transcendence, universe expansion, and a new creation.

The cost is \$35 per session. Email revwendyvie@gmail.com with questions and to save your spot. Registrants will receive the Zoom link on the day of the sessions.

Addiction Ministry 101

July 30, Aug. 6, Aug. 13, Aug. 20 | Online

Referring people to AA, Alanon and treatment for addiction is helpful, but sound pastoral care is important for everyone in the family. The Rev. Otto Schultz, a retired Lutheran pastor and alcohol and drug counselor, joins us for a discussion of this unique program providing a model of pastoral care and a model of congregational ministry. These models show how sound theology and good science work together for church and clergy to “let their light so shine” with people and families in trouble with alcohol, drugs and other addictions. This four-part program will provide instruction on five simple communication tools to give exceptional care to families troubled by substance problems and for people in early recovery. The cost is \$50. [Learn more.](#)



Spiritual Care of the Dying

Thursday, Aug. 22 - 6-8 p.m. Online

This presentation will cover the art of ministering to emotional and spiritual needs at end of life. Led by Deaconess Cheryl Plummer, the course will cover the gifts and challenges of ministry to the dying and their loved ones, how spirituality can bring comfort and peace, and stories from a long ministry in hospice. A hospice chaplain, the presenter will emphasize the importance of clergy, faith community nurses and congregations partnering in end-of-life care and she will introduce the communication tool, the Death Café, which encourages open dialogue about dying. [Learn more.](#)



Continuing Education Cohort

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities' Leadership Center for Social Justice has extended the deadline for those who want to join the 2024–25 continuing education cohort. Pastors who wish to earn a free certificate in leadership for social justice now have until Aug. 1 to apply. [Learn more.](#)

Celebration for Changing Lives Gala

Saturday, Sept. 14 - 5 p.m. | Depot, Minneapolis

Lutheran Social Service of MN invites you to the 2024 Celebration for Changing Lives Gala, its biggest event of the year. JWe'll celebrate the ways LSS and our partners inspire hope and changes lives as together, we Lead with Abundance. We will honor nearly 160 years of working together to empower our neighbors to lead full and abundant lives. [Learn more.](#)



Building for Ministry Seminar Saturday, Sept. 21 | Scheel's, Eden Prairie

Is your congregation thinking of building or expanding? This session will help pastors, building or finance committee members, and other leaders get expert information on every step of your project, including financing and fundraising, planning and building. Sponsored by Vanman Architects and Builders, the session will answer questions like, "How much can we afford?" and "When do we hire a contractor?" and "How long should the process take?" The seminar is free; just register online. [Learn more.](#)



Addiction & Faith Conference Oct. 17-19 | Online

This conference is going all virtual this year! Under the theme, "Addiction, Trauma & the Power of Faith to Heal," the event brings the best of science, spirituality, compassion, justice and personal stories to the task of informing and inspiring both church and society regarding addiction in its many forms. It's designed for clergy and lay people, seminarians, healthcare professions, people in recovery and those who love them, youth leaders and addiction specialists. Break-out sessions cover the brain chemistry of addiction, medically assisted treatment, addict and justice, equipping the church for addiction ministry and more. Register by Aug. 1 for early bird pricing of \$200 (increases to \$250 after that date). [Learn more.](#)



Other Events:

- [Lutheran Summer Music Livestream](#)
- [Conference on Worship, Theology, and the Arts](#) - July 29-31 | St. Olaf College, Northfield
- [Lutherans in an Election Year: Corporate Social Responsibility](#) - Aug. 27 | Online
- [God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday](#) - Sept. 8
- [Lutherans in an Election Year: Abortion](#) - Sept. 10 | Online
- [Guatemala Gala](#) - Sept. 22 | Midland Hills Country Club, Roseville
- [Lutherans in an Election Year: Faith, Sexism & Justice](#) - Sept. 24 | Online
- [From Scratch: Shobi's Table Fundraiser](#) - Sept. 26 | Gustavus Adolphus, St. Paul
- [Lutherans in an Election Year: Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide](#) - Oct. 8 | Online
- [Walking Together: 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger](#) - Oct. 12 | Lutheran Church of the Cross, Nisswa
- [Bishop's Theological Conference](#) - Oct. 13-15 | Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria
- [Addiction & Faith Conference](#) - Oct. 17-19 | Online
- [Lutherans in an Election Year: Freed in Christ: Ethnicity and Culture](#) - Oct. 22 | Online

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Patricia Lull

- Aug. 4 - Spring Lake, North Branch (preaching at 150th anniversary)

Deacon Krista Lind

- July 28 - All Saints, Eagan (preaching)

Rolf Lowenberg-DeBoer

- Aug. 4 - St. Mark's, Randolph (preaching)

[Blogs](#)

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[News About Calls](#)

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The Saint Paul Area Synod, which includes 106 congregations and new mission starts, is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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