

September 17: Where Faith and Government Intersect
Pastor Norman Wahl
After 41 years in the church, a pastor is elected to the council of a large city. How is faith active in government? What is the separation of church and state?

September 24: What can we learn from our sister church in Tanzania?
Pastor Deborah Lyanga
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT) is considered the fastest-growing church in the world, with over 6.5 million members. The church carries out mission work within and outside the country and is engaged in various social ministries such as education, healthcare, and other services. The Central Diocese is one of the 26 ELCA dioceses, located in Singida at the center of Tanzania. It comprises 157 congregations, most of which are rural, with approximately 151,614 members. Worship services in Tanzania are vibrant, with active participation from adults, youth, and children. Music and dance are integral parts of the worship experience. In general, both the Church in the Central Diocese and Tanzania as a whole are very busy and alive.

October 1: Stewardship of Life: Tending it All with Wisdom
Pastor Emily Carson
What does it mean to be wise stewards of our whole lives? Using gardening as our metaphorical playground, we'll explore how we might faithfully tend our attention, resources, and relationships. With opportunities to learn from creation, God, and one another, this forum is intended to be an experience that will leave you feeling grounded and inspired.

October 8: True and false theologies: How our thinking about God goes wrong sometimes
Dr Mark Granquist
Over the course of Christian history, a number of different ideas about God have been suggested, and eventually rejected as being contrary to the biblical understanding of God. Many of these discussions culminated in the formation of the Christian creeds, especially the Nicene creed. But some of these rejected theologies have continued within our culture and even in our churches. We will examine together some of the most common false theologies, and see why they persist, and why they are problematic to the proclamation of the Christian gospel.

October 15: True and false theologies: How our thinking about God goes wrong sometimes
Dr Mark Granquist
See description for October 8 Forum

October 22: No Sunday Morning Forum

October 29: The Bethel Wick’s Organ History
Dr Gary Thorne
A history of the pipe organ and description of Bethel’s pipe organ will be discussed, why this particular organ was chosen and what preparations were taken for its installation. A brief lesson on how the pipe organ works and what’s ahead for the instrument in the near future will conclude the presentation.

November 5 The Women of the Reformation
Dr Mark Tranvik
Famous men seem to be everywhere in the Reformation but what about the women? In fact, women played key roles in the changes taking place in church and society. In our classes we will look at the lives of Katherine von Bora (Luther's wife) and other women to see how they helped shape the revolution started by Martin Luther.

November 12:
Dr Mark Tranvik
See description for November 5 Forum

November 19: Called to the Classroom: Daily Reflections for Educators
Christina Meline with Pastor Byron Meline
Christina will tell the story of writing her devotional book Called to the Classroom: Daily Reflections for Educators journeys with those who minister to children and young adults throughout the school year. This devotional text is designed as a space to center ourselves in our faith. We are invited to come together as a community of educators who are called to the classroom.

November 26: No Sunday Morning Forum

December 3: Family Promise--Helping Families Experiencing Homelessness in Olmsted County
Erin Sinnwell
Updates on our shelter and programming will be given together with a description of how Bethel members can volunteer and partner with Family Promise.

December 10: Sabbath Rest...now? Christmas is only 15 days away!
Pastor Anjanette Bandel
Getting ready for Christmas is likely one of the more (if not, most) hectic times of year for many of us. Is there a way to find sabbath rest in such a busy season? Drawing from experiences/learnings during her July-September 2023 sabbatical, Pastor Anjanette will share stories, scripture, insights, and practical ideas for how to create sabbath rest even when you are “so busy in this or any season of life.

December 17: DMC
Patrick Seeb
What is Destination Medical Center? What does it mean for you? Join DMC executive director Patrick Seeb to hear how DMC works with the community to realize the vision of America’s City for Health. Learn how DMC stewards \$585 million of public infrastructure funding and talk about some of the newest developments downtown – the Riverfront, Discovery Walk, Link Bus Rapid Transit, and more.

January 7: The Augsburg Confession I
Dr Darrell Jodock
The Augsburg Confession of 1530 is one of the two “markers” of Lutheran identity affirmed by all the churches in the Lutheran World Federation. In the first session, we will describe the historical context of the Augsburg Confession and then focus on two topics: the first will identify the (three) main purposes of the document. The second will examine the central claim of justification by grace and how it is reflected in several of the articles in the document.

January 14: The Augsburg Confession II
Dr Darrell Jodock
We will first examine the definition/description of the church found in the Confession and discuss its implications for ecumenical relations. We will look at what it says about the role of governments. We will wonder together about the absence of an article on the authority of the Bible. And finally, we will give some attention to the explanation of changes in church practices made by the Lutherans.

January 21: Faith Circled

Pastor Lisa Hawe

Hebrews 11 sets up the story of biblical witnesses, but the influence of faith stories does not end there. It includes the stories, witnesses, guidance, questions, and encouraging of friends, relatives, congregation members, neighbors, and others. This interactive session invites participants to reflect on how their own faith has been shaped by others, and then to recognize how God is working through each of them in an ever-broadening cloud of witnesses.

January 28: Undocumented People in SE Minnesota

Mike Resman, SE Minnesota Interfaith Immigrant Legal Defense

Who are these people living among us in the shadows? How many of them are there? What is life like for them? What is their impact on the local economy? Mr. Resman will speak about these issues and highlights from SMIILD’s successful efforts bringing justice to deportation cases will be shared.

February 4: Legacy Giving

Theran Leopold ELCA Foundation Gift Planner

Mr. Leopold will get you thinking about the gifts you’ve received from God throughout your lifetime, and how your family and ministry can benefit from these gifts to make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world.

February 11 Youth Christikon Trip

Youth and Adult trip members

Christikon youth will share stories of their experiences at Christicon, a Lutheran bible camp in the Absoroka Beartooth wilderness of Montana. 15 youth will spend a week backpacking the area or working on an on-site program. They will have the opportunity to worship, study scripture, play games, and explore in God’s beautiful creation, all the while strengthening their relationships with God and one another!

February 18: Walking in Grief

*Katrina Duranceau Bereavement Coordinator/Volunteer
Coordinator ProMedica Hospice*

This presentation will cover the grief journey, physical and emotional symptoms of grief, and self-care while grieving.

February 25: World Religions in the United States

Dr Sarah Ruble

Today, we are accustomed to thinking of the United States as a religiously diverse nation. Yet religious diversity has not always been easy for the nation nor has life in this nation always been easy for religious traditions. In these sessions, we will consider how major world religions such as Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Buddhism have transformed and been transformed by life in the United States and what that might tell us about larger questions about religious diversity, freedom, and pluralism in this country.

March 3:

Dr Sarah Ruble

See description for February 28 Forum.

March 10: Seeing Christ in Your Neighbor

Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry

Jesus commands his followers to ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Who is our neighbor? What does Scripture say? What do Jesus’ words mean for us?

Join Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, as together we explore ways to live out this life changing command of Jesus through the ministry of accompaniment.

March 17: Being Christ to Your Neighbor

Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry

The people of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod share accompaniment relationships with the people of the Lutheran Church in Colombia, Central Diocese of Tanzania, Lutheran Church in South Sudan, U.S./Mexico borderlands ministries, local South Sudanese worshiping communities, and local SEMN communities.

Join Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, as we continue to explore accompaniment ministry through hearing stories of the amazing ways God’s Spirit is blowing mightily throughout local and international communities!

Contact any member of the Adult Education Team if you have a topic suggestion for Adult Education, or if you’d like to help with the team.

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**SUNDAY
MORNING
EDUCATION
FORUMS**



September 17, 2023 – March 17, 2024

**Forums are held on Sundays
at 10:30 a.m. in Room 115**

Everyone is invited to participate!

