

2022 ELCA Synod Assembly – Unmute Yourself – Tell the Story of God’s Love Report from Michele Wilson

The 2022 ELCA Synod Assembly was held June 3-5, 2022 in Chattanooga, TN. It was an extraordinary event! The theme was ‘Unmute Yourself’ – in recognition that we are called to share the good news of the Gospel. We experienced worship services that were spirit filled, inspiring keynote presentations, and workshops that takes ideas and shapes them into action for our communities. In addition to all of these great things, we heard the hopeful testimonies of fellow members from the opening session to the closing service. I continued to expand my vocabulary, starting with the word plenary. These were the meetings where everyone came together. The plenary was run according to Robert’s Rules of Order, so they were very organized.

Since I was attending as a voting member to represent our church, I was very keen to make sure I was using the green, yellow and red cards correctly (to ask questions and/or make statements).



During the opening plenary session, Bishop Kevin Strickland’s report focused on how we are all a part of God’s story. He sang “I Love to Tell the Story”. He reflected that the lyrics are a reminder of God’s love as well as an invitation to all of us. Here are the lyrics:

I love to tell the story
Of unseen things above,
Of Jesus and His glory,
Of Jesus and His love.
I love to tell the story,
Because I know ’tis true;
It satisfies my longings
As nothing else can do.

I love to tell the story,
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story;
More wonderful it seems

Than all the golden fancies
Of all my golden dreams,
I love to tell the story,
It did so much for me;
And that is just the reason
I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story;
'Tis pleasant to repeat
What seems each time I tell it,
More wonderfully sweet.

I love to tell the story;
For some have never heard
The message of salvation
From God's own holy Word.

I love to tell the story;
For those who know it best
Seem hungering and thirsting
To hear it like the rest.

And when, in scenes of glory,
I sing the new, new song,
'Twill be the old, old story,
That I have loved so long.

I've highlighted the part that resonated with me throughout the assembly and still moves me. We get to share the Good News! Bishop Strickland gave his thanks for the synod staff members, deans, council members, rostered ministers and congregations. He thanked us for our faithfulness and for showing resilience and fortitude throughout the pandemic.

We heard a report from the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (aka SESLYO). The theme for this year is 'Soul on Fire'. Everyone was encouraged to visit the SESLYO workshop to learn more about youth initiatives. I believe Pastor Susan attended.

The Robert S. & Jean F. Graetz Advocacy Award was presented to the Rev. Ronald S. Bonner, Sr. in honor of his courage and faithfulness to the Gospel, in living out his Letter of Call to speak for justice on behalf of the poor and oppressed, and to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed. You could tell this man was beloved because the whole room erupted with cheers and applause.

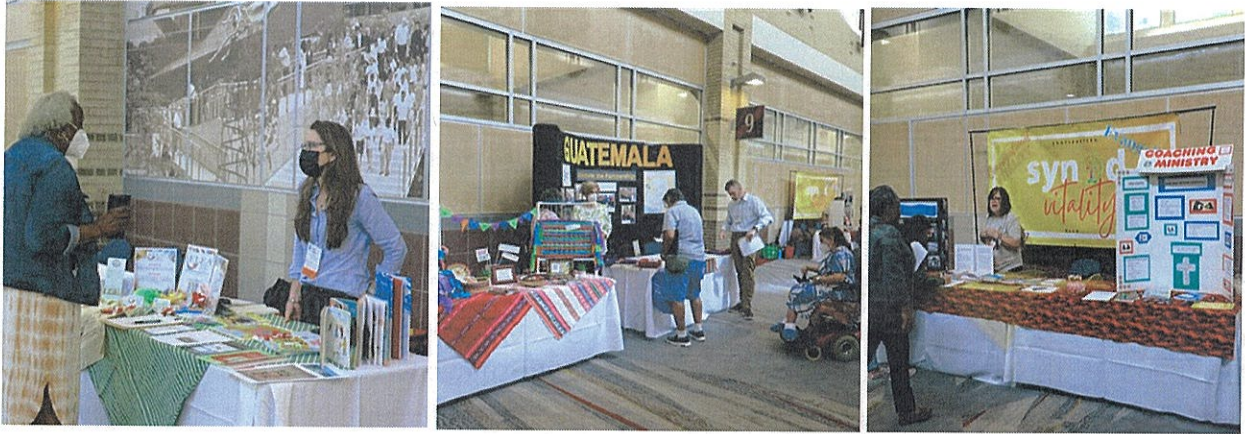
We had a worship service on Friday afternoon, where Bishop Strickland preached. Here is my recap of the sermon. The scripture was Matthew 4:20 – when Jesus asked the disciples to lay

down their nets and follow Him. They followed, not knowing what would be happening next. They were an imperfect bunch, questioning Jesus, trying to change his mind at times, squabbling about who was the greatest, one betrayed Him, others turned their backs when the going got tough. Jesus was there with them when they got off track, but he was only with them for three years. After that, they had to start making decisions for the long haul. They asked -- how do we admit the gentiles? What about those who teach a different Gospel? Who is really in charge? This is the heart of the issue. They trusted in the Holy Spirit and the infant church grew. Jesus reminded them (and us) "You are the light of the world." But we don't always act like it. In fact, there have been times that we, as the Christian church, have taken the light and turned it off. Instead of fishing for the certain type or size, we need to be using an all-inclusive net to share the amazing gift of grace. We need to rely on God, not keeping Him in a pretty, inconsequential box, only pulling God out as a decorative life accessory, not expecting God to do anything. There is more to God. We are called into a true, vulnerable relationship with God. We can experience the love with and through one another.

After worship, the whole group was abuzz! Next up was a Friday evening workshop. I chose to attend **Evangelism Through Small Groups**. I learned that sharing the good news with our neighbors is done by sharing ourselves. We discussed the formation of limited-duration small groups based around hobbies and interests and how that helps church members grow closer to one another and give a wonderful opportunity to extend our fellowship to faith-seeking neighbors and friends. It was led by the Rev. Jay Bergstresser, Senior Pastor at Christ the King in Peachtree Corners, GA. I have ideas to share when the right time comes along!

I attended the Evangelism breakfast on Saturday morning and met more wonderful people. On my way to the second plenary session, I visited ministry exhibit booths to gather information to share with the congregation.





During the second plenary session, we discussed and voted on the 2023-2024 Ministry Funding Plan. It was approved. Candidates for the synod Vice President position gave speeches to support their nominations. The Rev. Leila Ortiz, Bishop of Metro DC Synod, gave her keynote speech. It was so inspiring!



She was raised in the Pentecostal church. Her Mom called it the “can’t do” church – can’t go to the movies, can’t wear pants, can’t cut your hair, etc. But it was the place that she was first introduced to the good news! It’s where she learned the difference between knowing ABOUT Jesus and KNOWING Jesus. But there were aspects of the theology that was conditional, and it left her living in fear that maybe she wouldn’t be good enough to ‘be saved’. It was when she was 21 and she moved from Puerto Rico to New York to live with her aunt, that she was introduced to the Lutheran church. She talked about loving the richness and the diversity of different types of liturgies, music and faith practices. There are several key points that she made that was so powerful to me. They are:

- 1) When someone shared with her that she didn't choose for Jesus to save her --- that Jesus chose to SAVE her it changed everything. Lifelong Lutherans may take this for granted --- but for many, like Leila, IT WAS LIFE. This knowledge changed everything.
- 2) She shared an analogy of eating the chopped liver of theology her whole life (25 years) and then, she was served the filet mignon of theologies. And just as she was enjoying the bliss of this very satisfying item, she realized that 'wait a minute' – there are people that have experienced this type of bliss and me and my community don't know? They are living with this conditional acceptance. This can't be! We have liberating, transformation news that will change people's lives.

The second workshop I attended was entitled "How to Be a Congregation That Cares About Mental Health".

The synod has a mental health task force and they suggest the following for churches:

- 1) Pathway to Promises Program – How to walk along side of someone who is struggling.
- 2) Allow a free therapy group to use our space.
- 3) Provide support group for ministry leaders to help with spiritual resiliency
- 4) 45 more ideas follow on the gold pages

I had about 20 minutes before the plenary session began, so I walked the prayer labyrinth. The room had chairs for praying, an altar with a bowl for prayer requests and battery-operated candles that gave the space a very peaceful atmosphere.



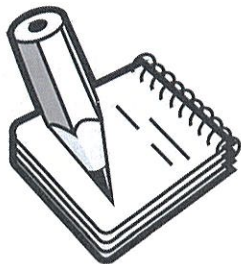
Then, back to business! During the third plenary session we enjoyed more from Rev. Leila Ortiz . We also voted to approve the 2023 Compensation Guidelines. We heard the report of the Churchwide Representative, Deacon John Weit.

The second Assembly worship on Saturday evening was a revival. The Praise Choir moved the attendees with traditionally African-American songs like *Anointing Fall on Me, Sweet Sweet Spirit and Victory is Mine*. I was stunned to see people raising their hands, clapping and dancing – people that look like you and me.



That spirit remained as the Rev. Robert Wright, the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese in Atlanta. His sermon talked about how he was adopted from a Roman Catholic Orphanage when he was 9 months old. His message paralleled biblical orphans (Moses, Esther, Ruth) and what it means to be entrusted when we are vulnerable. This is the quote that was most profound to me: "When the Psalmist says, 'I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.' I get that. Some feel a profound sense of abandonment when talking about adoption. I get that too. I feel entrusted more than abandoned. Moses' mother put him in a basket and sent him down the Nile to save him and give him a life she couldn't. I have always understood God in that story to be Moses' basket, his mother, the river and his new home." Rev. Robert Wright.

After dinner, we were all invited to the pool deck to enjoy live music and socializing. I didn't attend because I was so moved by the worship service and wanted to take notes on all the amazing things I had experienced that day. Also, I was tired!

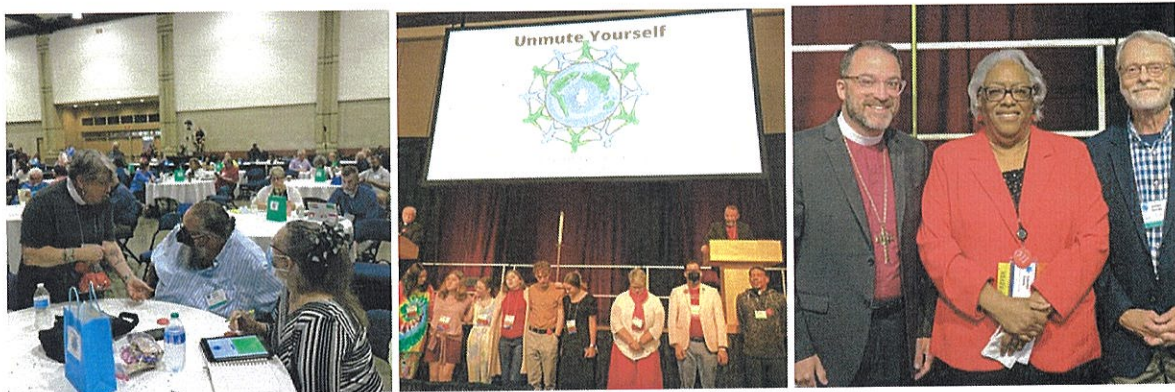


Sunday morning began with a beautiful Pentecost Sunday worship. The clergy welcomed us with the waving of 'banners' as they entered the space. The sermon was given by Rev. Robin Lowett-Owen. It was based on the scripture John 14 where Philip says to Jesus, "Lord, show us the Father and we will be satisfied." Jesus said the Philip, 'Have I been with you all this time, and you still do not see me? Whoever has seen me, has seen the Father.'" The main idea was for us to walk in faith and trust that what we have experienced through Christ is for everyone. A choir of par



After worship, I attended my final workshop entitled "Congregational Engagement" led by Rev. Matthew Henning from Community of Grace in Grayson, GA. We were encouraged to go back to our churches and ask these questions: 1) How can my congregation engage the community around it in a meaningful way? 2) What gifts does my congregation have that would be of interest to my neighbors? 3) Where do we start as a congregation to reach out to people without a church home? This reminds me of Larry Moeller and the Village Church.

Then we had plenary session number four. We elected the new vice president (Imran Siddiqui) and young adult council member (Imani Robinson) and many others, but I didn't take notes on the other names. I do know that Pastor Susan was elected to serve another term on synod council. The outgoing council members, deans and staff members were thanked.



As we were getting ready to close, news of an overnight shooting that took place in Chattanooga was announced. Bishop Strickland prayed, and Bishop Rob Wright reminded us: "Our response to the violence of this world is REVIVAL!"

A compelling feature of the weekend was that many people UNMUTED THEMSELVES and shared their stories.

Throughout the four plenary sessions, presentations were made to bring awareness of the work that is being done through the synod. Topics included: Novus Way / Luther Ranch; Women of the ELCA (WELCA); Portico; Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS); Newberry College; Disaster Ministry and Tyson House.

This was a very important weekend for me. I am planning on attending next year, even if I'm not a voting representative. I think it would be great for more members from Messiah to attend so that we could attend more of the workshops. There are so many! I attended 3 and I think that Pastor Susan attended 3, but there were so many more!

Thank you to the congregation of Messiah to sending me to the 2022 synod assembly.

Michelle L. Wilson



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Mental Health Task Force

How to Be a Congregation that Cares about Mental Health

1. Practice compassionate care that embodies Christ.
2. Preach and teach on mental health topics.
3. Respond to mental health crises the same way the congregation responds to any other health crisis. Visit the person at home or in the hospital, bring food, offer support, hold them in prayer, etc.
4. Accompany people in their need without trying to fix the problem. Learn how to listen without judgment.
5. Learn to identify the signs of someone who is at risk for suicide and how you can help.
6. Confront stigma by examining your own attitudes and preconceived beliefs about mental health challenges.
7. Examine your personal and denominational beliefs and teachings around issues such as suicide (for example, read and discuss the ELCA's social messages on mental illness, suicide prevention, people living with disabilities, etc.).
8. Educate yourself and your congregation on mental illness and suicide.
9. Participate in training opportunities like SPM's suicide prevention training (suicidepreventionministry.org).
10. Emphasize God's unconditional love for all persons without exception. Validate everyone's worth as human beings and accentuate their identity in Christ.
11. Make room in the church for those who are clearly less than "perfect."
12. Know the resources in your area and make sure they are available to congregants. Include some of these resources in church displays, like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-8255 (as of July 16, 2022 a new three-digit designation 988 will be available for call, text, or chat).
13. Show up when it's uncomfortable. Learn how to be a non anxious presence so that those in need can give voice to their pain or painful experiences.
14. Have a "Mental Health Sunday" at least once a year. Include litanies, prayers, and sermons that focus on mental health.
15. Make sure that youth have a safe space in which to share their experiences with adults who have training in listening skills and mental health topics and can keep appropriate boundaries. A recent Surgeon General's report indicates that depressive and anxiety symptoms in youth doubled during the pandemic.
16. Special focus should be on protecting teenage girls. The same Surgeon General's report indicates that emergency room visits in the U.S. for suspected suicide attempts were 51% higher for girls in 2021, but only 4% higher for boys, compared to the same period in 2019.
17. Remember that anyone can experience shame, emptiness, and poor mental health. The church's role is to be a place of welcome, inclusion, and acceptance.
18. Create a safe space for people to tell their stories and share their journeys without judgment.

19. Recognize the value of *belonging* in a loving, accepting community – and endeavor to be that community.
20. Communicate the gospel in a way that affirms the value of each person as God's beloved.
21. Embrace the power of words and welcome. Is your congregation truly welcoming of all people? How do you actively convey that welcome?
22. Strive to be a congregation that values saving lives above all else.
23. Train lay congregation members to be Stephen Ministers.
24. Provide mental health training opportunities for rostered ministers.
25. Put supports in place for those who might feel vulnerable during worship and need companionship.
26. Provide space for a mental health support group or recovery group.
27. Recognize the healing and community-shaping power in sharing the sacrament of communion.
28. Practice passing the "Peace of Christ" with intention.
29. Learn what to say and what not to say to someone who is struggling or who is a survivor or family member.
30. Participate in Companionship Training through Pathways to Promise (pathways2promise.org).
31. Become a "WISE" congregation (mhn-ucc.org)
32. Voice and hear prayer concerns for mental health challenges, encouraging prayer requests, including suicidality and self-harm.
33. Work towards being a community that invites authenticity and openness. Encourage people to talk openly about their mental health challenges. Practice truth-telling.
34. Reach out to those with mental health challenges, addictions, and trauma with the same care you reach out to those living with physical illnesses.
35. Improve congregational care teams to ensure that the most vulnerable are cared for by many members of the congregation.
36. Find out what your denomination does to support awareness and participate in mental health initiatives.
37. Form a congregational task force or ministry team.
38. Join with other organizations – other denominations, nonprofits, mental health centers, etc. – and network with them, participate in their events, and find opportunities to be in shared mission.
39. Form or join a book study.
40. Write articles for your congregation's newsletters and announce events in the church bulletin.
41. Enter into mutual relationships with those who struggle. Strive to drop the roles of helper and recipient. Recognize how those with challenges can also help the church. Move from a position of providing service to empowerment and kinship.
42. Strive towards helping those with mental health challenges feel welcomed, valued, supported, and included in the life, leadership, and work of the church.
43. Find ways to celebrate even the smallest victories. Any step toward hope and healing is worthy of praise and thanksgiving.
44. Remain steadfast – nurturing such efforts takes more than passion, it also takes persistence. Just keep putting one foot in front of the other and you will succeed.
45. Be attentive to the Holy Spirit to lead you in unexpected directions.

2022 Synod Assembly



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Mental Health Task Force *Survey*

1. Do you have a mental health-related ministry in your congregation (such as Stephen ministry)? Yes____ No____

Please explain your answer:

2. From this list, please select the top 3 mental health issues facing the people in your congregation.

Depression

Grief

Anxiety

Stress and burnout

Loneliness and isolation

Substance use or other process addiction (gambling, porn, shopping, etc.)

Relationship and family issues

Abuse and domestic violence

Anger issues

Post-traumatic stress disorder and other traumas

Suicidality

Bipolar affective disorder

Eating disorder

Gender dysphoria and sexual identity

Dementia

Aging

Life transitions

Sexual issues

Special needs children

Personality disorder

Obsessive-compulsive disorder

Dissociation and dissociative disorders

Schizophrenia and other psychoses

Other: _____

Please explain your answer if you are comfortable doing so:

3. What issues serve as a barrier to mental health ministry in your congregation? Check all that apply.

Religious views

Political views

Lack of resources

Lack of knowledge and/or awareness

Need training or information in this area

Too busy

Value conflicts

Not relevant to the Church's mission

Other: _____

Please explain your answer if you are comfortable doing so:

4. Are you...? Rostered minister____ Layperson____
5. Are you a mental health professional? Yes____ No____
6. May we contact you for potential followup? If so please leave a name, email, phone, and home church. Yes____ No____
7. Are you interested in joining the synod mental health task force? Yes____ No____
8. What can the synod do to help support your congregation?
9. If you are a rostered minister, please let us know how you are being cared for, and how the synod can better help. We welcome all suggestions.

Thank you for taking time to complete this survey.



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2022 ELCA-SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD ASSEMBLY
JUNE 3-5, 2022
Chattanooga Convention Center
Chattanooga, TN

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS

PRE-ASSEMBLY WORKSHOPS

Friday, June 3, 9:00-11:00 AM

Meeting Room 3
Evangelism Forum

Participants will be able to visit different tables at their own pace to learn about Evangelism Resources in the Synod. There will be QR codes to access links to resources, complete surveys, and get additional information from Evangelism Websites. In addition, members of the Evangelism team will be on hand to answer questions, initiate conversations, and guide individuals to areas of specific interest.

Led by Ms. Laurie Tinc, Administrator of Mission and Ministry, Epiphany, Suwanee, GA; the Rev. Jennifer Roberts, Pastor, Resurrection, Newnan, GA; the Rev. Jay Bergstresser, Pastor, Christ the King, Peachtree Corners, GA; the Rev. Dan Forehand, Pastor for Evangelism, Communication, and Youth and Family Ministry, Faith, Knoxville, TN; Ms. Melissa Fuller-Sims, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission; and the Rev. Patti Axel, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission.

Meeting Room 19
All Creation Sings: Resources and Ideas for Worship

This workshop will explore the new worship and song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship. We will explore the priorities behind the development of this resource and sing together some of the liturgical music and assembly song.

Led by Deacon John Weit, ELCA Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship, Chicago, IL.

PRAYER ROOM/LABYRINTH

Friday, June 3, 2022, 9:00 AM - Saturday, June 4, 2022, 6:30 PM

Meeting Room H

The room will remain open to those who need a space for spiritual contemplation and prayer from Friday morning until Saturday night whenever the agenda is active. In addition, Assembly Chaplains are welcome to use the room to meet people for prayer. The spacious room has chairs for praying, an altar with a bowl for prayer requests, a Labyrinth with a basket for socks, and assorted battery-operated candles around the room.

WORKSHOP SESSION

Friday, June 3, 4:45-6:00 PM

Meeting Room 2

Tell Your Story!

Want to practice sharing your story? Pastor Mardy Ringer will video record faith stories to preserve and share how God's love has impacted our lives. Please stop by to add your story to our collection.

Led by the Rev. Mardy Ringer, Pastor, St. Mark, East Point, GA.

Meeting Room 7

Heavenly Mana: Giving Your Offering From Heaven

We love our church! We have served our church in a variety of ways. We are proud of what our church does for our members and community. We support our church thru our regular and special offerings. We want our church to go on serving long after we are gone. We are confident leaders will "rise up" from members to pick up the mantle. But we are not sure if, financially speaking, our church will make it. What if we could continue to support our church with our offering once we are in heaven and all our expenses are paid? The ELCA Foundation can assist you in "giving your offering from heaven." Yes, YOU CAN DO THIS! You can continue to financially support your congregation and other services and ministries as part of your legacy beyond your time on God's Earth. This workshop will show you how. The mission of the ELCA Foundation is to strengthen, support, and sustain the three expressions of the ELCA.

Led by the Rev. Ana L. Lugo, Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation.

Meeting Room 8

Border Ministry Is Evangelism

The recent Border Immersion Experience Travelers will share their transformative experience at the Mexico-USA border and how our care for and ministry with our neighbors, no matter where they are from, is sharing Good News.

Led by the Rev. Patti Axel, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission; Ms. Kim Boettner, member, Shepherd of the Hills, Birmingham, TN; the Rev. Justin Eller, Assistant to the

Bishop for Latino Ministry Strategy and Associate Pastor, Amazing Grace, Lawrenceville, GA; the Rev. Dr. Morgan Gordy, Assistant to the Bishop for Disaster Ministry; the Rev. Carolyn Hayford, Pastor, Shepherd of the Hills, Birmingham, AL, and Conference Dean, and the Rev. Robin Lovett-Owen, Pastor, Christ, Nashville, TN.

Meeting Room 10

Appreciative Inquiry: A Process for Healthy and Effective Change

Appreciative Inquiry is a process that draws on a congregation's history and current strengths to help it discern areas of needed change and ways of implementing change effectively to move into God's future. Come experience what Appreciative Inquiry can do for your congregation.

Led by the Rev. Ruth Hamilton, Interim Pastor, Good Shepherd, Woodstock, GA; Mr. John Bost, Council Vice President, Good Shepherd, Woodstock, GA; and Mr. Bill Alderfer, member, Good Shepherd, Woodstock, GA.

Meeting Room 11

Seeing God in our Midst

Our lives are a diverse landscape of mountaintop moments and valleys and everything in between. At every point, God is with us. Come and discover what God has been up to in your life and your neighbor's life.

Led by the Southeastern Synod Lutheran Youth Organization (SESLYO).

Meeting Room 12

Evangelism Through Small Groups

One of the best ways we can share the Good News with our neighbors is by sharing ourselves. Limited-duration small groups based around hobbies and interests help church members grow closer to one another and give a wonderful opportunity to extend our fellowship to faith-seeking neighbors and friends.

Led by the Rev. Jay Bergstresser, Senior Pastor, Christ the King, Peachtree Corners, GA.

Meeting Room E

Resolutions and Memorials

Review the resolutions and memorials for consideration by the 2022 Southeastern Synod Assembly.

Led by the Reference and Counsel Committee

WORKSHOP SESSION

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Meeting Room 2

Tell Your Story!

Want to practice sharing your story? Pastor Mardy Ringer will video record faith stories to preserve and share how God's love has impacted our lives. Please stop by to add your story to our collection.

Led by the Rev. Mardy Ringer, Pastor, St. Mark, East Point, GA.

Meeting Room 3

Reserved for the Choir, Liturgical Dancers, and Worship Musicians

Meeting Room 7

Youth and Young Adults UNMUTE - Listening Session

Two core commitments of a thriving youth and young adult ministry are "empathy" and "centering young voices." How can we best express these commitments? By holding a listening post! We have youth and young adults willing and ready to UNMUTE themselves to answer questions asked by our moderator, Pr. Michael Jannett. We listen to understand while our youth and young adults do the talking.

(This workshop is based on research and activities shared by the Fuller Youth Institute as a part of their Growing Young resources - <https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/growingyoung>.)

Led by the Rev. Michael Jannett, Assistant to the Bishop for Formation and Communication.

Meeting Room 8

Congregational Engagement

How can my congregation engage the community around it in a meaningful way? What gifts does my congregation have that would be of interest to my neighbors? Where do we start as a congregation to reach out to people without a church home? In this workshop, learn about new ways your worship community could engage the people right outside your doors. Learn from real-world experience with engagement ideas that worked and others that did not.

Led by the Rev. Matt Henning, Pastor, Community of Grace, Grayson, GA.

Meeting Room 9

What To Do – 101

This workshop will discuss the dos and don'ts of entering into legal agreements to protect the congregation. In addition, we will examine congregational responsibilities regarding benefit packages and Portico resources to support the administration of the congregation. Last, we will review the importance of updating your constitution and why that is also a way to protect and support your ministry.

Led by Mr. George O'Donnell, member, Synod Council and Resurrection, Marietta, GA; the Rev. Jill Henning, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership and Administration; Mr. Charles Bridgers, member, Redeemer, Atlanta, GA; and Ms. Barbara Debski, Regional Representative for Portico Benefit Services.

Meeting Room 10

Witnessing the Spirit's Work in Guatemala

In Guatemala, the Lutheran Church was born amid their country's 36-year Civil War as church leaders walked with those experiencing extreme violence and oppression. Pastor President of Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG), Karen Castillo, will share what she has seen and experienced as the Holy Spirit guided the church in those times of strife up to the present. It is an inspiring witness to God's work in our time. Pr. Karen Castillo will join the workshop by video link from Guatemala and will also have time for questions and conversation. This workshop is an excellent opportunity for you to connect with a dear friend of our Synod and a strong leader in the Lutheran Church in Central America. We are blessed to call Pr. Karen Castillo and ILAG global church companions of the Southeastern Synod. Learn more about how your congregation can become involved at www.elca-ses.org/ILAG

Led by the Rev. Karen Castillo, President, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG), the Rev. Stephen Friedrich, Pastor, Peace, Knoxville, TN, and members of the Southeastern Synod Guatemala Team.

Meeting Room 11

Southeastern Synod Spouses Group

The Southeastern Synod Spouses Group is an informal gathering of spouses or significant others of current or soon-to-be rostered ministers (Pastors & Deacons). We will spend time getting to know one another and sharing our experiences and concerns. Contact information is shared to stay in touch with one another for encouragement and support during the year.

Led by Ms. Kelly Jannett, member, Rock of Ages, Stone Mountain, GA.

Meeting Room 19

All Creation Sings: Resources and Ideas for Worship

This workshop will explore the new worship and song supplement to Evangelical Lutheran Worship. We will explore the priorities behind the development of this resource and sing together some of the liturgical music and assembly song.

Led by Deacon John Weit, ELCA Assistant to the Bishop, Executive for Worship, Chicago.

Meeting Room E

Disaster Ministry IS Evangelism

Come and learn how disaster response is living out our call to bear the Good News in word and deed! We will hear stories and look at ways congregations and individuals can share the love of Christ in times of disaster. Gathering in small groups, we will explore where we have seen Christ while serving and being served. Each participant will receive resources to bring back to their congregation to help in making Christ known through disaster ministry in their community.

Led by Mr. John Boettner, past Chair of the Disaster Ministry Committee; the Rev. Dr. Stacey Parvin, Chair of the Disaster Ministry Committee; and the Rev. Dr. Morgan Gordy, Assistant to the Bishop for Disaster Ministry.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 12:30-1:15 PM

Meeting Room 12

Mental Health – Lunch and Learn

Grab your lunch and join us for a lunch and learn about mental health, facilitated by our Mental Health Task Force. Learn how to start a conversation in your congregation about mental health. You will be given information and resources and a survey to help us along.
