

# Witness like the Women

MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT 2024

## BIBLE STUDY LEADERS

MONDAY



THE REV. PHYLLIS DIAMOND  
PLEASANT VIEW EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAUNTON

TUESDAY



THE REV. JESSICA DARTY  
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, PULASKI

WEDNESDAY



SYLVIA MILES  
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD  
EPISCOPAL-LUTHERAN, GALAX

## OUR SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 5-7, 2024

5:30 PM	Zoom Rooms Open
5:45-6:20	Welcome and Bible Study
6:25-7:05	Workshops
7:05-7:15	Evening Prayer



REGISTER TODAY AT [VASYNOD.ORG/POWER-IN-THE-SPIRIT](https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit)



# Witness like the Women

## MIDWINTER POWER IN THE SPIRIT 2024

**Our fourth annual Midwinter Power in the Spirit online gathering will be held on February 5-7, 2024!**

We will learn about Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith, who are commemorated in the church on January 27. Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae. These three women represent different Christian ministries. Their names can stand for the many other women who shared generosity, who served, who led, and who bore witness to the faith. Their examples of living can lead us to serve Christ and to bear witness to the faith in varieties of ways today.

Our Bible study leaders, Pastor Phyllis Diamond, Pastor Jessica Darty, and Sylvia Miles (VA Synod commissioned lay preacher) will lead us in learning more about Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe by looking at their lives of witnessing and serving the early church.

To participate in the event you will need to register at [vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit](https://vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit). There is no cost to participate.

### DAILY EMAIL

Each morning, you will receive an e-devotional. Pray and study on your own time.  
Hear reflections from leaders near and far.

**The deadline to register is January 26.**



### SUPPORT THE ONE CAMPUS PANTRY AT ROANOKE COLLEGE

The One Campus Pantry at Roanoke College is a resource for students who need food or basic personal hygiene items. The pantry was started in January of 2023 and available to any student at Roanoke College who might be experiencing a need. Your gift will allow the pantry to purchase much needed supplies. You can learn more and the One Campus Pantry at: [https://www.roanoke.edu/news/campus\\_pantry](https://www.roanoke.edu/news/campus_pantry)

### ABOUT EVENING PRAYER

We will close each day with a simple worship of evening prayer, giving thanks for God's holy presence as we gathered in bible study, fellowship, and faith formation - witnessing like the women.

**MONDAY**



**BISHOP PHYLLIS MILTON**  
BISHOP

**MONDAY**



**PASTOR COLLEEN MONTGOMERY**  
DIRECTOR FOR DIGITAL MINISTRIES

**TUESDAY**



**PASTOR LIZ RADTKE**  
DIRECTOR FOR CONGREGATION &  
LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

**WEDNESDAY**



**PASTOR KELLY BAYER DERRICK**  
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP



# ALL OUR SPEAKERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5



THE REV. PHYLLIS DIAMOND  
PLEASANT VIEW EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, STAUNTON

## LET’S TALK ABOUT MONEY!

In this workshop, we will specifically be talking about the awkward topic of money. Because our financial resources are gifts from God, we are called to use them to do God’s work in the world, which should impact how we share, save, and spend our money. We will talk about how both congregations and individuals can strive to be good stewards of their financial resources, like Lydia.



SUSIE FARIES  
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
ROANOKE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6



THE REV. JESSICA DARTY  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
PULASKI

## SACRED THREADS

In Acts, when Dorcas dies, Peter is called to join the community. When he arrives, the widows show him the tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them.

Given that Dorcas was a clothes maker, I will talk about weaving and spinning, comparing the way I do my weaving and others do their spinning with the ways that these crafts were performed in New Testament times



ELLASEN SPANGLER  
ROANOKE COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7



SYLVIA MILES  
VA SYNOD LAY PREACHER

## THE UNIQUE POWER OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP

This short and interactive workshop will provide participants an opportunity to learn and apply models of leadership, and in particular the skills necessary to enhance their servant leadership and team leadership skills.

## ALL IN A DAY’S WORK: DEACONS, THE DUCT TAPE THAT HOLDS THE CHURCH TOGETHER

Join our Deacons currently serving across the Synod to learn more about the Word & Service Roster, and the many ways in which Deacons are called to serve the church. The session will include a round of “Myth Busters” regarding the role of Deacons, as well as a time for questions from participants.



DEACON LISA GEIGER  
ST. MICHAEL LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, VIRGINIA BEACH



SISTER PHYLLIS COX  
VIRGINIA INTERFAITH  
POWER & LIGHT



DEACON EMILY EDMONDS  
VIRGINIA BAPTIST  
HOSPITAL, LYNCHBURG



DEACON LIZ BRENDLE FOX  
HAMPTON’S HEALTHY  
FAMILIES, HAMPTON



DEACON LAVELVA STEVENS  
HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, WYTHEVILLE

# ALL OUR OUR WORKSHOPS

## BIBLE STUDY LEADER-ACTS 16:11-15 (LYDIA)

Lydia, a woman of wealth, was known for her hospitality. She was Paul’s first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. Luke recorded that in the 40s, Lydia, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, was a believer who offered her house in Thyratia (Turkey) in service to the Christian community, perhaps for worship purposes. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul’s missionary work.



THE REV. LESLIE WEBER  
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
CHESAPEAKE

## THE INTERSECTION OF FAITH, BUSINESS, AND ETHICS

This workshop takes a look at real-life situations where faith, business, and ethics intersect. It will examine and attempt to answer questions such as: How does a person of faith extend their faith in business? How can we as persons of faith and Lutherans use our faith in everyday situations? How can business and ethics intersect with our belief structures? Susie will share observations, examples, and suggestions on how these can be effectively deployed in today’s business and religious environments. This will be an interactive discussion where participants can share their own personal experiences.

## BIBLE STUDY LEADER - ACTS 9:36-43 (DORCAS)

Dorcas (also called Tabitha) a resident of Joppa (Israel) was beloved for her assistance to those who were living in poverty. She is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. When she died, Peter restored her to life.



PATTY FRANZ  
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
RICHMOND

## THE ONE CAMPUS PANTRY - AT ROANOKE COLLEGE

The One Campus pantry was started in 2022 as a way to meet students and provide basic necessities, including food and hygiene products. Through many trials and tribulations, we are finding our way to continually support students and help make Roanoke College feel like a home to prosper in.

## BIBLE STUDY LEADER - ROMANS 16:1-16 (PHOEBE)

Phoebe was a diakonos, a deacon and benefactor in the church at Cenchreae (Greece), near Corinth. In the mid 50s, Paul commended her to the church in Rome as one who, through her service, looked after many people, including himself. Phoebe had a leadership position in the church in Greece and likely carried Paul’s letter to the church in Rome, shared it aloud, and interpreted it for the gathered followers of Jesus.



DR. BOB KOLODINSKY  
MUHLENBERG LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, HARRISONBURG