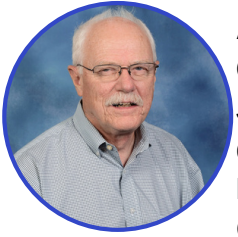


Concurrent Sessions A: Friday, June 14, 10:30-11:45AM



A1 Faith Builds - A Habitat Experience - The Rev. Paul Henrickson, retired Dean of the Chapel at Roanoke College

Join us for two hours of Habitat work. We will work on a current Habitat construction site, doing anything from painting to nailing to planting to cleaning. Wear old clothes and you must have closed-toed shoes (NO SANDALS). Rain or shine! (We will meet in front of Antrim Chapel at 10:15 am and return at 12:15 pm.)



A2 Responding to the Call: Feed the Hungry - Betsy Liljeberg, Virginia Synod World Hunger Team Chair

Hunger and food insecurity rates have risen over the past several years largely due to wars, climate change, and the Covid epidemic. This workshop will explore ways that you can work to address hunger and its root causes. Ideas will include strategies for a personal, congregational, community-wide, and global response to the needs of others.



A3 Luther and the Jews: Continuing Esther's Life-Saving Legacy - The Rev. Heidi Neumark, Bible Study Leader

More than ever, it is vital for us to follow in the footsteps of Esther's life-saving legacy. Pastor Heidi's discovery of her own Jewish heritage, including the murder of her grandfather under Hitler in a concentration camp, has led her to delve into the ways Luther's anti-Jewish writings and views have been used for deadly ends, and the ways we can and must work towards a different, life-giving future.



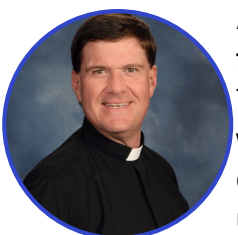
A4 Where Do We Go From Here? - The Rev. Libby Pfaff, Mission Developer Nineveh

Across the nation, across all denominations and among all congregations, we are witnessing the decline of parish ministry, facing the prospect of closing the doors of worshipping communities we have known and loved our whole lives. And alongside the grief of this loss, we are challenged with the question of how to form and lead new or transformed faith communities in a culture which is increasingly rejecting organized religion. As mission developer of Nineveh, an experimental ministry in Radford, VA, Pr. Libby will share some of the ways she and her team are engaging with this challenge; asking questions, assessing what is working, what is not working, and learning how to refocus efforts to share the Gospel in different ways.



A5 A Look at the Virginia Synod of the ELCA - One of the Whitest Christian Denominations in the United States - Lily Pingel, Grace, Waynesboro

What are some of the reasons why the ELCA is one of the whitest Christian Denominations in the US? We will discuss the history of whiteness in the ELCA; racial justice efforts by the national, synod, and local level; and opinions from Virginia Synod rostered ministers and members on ways to improve racial justice efforts in the ELCA.



A6 10 Keys for Understanding the New Normal - The Rev. John Wertz Jr., Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission, Virginia Synod

The last few years have been a whirlwind of innovation and change in the church and in the world around us and often when you are in the middle of the whirlwind it is hard to see everything that is happening around you. This workshop will discuss 10 keys for understanding the new normal for the congregations and their leaders.

Concurrent Sessions B: Friday, June 14, 1:30-2:45 PM



B1 "Worship Music and the Liturgical Year - Michael Benshish, Musician

From the time of Johann Sebastian Bach's "Orgelbuchlein" to today's online scripture-guided hymn and song choices, the music for the Lutheran liturgical year has been a central part of our worship offerings. In this workshop, we'll explore possibilities for every liturgical season, looking at their scriptural roots as well as traditions within the church. Even as we "sing a new song", with new instruments, vocal stylings, and compositions, the core of our worship music remains timeless.



B2 Literary Letters of Faith - The Rev. Robert McCarty

From the Apostle Paul, to Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Martin Luther King Jr, letters have given witness in a private way to a public faith. This workshop will take an introductory look at the contributions of women to the letters of faith with particular attention given to Flannery O'Connor and Jane Austen.



B3 Digging Deeper: Modeling Esther's Risk Taking - The Rev. CeCee Mills, Bible Study Leader

Participants will be led through Esther-based exercises that will help them identify practical opportunities to risk in their own discipleship journey. They will leave with a method to discern and discover where and how God is calling them to lead.



B4 Strong Connection Conversations (for Laity) - Bishop Phyllis Blair Milton, Virginia Synod

Have you ever wanted to contribute to the conversation about the vision/mission of the Virginia Synod? Have you ever said to yourself, "If I were Bishop . . ." Here is your opportunity to join in the conversation to explore how the Holy Spirit might be calling you to envision how the vision/mission of the Virginia Synod is lived out "on the ground" in your context and through the ministries of the Synod.



B5 This Fall is Going to be E.P.I.C!- The Rev. Liz Radtke, Director for Congregation and Leadership Support, Virginia Synod

E.P.I.C., which stands for Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations, are four one-day Leadership Development s that will be held regionally throughout the Synod this coming Fall. Join Pastor Liz Radtke for an interactive and informative preview of the EPIC s. We will explore some Evangelism tools, Fellowship tools, Sacramental art, and other Innovative practices in anticipation of the EPIC events.



B6 Discover the Virginia Synod Tapestry Ministry - Sister Phyllis Cox, Virginia Interfaith Power and Light; and George Donovan, Bethel, Winchester

Come learn about the Tapestry Ministry. Tapestry's mission is to empower congregations in the Virginia Synod to be boldly inclusive in matters of diversity and inclusion, walking with God, and guided by the Holy Spirit to bring healing, reconciliation, and justice. Tapestry provides resources, facilitates conversations, and fosters networking across the Synod to advocate for God's desire to weave a rich and diverse Body of Christ!



Concurrent Sessions C: Friday, June 14, 3:15-4:30 PM



C1 The Reign of God - Right Here! Right Now! - The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop for Ministries of Leadership, Formation, Belonging, & Justice, VA Synod
Jesus said: "Don't you see? God's kingdom is already among you." (Luke 17.21b CEB)

We pray often, in the Lord's Prayer: "Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." Have you ever wondered, though: what is the kingdom of God? Pastor Kelly invites us into conversation with Jesus in the Gospel of Luke, as together we explore the Spirit's work to bring forth the reign of God: God's vision of salvation and hope. Right here! Right now!



C2 Decoupage Craft Project - Maribeth Ocock, St. Mark, Yorktown

Using a oyster shell or a smooth rock..create an amazing decoration that will look hand painted..apply a unique napkin from an exclusive European company to your item using high gloss ModPodge...(which has been around for many years) After drying it will look beautiful sitting on desk or table to remind you of the beauty of God's creations. Theme will be the lavender bloom.



C3 Embodying Inclusion in Community - The Rev. Colleen Montgomery, Director for Digital Ministry, Virginia Synod

Having conversations about embodying LGBTQIA+ inclusion in a community is difficult. Hospitality, signage, language in worship, pastoral care, and relationship building are all contextual. In this workshop, participants will learn some guiding principles for how to have these conversations as well as discuss case studies.



C4 AMMPARO, a Holistic Call to Action on Migration - Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director, Migration Policy, ELCA

The message of Psalm 46:1 is at the heart of the ELCA's response to human mobility. AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany migrant children and families. In the Americas we work across congregations and synods, with secular and religious partners, and local migrant community organizations in region to support youth, women, and families and to address the root causes of migration. Join Giovana Oaxaca, Program Director for Migration Policy to explore the unique challenges and opportunities of migration through the four "A's" of AMMPARO: Accompaniment, Articulation, Awareness-Building, and Advocacy.



C5 The Church's Coloring Book: Liturgy and the Season of the Church Year - The Rev. Wes Smith, Zion, Waynesboro

Color is one of the many things that contribute to the structure, understanding, and theology of the church year. The choices of blue or purple in Advent, the use of green during Pentecost, and the presence of white or red on certain festival days is neither arbitrary nor unimportant. Rather, these colors help reveal the meaning of our worship and reflect the different ways that liturgy and the church year answer Jesus' question, "who do people say that I am?" Join us for an exploration of the way Scripture, liturgy and theology color the church.

Continuing Education Credits

Rostered Ministers, Lay Preachers, and SAMS who attend will receive 10 CEUs. If a certificate is needed you can contact Lenae Osmondson at osmondson@vasynod.org.