

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

Olin Room 232

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

Lucas Hall Room 125

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.

Trout Hall Room 106



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

Olin Room 231

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

Olin Room 230

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.