Concurrent Sessions B: Friday from 1:30-2:45 PM

B1 Rostered Ministers and SAMs Conversation with Presiding Bishop Curry, ELCA — **Antrim Chapel**



Reflecting on one of the ELCA's priority areas - a connected, sustainable church - Presiding Bishop Curry's focus for this year is to emphasize a connected church. Come and have a conversation about what that would mean for rostered ministers and appointed SAMs.

B2 It's Time for You to Act: Your Purpose and Your Self in the 21st Century Church - The Rev. Drew Tucker — **Colket: Pickle**



While Lutherans rightly emphasize the Triune God as the primary actor in history, too often this becomes justification for Christian inaction in the face of injustice. In this workshop, Drew Tucker will make the case that Christ is calling Christians in this era to specific actions. While these activities vary from one person to another, everyone has a role in bearing God's good news. Tucker will draw upon scripture and Luther's Freedom of a Christian, along with his own work on vocation and identity, to emphasize the Spirit's role in our own activity and catalyze participants to choose new ways to live out the Gospel that make a tangible difference in both the church and the world.

B3 Exploring Essential Oils of the Bible - Jamie Serafin — **Miller: 212**



Come explore the history and spiritual significance of essential oils in Scripture (referenced over 600 times), as well as aromatic plants and oils like frankincense, myrrh, cedarwood, and more. The session will cover their ancient uses, medicinal properties, and modern applications for physical, spiritual, and emotional wellness. Attendees will experience several oils firsthand and receive a sacred anointing roller blend, connecting biblical tradition with contemporary natural living.

B4 Braver Conversations, Bolder Witness - The Rev. Paul Pingel — **Miller: 213**



In October 2025, the ELCA gathered representatives from each of the 64 Synods of our denomination in Chicago to talk about racial justice in our nation and in our denomination. We'll review the information presented on Critical Race Theory (CRT) - a legal theory whose primary author was a devout Christian - as well as talk about racial justice in the ELCA. Then, we'll discuss a very practical three-step method that any of us can use to create a "safe space" and challenge ignorance and racism in our daily lives.

B5 The Spirit at work in Synod Youth Ministry - The Rev. Dr. Delaney — **Miller: 114**



A review of the most important ministry commitments of Virginia Synod's Youth Ministry and a look ahead at some ministry possibilities for the next chapter.

B6 Helping without Hurting - A Practical Guide to Walking with Low-income People - The Rev. Terrie Sternberg — **Miller: 113**



How do we define "poverty?" How we see poverty shapes how we serve our neighbors who seek financial assistance from our church. Drawing from the work of Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett (*When Helping Hurts*), we will explore where we fall short in addressing poverty alleviation by responding to symptoms rather than holistically addressing the complex roots of our neighbors' poverty. In the process, we will discover our own sort of poverty.