



**March 22, 2025**

**Bethany Lutheran Church  
Rice Lake, WI**



Northwest Synod of Wisconsin  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# Schedule

## 8:00 Registration & Fellowship

Narthex

## 9:00 Opening Worship

Sanctuary

## 10:00 Workshop 1

See Workshop Grid

## 11:00 Workshop 2

## 12:00 Lunch

## 1:00 Workshop 3

## 2:00 Workshop 4

## 3:00 Workshop 5

## 4:00 Departure

# Thank You!

We are grateful for all the people who made this event possible:

**Bethany Lutheran Church Staff** for the facility use and assistance before, during, and after the event.

**Workshop Presenters** for their time, wisdom, and important conversations.

**Participants** who attended today.

**Adventures Restaurant** for catering our midday meal.

**Vicki Fankhauser** for providing cookies.

**Breaking Chains** for providing worship music

# Synod Information

## Synod Office



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## Synod Staff

### Rev. Martin Halom

Bishop

### Liz Bartsch

Synod Minister - Administration,  
Events, Leadership Support

### Rev. Randy Olson

Synod Minister - Leadership,  
Candidacy & Call Process

### Rev. Diane House

Director for Evangelical Mission

### Deacon Laura Ramlow

Synod Minister - Faith Formation,  
Communication, Malawi

### Deacon Lidixe Montoya

Mission Developer - Neighbor to  
Neighbor Ministry;

# Welcome !

Welcome to Walking Together!

In Matthew Chapter 28, verses 16-20, Jesus gives the disciples "The Great Commission" saying, "Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"

The word "commission" means an instruction, command, or duty given to a person or a group of people. I like to think this word means being on a mission together, the definition of the word "synod" and the theme of Walking Together! Following Jesus, those of us who believe in him have been given a mission to live out together!

Martin Luther instructs us about how that is accomplished in the meaning to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed:

"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith."

At Walking Together this year the workshops will examine how we are called, gathered, and enlightened to live out our faith daily as disciples of Jesus. We will also examine how we can invite others into this mission of loving God and loving People!

Together in faithfulness,

*Rev. Diane House*

Director for Evangelical Mission

# Worship

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## Prelude

*Good Neighbor*

## Words of Welcome

Rev. Diane House

## Land Acknowledgement

As we worship together, we at the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin acknowledge that we worship on the ancestral lands of the Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Dakota, Menominee, Potawatomi, and Lac Courte Orielle people. A people that are still here, continuing to honor and bring to light their ancient heritage.

## Opening Prayer of Confession

Present God, We confess that we have made our callings into puzzles we must solve in order for our lives to have meaning. We have reduced vocation to labor and forgotten what it means to be called to virtue, and even love. We have falsely made our dignity dependent on our work and fallen prey to the lie that to hear you is to be near to you. Have mercy on us and forgive us, that we might be liberated into our path in its own time. Amen

## Words of Forgiveness

Let your soul receive this rest: The divine presence remains near as you locate the path that feels right to you. Receive forgiveness and be guided into your deepest longings and beliefs as you decide how to spend your days. When self-distrust begins to eclipse your callings, let God steady you toward what is good and true and beautiful, now and forever. Amen

## Opening Song

*Come, Now is the Time to Worship*

## Scripture Reading

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him, but they doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

## Sermon

Bishop Martin Halom

## Song

*If We Are the Body*

## Communion

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. Amen

## Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed by your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us for our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, the glory are yours, now and forever.

Amen.

## Communion Distribution

### Songs During Distribution

*No Longer Slaves*

*Ain't No Grave*

## Blessing

Let us pray;

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in strong love for one another. Amen.

## Benediction

Now, listen to the sounds that stir within, listen to the cries for help that ring around you, and follow a path of healing and liberation for you and all you encounter. Take peace in the sound of your own voice as you choose the life that honors your truest self. May it be so. Amen

## Sending Song

*Go! Make Disciples ELW #540*

# Workshop Options

Time	Workshop Title	Workshop Leader	Location
10:00	Discipleship Training: How Relient are You on Your Rostered Leader?	Bishop Martin Halom	Sanctuary
10:00	Church-Tired? Reclaim Rest and Reboot Curiosity	Bryan Willkom & Rev. Diane House	Gathering Room
10:00	How Did a Sheltered White Boy Get Involved With the Black Community?	Dale Kringle	Room 108
11:00	A Community Church	Rev. Jenny Hattleli	Sanctuary
11:00	Not Rule Bound But Grace Found	Rev. Bethany Walker	Gathering Room
11:00	Renewing Body, Mind, & Spirit: A Holistic Approach to Well-being	Rev. Paul Backstrom	Room 108
1:00	Creating Spaces for Discipleship	Rev. Stephen Hilding	Sanctuary
1:00	Equipping & Empowering For Ministry	Rev. Jenny Hattleli	Gathering Room
1:00	Starting and Sustaining a Green Team	Luke Pederson	Room 108

# Workshop Options

Time	Workshop Title	Workshop Leader	Location
2:00	Walking Wild: A Practice of Seeing Creation as Kin	Rev. Christine Emerson	Sanctuary
2:00	Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAMs)	Rev. Randy Olson & Rev. Bob Giese	Gathering Room
2:00	Until All Are Fed	Michelle Pride	Room 108
3:00	Navigating Racial & Political Tension	Rev. Elizabeth Bier	Sanctuary
3:00	Energizing by Evaluating	Bishop Martin Halom	Gathering Room
3:00	A Ministry of Word and Service	Deacon Laura Ramlow	Room 108
All Day	The Migrant Journey (AMPAARO)	Rev. Elizabeth Bier & the Racial Justice Team	Lower Level

# Workshop Descriptions

## **Discipleship Training: How Reliant are You on Your Rostered Leader?**

Do you lead the synod in volunteer hours, or are you still wondering how to involve the faithful? Come and hear some practical tips on how to engage your people in the various ministries of your congregation!

## **Church-tired? Reclaim Rest and Reboot Curiosity!**

What if Christians were known as communities of the well-rested? Join Bryan Willkom and Rev. Diane House as we take a collective breath together and get abundantly curious about new ways of being and doing church through Fresh Expressions and the sacred tools of rest, wonder, and rule breaking.

## **How Did a Sheltered White Boy Get Involved with the Black Community?**

Because of a traffic stop, confusion, and curiosity Dale started working with Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul to cultivate conversation between his church and theirs. It has evolved into so much more.

## **A Community Church**

What might happen if the church made a shift from *exists*, to do more than getting butts in the pews, to asking 'how do we walk with the community?' ELC in Black River Falls has been exploring this very topic. We have learned a lot and failed, too, over the past three years. Come and hear some key guiding principles and how we made the shift of "getting butts in the pew" to "how can we walk along side our community." We will talk through some challenges and give you some great resources to start your journey on becoming a church for your community. If you are at the "*ok we get that we need to do this, but now what?*" stage, come! This session is for you!

## **Not Rule Bound but Grace Found**

Sometimes pastors and lay leaders need permission to break out of their routines, their should-do's and their tired traditions but don't know where to begin. This workshop will encourage participants as they discover the gifts of Uncommon Preaching - an alternative to the lectionary, Staybatticals - like a staycation for church leaders and Curated Grace Found - an ever expanding curation of resources created to support a ministry of creativity and presence. Come to be inspired and leave rejuvenated to do ministry in new, life-giving ways!

## **Renewing Body, Mind, and Spirit: A Holistic Approach to Well-Being**

In the midst of our fast-paced world, caring for our physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being is more important than ever. This seminar, designed for both lay members and rostered leaders of the ELCA, explores how mindful choices in diet, exercise, sleep, and slowing down can transform our health and deepen our spiritual lives. Join us for an engaging and practical discussion on integrating faith and wellness to foster resilience, renewal, and a stronger connection to God and community.

# Workshop Descriptions

## **Creating Spaces for Discipleship: The Intersection of Tradition and Transformation**

As the church landscape continues to shift, our call to make disciples remains an anchor of clarity, purpose and hope. At Christ Lutheran, we are excited to share how God's Spirit has led us to use our Menomonie logging history as a foundation for fostering new partnerships and transforming our physical spaces. From connecting local street names to global missions- to creating beautiful wood art that reflects the diversity of God's creation, we have seen how faithfulness and innovation can work hand in hand. Join us as we share how a simple project is changing lives, strengthening relationships, and inspiring prayer for the world, both locally and globally.

## **Equipping and Empowering for Ministry**

When you go on a camping trip, you make sure to pack your equipment. Our faith journey is similar. We are called to be equipped for the journey ahead, but far too often in churches we view the pastor and staff as the people who are equipped and empowered for ministry. This simply isn't the case; we are a church, a priesthood of all believers. We are all called for ministry in some capacity. Have you wondered how you can help grow leaders in your church to be empowered for ministry? Come join us in this session as we discover what equipping and empowering looks like in our lives and our churches.

## **Starting and Sustaining a Green Team**

Laurel Boyer and Linda Socking, from our Synod Creation Care Team, invite you to attend if you have a green team or if you are thinking about starting one. We will give you the planning tools to create a strong, active and knowledgeable team! We will share ideas and learn from each other.

## **Walking Wild: a Practice of Seeing Creation as Kin**

Springing from the tradition of spiritual direction, Church of the Wild is a gathering of people who, by the love of Christ, desire a deeper relationship in connecting with the natural world as a sacred expression. Wild Church gatherings offer opportunities to invite people into intimate relationships with some of the most vulnerable victims of our destructive culture: the land, waters, and creatures with whom we share our homes. It includes holy wandering and wondering in nature, grief and praise, advocacy, and ecological restoration on behalf of all that God created. Join us to hear about our Wild Church expression at St. John's in Eau Claire and take a brief look at the Wild Side of creation.

## **Synodically Authorized Ministry (SAMs)**

Synodically Authorized Ministry continues to flourish in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. With many congregations growing smaller and fewer rostered leaders available for call, lay ministers (SAMs) provide a faithful way forward. SAMs are raised up within their ministry contexts and authorized by the Office of the Bishop to minister in their particular settings. Currently the NWSWI has 25 SAMs serving in a variety of congregations. Synod staff work with Bishop Halom and an Advisory Team in setting forth requirements and on-boarding SAMs to their ministry roles. Annual reviews, mentors and continuing education are key components for our SAMs' service. The workshop will give an overview of how our SAMs give leadership to the vitality of the mission and ministry of the church today.

# Workshop Descriptions

## **Until All Are Fed**

Come celebrate with ELCA World Hunger as we mark 50 years of hunger relief, supporting sustainable solutions that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty. From health clinics to microloans, water wells to animal husbandry, community meals to advocacy, learn more about how our gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond where and when it's needed most.

## **Navigating Racial and Political Tension – A Safe Space for Honest Conversation**

Are you feeling overwhelmed or uncertain about the racial and political tensions in today's world? Do you have thoughts, concerns, or questions you're not sure how to express? This workshop invites you to come together with others in a supportive and open environment to explore the complexities of these difficult issues.

What's on your mind?

- How are you personally coping with the rising tension between different communities?
- Do you feel like your perspective on race or politics is being heard, or are you struggling to find a safe space to speak out?
- Are you looking for a way to navigate conversations that feel increasingly divisive, both in your personal life and in society at large?
- How do you make sense of the headlines, the social media posts, or the conversations happening around you?
- What can we do to bridge divides and move toward understanding in an era of polarization?

Join us to discuss these important questions, share experiences, and listen to one another in a respectful, compassionate space. Whether you're seeking solidarity, new perspectives, or simply a chance to process your own feelings, this workshop will provide tools for navigating today's charged political and racial landscape.

Let's talk. Together, we can create a deeper understanding of how to heal, listen, and move forward as a community.

## **Energizing By Evaluating**

Have a church tradition? How about a new and innovative idea? Anything in between? Then you probably understand the concept, "We've always done it that way before!" But, do you know why? And what about your church staff? Do you know what they do and why they do it? Join us in this workshop to understand the importance of evaluation – for both ministry events and leaders. You'll walk away with some great tools for your consideration which can actually reignite the ministry at your church and beyond!

## **A Ministry of Word and Service: Let's Talk About Deacons**

Deacons have a long history of leadership and service in the Christian church, across many denominations. Their call to ministry is often "specialized" yet their goal is the same: share the hope of the good news and serve the neighbor. Come and learn how this work has evolved, and celebrate the growing awareness and enthusiasm around this call to leadership in the church!

# Upcoming Events!

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## **EcoFaith Summit**

April 5, 2025 + Duluth, MN & Online

<https://www.ecofaithnetwork.org/ecofaith-summit-2025>

## **Undertow: Middle School Youth Gathering**

April 12 + Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake

<https://nswi.org/synod-youth-board/undertow-2025>

## **Synod Assembly 2025**

April 26, 2023 + Bethany Lutheran Church, Rice Lake

<https://nswi.org/synod-assembly-2025>

## **Indigenous Sacred Sites Tour**

May 17, 2025 + Twin Cities

<https://nswi.org/home/calendar>

## **Fresh Expressions Sampler (Option #2)**

May 31 + Superior Conference

<https://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/fresh-expressions>

## **Fresh Expressions Sampler (Option #3)**

June 28 + Chequamegon Conference

<https://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/fresh-expressions>

## **Entangled: Multi-Synod High School Youth Gathering**

July 8-11, 2025 + UW River Falls

<https://nswi.org/entangled>

## **Fresh Expressions Sampler (Option #4)**

July 26 + Heart of the North Conference

<https://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/fresh-expressions>

## **Fresh Expressions Sampler (Option #5)**

August 23 + Chippewa Valley

<https://nswi.org/congregational-vitality/fresh-expressions>



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