

Service Projects & Workshops.



Descriptions.

“THAT MY JOY MAY BE IN YOU.”

Friday, June 6, 1 – 5: 00 pm.

Engaging in acts of service can deepen your sense of purpose and connection to others, fostering a feeling of fulfillment and inner peace. When you contribute to the well-being of your congregation, community, and beyond, you often find that the act of giving itself brings a unique kind of joy that resonates deeply within.

All Creation Sings: An Introduction.

Leader: Deacon John Weit, Executive for Worship, ELCA.

Place: Christ Chapel, at 1:00 pm only. (75 mins.)

Description: This workshop will explore the new worship and song supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. *All Creation Sings* brings together a wide range of cultural, ethnic, generational, and theological perspectives in its liturgical settings and two hundred hymns and songs. Several of these hymns fall under the headings of creation, lament, justice and society, and healing and wholeness, areas determined to be especially worthy of additional hymns and songs after research within the ELCA. Whether you already use ACS in your context or are curious about its contents, come and learn about the development of this resource and sing together some of the liturgical music and assembly song.

Beyond the Stop-Work Order: Reimagining Refugee Support with Global Refuge.

Leader: Dr. Tala AlRaheb.

Organization: Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service).

Place: President's Dining Room, 3:00 – 3:45 pm.

Description: On January 24, 2025, Global Refuge [formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service] and the 9 other national resettlement agencies received a **stop-work order** from the U.S. Department of State as it relates to our funding for the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, effectively cutting off vital support to families who have already lawfully resettled in the United States. Join us as we explore the current state of refugee resettlement and immigration in the US and learn about the ways in which Global Refuge continues to support immigrants through its programs and explore how you can partner with Global Refuge in fostering a world of welcoming communities.

***About Dr. Tala AlRaheb:**

Dr. Tala AlRaheb is the Impact and Innovation Officer at Global Refuge. Tala holds a Ph.D. in religious studies from Emory University where her research explored Arab Christian migration, religious identity, and political activism in the U.S. Prior to joining Global Refuge, Tala worked in various think tanks and non-profits including Churches for Middle East Peace. Tala is deeply committed to the work of welcome and walking alongside communities as they welcome newcomers.

Assemble Summer Outreach Kits for Homeless Teens.

Leader(s): Micah Sherwin, Tammy Moses, Fred Snyder.

Organization: Lutheran Social Service of MN.

Place: Three Crowns Room, 1:00 – 5:00 pm, *ongoing*.

Description: Celebrate LSS' 160th Anniversary with Service! Join LSSMN, your synod's social service serving arm, at the SW MN Synod Assembly in expressing the love of Christ through your gifts and service. We'll live out our faith in action by assembling 100 Summer Outreach Kits for our Youth Service Centers in the SW MN Synod. These summer kits are a tangible way that LSS staff support homeless and at-risk youth by providing some basic items that are always necessary during Minnesota Summers. All donations will be collected during check-in for the Assembly and we encourage you to help us put the kits together! Sign up to bring items by following this link: [Southwestern Synod Assembly Service Event](#)

Poverty Simulation – Walk a Mile in Their Shoes.

Leader: Deb Brandt.

Organization: United Community Action Agency Partnership.

Place: Heritage & St Peter Room(s), 2:30 – 4:45 pm.

Description: The poverty simulation experience aims to help participants grasp what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family, struggling to make ends meet month after month. **This is a simulation, not a game**, designed to raise awareness about the challenges faced by low-income individuals.

The simulation takes place in a large room, with the "families" seated in groups at the center. Surrounding them are tables representing various community resources and services, including a bank, super center, Community Action Agency, employer, utility company, pawn broker, grocery store, social service agency, faith-based organization, payday and title loan facility, mortgage company, school, community health center, police officer, and childcare center.

A minimum of 60 and up to 80 participants will take on the roles of 26 different families experiencing poverty. Additionally, around 20 volunteers are needed to staff the community resource tables. Advance registration is required, and it's crucial to follow through with your commitment, as the simulation will be canceled if we fall below the required numbers. Past participants, both volunteers and attendees, described the simulation as impactful and life changing. Be sure to reserve your spot right away! For more information & to sign up click here: <https://swmnelca.org/2025/05/15/poverty-simulation-walk-a-mile-in-their-shoes/>



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