

Let's Do Lunch – TED Talk Style

Pick up a lunch and attend ONE 15- to 18-minute presentation on a variety of topics on Saturday in Beck Hall. These learning presentations are designed to give you some additional information and provide time for questions, discussion, and eating.

Saturday TED Talk Lunch

Women of the ELCA: Not Your Mama's Ladies' Aid	BECK HALL: 101
Storytelling: A Vital Element for Mission	BECK HALL: 111
How Welcoming Is Your Building?	BECK HALL: 113
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The Southeastern Diocese of ELCSA – Health & Wellness Committee	BECK HALL: 119
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How Many Lutherans Does It Take to Change a Worship Schedule?	BECK HALL: 201
Smooth Sailing: Becoming a Resilient Leader in Turbulent Times	BECK HALL: 211
Exploring Generosity: Having Conversations About Faith and Giving in Today's Congregation to Inspire Generosity	BECK HALL: 217
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Let's Do Lunch Descriptions

Women of the ELCA: Not Your Mama's Ladies' Aid

Leader: Kristy Henriksen, President, SW MN Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

Location: Beck Hall 101

Description: Think you know all about the women's organization of the ELCA? Women of the ELCA does so much more than have coffee, raise money for missions, quilt, and study our Bibles. The 1950's image of your mom's ladies' aid has been reborn as Women of the ELCA with a wide scope of opportunities to serve as a disciple for the Lord. There is something for women of all ages. Women of the ELCA has raised funds for the Malaria Project, taken on human trafficking prevention and anti-bullying projects, are helping Phebe Hospital in Liberia become solar powered, and the women still study the Bible, do projects for Lutheran World Relief, and plan and conduct wonderful fundraisers. Come to hear and see what those "church ladies" are up to.

Storytelling: A Vital Element for Mission

Leader: Victoria Flood, Director for Mission Support, ELCA

Location: Beck Hall 111

Description: Do you tell stories to excite and invite others into ministry with you? We are natural-born storytellers – just listen to a 4-year-old tell you about her afternoon at the zoo! Yet, we sometimes get tongue-tied and miss out on telling the stories of how we are the hearts and hands of Jesus through our congregations. Come to learn some of the ingredients needed to produce an effective story across multiple forms of communication: social media, newsletters, temple talks, etc. Bring a mission story idea with you and begin to craft your story during this workshop!

How Welcoming Is Your Building?

Leader: Anne Gerrietts, EIT, LEED AP, Church Building Consultant – ELCA Mission Investment Fund

Location: Beck Hall 113

Description: Many of you know the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA (MIF) as a ministry that lends money for building projects, but did you know that they can also help you evaluate your building? We will talk about how to look at your building through the eyes of a visitor and some basics of welcoming buildings. And there will be a refresher about all services the MIF can provide for congregations.

Lutheran Social Service Social Ministry Projects

Leader: Jenn Luong, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Location: Beck Hall 115

Description: Jenn Luong will briefly discuss the 3 main categories of ministry for LSS of MN (Children, Youth and Families, Older Adults and People with Disabilities) and how congregations can get involved making a difference. She will also cover how to use Thrivent Action Teams for seed money to kick start your project.

Iron Sharpens Iron: Equipping Men for Ministry

Leader: Mark Swanson, President, SW MN Synod Lutheran Men in Mission

Location: Beck Hall 117

Description: The men's ministry of SW MN is seeking ways to enliven men's ministry in our Synod. Mark Swanson will discuss this concept and answer questions as we seek to work with the pastors of our Synod to reform this ministry. The Equipping Men for Ministry workshops in August will feature Rollie Martinson and we will invite each pastor to bring two men to form the foundation in your congregation. Come join us to discuss.

The Southeastern Diocese of ELCSA – Health & Wellness Committee

Leader: Witness Mbatha, Health & Wellness Coordinator and N.S. Langa, Health & Wellness Committee Member

Location: Beck Hall 119

Description: Where are we walking together and who is your circuit partner? Walking together means being companions with South African Lutherans with their different gifts, appreciating each other in our walk as we make God's love known to all people and cultures. Come learn about what is going on with the Health & Wellness Committee in the Southeastern Diocese in Southern Africa.

Women and Justice Social Statement Draft Reflection

Leader: Rev. Bruce Berg, Member of Women and Justice Social Statement Task Force

Location: Beck Hall 121

Description: In 2009, the national church authorized the development of a social statement on women and justice. The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ is nearing the completion of our work. However, your voice can still be heard. Come and learn how you can help shape this important document for our church.

Right now we are in the "Study Phase" of our goal. It is important to hear from all people of the ELCA to draft a statement that serves you and your church. The task force has developed and approved study resources for leading discussion and furthering education on gender issues. We both value and need your input. Come and learn what you can do to ensure all voices are heard. We will be taking comments through the end of August 2017.

How Many Lutherans Does It Take to Change a Worship Schedule?

Leader: John Jahr, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

Location: Beck Hall 201

Description: As worship attendance patterns change, many congregations are beginning a conversation about ... change... the types of conversations that strike fear into our hearts. Vinje recently made a major change in our worship life by offering one service on Sunday and one on Wednesday instead of two on Sunday. In this workshop, we will discuss the process used, some of the questions we asked, and the challenges we have faced along the way. We'll also explore some of the opportunities that presented themselves as a result of the change. We'll take a look at what these services look like, how they are similar, and how they are vastly different.

Smooth Sailing: Becoming a Resilient Leader in Turbulent Times

Leader: Deacon Terri Endres, Regional Representative for MN, ND, and SD; Portico Benefit Services

Location: Beck Hall 211

Description: Resilience is not perfection, but the ability to move forward in imperfect realities. Whether it's leading the church, dealing with difficult situations, or navigating the inevitable bumps and setbacks of life, it is possible not to just survive, but also thrive. Discover how to cultivate your God-given strengths and develop healthy practices that will give you the stamina, confidence, and inner peace you need to be a resilient leader.

Exploring Generosity: Having Conversations About Faith and Giving in Today's Congregation to Inspire**Generosity**

Leader: Larry Strenge, Director for Evangelical Mission, SW MN Synod

Location: Beck Hall 217

Description: "That's none of your business!" exclaimed the council member when asked about her "net worth." An animated response like this one is all too common in our congregational settings when talk about money is explored. So how does one have a conversation about money in a culture like ours? This workshop will look at some practical ways to free people in their God-given ability to be generous as we give broader witness to others as we live our call to be disciples of Jesus.

Bringing Youth to the ELCA Youth Gathering

Leader: Ashley Gilbertson, SW MN ELCA Youth Gathering Synod Coordinator

Location: Beck Hall 219

Description: The 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston is coming up! Are you planning on bringing a group from your congregation? Come hear more about what to expect and things you should start thinking about in order to get your group there! Registration for the Youth Gathering opens this September!

Learn About Financial Counseling

Leader: Cherrish Holland, Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota and SW MN Synod Lilly Implementation Team

Location: Beck Hall 221

Description: Most American families feel pressures from debt, credit, and budget issues, but precious few ever seek out the free, trustworthy help available to them. Instead, they sit in worry or turn to scams like debt "settlement" or credit "repair" or payday lending traps. Let's change those odds. Cherrish Holland, a certified financial counselor and supervisor for Lutheran Social Service, will share key messages to take away the stigma and get real solutions for financial stresses. She will demonstrate role plays which will allow you to listen in and learn what happens in financial counseling and how to access this help.