



## Rev. Brenda K. Smith

### *Keynote*

Rev. Brenda K. Smith is Program Director for Faith Practices and Book of Faith in the Domestic Mission Unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America- Churchwide Office in Chicago, Illinois. In this role she works with other faith formation leaders, both lay and clergy, to create a culture of discipleship in the ELCA. Rev. Smith and another staff member, Rev. Dwight DuBois, coordinate the Book of Faith ministry of the ELCA; a ministry that has the goal that individuals and congregations will be intentional about opening the Bible and having conversations about the transformative power of the word of God. She also convenes the ELCA's Spiritual Renewal Team that offers healing and prayer services; Lutheran revivals; and workshops on various topics for congregations, synods and other entities in the ELCA.

Prior to her current position Rev. Smith was pastor of New Hope Lutheran Church in Jamaica, New York for 13 years. Before answering God's call to ministry, she was a pediatric nurse and taught pediatric nursing at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio. She attended New York University where she received both her B.S. and M.A. in nursing. She received her Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

In her spare time Rev. Smith enjoys spending time with family and friends, watching movies, reading and listening to Motown classics, especially any songs by the Temptations.

## Deanna Thompson

### *Bible Studies:*

*The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World: I Cor. 12.12-27*

*Paying Attention to those who Need it Most in a World of Distractions:*

*Mark 10.46-52*

For the past 23 years, Deanna Thompson has been teaching religion at Hamline, where her courses are also cross-listed in African American Studies, Women Studies, and Social Justice. She has been awarded Faculty of the Year by faculty and students, and alumni, along with being the 2018 recipient of the John Wesley Trustee Award. A respected scholar in the study of Martin Luther and feminist theology, many of Thompson's publications—including her book, *Crossing the Divide: Luther, Feminism, and the Cross* (Fortress, 2004)—focus on bringing Lutheran and feminist theology together in generative ways. Thompson was also one of 38 theologians chosen by Westminster John Knox Press to get back to doing what theologians used to



do: write commentary on Scripture. Her theological commentary on Deuteronomy was released in 2014 and won Resource Book of the Year by the Academy of Parish Clergy. Her 2016 book, *The Virtual Body of Christ in a Suffering World*, was nominated for a Minnesota Book Award, focuses on the digital revolution and its potential for helping us better care for one another in the worst times of our lives. Thompson received a sabbatical grant in 2016 from the Louisville Institute and her 2018 book, *Glimpsing Resurrection: Cancer, Trauma, and Ministry* is the fruit of that time away. Thompson is a life-long Lutheran and a sought-after speaker on topics of Luther, feminism, living with serious illness, being the church in the digital age, and hope.