

Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly

May 18 – 20, 2023

Workshops

Friday, May 19, 2023 – 2:30pm

Ableism in the Church: What is it, Where is it, and How we use it against others. – Grand Ballroom I

Pastor Sarah Mayer-Flatt

Come participate in an honest conversation about the ways in which ableism permeates our church communities from the inside out. We'll also do some work together on finding simple (and perhaps not some simple) solutions we can bring back to our congregations that will begin the work of eradicating ableism from our lives, and the lives of those around us.

GPS Adult Catechuminate– Grand Ballroom II

Pr. Scott Seeke

GPS is an adult faith formation process based on the ancient Catechumenate. Through this year long process, adults explore faith and develop a deeper understanding of who they are and who God is. Over 30 adults are currently participating in GPS at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Livonia, and four adults were baptized at Easter. Come learn more about GPS during this workshop!

Who Are the Immigrants – Lake Huron Hall B

Pastor Jack Eggleston and Mr. Stuart Inahuazo

Why are immigrants coming to the U.S. and where are they coming from? What is happening at the southern border? What rights do asylum seekers have? How do our immigration laws and policies impact families? Learn how you can support just and faith immigration laws. Find out how we work to accompany migrant minors in Michigan through the Guardian Angels program. (Due to availability of speakers, this workshop will only take place on Friday)

Saturday, May 20, 2023 – 10:50am

Defining Institutional Racism: Why God is Calling the Church to Fight – Grand Ballroom I

Pr. Lindsey Anderson and Ms. Marilyn Knak

We will deepen our understanding of institutional racism, engage in conversation, share in a Bible Study, and learn how God is calling the church to fight against the sin of institutional racism.

Our Congregation is Already Welcoming, Why do we need to say so? – Grand Ballroom II

Mr. Merton Spencer and Ms. Wendy Wellman

The Reconciling In Christ (RIC) program recognizes Lutheran congregations, synods, organizations, colleges and seminaries that publicly declare their welcome and hospitality to people of all sexual orientations and gender identities and expressions.

Experienced lay leaders from our SEMI Synod Diversity Task Force will guide us through dialogue and conversation to answer specifically why it's important to make public our welcome, what it means to be an RIC congregation and how to begin the RIC journey.

Church Together Through Our Stories – Lake Huron Hall B

Ms. Victoria Flood

Storytelling doesn't always come naturally when it comes to church. This workshop will explore some of the ways to both listen for and share stories about our faith and ministry that can draw us together and invite others to respond to God's call to love and serve as a neighbor.

Please note: if the Bishop's Election goes to a Third Ballot, all workshops will be held on Saturday morning at 10:50am. Workshop locations are listed below. If the Bishop's Election goes to Fourth and Fifth Ballots, there will be no workshops

Saturday workshop locations (If there is a Bishop Election on the 3rd Ballot)

Ableism in the Church - Pr. Sarah Mayer-Flatt – Lake Huron Hall B

Defining Institutional Racism - Pr. Lindsey Anderson and Ms. Marilyn Knak – Lake Huron Hall A

Church together through our Stories - Ms. Victoria Flood – Grand Ballroom I

GPS Adult Catechuminate - Pr. Scott Seeke – Grand Ballroom II

Reconciling in Christ - Mr. Merton Spencer and Ms. Wendy Wellman – St. Clair Room B