

Conference Break-Out Sessions

May 6, 2023 at 10:20 a.m.

Per Resolution 10-02 from the 2010 Pacifica Synod Assembly, there is time devoted for each conference to meet together at least once during every Synod Assembly.

Meeting locations will be announced during assembly.

WORKSHOPS

May 5, 2023 at 12:00 p.m.

All workshops are offered one time.

Workshop descriptions are on the following pages.

Please review and find which one best matches your interests.

Room assignments will be announced during assembly.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

1. Encountering God through the Psalms

Presenter: Pastor Stephanie Lape

Pastor Stephanie Lape (she/her) has a Master of Arts degree in Transpersonal Psychology, and a Master of Divinity degree. She particularly loves the intersection between psychology and religion. She is a long-time instructor of comparative religions, contributing author for Living Lutheran and Peaceful Living Wellness magazines, and author of Beckoned: Hearing God's Call to Deeper Faith. Pastor Lape currently serves at Eden Lutheran Church in Riverside, California.

Description: One of the most effective tools we have for close conversation with God is scripture, and one of the most profound scriptural tools available is the Book of Psalms. These short writings show us the raw and real psychology of human beings, thousands of years ago and now. They also show us powerful truths about the nature of God. They range from prayers of lament, penitence, and requests for God to destroy enemies, to displays of praise, trust, thanksgiving, and celebration of creation. In their staggering range of emotion and faith, they

show us what a life looks like when both unashamedly honest and also full of belief and trust. They are full of ancient symbolism, deep wisdom, and guidance that is every bit as relevant today as when they were once created. They are the perfect tools for study of psychology as well as theology, and they are the perfect tools for daily prayer. Come learn about these psalms, whether you are new to them, you have prayed with them for years, or somewhere in between. Learn some fun facts, and also experience a time of meditation and prayer. Encounter God through these dynamic windows into your human soul as well as into the beating heart of your Creator.

2. Planned Giving Best Practices for Congregations and how to link them to Stewardship!

Presenters: Lisa Higginbotham. CFRE, Regional Gift Planner, ELCA Foundation

Lisa has served our Synod faithfully for five years as our Regional Gift Planner. Formerly a financial advisor, she helps our congregations discuss funding mission and ministry through planned giving concepts and endowment best practices. Lisa is available to work with your congregation free of charge. She also hopes to inspire generosity and work individually with donors supporting the mission and ministries they love.

Description: A focused conversation on planned giving avenues of approach that you may not have considered, but bring creativity and efficiency to the mission and ministries you love!

3. A Toolkit for Ministry in the Digital Age.

Presenter: Rev. Marcus C. Lohrmann

Rev. Marcus serves as Pastor to Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in La Mesa, CA, and is a member of the Pacifica Synod Council.

Description: Did you know that some major tech companies like Google and Microsoft offer administrative suites to non-profits for free? This workshop offers an exploration of some cost-effective administrative tools for ministry that can help cut down on some of the overhead of digital work in the parish. Together we'll explore some of the tools you can get for free (or steeply discounted) to help your administrative team find a starting point on tasks like website creation, graphic design, email management, bulletin design, website building, digital giving, preschool tuition collection, multi-platform worship streaming, and more.