SATURDAY

Thinking Outside the Plate – Directors Room (main level)
Presented by: EaND Synod Stewardship Team
Does your congregation struggle with financial stability? Has your congregation wondered about using alternate methods of giving? Does the size or location of your congregation matter when looking at alternatives? Learn from a congregation who is using more than one form of offering and discover how alternate methods of giving impacted this congregation’s ability to be benevolent. Hear from a congregation who has recently added giving alternatives as an option for their members. Hear from members who are current users of alternate giving methods and learn what they’ve discovered about sharing their financial gifts in this way.

Music: A Language that Speaks Volumes - Conference Room (main level)
Presented by: ELCA Glocal Team (Offered on Sunday too!)
If music has a language of its own, how can we learn it? What is it made of? Is it really universal? In this workshop we sing and share our songs and stories in order to understand what they are telling us, beyond their lyrics, and be able to share their meaning with others. (Learn how to sing songs from four different continents of the world. Experiment how to play drums, percussion, sing in different languages and explore different styles of music)

Green Card Youth Voices: Immigration Stories - Executive Room (main level)
Presented by: Lutheran Social Services of ND and Green Card Youth Voices Student Authors
Through the power of storytelling, the session will highlight the voices of immigrant youth and their resilience, bravery and courage. During the session student authors from South Fargo High School will tell their stories as well as answer questions. The session will also highlight the partnership between Green Card Voices and Lutheran Social Services of North Dakota New American Services.

Ecumenical Cooperation in Social Justice at the Border – Mezzanine 1 (upstairs)
Presented by: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Mosher, ssc
Father Bob Mosher, a Catholic priest based in El Paso, Texas, will conduct a discussion of the vision and practice of ecumenical cooperation on migrant and ecological issues in that region, including insights from recent Lutheran-Catholic programs of consciousness-raising and solidarity.

Always Reforming: Creating Graceful Engagement for LGBTQ Lutherans – Mezzanine 3 (upstairs)
Presented by: Pastor Joe Larson of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, Fargo; and Sara Funkhouser
The “spirit” with which a congregation welcomes LGBTQ individuals can make all the difference. Graceful engagement is a way of practicing holy conversation, where each person is treated as a loved child of God. It is about listening, sharing one’s own story, living together in compassion, and fully valuing other people and their beliefs, even when they differ from our own. This workshop will include the sharing of stories of LGBTQ Lutherans, and thinking about ways that congregations can be welcoming. It will also offer resources for the process of becoming Reconciled In Christ (RIC)—the designation for congregations and other Lutheran ministries that have passed a welcoming statement that explicitly names LGBTQ individuals, or people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Pastor Larson is the first openly gay, married Lutheran pastor in North Dakota.

Presented by: Eric Barretto
Survey after survey demonstrates that ethnic diversity is only increasing in recent days and yet many of our churches remain culturally homogeneous. What might a church that invites diversity look like? We will turn to the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles to wonder together how God’s gift of diversity might take root in our lives together. Too often, our tendency has been to imagine that our faith “solves” the “problems” of diversity by making us all one, the same. In contrast, the author of Luke-Acts views our differences as a gift to be treasured not a difficulty to be overcome.

Over →
Music: A Language that Speaks Volumes - Conference Room (main level)
Presented by: ELCA Glocal Team
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Picturing the Reformation: Luther, Cranach and the Power of the Visual – Mezzanine 1 (upstairs)
Presented by: Paul Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archives
This session will explore the dynamic relationship between the great reformer, Martin Luther, and Lucas Cranach, the equally effective artist and propagandist of the movement. Both men needed the other to extend the reach of their respective callings. This PowerPoint presentation will be a lively back and forth conversation with many compelling images demonstrating how much the success of the Reformation depended on the visual arts as well as on Luther’s provocative writings. Luther and Cranach formed a partnership and a friendship that reaches out to us even today as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

“Where am I now?” A Hands-on Workshop in Creativity & Contemplative Practice
Executive Room (main level)
Presented by: Sister Michelle Walka, Director of Beloved Art and Practice
Feeling tired? Overwhelmed with busyness? Take a moment to pause, connect, and create! Using some simple rules to guide our time together, we will engage in a contemplative and creative process that focuses on our mind, body, and spirit connections. Supplies are provided. You do not have to consider yourself an artist to participate!

Detectives of Divinity – Directors Room (main level)
Presented by: Rev. Ruben Duran
God is at work 24/7, everywhere; God’s reconciling ministry takes place in and through the church as well as in and through society. As God deploys us to participate in God’s work, we are invited to mingle in our neighborhoods and places of influence, not to sell religious services or win arguments; but rather to accompany people, listening, learning, serving, witnessing, and detecting God’s presence in community. Come, bring your experience and expand your horizon with new ways to serve God in our communities and in everyday life.

Our Neighbor’s Faith & Our Own: Growing in Understanding - Board Room (main level)
Presented by: Ms. Leslie Bellwood, Interfaith Scholar, Dr. Fauzia Haidor, Islamic and Interfaith Activist, Pr. Helen Beth Kuhens, Lutheran Interfaith Advocate
The Presenters will speak of their “Call” to interfaith involvement. They will share stories of their particular journeys in claiming their own faith more fully through engaging with and learning from other traditions.

This Changes Everything! Join us for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering – Mezzanine 3 (upstairs)
Presented By: Deacon Jamie Travers, EaND Synod Coordinator for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering
Brief Session Overview: The ELCA Youth Gathering can be an important part of a person’s faith journey. It is a faith formation event that happens every 3 years. In 2018 it will take place in Houston, Texas. This session is for anyone interested in learning more about the Gathering or if you are planning on taking a group from your church and you have questions.

CHOIR REHEARSAL – Great Hall, Northwest Corner
Do you love to sing? We are looking for volunteers to be a part of our choir for closing worship! Make a joyful noise to the Lord! Psalm 98:4-6