WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITIES

As you read through these offerings, note that some workshops are offered more than once. Additional workshop sessions will be added in the coming weeks.

TUESDAY 2:15-3:30pm

500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Detail regarding workshop … coming soon.

Advocacy as Public Witness
An opportunity to examine the role of rostered leaders in fostering advocacy ministry in their setting. What are resources to support dialog and communal discernment across partisan divides, teach and model advocacy as a faith practice and baptismal call.

The Rev. Amy Reumann serves as the director for advocacy in the ELCA. She is based in Washington, D.C.

Another Century of Faithful Proclamation: Toward a Lutheran Lay Preaching Movement.
While ordained ministers bear the responsibility for faithful proclamation, preaching is a ministry of the whole congregation. This workshop will explore how we might faithfully expand the full potential of proclamation by equipping all to preach. Biblical, confessional and contemporary ecclesial documents that support lay preaching will be highlighted.

The Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan, serves as a professor of preaching at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkely, CA.

Being a grounded leader in the midst of the storm.
Leading in the church has never been easy . . . and today is no exception. We know this. The challenge is to remain authentically grounded in who God created and gifted each of us to be. Based on the research and curriculum developed by Dr. Brené Brown, we will explore together how the armor we think will keep us safe in chaos may actually keep us hidden and separate instead of connected to our fellow travelers through the power of vulnerability; the power of this Emmaus walk. We will explore the power of boundaries and how to rise strong as a church leader with more authenticity, calm, and inner strength. The connections between Brown's research and faith and resilient church leadership are endless so come ready to learn and laugh together!

The Rev. Sarah Ciavarri is a certified daring way facilitator-consultant and an ELCA pastor. Sarah is the Director for Spiritual Care at Augustana Care Health and Rehabilitation in Apple Valley, Minn.
Biblical Storytelling | An Ancient Spiritual Discipline
The stories of the Bible were originally learned by heart and told through the generations. This reality has long been lost in these days of reading the Bible silently alone, or cautiously aloud from a lectern. Learn the discipline of biblical storytelling, and take the amazing stories from sacred scripture into your communities - so they can experience them in a radically new way.

The Rev. Jason Chesnut serves as a pastor in the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA.

Called to the Intersection of the Word: How Word and Sacrament and Word and Service Ministers Share in God’s Work.
Join us for a conversation about how Word and Sacrament and Word and Service ministers serve together in ministry, including the gifts, challenges, and differences of ministry shared by both rosters in a parish context.

Pastor Josh and Deacon Shannon Johnson serve together at Faith Lutheran Church of Little Rock, Ark.

Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, Eucharist
How do we take the agreements reached in theological dialogue into the lives of our church communities? What have Lutherans and Catholics said together on these three crucial subjects—and what differences still remain? What can local communities do to claim the progress made on the way to visible unity? Goals: to introduce the Declaration on the Way in the context of 50 years’ engagement between Lutherans and Catholics and to provide an opportunity to examine the Statement of Agreements, 32 common affirmations to be considered by the churchwide assembly.

Dr. Kathryn Johnson serves as the Director for ELCA Ecumenical Inter-Religious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

Faith Amidst Crisis: Ministry Moments in extremis
Pastors and deacons are needed at times of crises, when life’s worst moments strike – unexpected death, community disaster, risk of suicide or mental health crisis. Depending on your setting, it is likely you will be thrust into critical moments with an individual, a family, loved ones and caregivers facing ultimate questions. People will look to you, listen to your words and observe your action to draw strength and search for resources of faith in God. Here, you will meet ELCA colleagues in chaplaincy whose experience can be a resource for you and help you ask penetrating questions. This is a chance to listen, learn and raise a question about your ministry in extremis.

The Rev. Eric Wester serves as the assistant to the presiding bishop and director for federal chaplaincy in the ELCA. He is based in Washington, D.C.

How can a good constitution help my ministry
This session would look at what are the required, for good order, and how do we make this document a tool for good ministry. Constitutions should give structure to the work of the church. What questions might we ask of our governing documents so that they are good tools in our work.

The Rev. Chris Boerger serves as the Secretary for the ELCA and prior to this call, he served as a synodical bishop.

Might Community Development Services be in your future?
The Community Development Services Program accompany’s, assists, and provides resources for congregations, social ministry organizations, and non-profits that address matters of poverty and social justice issues; the workshop will focus specifically on accessing the Domestic Hunger Grants Program and Developmental Loan Fund, and the Missional Sustainability Program.

Mr. Joe Young serves as the program director for community development services in the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA.
Singing the Church’s Song in Culture
It is fitting that the Holy Communion section of ELW begins (p. 89) with an image of the Emmaus story: a stranger is welcomed, the word heard, a meal shared, Christ recognized, and we go to tell others. Liturgy is something the church does together and publicly, yet our words about worship often focus on individual tastes, preferences, and labels that advertise rather than invite. This workshop invites participants to think about how all rostered leaders—not just musicians—might break open some of the casual labels and language that sometimes obscure our sense of what it means to worship on the way together, both in our local communities and across the wider church.

Mr. Chad Fothergill is a church musician and currently working on a PhD in music in Philadelphia, Pa.

The 6½ Worst Things You Can Do With Your Benefits
Have you made any of these mistakes? If so, you’re not alone. (Trust us.) Join Rev. Jeff Thiemann, president of Portico Benefit Services, as he shares his top tips—and a few enlightening stories—to help you make the most of your ELCA retirement and health benefits.

The Rev. Jeff Thiemann is the president of Portico Benefit Services.

The Church Unknown - Reflections of a Millennial Pastor
This workshop will explore reasons why many members of the Millennial generation have fallen away from the church and what keeps them from coming back. These challenging realities will be discussed from the perspective of a Millennial pastor, Rev. Seth Nelson, who argues that young adults struggling with church attendance have important things for churchgoers to hear. Rev. Nelson will discuss that while there are many unknown aspects of the Millennial drift from church, there is also an unknown future in which they may be invited to help re-imagine the problems that the church is facing in the present.

The Rev. Seth Nelson is serving as a parish pastor in the Montana Synod of the ELCA.

The Global Church
Come dialogue and learn about Accompaniment, a lens and methodology for ELCA global mission engagement and its implications and relevance in mission service, diakonia, and in our own backyard.

The Rev. Rafael Malpica Padilla serves as executive director for the Global Mission unit of the ELCA.
TUESDAY 3:45-5:00pm

10 Ways to use Video Technology in Worship
Video projection is widely used in worship spaces across the world today. Did you know you could do more than just put the lyrics of the songs on the screens? Participants will consider 10 different ways to harness the power of the projector and learn of many resources available for worship.

Dr. Clayton Faulkner serves as the Director for Worship, Music and Technology at Faith Lutheran Church in Missouri City, Texas.

A Different Front Door
Come meet several of our mission developers for a look into missional churches and how traditional churches can partner with mission developers. These partnerships may not bring people to a traditional church on a Sunday morning, but through partnerships, churches could find ways to become embedded in their communities.

Another Century of Faithful Proclamation: Toward a Lutheran Lay Preaching Movement.
While ordained ministers bear the responsibility for faithful proclamation, preaching is a ministry of the whole congregation. This workshop will explore how we might faithfully expand the full potential of proclamation by equipping all to preach. Biblical, confessional and contemporary ecclesial documents that support lay preaching will be highlighted.

The Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan, serves as a professor of preaching at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkley, CA.

Cross+Generational Faith Formation
The church is the one place in today's busy, segregated culture in which you can find five generations together at the same time. Yet, we often shuffle each group off to their own place, missing out on the unique opportunity to learn with and from each other, and model the radically inclusive Kingdom of God. Come learn reasons for intentional cross+generational faith formation, discover techniques for crafting formational experiences that are engaging and relevant to all ages, and practice designing a sample cross+generational celebration!

Deacon Stephanie Luedtke is rostered in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and teaches music in the public-school system.

Dementia through a pastoral theological lens.
This workshop will provide a theological lens through which to view dementia, definitions of dementia, theological reflections on dementia, implications for the church's life and ministry, and practical guidance for pastoral ministry among this growing population.

The Rev. Christine C.R. Parham has served as a chaplain in a variety of settings and is a pastor in the South Carolina Synod of the ELCA.

Dimensions of Prayer
Rostered ministers are often so busy guiding others in their spiritual lives, that they do not take the time to explore various dimensions of prayer. This workshop will offer participants the opportunity to learn about, talk about and experience various aspects of prayer. For example, two topics are the joys and challenges of prayer; and starting a prayer journal.

The Rev. Brenda Smith serves as the director of discipleship in the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA.
Grow Hold Fold: Turning around faith-based organizations for the 21st century
In the face of rapid changes in the importance of religion in society, lifestyles and technology how do faith based organizations (congregations, seminaries & others) make the radical shifts necessary to continue to proclaim a grace-filled Gospel while renewing and revitalizing our ministries for the 21st century? 1517 Media, the ELCA’s ministry of publishing (parent organization of Augsburg Fortress, Fortress Press and Sparkhouse) has wrestled with this challenge and dramatically changed their priorities and processes in recent years. By focusing on a grow, hold, fold strategic framework combined with effective use of technology not only for delivering content, but also streamlining internal processes, they have moved from being a money-losing traditional denominational publishing house to a successful media organization creating dynamic print, digital and video content for congregations, higher education, individuals and families. In this keynote address, you will hear some practical techniques that have worked for 1517 Media to apply to your ministry.

Ms. Beth Lewis serves as president and chief executive officer for 1517 Media (parent company for Augsburg Fortress, Fortress Press and Sparkhouse).

Lutheran-Muslim Relations
Luther’s relationship to the Turks, and its effect; contemporary history of Lutheran-Muslim Relations; introduction of resources; engagement around difficult questions concerning Islamic extremism; and opportunities for engagement today. Goal: Equip participants to be able to effectively understand Islam and reach out in dialogue to Muslim partners, and to uphold Luther’s interpretation of the 8th commandment in response to defamation of Muslim neighbors.

Ms. Kathryn Lohre serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

Racism and the Church: No Bigotry Allowed
If Howard Thurman is correct that a community is a place where potential is actualized, then it must also be a place of nurture. However, in our society bigotry has often truncated the actualization of potential my institutionalized and systemic processes. This workshop will explore a history of racial tension and explore through a lens of establishing heretical friendships and advocacy how to neutralize bigotry and dismantle its lingering effects.

The Rev. Ronald S. Bonner serves as the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Atonement in Atlanta, and as director of evangelical mission and assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Synod of the ELCA.

Reconciling in Christ, what does that mean?
For 34 years, Reconciling Works has accompanied the Lutheran church and the ELCA in a journey of welcome, inclusion, and celebration of LGBTQ people and their families through the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program. Learn and share about what it means to be RIC and how to extend hospitality, care, and support to LGBTQ members of your congregation and community through words and actions.

Ms. Aubrey Thonvold serves as the executive director for Reconciling Works.
Sabbaticals
The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs at Christian Theological Seminary provide grants of up to $50,000 to congregations to support their pastors taking a 3-4 month renewal leave. Up to $15,000 of that money can be used by the congregation to cover costs while the pastor is away. Come find out more about these programs, the benefits of clergy sabbaticals, and insights on best practices for applying.

Dr. Robert Saler is executive director for the Center for Pastoral Excellence and research professor of Lutheran Studies at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) in Indianapolis. He has directed the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Programs, which CTS administers on behalf of Lilly Endowment Inc. since 2012.

Theo-Poetics: Using Poetry and Hip Hop as tools of Worship and Resistance In this interactive workshop, National Performing Artists David Scherer (AGAPE*) and Joe Davis explore what it means to use the creative arts to speak prophetically and pastorally to our church and our world. Through performing, worshipping, and writing we will be invited into a deeper conversation about faith and justice into which only art can bring us.

What’s up with my congregation?
Congregations and ministers have challenges which were unimagined just a few decades ago. In many cases, there is a common expression of loss – loss of direction, loss of people, loss of money. We know of congregations who seem to have found a way toward thoughtful and hopeful creativity. We know of other congregations who seem to be stuck in a quagmire of sameness. This workshop will explore ways to support leaders and ministers as they face congregational stuckness and challenge. 

Deacon MaryAnn Schwabe serves as national systems coordinator in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott serves as associate professor of Ministry and Pastoral Leadership at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

We are all one in Christ
This workshop will discuss the growing net of diversity with members of the Hispanic community and the dimensions around pastoral care as a model of accompaniment.

Writing Project for Women of Color
The Rostered Women of Color Writing Project captures stories of women of color from the various racial ethnic communities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. These stories give a window into the joy and pain experienced by these women as they journeyed from discernment to call to placement in this church. Come hear stories and share your own. We will also take a look at research data from the 45th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women in the ELCA. For women of color, it is the 35th anniversary.

The Rev. Wyvetta Bullock serves at assistant to the presiding bishop/executive for administration in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Rev. Cheryl Pero serves as the director of the Multicultural Center at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.
WEDNESDAY 2:15-3:30pm

500th Anniversary of the Reformation
Detail regarding workshop … coming soon.

Advancing Racial Equity Training
This training will equip participants to apply a common framework and lens in identifying the many ways racism and other forms of oppression—manifest within church and across society. Through presentation, materials and discussion—the group will acquire practical tools and strategies for implementing racial equity.

Ms. Judith Roberts serves as program director for racial justice ministries in Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA. Deacon Inez Torres Davis serves as director for justice with the Women of the ELCA.

Being a grounded leader in the midst of the storm
Leading in the church has never been easy . . . and today is no exception. We know this. The challenge is to remain authentically grounded in who God created and gifted each of us to be. Based on the research and curriculum developed by Dr. Brenè Brown, we will explore together how the armor we think will keep us safe in chaos may actually keep us hidden and separate instead of connected to our fellow travelers through the power of vulnerability; the power of this Emmaus walk. We will explore the power of boundaries and how to rise strong as a church leader with more authenticity, calm, and inner strength. The connections between Brown's research and faith and resilient church leadership are endless so come ready to learn and laugh together!

The Rev. Sarah Ciavarri is a certified daring way facilitator-consultant and an ELCA pastor. Sarah is the Director for Spiritual Care at Augustana Care Health and Rehabilitation in Apple Valley, Minn.

Best Practices for Developing and Managing Online Communities
Whether they’re formed intentionally or emerge organically, online communities have been around long enough for best practices to be established. Join longtime online community developer and manager, Meredith Gould to learn about: similarities and differences between virtual and face-to-face communities; the lifecycle of online communities; when and why to develop an online community; digital platform options for online community development; and key characteristics and essential skills for online community managers. If you already participate in one or more online communities, plan to chime in with your experiences of what works, what hasn’t, and why.

Meredith Gould, PhD (@meredithgould) is a sociologist, 11x’s author, and digital communications professional with wide-ranging expertise. An early adopter of social media, she’s nationally known for her passionate advocacy of using online tools for ministry. For more information go to, www.meredithgould.com.

Biblical Storytelling | An Ancient Spiritual Discipline
The stories of the Bible were originally learned by heart and told through the generations. This reality has long been lost in these days of reading the Bible silently alone, or cautiously aloud from a lectern. Learn the discipline of biblical storytelling, and take the amazing stories from sacred scripture into your communities - so they can experience them in a radically new way.

The Rev. Jason Chesnut serves as a pastor in the Delaware-Maryland Synod of the ELCA.
Considering a Call in Chaplaincy Ministries: Military, VA and Federal Prisons
Are you open to a public, institutional ministry? Would you like to learn more about the needs and opportunities in federal chaplaincy? The largest young adult ministry in the ELCA is military chaplaincy. Capable, experienced clinical chaplains are needed in the largest health care system in the US – VA medical centers. When Jesus (Matthew 25) speaks about where we see Him, He includes visiting those in prison. For ELCA pastors eligible to serve – either full-time or part-time – there is a continuing need for chaplains. Here is your chance to learn more, have your specific questions addressed and begin the application process on-site.

The Rev. Eric Wester serves as the assistant to the presiding bishop and director for federal chaplaincy in the ELCA. He is based in Washington, D.C.

Curating Worship for a Cross-Cultural Context
Using case studies, participants will brainstorm how churches in given scenarios can make their worship cross-cultural and contextual. Participants will walk away with strategies to use at their home congregations for making worship more culturally diverse and contextually aware.

Dr. Clayton Faulkner serves as the Director for Worship, Music and Technology at Faith Lutheran Church in Missouri City, Texas.

Discipleship < - - > Stewardship: Moving from got to to get to in your Journey of Faith
At times in our faith journeys, those practices we do to draw closer to Christ become obligations or got to experiences, instead of being experiences that bring joy as we live out our faith in daily life. This workshop will offer a framework and resources on how our stewardship and discipleship practices can move from got to to get to experiences that are reflective of our thankfulness for the ability to give and to love and follow Jesus.

The Rev. Brenda Smith serves as director for discipleship and Mr. Keith Mundy serves as program director for stewardship in the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA.

The church at work through Domestic Mission
The Rev. Stephen Bouman serves as executive director for Domestic Mission of the ELCA.

What’s up with my family?
Family stressors are part of the normal landscape of life. Yet, when tension spikes, reactions tend to run high and thinking tends to run low. Family (natural) systems theory is a lens which offers a path toward less reactivity. This workshop will engage in a conversation about steering through the sometimes choppy water of family relationships.

Deacon MaryAnn Schwabe serves as national systems coordinator in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Rev. Dr. Emlyn Ott serves as associate professor of Ministry and Pastoral Leadership at Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio.

What Does it Mean to Be Lutheran in a Multi-Religious World?
As we look beyond 2017, how do we understand and live out our inter-religious commitments as Lutherans living in a rapidly-changing, religiously-diverse world? Goal: Using a case-study approach, touch on the ecumenical nature of the observance and how we approach being Lutheran in a world of other religions. Equip people with knowledge of the history of ELCA inter-religious relations and ideas of activities for their contexts.

Ms. Kathryn Lohre serves as the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop/Executive for Ecumenical and Interreligious Relations in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.
WEDNESDAY 3:45-5:00pm

Best Practices for Social Media and Digital Ministry
Like it, love it, or tolerate it—social media is a must-have for today’s church. Newcomers as well as experienced users are invited to join Meredith Gould for a lively workshop about current best practices in digital ministry. Learn about: starting with strategy and developing tactics before choosing tools; generational differences that matter – and ones that don’t; and must-use social networking platforms. Bring questions, concerns, and examples of pesky challenges you’ve encountered for practical, actionable problem-solving. No irritation too minimal; no challenge too big—or weird. This workshop is an opportunity to receive consultation from a pioneer in digital ministry.

Meredith Gould, PhD (@meredithgould) is a sociologist, 11x’s author, and digital communications professional with wide-ranging expertise. An early adopter of social media, she’s nationally known for her passionate advocacy of using online tools for ministry. For more information, go to www.meredithgould.com.

Cross+Generational Worship
Where can you engage all of the senses, experience both kinesthetic and contemplative activities, and hear ancient words right next to new thoughts and songs? In worship, of course! Worship that is God-centered, holy, relevant, inclusive, and missional speaks to people of all ages, backgrounds, experiences, and generations. Come learn how to look at your worship experience through a cross+generational lens, and brainstorm ways to make it more authentic to who your congregation is, from the oldest member to the youngest.

Deacon Stephanie Luedtke serves in the Greater Milwaukee Synod of the ELCA and is a music teacher in the public-school system.

ELCA Mission Advancement – Resources for you!
Experience some of the many resources available to your congregation from the ELCA churchwide organization – congregational toolkits, educational resources, videos, public relations and media training, use of social media, story ideas, legacy gift planning, investing for mission! And learn how, together, we are active in the world through the ministries that we share – ELCA World Hunger, Fund for Leaders, Global Church Sponsorship, Lutheran Disaster Response, the Campaign for the ELCA and more.

Ms. Christina Jackson-Skelton serves as executive director in the Mission Advancement unit of the ELCA.

Gender-based Violence and Lutheran Theology: Toward Liberation and Reconciliation
Rostered ministers are in a unique position to help people see the connections between faith and what is going on in the world. Examine what gender-based violence is and how it affects everyone, and explore how theology both contributes to gender-based violence and fosters liberation and reconciliation. Gain ways to see, think about, respond to, and prevent gender-based violence locally, nationally, and globally.

Dr. Mary J. Streufert serves as director, justice for women in the Office of the Presiding Bishop.

How did we get here—and what do we do now?
This session will explore three questions: (1) Why are Lutherans most often found in great numbers in some geographical locations in North America but not others? (2) How has this reality affected our witness and mission? And (3) What might we do differently - and what might we keep the same - as we address our mission to the world as Lutheran Christians in the 21st century?

Dr. Susan McArver serves as professor of Church History and Educational Ministry at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C.
How Do We Take a Picture of That? Creative Ways to Use Story in Mission Support
Everyone loves a good story. The holy grail in marketing and advertising is a good story. The Church has a life changing story and every member has a role in that story. In this workshop we will learn how to tap those stories that connect us to our mission and inspire generosity and share them widely through social media and other digital tools.

The Rev. Dr. Sandra Chrostowski serves as director for D.E.M. relationships in the Domestic Mission unit of the ELCA. The Rev. Dr. Joelle Colville-Hanson serves as director for evangelical mission in the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Victoria Flood serves as director for mission support in the Mission Advancement unit of the ELCA.

How to Think About Your Next Call
This workshop is a facilitated discussion considering how you might think about your next call. A synod bishop and a member of the ELCA churchwide staff present ideas about considering short- and long-term approaches to your service as a minister. This is not a session where specific openings will be discussed but a chance to identify important and relevant factors for how you might approach the arc of your career as a minister.

The Rev. Eric Wester serves as the assistant to the presiding bishop for federal chaplaincy ministry in the Office of the Presiding Bishop. The Rev. Richard Graham serves as bishop of the Metropolitan D.C. synod of the ELCA.

Is there a place for us in the church: Exploring the Contemporary World of Young Adults
ELCA Campus Ministry is currently involved in a major research project to better understand the lives and sensibilities of today’s young adults. The research is also attempting to identify the most significant keys to effective ministry among young adults. The purpose of this workshop is to share some of the early findings of this research, and to propose the challenges and opportunities facing the church as it seeks to engage young adults in meaningful and life-changing ways. We hope this time together will strengthen and enhance our ministry among young adults in both campus ministry and congregational settings.

The Rev. Chris Heavner serves as campus pastor for Clemson University in Clemson, S.C.

Singing the Church’s Song in Culture
It is fitting that the Holy Communion section of ELW begins (p. 89) with an image of the Emmaus story: a stranger is welcomed, the word heard, a meal shared, Christ recognized, and we go to tell others. Liturgy is something the church does together and publicly, yet our words about worship often focus on individual tastes, preferences, and labels that advertise rather than invite. This workshop invites participants to think about how all rostered leaders—-not just musicians—-might break open some of the casual labels and language that sometimes obscure our sense of what it means to worship on the way together, both in our local communities and across the wider church.

Mr. Chad Fothergill is a church musician and currently working on a PhD in music in Philadelphia, Pa.

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The Rev. Jeff Thiemann serves as the president of Portico Benefit Services.
Universal Priesthood: The call and purpose of the rostered minister within the ministry of all the baptized

The participants of this workshop will engage in discussion and practical idea-generation to examine and re-vision the role of rostered ministers in light of the changes in the ELCA rosters. What difference does it make to restore the sense of office to describe the work of a rostered minister? How can the language of office recover an understanding of the universal priesthood—all baptized members are called to ministry in and for the world—for the 21st Century?

The Rev. Gordon Straw is an enrolled member of the Brothertown Indian Nation and serves as the program director for lay schools for ministry in the Domestic Mission Unit of the ELCA.