

2019 Biennial Convention Workshop Descriptions (as of 6/15/19)

Keynote - Love, Light, and Salsa: Infusing the flavor of our faith throughout the facets of our lives.

– Reverend Angela Khabeb

We are vibrant, bold, multifaceted women who are called through the baptismal waters to walk in justice and share the grace of God with the world.

The Rev. Angela T. Khabeb serves at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN. She enjoys an active home life with her amazing husband, Benhi, and their three wonderful children, Konami, Khenna, and Khonni.

Churchwide Women of the ELCA Representative

– Barbara Tormondsen

Barbara Tormondsen was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the budget and finance committee. Previously, Barbara served as president and treasurer of the Metropolitan New York Synodical Women's Organization. Barbara is also an active member at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rye Brook, N.Y. She is the treasurer for St. Paul's, serves on the church council, and is president of St. Paul's Women of the ELCA. Barbara graduated from Dartmouth college, Hanover, N.H., in engineering sciences and has her masters of business administration from Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business. Barbara lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with her husband, John. They have two children and one grandchild. Barbara enjoys spending time with family and competitive ballroom dancing.

Simply Yoga for You – Answer Your Call (Workshop at 9 am)

– Sue Levetzow

Yoga can be helpful to everyone no matter their age or ability. Yoga can help you understand better the inner and the outer you. This class will take participants through a gentle flow and add some 'pauses' – giving the participant a peek into a more restorative class, finishing up with a short meditation to leave you refreshed and ready for the rest of the day.

Class participants – no special equipment or clothing are required as this class will use simple movements modified. We will explore the benefits of yoga and utilize standing and chair movements so you can learn easy methods to releasing stress and feeling better. However, feel free to bring your own mat, blanket or beach towel if you want to finish in a supine position instead of chair for the meditation portion.

Sue Levetzow has over 15 years of practical yoga experience and 200HR Certification from YogaFit training program; based on hatha yoga, it blends a fitness format into the traditional movements, allowing for an accessible, user-friendly style for individuals of any fitness level.

Sensing God: Reading Scripture with All Our Senses (Workshop at 10 am & 1 pm)

– Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman

When you pick up the Bible, what do you see? Smell? Touch? Hear? As "Bold Women," we are invited into relationship with the fullness of God that makes demands on all our senses. Using New Testament stories, come and encounter the Living Word through sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

Elisabeth Pynn Himmelman is a final year, distance student at Wartburg Seminary. She is a candidate in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin seeking ordained pastoral ministry and will graduate in May 2020. She and her husband, Jacob, and 7-year old son, Jens, live in Madison where Jacob is an architect and Jens is a budding rollerblader.

Social media and its Role in Human Trafficking (Workshop at 1 pm and 2 pm)

– Dawn Heath

Dawn Heath will discuss the role that social media plays in human trafficking. Learn how our youth are manipulated by predators, discover what signs to look for and what you can do to make a difference. We can start in our own neighborhoods and be part of the ripple effect that reaches beyond our own community. Awareness and education are the best we can do to help law enforcement as they struggle to eradicate human trafficking. If you see something, say something. Call 911. Join us to learn what to look for and how you can make a difference.

Dawn Heath is the Family and Outreach Coordinator for Sugar Creek Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Board Member of Walworth County Anti Human Trafficking Task Force and President and Founder of Join the Movement Events, Inc.

Individual, Church, Planet (Workshop at 1 pm)

– The Reverend Nick Utphall

A discussion and reflection of ways you can be involved in caring for God's creation and helping the life of vulnerable people and creatures in the face of climate change, from simple to revolutionary.

Rev. Nick Utphall serves on our synod's Caring for God's Creation team and is pastor of Advent Lutheran in Madison, a congregation paired with Community of Hope United Church of Christ as the ecumenical partnership Madison Christian Community (MCC). With a purpose of "living faithfully and lovingly with God, neighbor, and creation" the MCC practices a variety of environmental initiatives with solar panels, pantry gardens, prairie restorations, occasional honeybee residents, and more. He is a bike commuter, mediocre birder, inattentive gardener, and simple camper. He keeps track of some of his words at <https://utphall.wordpress.com/> nick@theMCC.net

Let's Talk Privilege (Workshop at 1 pm)

– Donna Peterson

We will aim to illuminate how white people in America, at every economic stratum and in a lot of ways, receive privileged consideration simply because they are white. Come for a safe reflective conversation.

Donna Peterson is past Treasurer of the South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization. She attended racial justice advocacy training, Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality, by the Women of the ELCA.

Involving the Children of Your Life in Your Faith (Workshop at 2 pm)

– Rebecca Roehl

How do you discuss faith with children, teach them to love God, and serve others? In this workshop you will learn how to share your love for Christ with the children who are most important to you. You will be provided with strategies for nurturing the growth of faith in children through practical ideas that can be made a part of your daily/weekly routines, and through at-home projects that will teach children the importance of serving others. There will be time for learning, doing, and sharing in this workshop.

Rebecca Roehl is the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church in Walworth, WI. She works with all ages of children and their families through education programs and activities to help them learn about God and grow in their faith. Rebecca and her husband Chad have four beautiful girls. Their family loves to go camping and on road trips. While at home, they love to read, play with legos, do art projects, and eat pizza.

Small Town and Rural Ministry - Faith, Relationships and Service (Workshop at 2 pm)

– Reverend Dick Inglett

Seventy to eighty percent of congregations in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin are in rural or small-town settings. We will look at the current state of the church in our rural areas and the need for rural and small-town churches to be vibrant places that nurture the faith and build relationships to do the church's mission of service. One of the outcomes of this workshop is that you will learn about strategies and possibly your role in supporting the mission and ministry in Christ's rural and small-town churches.

Rev. Dick Inglett is pastor of Sugar Creek Church in Elkhorn and leader of the Synod's Team on Rural and Small Town Ministry.

Discovery Doctrine and Other Issues in Indian Country (Workshop at 2 pm)

– Rebecca Weise

In 2016 the ELCA passed a resolution explicitly and clearly repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery. The doctrine, originating as far back as the mid-13th century, has been used to rationalize the taking of indigenous lands and subjugation of "heathen" Indians. Learn a little more about the doctrine and other issues including efforts to force assimilation of native children, Native Nations in the State of Wisconsin, and more.

Rebecca Weise is an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation, a retired attorney, and a member of Advent Lutheran Church, Madison, WI.