



ENVISIONING OUR
SYNOD PATH -
WALKING AND
WORKING TOGETHER

2024 SYNOD EDUCATIONAL GATHERINGS

Workshops

Understanding and Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery

Sarah Augustine, cofounder of the Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery, has traveled the world and worked across denominational lines to repudiate and dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. This Doctrine is based on the Latin phrase *terra nullius*, meaning empty land. It is a theological and legal doctrine, dating from the 15th century, that gave land title to Christian European states that assumed sovereignty over "discovered lands". The Doctrine undergirds the deep structure of colonization that continues to oppress Indigenous Peoples and dispossesses them of their land today. Sarah, a Pueblo (Tewa) descendent, lives on the Yakama Reservation with her husband and son and has written the book, *The Land is not Empty: Following Jesus in Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery*.

Schedule:
April 27 – First, Poulsbo

Transforming Conflict: How to Listen and Communicate

Through the practice of **respectful curiosity**, conflict can be transformed into a process that builds trust and better relationships within a community. This workshop will look at the basic ingredients for transforming conflict.

Facilitator: Bishop Rick Jaech, Southwestern Washington Synod

Schedule:
April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood
April 27 – First, Poulsbo
May 4 – Zion, Camas

Conversations in Black and White

Come and hear a conversation between a white person and a black person over "I don't see color", "I'm not a racist", "What do you mean that white people are privileged?", along with other questions and concerns.

Schedule:
April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood
April 27 – First, Poulsbo
May 4 – Zion, Camas

Living Stones - We're Still Alive!!!

Pastor Eric Utto-Galarneau, Interim Pastor of Living Stones Prison Ministry will give you current updates on the health and status of Living Stones and provide ways and opportunities for support. We will also be speaking about how we can be advocates for criminal justice and how you might start a prison ministry of your own.

Schedule:

April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

May 4 – Zion, Camas

Young Adults Community

Join a conversation about how the Young Adults Community team at the churchwide office frames their ministry, programming, and goals. Learn about how the team approaches engaging young adults and values we uplift.

Facilitator: Deacon Andrew Larsen

Schedule:

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

So We and Our Children May Live

Sarah Augustine, cofounder of the Dismantling of the Doctrine of Discovery, recently released a second book, with co-author Sheri Hostetler, titled *So We & Our Children May Live: Following Jesus in Confronting the Climate Crisis*. In the second session of the day Sarah will address the issue of ecological injustice. She will focus on Christianity's passivity and inability to come to grips with the connection of colonization, economic growth, and economic degradation. She will discuss what she and co-author Sheri Hostetler, relate through some powerful story-telling in the book, and call on the Church to draw on the reservoir of its own rich traditions to respond to the needs of environmental justice around the globe.

Schedule:

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

Companioning the Bereaved: An Introduction to Grief Care

Throughout our lives, we will all experience grief at the death of a loved one. However, we live in a grief avoidance culture. Often, when someone close to us experiences grief, we do not know what to say or what to do. We easily fall into platitudes, which can cause more harm than help, or we avoid the person hurting because we want to help yet do not know how. With our lives rooted in death and new life, the church, the body of Christ, is a natural place to discuss grief and loss. As Christ meets us in our sorrows, we are also called to companion the bereaved. Join Pastor Keith Marshall as we explore how you and your congregation can embody Christ and accompany others in their grief.

Schedule:

April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

May 4 – Zion, Camas

Shalom Project/St. Mark's & Peace

St. Mark's and Peace Tacoma have partnered on a solar project and tree planting in downtown Tacoma. Listen to them as they speak about their Shalom Project (a partnership between the two churches) and Greening the Congregation initiatives that include sustainability practices and the installation of solar panels.

Schedule:

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

ELCA Youth Gathering - Getting the Most Out of the Gathering

Do you have kids from your congregation going to the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering this summer? If so, awesome! If not, that's alright too! Either way, it's essential that your entire church pays attention to the goings-on of The Gathering. This is the ELCA's biggest get-together, where the courageous faith leaders of the past, present, and future come together to lift up the next generation! Big ideas will be discussed. Bold new visions for the church will be cast. And the youth in the church will be empowered and unleashed with the message that God has created them to be brave, free, authentic, disruptive disciples of Christ!

But it's important that congregations be ready to receive the witness of The Gathering. If you have youth going to the Gathering, you will want to be ready to uplift their energy. And if you don't, then the collective energy of the Gathering can help you revitalize your congregation. So during this session, Pastor Bergen Eickhoff, the Gathering Coordinator for the Southwest Washington Synod, will show you how your congregation can get the most out of the Gathering! Come with curiosity, and expect to go out with resources and plan for the coming months!

Facilitator: Rev. Bergen Eickhoff

Schedule:

April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood

April 27 – First, Poulsbo

May 4 – Zion, Camas

Let's Party Like it's 1974: 50 years of ELCA World Hunger

In 1974, the #1 Song was Barbara Streisand's "The Way We Were". The top news story was the resignation of President Richard Nixon. It was the year of the "Rumble in the Jungle" a boxing match between Muhammad Ali and George Forman in Zaire. Stephen King's first novel, "Carrie" was published.

And it was the year a group of passionate Lutherans came together to tackle hunger issues across the globe. What they started then, we continue today, as the ELCA World Hunger Program. 2024 is the start of a 3 year celebration of ELCA World Hunger. Join us to explore the work of ELCA World Hunger, and find out how you can help create a world where ALL are fed. We will share resources, ideas, and have a little fun along the way.

Schedule:

April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood

MMIW/P

What if your sister, mother, auntie, brother, uncle suddenly went missing and no one heard about it? Here in our state 90+ Native people are missing each and every day. Some for days, some for years. How many are missing from a community near you? Come and learn more.

Rev Linda Smith, (retired)

Schedule:

May 4 – Zion, Camas

The Works of Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is a ministry of the ELCA. In the past several years the mission of LDR has pivoted to include mitigation of climate change and how disasters have increased in intensity and frequency. Stories will be shared about LDR's actions in Washington State, around the country and world. Our church is alive and is loving and serving our neighbor.

Schedule:

April 20 – Mountain View, Edgewood

Ray Shjerven