



Tuesday Workshop Summaries

Afternoon

It's a Simple IDEA: Invite, Discern, Excite & Act – Jon Fredricks, Jason Gerdes, Bishop Scott Johnson

Workshop Description: What if IDEA became the mantra for every congregation and ministry site in the Nebraska Synod? What if we all used IDEA as a guide when planning worship, learning opportunities and programs? Could we change the leadership picture in our churches? The IDEA Leadership Team believes the answer is YES! You are INVITED to join the conversation as we honestly identify the leadership challenges, learn a bit of IDEA history, share IDEA impacts stories, and explore opportunities for you to take IDEA to your congregation. It's a simple IDEA and it works!

Presenters Bios:

The Rev. Scott Alan Johnson was born and raised on a family farm near Wakefield, NE. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Classics from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary. Prior to being elected bishop of the Nebraska Synod in 2022, he served as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Barrett, MN, as campus pastor of the University Lutheran Center at Iowa State University in Ames, IA, as pastor of St. Petri Lutheran Church in Story City, IA, and as Director of Campus Ministries at Midland University in Fremont, NE. Scott and his wife Kristin are the proud parents of two daughters, and they live in Fremont, NE.

Jon Fredericks serves as the Executive Director for Nebraska Lutheran Campus Ministry (NeLCM). Now in his 10th year serving NeLCM, Jon enjoys sharing a message of authentic invitation on behalf of all we serve together to support, participate, and serve our campus ministry sites. Families, friends and alumni from congregations and communities across the Nebraska Synod all join together to help make this invitation possible. Finding ways to equip and excite others about our common invitation to the love of Jesus for us all is why he was eager to be involved in IDEA. Jon is a life-long Nebraska Lutheran, originally from Glenvil. He and his family live in Omaha and are members at St. Michael Lutheran Church.

Jason Gerdes serves as Executive Director for Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NLOM). Prior to his current role, he served as Director of Development and has been in fund-raising for more than 20 years. He has been accredited as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) since 2005. Being a former camper and a counselor of NLOM, helps him share the impact that outdoor ministry has on young people. Jason met his wife, Leslie, while they served at Carol Joy Holling Camp and they now live in Ashland with their three children. Jason and his family are members at American Lutheran Church in Ashland.



Open Space for Creative Endeavors – Self-directed

Workshop Description: Are you longing for some time to sit and be creative? Perhaps you have an unfinished scarf, long to dabble in poetry, would delight in squishing some Playdough, want to organize some photos or dive into that recommended book. Bring your "project" and enjoy an hour with other creators. Feel free to bring supplies to share with others. Good music and some creative tools provided. The space will be available 11:00 – 2:30 for your self-directed creative time.





Lutheran Identity in Changing Times – Rev. Dr. H Ashley Hall

Workshop Description: Both workshops with Rev. Dr. H. Ashley Hall will allow participants to discuss and wrestle with the enduring struggle of faithful ministry: how shall we proclaim the enduring good news of Jesus Christ in an ever-changing world? We will acknowledge the essential character of Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions as normative guides for our theological perspective while also noting that, at times, the best way to be faithful to both Scripture and the Confessions may lead to "breaking" with a prior tradition of interpretation. We will sit with and discuss how the options to "keep the tradition/traditional interpretations of Scripture" and "change in the name of faithfulness" are not always so clear (at least, not always in the moment). To inform the kind of questions the Church wrestles with today, we'll use a document from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) that suggests key components of "Lutheran Identity." The morning section will focus on "Lutheran identity" in light of how the first generations of Lutheran theologians and pastors thought about Scripture and Tradition; the afternoon section will focus on "Lutheran identity" in light of the fairly modern idea that doctrines "develop" over time. Our hope is that participants come away with both the assurance that they're not the first to wrestle with these questions and be equipped with some theological and historical perspectives to better engage with the world today.

Advanced Preparation: Please read the attached document prior to the workshop. Participants may find it helpful to skim through a set of theses on "Lutheran Identity" written by Theo Dieter and the staff of the LWF's ecumenical research center in Strasbourg. The English version starts on p. 77. https://ecumenical-institute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/06219_Dieter_Lutheran_Identity_druck.pdf

[Download Article: "The Shaping of Tradition: Context and Normativity"](#)

[Download Article: "The Development of Doctrine: A Lutheran Examination"](#)

Presenter Bio: H. Ashley Hall is Associate Professor of Theology and Department Chair at Creighton University. His area of teaching and research is historical theology, particularly how doctrines develop over time and in a particular context. His published works focus on Philip Melancthon, early Christianity, and ecumenism. Pastor Hall serves part-time as an Associate Pastor at Kountze Memorial (Omaha).



What's Happening in the World of Seminary Education - Rev Stacey Nalean-Carlson

Workshop Description: When she arrived back at Wartburg Theological Seminary in 2021, Pastor Nalean- Carlson shares she was taken aback both by how much was the same from her seminary days (1999-2003) and by how much had changed. Come learn about Wartburg's Collaborative Learning program, their commitment to advocating for candidates for Word & Service ministry, the competency-based TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) program, and the joys and challenges of contextual education in 2023. You'll be invited to ask questions and to share from your own experience as together you explore the changing landscape of theological education.

Present Bio: Pastor Nalean-Carlson has served as the Director of Contextual Education at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa since October 2021. A 2003 graduate of Wartburg, she has eighteen years of experience as a parish pastor in small town and rural settings in North Dakota and Iowa. Pastor Nalean-Carlson serves on the leadership team of Grace Institute for Spiritual Formation and is a writer for 1517 Media. Decorah, Iowa with three teenage sons and her husband is home. She is passionate about sharing ordinary graces so that all people might experience the abiding love of God.



Just What IS Spiritual Direction?! – David Pinkston with Other Spiritual Directors

Workshop Description: "Local, sustainable" is a phrase often heard in various 'organic' marketplaces. One may interpret this to mean that long-term care has gone into the product being offered. It can also symbolize (say, in an agrarian sense) an alternate form of provision and care for the earth as the earth provides and cares for us. Spiritual direction is one of the few mediums by which we receive undivided attention with spiritual and emotional care. In ministry work, our eyes are intently focused outward, finding ways to care for others. This is important! So, spiritual direction, in this sense, is a local and sustainable way of tending to and caring for leadership in the church as they tend to and care for others! Spiritual direction is also an art-form that is misunderstood and underutilized for those in ministry. This workshop will clarify and demystify what spiritual direction is and what it is not. Join us as spiritual directors from Seeking the Spirit Within offer their experience of giving and receiving spiritual direction, and how it has impacted the sustainability of their call.

Presenter Bio: David Pinkston pastored a church in Pasadena, CA for nearly 30 years. He and his wife were missionally engaged in various social justice movements throughout the LA area. He has been practicing contemplative in the Jesus Path for 20 years. He graduated from Portland Seminary at George Fox University (MASF). In 2015, he received training as a spiritual director through the School of Sustainable Faith and focuses his spiritual direction practice on clergy care. He currently serves as program director of Seeking the Spirit Within.

Faith Formation in a Disengaged and Disconnected World – Ian Hartfield, Drew Jagadich, Amy Woods

Workshop Description: This workshop is for all those serving in ministry with children, youth, and families and will provide an opportunity to connect with other leaders, equip you to create life-giving relationships and ministries while adapting to the diverse needs of youth and families, and help you feel supported. Several resources will be provided as a part of this workshop.

Presenter Bios:

Ian Hartfield serves as the Youth Ministry Coordinator at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln, NE and has over 17 years of experience leading dynamic children, youth, and family ministries in a variety of settings. He is most passionate about youth mission trips and connecting with and supporting other CYF leaders. Ian has served in several leadership positions with local and national synodical and churchwide organizations. He holds a B.A. in History from Nebraska Wesleyan University and also serves as the archivist for the Nebraska Synod. Ian and his wife, Meeghan have two daughters, Alexa and Ella and two dogs, Luke and Leia.

Drew Jagadich serves as Co-Director of Youth and Young Adults at Southwood Lutheran, Lincoln. Drew was born and raised at Southwood. Starting in 2012 he joined the staff to help create meaningful experiences for youth and young adults around faith formation, service, leadership development and fun. In his spare time, he is often off on adventures with his wife, Beth, son, Theo, and dog Kinley! He loves time outdoors, organizing his garage, spending time with people and long walks on the beach.

Amy Woods has served as Director of Faith Formation at Immanuel Lutheran Church for 14 years. Her ministry includes birth through adults, cross generational learning is an important focus of her ministry. Which includes a youth led service on Wednesday evenings. She has served on leadership roles within the Nebraska Synod including LYON, MSG and the Journey.

