

TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

11:00 – Noon

1. Team Building Without a Ropes course: how to bring your council, staff or leadership team together at home – Gretchen Ahrens: **Room B**
2. Workshop with Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen: **Room C**
3. Seven Reasons to Incorporate Legacy Giving in Your Congregation – Sarah Callahan: **Room D**
4. Trying Things for a Season – Rev. Heidi Wallace: **Room E**
5. Open Space-Bring your projects & use this time to get caught up: **Room F**

1:30-2:30 – Pick up a snack as you come back to the Plenary Room for time with Bishop Scott A Johnson

1. Bringing the Youth Gathering Back Home: Now what? – Gretchen Ahrens: **Room B**
2. Workshop with Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen: **Room C**
3. Workshop with Rev. Dr. Craig Nessean: **Ballroom**
4. Seven Reasons to Incorporate Legacy Giving in Your Congregation – Sarah Callahan: **Room D**
5. Self-differentiation and Resiliency: Rewriting the Script – Rev. Heidi Wallace: **Room E**

Team Building Without a Ropes course: how to Bring Your Council, Staff or Leadership Team Together at Home – Gretchen Ahrens

This workshop will provide you with activities you can do to get your team talking, processing, and learning together while having fun. You'll only need the resources you have lying around the church. We will do the activities together and take some time to discuss debriefing and processing strategies and group management techniques to help ensure all voices in the room are heard. You will learn easy 15-minute activities for the beginning of a meeting or to help address a situation and a series of activities you can put together as a retreat.

Gretchen Ahrens is the Director of Youth and Justice Ministries. As a summer camp program director for over fifteen years, she has led groups of all shapes and sizes in team building at churches, camps, schools, conferences, and even barns. She particularly enjoys working with adult groups such as Chambers of Commerce and staff teams to help them learn to work together most efficiently and effectively. She has participated in training with Dr. Jim Cain (Teamwork and Teamplay), Challenge Options Inc., and Signature Research, and she employs her ELCA coach's training skills in team building.

Seven Reasons to Incorporate Legacy Giving in Your Congregation – Sarah Callahan

Legacy giving addresses a part of the future most don't want to think about—our own mortality. However, we know that eventually, our time here on earth will end, and the assets with which God has entrusted us will remain. Learn why focusing on legacy gifts will support your congregation's stewardship program and ways to leverage free resources available through Lutheran Giving.

Sarah Callahan is the Executive Director of Lutheran Giving in Omaha, NE. In this role, Sarah provides complimentary charitable gift planning to individuals and families who are interested in supporting and impacting ELCA institutions, agencies and congregations. Sarah gives charitable gift planning presentations to Nebraska Synod congregations and consultation services for those wishing to form or build their endowment funds. Sarah received her BA and MBA from Valparaiso University and has earned the Accredited Estate Planner® and Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) professional designations.

Bringing the Youth Gathering Back Home: Now what? – Gretchen Ahrens

The Gathering challenged youth (and adults) to think outside of the box and see the world in new and different ways. What does that mean now? How do we help youth to live out what they learned in their daily lives at school and in their congregations. How do we continue to talk about and process what was presented and keep the momentum alive?

Join with others who were youth leaders and pastors to share ideas and talk about challenges. This will be a group discussion and collaborative brainstorming session. Gretchen will facilitate it, but it is a time of conversation, rather than a formal presentation.

Gretchen Ahrens is the director for youth and justice ministries. Although this year was her first time attending the Youth Gathering, she has been a part of many conferences and events and has helped youth and adults process how to bring them back home. As the Lutheranch camp program director and a member in the Atlanta Lutheran Youth Worker Network, she helped youth workers learn to carry on the conversations that happened at camp and retreats.

Trying Things for a Season – Rev. Heidi Wallace

“For everything there is a season . . .” Nice words from Ecclesiastes, but what do they mean for the church in 2024? In the course of this workshop, we’ll take a look at determining a season, coming up with ideas, communicating changes, and assessing successes and failures. You will come away with the piece to help you confidently experiment within your congregation.

Pastor Heidi Wallace is originally from Minnesota, attended Winona State University where she double majored in Elementary Education and Special Education with a minor in Language Arts.

After teaching reading, coaching speech, and directing theatre for several years, she answered the call to ordained ministry. She graduated from Luther Seminary and was ordained in 2009. Most recently, she served as Pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran and First Presbyterian Churches in Lyons, Nebraska. Pastor Heidi currently serves as Assistant to the Bishop working with mobility, the call process, congregational care, First Call, Family Systems and Cluster Deans. She loves her nephews and godchildren, puzzles, documentaries, decluttering, and preaching.

Self-differentiation and Resiliency: Rewriting the Script – Rev Heidi Wallace

Self-differentiation is one of the concepts of Bowen Family Systems Theory. Through it, we come to understand who we are, separate from others. But what happens when our understanding of ourselves has to shift; has to be rewritten? In this workshop, we will discover more about what self-differentiation is, how self-differentiation can lessen anxiety, how changes in self-differentiation must and can happen, and how doing that reflects and affects resiliency. Especially as we explore flipping the script within congregations, how do we go about rewriting our own scripts in a healthy way?

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Open Space

Bring your unfinished projects and extra supplies to share or just come and engage with others in the space set aside for create and talk time. And there is no pressure to finish a project.

Hit the Pause Button

Some of us need to be given permission to pause. Use the hour workshop time to fill your bucket with a walk, journaling, taking a nap, reading, engaging in conversation or whatever. See you back for the next time slot on the schedule. Shalom to you in your pausing.