

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICE@TRINITYCHURCHVIRGINIA.ORG
AUGUST 25, 2024 PENTECOST 14

[540] 869-4019
9:30AM

810 FAIRFAX STREET
STEPHENS CITY, VA

PRESERVICE SINGING ELW 733, 638

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider, help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. **Amen.**

Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God: Gloria a Dios

Glo - ria_a to Dios, glo - ria_a to Dios,
Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God,

glo - ria_a to Dios en los cie - los.
glo - ry to God in the high - est.

Paz pa - ra ti, paz pa - ra mí,
Peace be to you, peace be to me,

paz pa - ra to - da la tie - rra.
peace be to all, peace to all the earth.

Text: Marcus Veenstra; tr. composite
Music: GLORIA A DIOS, Marcus Veenstra; arr. Greg Scheer, b. 1966
Text and music © Marcus Veenstra, admin. Augsburg Fortress

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

Marcie Stern

A reading from Joshua.

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ^{2a}And Joshua said to all the people, ¹⁴“Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

¹⁶Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God.”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 34:15-22 *read responsively*

¹⁵The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous,
and God’s ears are open to their cry.

¹⁶**The face of the LORD is against those who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them from the earth.**

¹⁷The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them
and delivers them from all their troubles.

¹⁸**The LORD is near to the brokenhearted
and saves those whose spirits are crushed.**

¹⁹Many are the troubles of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers them from every one.

²⁰**God will keep safe all their bones;
not one of them shall be broken.**

²¹Evil will bring death to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous will be punished.

²²**O LORD, you redeem the life of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will not be punished.**

PSALM RESPONSE

Unison
♩ = 78-100

Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to the Son, glo-ry
be to the Ho-ly Ghost, Three in One; as it was in the be -
gin-ning, is now, and shall be, world with-out end. A - men.

WORDS: Lesser Doxology (Gloria Patri) c. 4th cent.
MUSIC: John Erickson, 1969
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ERICKSON

SECOND READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

A reading from Ephesians.

¹⁰Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. ¹⁴Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. ¹⁵As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. ¹⁶With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. ¹⁹Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: John 15:1-9

The holy gospel according to John.

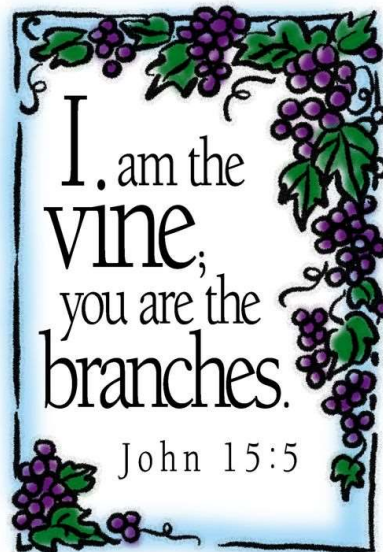
Glory to you, O Lord.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. ² He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³ You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷ If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ⁹ As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor JMe Lowden





1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, as to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of



flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the pow'r to love and wit - ness, with the



new flame's ea - ger might: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 midst as gift and sign: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare: come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944
 Music: BRIDEGROOM, Peter Cutts, b. 1937
 Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company.
 Music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Calling on the spirit of Wisdom to guide our hearts and our minds, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Lead the church to put its trust in Jesus, the living Word. Direct preachers, teachers, writers, and all the baptized in faithful speech and bold witness. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for all who remind us of our interconnectedness with all living things. Prosper the work of conservation organizations, ELCA advocacy, and local climate justice advocates. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

As our nation navigates another election cycle, guide our leaders to act justly for the sake of the world. Bring about fruitful conversation among your people and bring about change where you see fit. Sustain all who serve on juries in their deliberations. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Bring healing and wholeness to all who cry to you. Where pain is sharp, bring a sense of comfort and relief. Where grief runs deep, bring your tender mercy. Care for those on our hearts especially Shirley, Charlotte, Louise, Stephen, Barb, Hadley, Juanita, Nikki, Dan and

those we name now (*worshippers may add names silently or aloud*). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Other prayers may be offered now.

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**



OFFERING *Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness* Vajda, Hillert Trinity Choir

Offering is an act of worship that shows our gratitude to God for all that we are and have in our lives. The offering today will provide support for the ministries of Trinity both locally and in the world around us. You may provide your offering in person, scan the QR code adjacent or send it by mail. We thank you for sharing not only your monetary gifts but also your gifts of time and talent to further our mission to share Jesus' love in worship, fellowship, hospitality, and community, doing God's work with our hands.

OFFERTORY PRESENTATION *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* ELW 884

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

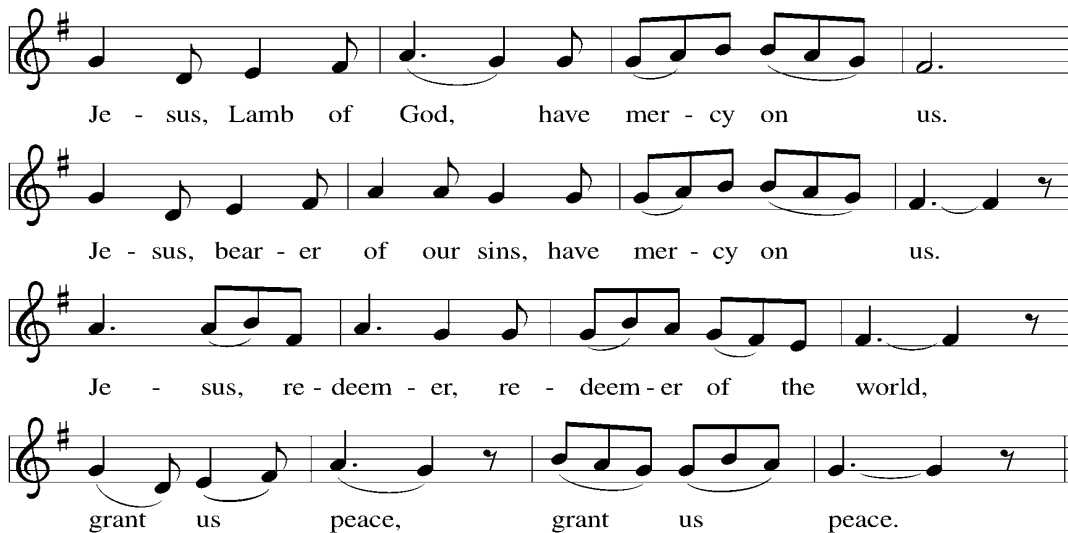
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Those communing from home, have your package ready to open, but do not consume the elements until the pastor acknowledges those at home and says: "Take and eat. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is given and shed for you." Then you may partake.

COMMUNION SONGS

ELW 199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.


Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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SONGS DURING COMMUNION *You Satisfy the Hungry Heart: Gift of Finest Wheat*

ELW 484

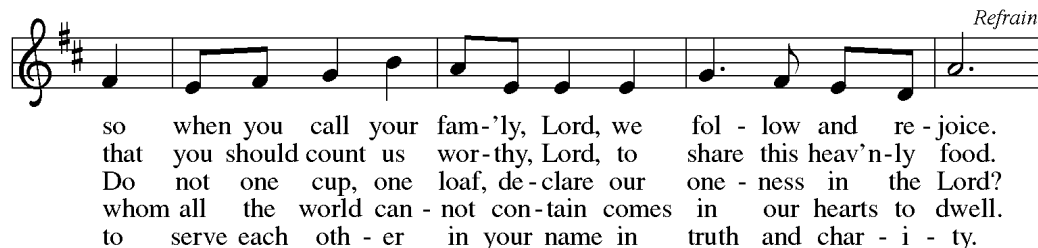


Refrain

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.

Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres-ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



Refrain

so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joi - ce.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997
Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996
Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Refrain

One bread, one bod-y, one Lord of all; one cup of

bles-sing which we bless, and we, though man-y

through-out the earth, we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

1 Gen - tile or Jew, ser - vant or free,
 2 Man - y the gifts, man - y the works,
 3 Grain for the fields, scat - tered and grown,

Refrain

wom - an or man, no more.
 one in the Lord of all.
 gath - ered to one for all.

Text: John Foley, SJ, b. 1939
 Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, SJ
 Text and music © 1978 John B. Foley, SJ and OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.
 We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother’s tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

O Blessed Spring

ELW 447



1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for



in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -



be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

With Faith Renewed

Ryan Thomas

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This week: Greeter: Marianne Watson, Reader: Marcie Stern: Comm. Asst.: David Reichert

Next week: Greeters: Pam & David Reichert; Reader: Anderson
Comm. Asst.: Mary

Zoom to Worship, 9:30AM Meeting ID: 898 8887 8840 Passcode: 458736 Dial 1-301-715-8592 US

Facebook Live: you must have internet, but you do not need to have a Facebook account

<https://www.facebook.com/trinitylutheranchurchstephenscityva/live/>

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Pat Godding.

TRENDING @ TRINITY

Pastor JMe will be offering a training session on Sat, Aug. 31 at 10AM for anyone interested in being a Eucharistic Minister. Eucharistic Ministers take communion to those who are homebound. If you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please speak to Pastor by August 28.

Trinity's Friendship and Prayer Team would like everyone to know that we are lifting up Trinity and those on the prayer list. We encourage you to submit your prayer requests using Trinity's prayer box located for your convenience to the right of the entrance to the sanctuary. Trinity's Prayer Team is respectful of everyone's privacy and seeks to uplift all needs to God, so please feel free to be as specific or as general as you like.

The Men's group will leave following coffee time this morning to go to Italian Touch for lunch.

Community Meal is August 28th at 5:30PM menu: subs & fixings, cold salads, dessert. Keep an eye on the bulletin board in the parish hall for the sign-up list if you wish to provide a portion of the meal or lend your hands to help. Financial contributions are always welcome as well.

September 8 is God's Work Our Hands Sunday in which the entire ELCA commits to doing community service projects. In preparation for it this year we are starting to collect the following items: combs, soap, shampoo, body wash (hotel sizes and full sizes). These will be donated to Mt. Carmel Baptist Winchester, which, every Wednesday feeds the homeless, and allows them to shower.

Food pantry donation request for August is canned fruit; for September, peanutbutter. The black bin for donations is in the Narthex. Please remember to check expiration dates to be certain they are at least a year away.

Calendar

Community Music School, room 203 every Sat. 10-11AM
Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 5:30PM

2-Office closed in observance of Labor Day

3-6:30PM Congregation Council

8- God's Work Our Hands Sunday

10- 9:30AM Sewing for the Savior, room 204

11:30AM Lutheran Church Women

14-8AM – **Yard Sale**

15-Noisy Offering benefits Godfrey Miller Center

24-9:30AM, Sewing for the Savior, room 204

25-5:30PM Community Meal (Manwich™, applesauce, coleslaw, corn, dessert)

30-Oct. 5 – Office closed, Pastor and Brenda at Virginia Synod Ministerium



September Birthdays

6- Susan Deaver

7-Phyllis Wilson

10-Linda Rudy

13-Chuck Stern

16-Holly Landes

22-Chris Landes

24-David Reichert

30-Kathy Carroll, Jeff Shifflett, Will Wolf



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE LUTHERAN IN A CRUCIAL ELECTION YEAR?

As our faith informs our day-to-day lives, Lutherans recognize that “faith is active in love [and] love calls for justice in relationships and structures of society” (ELCA, Social Statement on Church in Society, 1991). We also know the church is called to be a community that prays, deliberates, and acts together when it comes to complex social issues. In this election year, how might our Lutheran faith shape our thinking, acting, and voting on major issues? Join us to learn and ponder some timely social teachings of the ELCA.

The following sessions will be recorded presentations by the Kindling Faith program of United Lutheran Seminary from June 25 until October 22. Together, we will view and discuss them during a six-week adult study beginning September 15.

Session 1: Introduction to Social Teachings Dr. Roger Willer, Director of Theological Ethics for the ELCA

Session 2: Corporate Social Responsibility Rev. Kaari Reiersen, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility for the ELCA

Session 3: Abortion Dr. Caryn Riswold, Professor of Religion/McCoy Family Distinguished Chair in Lutheran Heritage and Mission at Wartburg College

Session 4: Faith, Sexism and Justice Dr. Mary Streufert, Director, Gender Justice and Women's Empowerment, and Heather Dean, Program Coordinator, Theological Discernment, ELCA

Session 5: Earth's Climate Crisis Study Guide Dr. Ryan Cumming, Program Director, Theological Ethics, Education, and Community Engagement

Session 6: Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture Dr. Richard Perry, emeritus faculty, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago