

WORKSHOP SESSIONS A

A-1 Faithfulness and AI: Building a Relational and Redemptive AI Policy

Room: Salon 1

Dr. Eugene Kim (Chair of Organizational Change & Professor of Leadership, Concordia University – Irvine, CA)

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how we live, learn, and lead. This session helps participants think theologically and practically about AI's role in ministry and education. Explore how to evaluate tools through a Lutheran lens, establish healthy guardrails, and leverage technology in ways that strengthen—not replace—relationships. You'll leave with a clearer framework for leading confidently in a tech-shaped world.

A-2 Faithful Innovation in a Changing World

Room: Salon 16

Eun Chu Kim (Education Executive, Christ Lutheran - Costa Mesa, CA)

Innovation doesn't have to compete with faithfulness. This session highlights how Lutheran schools can thoughtfully adopt new tools and practices while remaining anchored in Christ-centered mission. Participants will explore real examples of innovation that increase teacher capacity, improve student outcomes, and create space for deeper relationships.

A-3 Shaping Organizational Culture

Room: Salon 2

Scott Gress (President, Lutheran Coaching Network – Boynton Beach, FL) "We've always done it that way" is a reliable default mentality. Yet this and similar approaches can be the gravitational pull that gets us stuck in ministry. These often include assumptions and behaviors that hold us back and may even lead to decline. Join us in this breakout to grow in awareness of where we may be stuck and gain clarity for Biblical alternatives that by God's grace we may flourish.

A-4 You Carry a Movement Within You

Room: Salon 12

Peter Meier (Retired Mission Executive, Hope Lutheran – Orlando, FL)

God has already placed influence in your daily life. This session invites participants to recognize their role in His mission—not just in formal leadership, but in everyday relationships. Discover how simple, intentional actions can spark meaningful impact and how to lead others naturally toward Christ in your current context.

A-5 Rooted Together: Navigating Church Partnerships

Room: Salon 23

Eric Sahlberg, Executive Director Missions and Outreach

Join this interactive workshop to explore how churches can flourish through interdependent partnerships. Using the "mighty redwood forest" model, participants will reflect on Biblical foundations, discover practice tools for shared ministry, and consider how collaboration can strengthen resilient local mission. Leave with a 60 day plan for the next steps.

A-6 Lutheran Perspective on Well-Being

Room: Salon 14

Tiffany Manor (Managing Director of Wellness, LCMS – St. Louis, MO)

What does it mean to flourish as a church worker? This session explores whole-person wellness—physical, emotional, and spiritual—grounded in baptismal identity. Participants will reflect on sustainable rhythms, boundaries, and practices that support long-term health in ministry.

A-7 Lessons from a Griever

Room: Salon 20

Heidi Wuggazer (DCE, Residential Coach at Her Song Ministry – Jacksonville, FL)

Tools for You (or Your Neighbor's) Changed world. Grief touches every ministry context. This session offers both personal insight and practical tools for walking through loss and supporting others. Participants will explore the role of lament, understand realistic expectations, and gain strategies for responding with compassion and care.

A-8 How NOT to Let Issues Prevent Relationships

Room: Salon 18

Chad Lakies (Vice President & Ministry Engagement, Lutheran Hour Ministries)

Disagreements are inevitable—but broken relationships don't have to be. This session focuses on navigating conflict with clarity and grace. Learn how to communicate effectively, preserve trust, and maintain Christ-centered relationships even in challenging situations.

A-9 Don't Be Your Authentic Self - Be Your Best Self

Room: Salon 11

Jim Pingel (Dean - School of Education – Concordia University - Mequon, WI)

Growth requires intentionality. This session challenges participants to move beyond "being authentic" toward becoming their best, most effective selves. Through practical insight and reflection, you'll identify habits and mindsets that support leadership and influence.

A-10 My Life Through Johari's Window

Room: Salon 21

Kylee French (DCE - Faith Lutheran - Merritt Island, FL)

Self-awareness is key to effective leadership. Using the Johari Window framework, this session helps participants better understand how they see themselves and how others experience them. Gain tools to strengthen communication, trust, and personal growth.



A-11 **Making Bible the Best Part of Their Day**

Room: Salon 7 & 8

Becky Aviles (Teacher, Holy Cross Lutheran Academy – Sanford, FL)

Bible time should be the highlight of the day. This session offers practical strategies to make Scripture engaging, memorable, and meaningful for students. Walk away with ideas you can use immediately.

A-12 **Passport Adventures- Inspiring Young Minds to Discover the World**

Room: Salon 19

Trisha DePasquale (Teacher, Our Savior Lutheran School – Plantation, FL)

Help students explore the world through engaging, hands-on learning. This session provides creative strategies to build curiosity, cultural awareness, and connection.

A-13 **Shining in the Classroom: Fostering Engagement Through Faith and Positivity**

Room: Salon 3

Katey Battreal and Allison Kindred (Teachers, St. Luke's - Oviedo, FL)

Explore how to create a vibrant classroom culture rooted in faith, connection, and active engagement. In this session, participants will learn how whole brain teaching methods, meaningful visual supports for faith-based learning, and collaborative classroom structures can deepen student understanding while fostering trust and encouragement. Walk away with strategies to help students actively participate, strengthen relationships, and shine God's light through learning and collaboration.

A-14 **More Than A Checklist**

Room: Salon 4

Cheryl Haun (Adjunct Professor, Concordia University Nebraska – Seward, NE)

Assessment in early childhood is more than checklists. Learn how to observe, document, and respond to student learning in authentic ways.

A-15 **Your Church's Digital Front Door- Helping Visitors Find You Online**

Room: Salon 17

Chris Kollmann (Pastor, First Lutheran Church – Gainesville, FL); Tais Brekke (Communications Specialist, FLGA District)

Your website is often your first impression. Learn simple ways to improve clarity, accessibility, and engagement so visitors can easily connect with your ministry.

A-16 **Flourishing on the Vertical Screen - Video-based Social Media Discipleship**

Room: Salon 22

Jay Winters (Pastor, University Lutheran Church – Tallahassee, FL)

Meet people where they are—online. Learn how to use social media platforms for meaningful Gospel engagement.

A-17 **Visual Faith® Practices in the Era of Distraction** **Workshop Cancelled**

Constance Denninger (Co-Founder, Visual Faith® Ministry)

Experience hands-on ways to engage Scripture through creative expression, helping deepen focus, reflection, and spiritual growth. Since we live with devices nearby, how can we help build a toolbox of resources that lead to creative prayer and time in God's Word to counteract the call of the "tool in our hands"? Understanding the "why and how" of the practices helps implementation for young students to adults, as well as individual and group settings. This session will be focused on prayer applications.

A-18 **The Revelation of Jesus**

Room: Salon 13

Jeff Niederstadt (Pastor, Son Life Lutheran Church – Boynton Beach, FL)

Understanding the book of Revelation in today's world is important for our church workers as they engage with culture in the end times. In this workshop you will be provided with a basic overview of major themes in the book of Revelation and have the opportunity to ask pertinent questions as well. Resources for engaging with the book of Revelation will be provided.

A-19 **An Excellent Task - The Pastoral Ministry according to the Pastoral Letters**

Room: Salon 15

Paul Deterding (Retired Pastor/Faculty Member/Adjunct Professor)

The presentation explores what the Pastoral Letters (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus) teach about the pastoral office, focusing on necessity, qualifications, preparation, responsibilities, authority, faithfulness over success, and the making of a theologian. It is intended especially for pastors and others interested in the essential foundations of the church's life and mission.

A-20 **Doing the #1 Thing Asked of Us**

Room: Salon 6

Nate Guelzow (Director of Ecosystems Master Trainer & Teacher, Multipli)

Non-Christians are often more open to honest conversations than we assume. This session explores the #1 thing non-Christians ask of Christians and offers practical ways to respond with humility, clarity, and Gospel-centered care. Participants will consider how listening well, building trust, and engaging real questions can open doors for faithful witness in everyday relationships.

