

WORKSHOP SESSIONS B

B-1 Flourishing and AI: Designing Your Own Lutheran AI

Room: Salon 1

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

AI is not just a tool—it's shaping how people think, learn, and interact. This session helps leaders move beyond curiosity into intentional design. Explore how to build a thoughtful, Christ-centered approach to AI that aligns with your mission, protects relationships, and equips your people for the future. Participants will leave with practical frameworks for integrating AI responsibly in both ministry and education settings.

B-2 Working with Complicated People

Room: Salon 2

Chris Futch (Pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church & School - St. Petersburg, FL); Wendy Morris (Principal, Our Savior Lutheran Church & School – St. Petersburg, FL)

Every leader encounters challenging personalities and complex situations. This session provides practical strategies for navigating those realities with clarity, compassion, and confidence. Learn how to address conflict directly, maintain healthy boundaries, and lead people effectively without losing relationships or momentum.

B-3 Leadership - Flourishing - Wellness

Room: Salon 17

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

Join this interactive session to explore and discuss how to become an effective leader who enhances the life and well-being of your congregation. Topics will include Christ-centered decision-making, conflict resolution, and building trust among members and staff. Gain insights from experienced lay volunteer and church staff leader, Tiffany Manor, who now serves as the leader of The LCMS's Worker Wellness efforts.

B-4 Burnout Recharge for Re-engagement

Room: Salon 6

Roger Schwartz (Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church – Augusta, GA)

Ministry can be deeply rewarding—and deeply exhausting. This session creates space to reflect on personal challenges while offering practical pathways toward renewal. Participants will explore the role of rest, support, and identity in Christ as they reconnect with their calling.

B-5 Faithful Leadership in Changing Times: Holding Fast to Word and Sacrament

Room: Salon 13

Miguel Sanabria, Jr. and Katherine Sanabria (Pastor and Deaconess, Immanuel Lutheran Church & School – Brandon, FL)

In a rapidly changing world, leaders must remain grounded while adapting wisely. This session explores how to navigate change with theological clarity, spiritual confidence, and practical leadership strategies rooted in Word and Sacrament.

B-6 Get One More for Jesus

Room: Salon 16

Michael Mast (Mission Facilitator, FLGA District – FL); Eric Sahlberg (Executive Director, FLGA District – FL)

Sharing faith doesn't have to feel overwhelming. This session breaks disciple-making into simple, practical steps anyone can take. Learn how to focus on one relationship at a time and create natural opportunities for Gospel conversations in everyday life.

B-7 Creating Inviting Culture: Helping Your Members Invite Others

Room: Salon 14

Chris Kollmann (Pastor, First Lutheran Church – Gainesville, FL)
An inviting culture doesn't happen by accident—it's built intentionally. This session explores how to create an environment where inviting others is natural and where guests feel genuinely welcomed, valued, and connected.

B-8 AI for Sermons & Bible Class

Room: Salon 19

Rev. Dr. Brian Stolarczyk (Senior Pastor, Lutheran Church of the Cross – Port Charlotte, FL)

See how AI tools can support sermon preparation and teaching without replacing theological depth. This session demonstrates practical workflows, prompt strategies, and ways to verify content while maintaining strong engagement and integrity.

B-9 Analyzing and Using Data to Drive Improvement

Room: Salon 23

Jon Peterson (Principal – Grace Lutheran - Winter Haven, FL); Jessica Palomaki (Educator – Grace Lutheran - Winter Haven, FL)

Data can inform powerful decisions when used well. This session helps educators identify meaningful data points, interpret trends, and apply insights to improve instruction and student outcomes. Learn how to make data manageable, useful, and actionable.



B-10 The Other Subjects

Room: Salon 9

Audra Dupuis, Dawn Lang, Josh Jones, Nelly Coleman, Valeria Duque (Teachers - Holy Cross Lutheran Academy – Sanford, FL)

Specials teachers play a critical role in student development. This collaborative session shares practical ideas and strategies across areas like art, PE, and STEAM, helping teachers strengthen engagement and effectiveness.

B-11 Making Reading Groups and Centers That Work (Tech Free)

Room: Salon 3

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

Reading centers and small groups can be challenging to manage. This session provides practical strategies to improve organization, engagement, and student success in literacy instruction.

B-12 Mathematizing Early Childhood

Room: Salon 4

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

Early math experiences build the foundation for future learning. Explore how to integrate meaningful math opportunities into everyday interactions with young learners.

B-13 Revelations 7:9: Engaging the Coming Nations

Room: Salon 21

Victor Belton (Coach/Mentor, REV 7:9 – Decatur, GA)

Communities are increasingly diverse. This session equips participants to build relationships across cultures and recognize opportunities for Gospel conversations right where they are.

B-14 Trauma Is the New Mission Field

Room: Salon 15

Rev. Chris Singer (President & CEO, Lutheran Church Charities – Northbrook, IL)

Many people carry unseen wounds. This session helps participants recognize trauma and respond with Christ-centered compassion, creating environments where healing can begin.

B-15 Raising Your Congregation's or School's Profile in the Community

Room: Salon 18

John List (Communications Director - FLGA District Office) Is your ministry or school a "hidden gem" in your community? This practical workshop will help congregations and Lutheran schools strengthen outreach through clear, Christ-centered communication and authentic community engagement.

B-16 Motivate, Don't Manipulate

Room: Salon 11

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

Five ways to inspire and bring out the best in others. Discover practical ways to inspire others and bring out their best without relying on pressure or control. Learn how to lead in ways that build trust and lasting motivation.

B-17 Visual Faith® Practices in an Era of Distraction

Workshop Cancelled

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

Engage Scripture in creative and meaningful ways that deepen reflection and focus. This hands-on session introduces practices that can be used individually or in group settings. 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.

B-18 Woven Together in Christ

Room: Salon 22

Deaconess Liz Borth (Deaconess, LCMS; LWML District President – FL)

In a world that often emphasizes division, Christ calls His people into unity. This session explores how men and women, with different gifts and vocations, are woven together in Christ for the sake of His mission. Participants will reflect on identity, calling, and collaboration within the Body of Christ, gaining a clearer understanding of how to live and serve together in ways that honor God's design and strengthen the Church's witness.

B-19 Luke–Acts: Key Foundation in a Changing World

Room: Salon 12

Greg Michael (Pastor, Christus Victor Lutheran Church & Student Center – Athens, GA)

This workshop explores the structure of Luke–Acts, highlighting Christ as the center of all history and the Church as His Body in a changing world. Participants will trace the movement of the text, uncover key implications, and apply them through guided discussion and simple case studies—equipping them to teach, lead, and live with clarity and confidence in Christ.

