

WORKSHOP SESSIONS C

C-1 **Supporting Healthy Identity and Relationships in Middle School**

Room: Salon 2

Megan Meissler (Executive Director, Lutheran Counseling Services - Winter Park, FL)

Middle school students are navigating major changes in body image, identity, friendships, and early romantic relationships. In this workshop, Megan will help educators better understand the developmental experiences of adolescents and the important role adults play in shaping students' self-esteem and relationship skills. She will explore how language and attitudes from trusted adults can impact body image. As well as how to support students as they begin forming romantic relationships focusing on fostering trust, healthy boundaries, empathy, and appropriate expressions of affection in age-appropriate ways.

C-2 **Revolutionary Leadership: Courage, Clarity, and Calling in an Age of Artificial**

Room: Salon 11

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

Lead with clarity, courage, and purpose in a rapidly changing world. This session challenges participants to think differently about leadership and step into their calling with confidence.

C-3 **It is the Little Things that can make a BIG Difference**

Room: Salon 1

Greg Register (Principal, St. Luke's Lutheran Church & School – Oviedo, FL)

Small, consistent actions can have a powerful impact on school culture. Learn simple leadership practices that build trust, improve morale, and strengthen community.

C-4 **Rhythm-Based Discipleship: Formation That Fits**

Room: Salon 16

Jacob Hoyer (Navigator, Clarity Navigator)

Discipleship doesn't need to be another program. Discover how to build faith practices into everyday rhythms, making discipleship more natural, relational, and sustainable.

C-5 **Does What I Do Matter?**

Room: Salon 17

Jacob Berlinski (Pastor, Rivercliff Lutheran Church – Rivercliff, GA)

Explore how identity in Christ gives meaning to everyday work and vocation. Learn how God uses ordinary moments for extraordinary purpose.

C-6 **School Leaders Meetup: Flourishing Together**

Room: Salon 13

Jennifer Tanner (Executive Director, Schools and Youth)

School leadership is rewarding, challenging, and sometimes a little lonely. Join Jennifer Tanner for an interactive meetup to connect with other school leaders, celebrate what's going well, talk through current and upcoming challenges, and learn from one another. Come ready to share, listen, encourage, and leave with new ideas for flourishing in the year ahead.

C-7 **Raising New Church Workers by Caring for the One You Have!**

Room: Salon 15

Greg Walton (Vice President, Grace Place Wellness & Ministry Solutions, LCEF)

Healthy ministries begin with healthy workers. Learn practical ways to support staff and build resilience within your ministry team.

C-8 **Apologetics in a Secular World**

Room: Salon 20

David Grining (Lay Leader, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – Vero Beach, FL)

Engage today's culture with confidence and clarity. Learn how to use actual science to counter the secular world's materialistic theories/stories of evolution and millions of years.

C-9 **Teaching and Preaching are not the Same**

Room: Salon 14

Pete LeBorious (Associate Pastor of Youth & Education, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church – GA)

Understand the differences and strengths of teaching and preaching, and how both can be used effectively to communicate God's Word.

C-10 **Church Planting**

Room: Salon 22

Bernard Julmiste (Pastor, Grace Tabernacle Lutheran Church, Ft. Lauderdale – FL)

Hear real experiences from church planting and explore how God is working through new ministry efforts to reach communities.

C-11 **Bridging Literacy and Science Through Picture Books**

Room: Salon 12

Wendy Niska (Teacher, Our Savior Lutheran School – St. Petersburg, FL)

Discover how picture books can anchor both literacy and science instruction, creating engaging and meaningful learning experiences.



C-12 **Back to the Basics**

Room: Salon 3

Sara Willocks (EC Director, St. Paul Lutheran School – Boca Raton, FL); Jessica Claxton (Teacher, St. Paul Lutheran School – Boca Raton, FL)

Explore developmentally appropriate practices that support strong foundations and reduce stress for young learners.

C-13 **Joining Jesus as a Family: How to Raise Children to Be Lifelong Followers of Jesus**

Room: Salon 19

Greg Finke (Executive Director, Dwelling 1:14 – MN)

Discover how families and schools can partner to raise lifelong followers of Jesus through simple, intentional practices.

C-14 **Hospitality Beyond Borders: Welcoming Others and Enemies**

Room: Salon 18

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

Explore how Christian hospitality extends to all people, even in challenging circumstances, reflecting Christ's love in a divided world.

C-15 **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.

C-16 **Visual Faith® Practices - a Wider Lens** **Workshop Cancelled**

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

This is a part 2 look at resources intended for family devotional life, individual and group Bible Study, and worship enhancement. Taking the educational research of the importance of visual-kinesthetic learning, we explore how this might apply to spiritual formation. Learn more about Faith Formation IEPs, your Bible "as diary", and the blessing of shared practices. How do practices become a lifestyle that encourages us to share the story of a life with Christ?

C-17 **Charitable Strategies to Maximize Impact**

Room: Salon 21

Bill LaGrange (Wealth Advisor, Thrivent - Oviedo, FL)

This workshop outlines the benefits of utilizing various charitable giving solutions to help grow financial support for your ministry and increase your impact. Topics include planned giving strategies, donor-advised funds, Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), and much more.

C-18 **What Does Disaster Relief Look Like?**

Room: Salon 23

Chad Swanson (Board Member, FLGA Lutheran Early Response)

When crisis hits, the Church has a unique opportunity to serve both physical and spiritual needs. This session provides a practical look at how the disaster relief ministry works in real time—what it takes to mobilize, how to respond effectively, and how to care for people in moments of great need. Participants will gain insight into how their church can be prepared to respond with compassion, organization, and Gospel-centered care.

C-19 **Growing Through Change**

Room: Salon 7 & 8

Julia Heinz (Executive Director, KINDLE Servant Leaders)

Change is constant—and often challenging—but it also creates opportunities for growth. This session helps participants navigate transitions with resilience and faith, exploring how to respond to change with clarity, purpose, and trust in God's work. Through reflection and practical strategies, attendees will be equipped to move forward with confidence in both ministry and daily life.
