

## **WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS SEMI JUSTICE SUMMIT 2024**

### **Ableism in the Church: What God's Kin-dom may look like without it**

The awareness of ableism is on the rise, but if we don't take steps to actively fight against it, awareness means nothing. How do we challenge ourselves and our community to work toward disability justice? God makes it clear that we are free when all are free; there's more to this than ramps and sensory bags.

*Led by: Rev. Sarah Mayer-Flatt*

### **Pathways in Compassion Visiting Those In Nursing Homes**

In most nursing homes more than half of the residents have no visitors. Pathways seeks to visit those individuals on a regular one on one basis. This affirms the life of the other and creates an environment where care may be improved. The more churches that enter this work will serve as a basis for advocating for residents and employees alike. The workshop will teach you how to declare nursing homes as a mission field and organize a pathways group in your congregation.

*Led by: Rev. Mark Fisher*

### **Inclusive Worship**

How do we make worship truly inclusive and welcoming to all people? We will focus on all of the ISMs in a more broad spectrum and look at how worship can be inclusive of all, while still staying authentic to who we are and what we believe. Resources for music, Scripture, and liturgy will be provided.

*Led by: Sarah Altenburg*

### **Being an Affirming Space for the Transgender and Non-Binary Communities**

Learn about educating your community on gender identity issues and look at simple steps your congregation can take to become more welcoming to a person with a non-cisgender gender identity. Educate about gender identity and how it can play a role in our social, worship, and service aspects of the Church. Have a safe space to ask questions and have open conversation about gender identity so you are better equipped to welcome new members to your congregation that might have a non-cisgender gender identity.

*Led by: Sarah Altenburg*

## **Our Congregation Is Already Welcoming - Why do we need to say so?**

The Reconciling in Christ (RIC) program recognizes Lutheran congregations and entities. This workshop will explore the What, Why and How of RIC.

*Led by: The Diversity Team*

## **You are Reconciling In Christ! Now What?**

ReconcilingWorks believes that welcome is a journey not a destination. So, if you have been RIC for 30 years or 1 month, there are ways to expand your hospitality to LGBTQ people and families by making welcome a lived experience.

*Led by: The Diversity Team*

## **Immigration at our Northern Border (Detroit)**

Immigration at our Northern Border continues to shape our communities in the Detroit area. What are the issues and opportunities related to the increasing number of refugees and asylum seekers in SE Michigan? How are we called to respond and serve? Join the Immigration and Refugee Task Force, Samaritas New American Families, and other Detroit area organizations to learn and be challenged.

*Led by: The Immigration Taskforce*

## **Immigration at our Southern Border**

Immigration at our Southern Border: is it truly what we see on the news and what we perceive from our politicians? Join us to hear from five Immigration and Refugee Task Force members who have recently traveled to Texas, New Mexico, and Mexico on a Border Immersion Experience as they share their experience learning and observing what is happening at the southern border, what those working at the border believe can be done to improve the situation, how to participate in a Border Immersion Experience with Border Servant Corp, and ways that our synod is responding to the needs of those arriving at the Southern Border.

*Led by: The Immigration Taskforce*

## **Sumud: When thoughts and prayers are not enough--Walking alongside our siblings in the Holy Land**

Sumud is an Arabic word meaning “steadfastness.” As partners with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, we connect with our companions in the Holy Land and seek to follow the guidance, support the leadership and amplify the voices of our Palestinian siblings. Together we accompany, advocate, and build awareness for our ELCJHL partners--along with other Christians, Jews, and Muslims--by working to establish the justice required for peace.

*Led by: The ELCJHL Taskforce*

## **Gaza: History, Updates, Justice and Then Hope**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict did not begin on October 7, 2023, but rather in 1948. As Israel was established entire villages of Palestinian people were forced to leave. They have been waiting to return to their homes since 1948. Loss of land and human rights have continued to the present time. We will have a live presenter from Palestine who will give us updates on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the extended suffering of people in Palestine.

*Led by: Rev. Jack Eggleston*

## **Talking to Youth and Children about Antiracism**

Come talk with members of the Bridgebuilders team about developmentally appropriate conversations and resources to help young people navigate a world with racism and injustice as followers of Jesus.

*Led by: The BRRICK Team*

## **Antiracism: Tools for Beginners**

Come and learn a couple tools we use on the BRRICK team. You can use these tools immediately to analyze and resist racism in multiple contexts and to join the fight for racial justice.

*Led by: The BRRICK Team*

## **Living Into Our Values:**

This workshop, based on Brené Brown's work will help you explore questions about what you value individually and collectively and how your ministry can share those values with others. "Living into our values means that we do more than profess our values, we practice them. We walk our talk—we are clear about what we believe and hold important, and we take care that our intentions, words, thoughts, and behaviors align with those beliefs." Every church, ministry, and organizational leader will benefit from this type of introspective work.

*Led by: FedUP Ministries Staff*

## **New Beginnings with Bishop Don and C. J. Clark**

Come and meet our new Director of Evangelical Mission, CJ Clark, as he and Bishop Kreiss talk about the role CJ will have in the synod. There will also be conversation around the future of social justice ministry in the South East Michigan Synod.

*Led by: Bishop Don Kreiss and CJ Clark*