



June 2, 2025

Summer Internships 3.0

Year three of the Saint Paul Area Synod's paid summer internship program is launching in June! This summer, we have 11 interns who have been assigned to specific internship sites, where they will work for 10 weeks. Thank you to the following organizations for hosting interns this summer:

- Augustana Lutheran Church, West St. Paul
- Community Partners with Youth
- Daily Work
- Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (2 interns)
- Lyngblomsten (2 interns)
- Redeemer Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake (2 interns)
- Shobi's Table (2 interns)



The diversity of sites means our interns will undertake a wide range of tasks. Some will serve lunch from the pay-as-you-can food truck. Some will lead Vacation Bible School or kids' summer programs. Some will organize classroom supplies for the Early Learning Centers at LSS. Some will help job seekers overcome barriers to employment. Some will visit with seniors.

The internship program is designed to give young adults, ages 17-21, an opportunity to explore their own sense of vocation. Some of the interns already have career goals; others are just beginning to imagine how the skills and passions God has given them might be used to serve their community in whatever field they enter. For many, the synod's summer internship program is a supportive first job experience. All the interns are assigned a mentor at their site who helps them reflect on their work experiences over the summer. The interns also gather weekly as a cohort for discussion, reflection and community building.

Thanks to The Planting Hope Campaign, the interns are generously compensated for their time, receiving a \$4,000 stipend for the summer. This makes the internship program accessible to young people for whom earning money over the summer is a priority. It also signals that our synod takes seriously the support and development of young leaders in the church. Whether they choose to go into ministry or another field, their work can be a reflection of God's goodness.

Thank you to all who have supported The Planting Hope Campaign! Your generosity has made this opportunity possible, not only for the young adults who serve as paid interns, but for the internship sites who are enriched by having the interns with them for the summer. This is a creative and unique way that we are church together. Watch for a list of the interns and photos!

Pastor Bristol Reading, Internship Coordinator

St. Luke, St. Paul

(Bristol is pictured above at our recent Synod Assembly)

Save the Date!

Bishop's Theological Conference

**Oct. 12- 4 p.m. - Oct. 14 - 11:30 a.m. |
Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria**

For rostered ministers in our synod. The Bishop's Theological Conference is a time for study, worship, unstructured time and abundant conversations. This year's featured speaker is the Rev. Heidi Neumark, recently retired pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Manhattan. She was a founding member of South Bronx Churches, an ecumenical community organizing group that trained local leaders, built hundreds of low-cost homes, and established a top-ranked public high school. Rev. Neumark is the author of three books, including *Sanctuary: Being Christian in the Wake of Trump*. Members of the Bishop's Election Committee will also be present at the conference for a listening session as we prepare for a new synod bishop in 2026. Watch for more information!



Enneagram Retreat for Rostered Ministers

Aug. 19-20 | Dunrovin Retreat Center, Marine on St. Croix

For pastors and deacons rostered in our synod who wish to use the Enneagram as a guide for spiritual and leadership transformation. The retreat will be led by certified spiritual director Karen Carlsen and hosted by Pastor Justin Grimm and Deacon Krista Lind from the synod staff. The cost is \$220, which includes your Enneagram assessment and report, lodging and three meals. In early July, registrants will receive a log-in to take the Enneagram



assessment. Please complete it by Aug. 1 so our coach can use the results for her preparation.

[REGISTER](#)

Lutheran Night at Target Field

Thursday, Aug. 14 - 6:40 p.m. | Target Field, Minneapolis

Take yourself out to the ball game with other area Lutherans! There are a variety of seating options and pricing, ranging from upper level (\$18) to club level (\$51) and more. For group or individual tickets, contact Ryan Thomson at 612-659-3582 or ryanthomson@twins.com. Check out this video from event coordinator Pastor Seth Perry:



National Anthem Lutheran Mass Choir

Let's show Minnesota that Lutherans can SING! Gather with other voices to sing the national anthem at the start of the game at Lutheran Night on Aug. 14. You will need to get to the field by 5:40 p.m. and meet the group outside the stadium by Gate 6. [Watch Seth's choir video here for complete details.](#)

Report on "God's Love Made Real"

A report has been published with results and recommendations from an ELCA survey called "God's Love Made Real." The survey sought to learn what is strong and good about our wider



church and also where we need to grow in Christ together. The survey report from the Barna Group and Fuller Seminary is now available on the [God's Love Made Real webpage](#). Another document, [Strategic Recommendations for the ELCA](#), reviews the current realities, key challenges and abundant opportunities for life and faith in the U.S., identifying five commitments for the church to consider and embody:

1. Cultivate congregations that are warmer, more inviting, and more invitational in nature.
2. Enhance ELCA-wide efforts to nurture and strengthen faith and spiritual formation.
3. Tangibly and significantly incorporate and empower young people in all levels of the church's life.
4. Provide greater resources, equipping, tools, and empowerment of lay leaders to carry out the work of ministry and be the church in the world today.
5. Rethink, refocus, and reorganize the ELCA's educational systems and structures to serve the current (and rapidly changing) needs of the ELCA.

We invite you to read these documents as we move forward together!

Lutheran Volunteer Corps Fellows

Lutheran Volunteer Corps is going strong in its 46th year and offers in-person placements in Washington, D.C.; Wilmington, DE.; Pittsburgh, PA; and right here in the Twin Cities. Virtual positions are also available. Applications are accepted until June 30 for fellowships that are full-time positions at social justice organizations for one year, beginning Sept. 1. Fellows serving a year live together in intentional community with other fellows, practice living simply and sustainability, while exploring spirituality together. Fellows in virtual positions can serve virtually from home or live in community with other fellows. [Learn more.](#)



EVENTS OF INTEREST

Gather Twin Cities Summer Events

Young adults are invited to three Gather events this summer that celebrate community, fun and purpose:

Gather Pride Month - Sunday, June 8 at 6:30 p.m. | Woodlake Lutheran, Richfield

Celebrate Pride through service and education as we participate in a clothing drive for Twin Cities Rainbow Wardrobe, make bracelets and view the film, *1946 The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture*. Items of particular interest for donation include plus-sized clothing, shoes, accessories, personal care items and underwear.



Gather at the Saints Game - Tuesday, July 8 at 7:07 p.m. | CHS Field, St. Paul

Join us for an evening of fun at the ball field. Tickets will be ordered individually, but please RSVP by direct messaging Gather on Facebook, Instagram or emailing gathertwincities@gmail.com. Meet-up information will be shared closer to the date.

Gather Lakeside - Sunday, Aug. 10 at 6:30 p.m. | Diamond Lake Lutheran, Minneapolis

We gather to celebrate the end of summer. Join us for a lakeside get-together with tie dye, outdoor games, bonfire, snacks and worship. Bring your favorite outdoor activities. [Order a Gather t-shirt for tie-dye here.](#)

Gather Twin Cities is a Lutheran (ELCA) ministry for those who are hungry for community and connection with other young adults in the metro area. Follow them on [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#).



Service for Survivors: Remembering & Honoring Those Lost to Gun Violence & Firearm Suicide

Sunday, June 8 - 3 p.m. | Richfield Lutheran Church, Minneapolis

Join the Twin Cities community for a service of remembrance as we honor loved ones and be comforted by the presence of one another. This interfaith gathering will include readings, prayers and remembrances by members of many religious traditions and none. You are invited to bring a picture of your loved one for our wall of remembrance. This event is sponsored by Wear Orange, Moms Demand Action and Everytown. For more information, email pattymatthewsmn@gmail.com.



Cherish All Children 5K

**Sunday, June 8 in Minneapolis or June 6-8 at
Your Own Location**



Join in this fun event where YOU can make a difference in keeping children safe! Walk or run at a time and location that's best for you or meet for a group walk/run Sunday, June 8, at 11:30 a.m. at 4499 Victory Memorial Drive, Minneapolis, MN 55412. The goal for each participant is \$300. Enlisting others to sponsor you is an easy way to accomplish this goal, such as asking 10 friends to sponsor you for \$30 each. Participants who raise \$500 will prompt a donor to give an additional \$500! If you're unable to participate, you may also sponsor a racer or make a general gift. Help us raise \$12,000 for this important work of keeping children safe from sexual exploitation! [Learn more and register.](#) Questions? Email joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org.

As of Fire: Leading in Pentecost as a Woman in Ministry

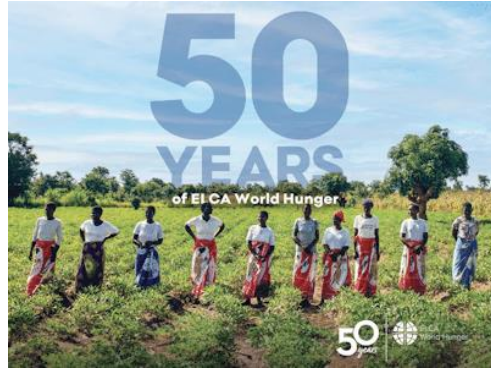
Monday, June 16-Friday, June 20 - 11 a.m.-12 noon | Online

When was the last time you felt on fire in your calling as a woman in ministry? Presenter Crystal Hall, PhD, MDiv, is offering a five-session series to (re)connect to that aliveness. There's no fee to participate. [Learn more.](#)

Hunger Education Hour

Wednesday, June 18 - 9 p.m. | Online

The Sierra Pacific Synod wants to help answer the question, "What is happening to programs supported by ELCA World Hunger?" Presenter Susannah Cunningham is the senior director for the ELCA Building Resilient Communities Team. She will share how we are still making a difference and what you can do to help. Just email thelotts@gmail.com that you wish to attend and you'll receive the Zoom link about a week prior to the event. (Remember: Sierra Pacific is on PDT, so the correct time is 9 p.m. here in Minnesota.)



Lutheran Summer Music Concerts/Livestream

Lutheran Summer Music is happening at Valparaiso University June 22-July 20 and features 30+ free concerts, recitals and worship services. The public is invited! Can't make it to Indiana in person? Watch online live from LSM. Highlights include the beloved Back Cantata Eucharist, Festival of Hymns and the debut Faculty Organ Recital. Festival Week features performances from the Festival Band, Orchestra and Choir. [Learn more.](#) The Rev. Nathan Baker-Trinity from our synod is serving as LSM chaplain again this summer!



Peace of the Prairie Retreat for Church Musicians

Sept. 11-13 | Shalom Hill Farm, Windom

Church musicians are invited to a time or renewal that includes worship, discussion, resource sharing and fellowship, as well as opportunities to enjoy the walking prayer trails, labyrinth and peace of the prairie. Participants will be introduced to Shalom Hill Farm's newly commissioned liturgical resources, including *Peace of the Prairie: A Liturgy for Here and Now* and *Shalom Daily Prayers: Morning, Midday, Evening*. The retreat leader is composer and liturgical musician Carol Meier. The cost is \$300 per person including lodging (\$200 for commuters). [Learn more.](#)



Becoming a Health Promoter

Sept. 16 & 30, Oct. 14 & 29, Nov. 11 | Online

Faith Community Nurse Network of the Greater Twin Cities has a new *Becoming a Health Promoter* course designed for interested faith community members or staff who would like to lead efforts in promoting health and wellness in their congregations. Health promoters provide health information, resources and support for those struggling with health issues. They work closely with faith leaders and members to identify and respond to the health-related needs in the community. No medical background is required, just a desire to help integrate faith with health. Attending all five sessions is required (5:30-8:30 p.m. each night). The cost is \$75 for 15 hours of training. [Learn more.](#)



Other Events:

- [Aus Memorial Lecture](#) - June 17 | Luther Seminary, St. Paul

- [Churchwide Assembly](#) - July 28-Aug. 2 | Phoenix, Ariz.
- [Seminar on Lutheran Liturgy](#) - Aug. 13-15 | Minneapolis
- **Mission Support Celebration Dinner** - Aug. 18 | St. Andrew's, Mahtomedi
- [God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday](#) - Sept. 7
- **Guatemala Gala** - Sept. 28 | Midland Hills Country Club, Roseville
- **Bishop's Theological Conference** - Oct. 12-14 | Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria

SYNOD STAFF IN CONGREGATIONS

Bishop Patricia Lull

- June 15 - Christ the King, New Brighton (preaching)

The Rev. Justin Grimm

- June 8 & 15 - Our Savior's, Stillwater (preaching)

[Blogs](#)

[Calendar](#)

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The Saint Paul Area Synod, which includes 106 congregations and new mission starts,

is one of 65 synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



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