



2022 Synod Assembly

Workshop Descriptions

Outdoor Workshop at Hollis Renewal Center 1:00—4:15 pm

Dave Mareske, Executive Director of Hollis Renewal Center

In this workshop you will learn about “Birds of Prey” living in KS and MO, as presented by Operations Wildlife and connect with nature at Hollis. Participants will also spend time creating personalized clay tiles, under the direction of ceramic artist Taren Scott. These tiles will be installed at the new Outdoor Education Center at Camp Tomah Shinga later this year. Hollis is located twenty minutes from the Embassy Suites (11414 Kansas Ave. Kansas City KS). Transportation will be arranged. Participants will leave @ 1 pm and return at 4:15 pm.

On-Site Workshops Session I (1:30—2:45 pm)

1. Conversation with Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda

Prof. of Theological and Social Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Sem. & Church Divinity School of the Pacific

Dr. Cynthia Moe-Lobeda invites you into continued conversation and Q & A time following her first presentation on Friday morning.

2. Lutherans Restoring Creation: A Grassroots Network Cultivating Dedicated Stewards of the Earth

Phoebe Morad, Executive Director, Lutherans Restoring Creation and CSS LRC Team

For more than two decades, LRC has been identifying, encouraging, supporting and multiplying leaders across the church to be better stewards of God’s creation. Efforts in congregations have focused on personal discipleship, education, worship, buildings/grounds and advocacy. Using ELCA social statements and initiatives as a guide, LRC has helped develop teams, resources and activities that have a local impact. Come learn how you and your congregation can make a difference.

3. Sustainability Efforts in the ELCA

Dr. Ruth Ivory-Moore, ELCA Program Director Environmental & Corporate Social Responsibility

Moderated by Keith Mundy. Presenter will join remotely.

Through a Sustainability Table, the ELCA brings together congregations, colleges/universities, disaster response, ethnic communities, global mission, outdoor ministry, seminaries, synods, world hunger and advocacy to collaborate and coordinate their efforts to care for Creation across the church. This includes bringing our voice to the Paris Agreement and the recent COP26 in Glasgow, Scotland. Come and hear how we do God’s work locally, regionally, nationally and abroad.

4. Composting for the Greener Good

Master Gardener from the KC area

A local Master Gardener from Kansas City will share a presentation about how to compost as a congregation and an individual home. Compost, also known as “black gold,” can be a key component in efforts to reduce waste and sustain a garden or community garden. Examples of gardens from Synod congregations will inspire you for the green mission of your congregation.

5. Worship and Learning with Creation

Jacob Spilker, Executive Director of Camp Tomah Shinga

Rev. Noni Strand, Chair of CSS Lutherans Restoring Creation Mission Table

This workshop provides hands-on resources and experiences to help shape the worship life and learning opportunities in your congregation as we explore our identity as a part of all Creation. Jacob will share information about Camp Tomah Shinga’s new Outdoor Learning Center and how your congregation can connect. Noni will guide us in spiritual practices to enrich worship, devotional, and daily life.



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Workshop Descriptions—Continued

On-Site Workshops Session II (3:00—4:15 pm)

6. Exploring the Earth Charter and How it Works

Keith Mundy, CSS Earth Charter Initiative

The Earth Charter is a guiding document that articulates the values and principles for achieving sustainable development through a mindset of global interdependence and shared responsibility. The ELCA's endorsement of this document calls for a commitment to pursue a vision of hope and a call to action focusing on four pillars: respect and care for the community of life; ecological integrity; social and economic justice; democracy, nonviolence and peace. Come learn how an initiative in our synod is living into this vision and making a call to action.

7. Lutherans Restoring Creation: A Grassroots Network Cultivating Dedicated Stewards of the Earth

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8. Stewards of the Soil: Rural Perspectives on Creation Care

Connie Dorf, Steven Johnson and Ron Heimer—Members of Assaria Lutheran, Assaria KS.

Moderated by Rev. Noni Strand. Presenters will join remotely.

Farmers and ranchers know the value of soil stewardship and care for Creation through their intimate connection with and love for the land. Learn from fourth-generation farmers at Assaria Lutheran Church in Central Kansas about how their faith motivates them for a calling that is both challenging and joyful as they provide food for a hungry world.

9. Advocacy & Community Organizing to Address Climate Change

Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) and Missouri Faith Voices (MFV)

Learn how our Synod is providing advocacy on the state legislative level in both Kansas and Missouri on issues of social justice, climate, and energy through partnerships with KIFA and MFV. Congregations and individuals can learn how to make their voices heard as we seek to build more loving, just, and sustainable systems for all of God's children.

10. How Caring for Creation Coaching helps Congregations Achieve Their Goals

Rev. Janice Hawley, ELCA Caring for Creation Coaching Coordinator

Have you struggled to clarify your outcomes? Are you uncertain where to find the most helpful resources? Are you wanting to be advocates in the public square but unsure about your group's next steps? A Coach can help. [Why? <https://www.elcacoaching.org/pages/intro-to-coaching>]. This ministry accompanies congregational leaders to envision their goals with clarity on priorities/next steps, while monitoring progress and learning to celebrate achievements. Come be a part of a Group Coaching demonstration focused on Care for Creation, which can lead to having a Coach accompany your congregation to create more effectiveness in your caring for Creation efforts.