



Looking Back & Called Forward: ELCA 500

Oct. 31, 2017

Lutheran Church of the Reformation, Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C.

Available via livestream at: ELCA.org/livestream

Co-hosts: **The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton**, ELCA presiding bishop
Bishop Bill Gafkjen, Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the Conference of Bishops
Bill Horne, ELCA vice president
Bishop Dick Graham, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Synod

Purpose: To be a public witness to Christ, who frees us to love and serve our neighbor, as we commemorate 500 years of the Reformation and look to the future to which God is calling us.

Registration: bit.ly/2fsS60I

Event hashtag: #ELCA500

PROGRAM

9:45 a.m. Prelude

10 a.m. Welcome and introduction by co-hosts

10:15 a.m. **Part I – Ministries of Reconciliation: 500 Years of Division & 50 Years of Dialogue**
*Emceed by **Bishop Bill Gafkjen**, ELCA Indiana-Kentucky Synod and chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops, and **Khadijah Islam**, member of Journey Lutheran Church in Onalaska, Wis., and Common Ground Campus Ministry at UW-La Crosse.*

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ,
and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;
that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself,
not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.
(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)*

500 years of division and 50-plus years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue:

*Featuring **ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** and **Bishop Denis Madden**, auxiliary bishop emeritus of the Archdiocese of Baltimore and co-chair of the U.S. Lutheran-Catholic Dialogue.*

10:45 a.m. Partners in reconciliation storytelling

- Lutheran-Jewish relations:
Rabbi Jonah Pesner, director of the Religion Action Center of Reform Judaism; **Darrell Jodock**, professor emeritus, Gustavus Adolphus College, and chair of the ELCA Lutheran-Jewish Consultative Panel; and **the Rev. Peg Schultz-Akerson**, interim pastor at Lutheran Church of the Master in West Los Angeles, Calif., and member of the Consultative Panel

- 10:45 a.m. Partners in reconciliation storytelling (continued)
- Lutheran-Muslim relations:
***The Rev. Amanda France**, former intern pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Dawson, Minn., and **Dr. Ayaz Virji**, family medicine doctor and lecturer on Islam in Dawson, Minn.*
 - Racial justice and reconciliation:
***Bishop Darin Moore**, Mid-Atlantic Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, and **Bishop Bill Gohl**, ELCA Delaware-Maryland Synod*
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch/intermission
- 12:45 p.m. **Part II – Future Directions: Stories of the Church**
Hear stories of ELCA ministries through the lenses of Congregational Vitality and Leadership and how these two important priorities will play a significant role in shaping the future of this church.
- “Christians live not in themselves, but in Christ and in their neighbor.
Otherwise they are not Christians.
They live in Christ through faith, in their neighbor through love.”
– Martin Luther, “The Freedom of a Christian”*
- Featured stories include:*
- ***The Rev. Cary Bass-Deschenes**, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Berkeley, Calif.*
 - ***Will Bevins**, Fund for Leaders recipient and United Seminary student*
 - ***Bridge Builders**, a program of Living Waters Ministries at Stony Lake, New Era, Mich.*
 - ***Church on the Street**, Sioux Falls, S.D., South Dakota Synod*
 - ***First Trinity Lutheran Church, Metropolitan** Washington, D.C. Synod*
 - ***New Life Lutheran Church**, Dripping Springs, Texas, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod*
 - ***Servant’s Table**, Tulsa, Okla., Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod*
 - ***South Sudan**, Lutheran Clinic and Center, Juba, South Sudan*
 - ***St. Paul Thai Church**, Forest Park, Ill., Metropolitan Chicago Synod*
- Q&A with **Rick Steves**, PBS host, filmmaker and travel writer, presenters, and **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**.
- 3:30 p.m. Communion service
- 5 p.m. Celebratory reception at the Folger Shakespeare Library (across the street)