



2026 Spring Lifelong Faith Formation Schedule for Five Classes



Faith in a Digital Age: The Blessings and Burdens of AI



Instructor: Rev. Pete Warmanen

Pastor, Ascension Lutheran Church, Minocqua, WI

Thursday Evenings - 2 weeks

February 12 and March 12

7:30-8:30 pm Eastern Time, 6:30-7:30 pm Central Time

We'll look honestly and practically at AI as both a resource and a challenge for our congregations and leaders. In Session 1, I'll focus on the *resource* side while still acknowledging the challenges. In Session 2, I'll primarily explore the *challenges*, while again lifting up the many helpful ways AI can aid in ministry.

Materials: NA

Register here: [Faith in a Digital Age: The Blessings and Burdens of AI – Fill out form](#)

Neighbors Across Faiths: Building Connections



Instructor: Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith

Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran & Lutheran Campus Ministry, Houghton, MI

One Session Offered

Sunday, February 1 at 6:30 pm Eastern, 5:30 pm Central

OR offered Monday, February 9 at 6:30 pm Eastern, 5:30 pm Central

Even in small communities, many of us feel caught in ideological silos, surrounded by political or religious echo chambers. As national rhetoric grows more divisive, the question becomes urgent: **How do we strengthen connections with our neighbors so our communities cultivate care rather than hostility?**

Keweenaw Faiths United—formed in 2019 after vandalism at the local Jewish temple—brings people across religions and denominations together to be peacemakers, build bridges, and take a stand against violence. Today, the group hosts quarterly luncheons where leaders engage in intentional conversation and collaborative action.

In this one-hour session, you'll hear how one community is bridging religious divides and have the chance to reflect on both the gifts and challenges of interfaith work.

Materials: NA

Register here: [Neighbors Across Faiths: Building Connections – Fill out form](#)

Reconciling Our Faith with Our Civic Life Responsibilities



Instructors: Chuck Thomas, NGLSynod Vice President, and Community Leaders
Sunday Evenings for 7 weeks, February 8 to March 22
7-8 pm Eastern Time, 6-7 pm Central Time

This class will comprehensively study and discuss the teachings of the recently approved ELCA Social Statement: Civic Life and Faith. Through shared experiences, readings, videos, and discussion we will learn, especially given current political issues, how we can reconcile our Christian faith with our civic duties and responsibilities. We will discuss and learn together how the foundation of our Lutheran faith teaches us about our relationship with government. Join us for this learning as we also hear from leaders in our community who are actively expressing their faith through their civic life.

Materials: NA – links will be provided for outside resources before class starts and at various times during the seven weeks.

Register here: [Reconciling Our Faith with Our Civic Life Responsibilities – Fill out form](#)

Troubling the Waters for Healing the Church

Instructor: Rev. Melissa Salminen,
Pastor ,Trinity, Stonington and Bethany, Perkins
Tuesday Evenings for 7 weeks, February 3 – March 24, 2026
(no class March 3)
7-8:30 pm Eastern Time, 6-7:30 pm Central Time



Have you ever wondered what to do after you have become aware of privilege and partnership? Join this class which will move us through the church year and focus on how God brings healing through the troubling waters of privilege. We will focus on the first sessions of this year long program. We will be looking at God's vision, listening to stories, brokenness, and promise in the church, as we listen and learn together. Later we will venture into the "to dos".

Materials: A handout will be sent electronically to class participants. If print is needed, please contact Sister Noreen Stevens (nstevens@nglsyno.cog or 651.815.1145.) There will also be optional reading resources recommended.

Register here: [Troubling the Waters for Healing the Church – Fill out form](#)

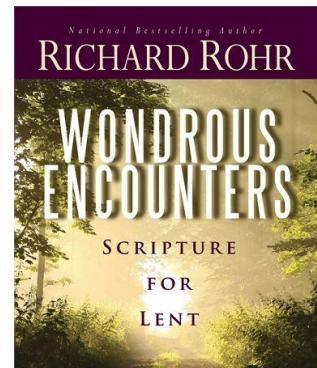
Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent

Facilitator: Sister Noreen Stevens

Monday Evenings for 5 weeks, February 23 – March 23

7-8 pm Eastern Time, 6-7:30 pm Central Time

Our class will use Father Richard Rohr's meditations for Lent found in his book, **Wondrous Encounters: Scripture for Lent**. Rohr invites us to share in a transformational Lenten-encounter with the Bible as we move through the 40 days of Lent.



Materials: Please purchase the book prior to the start of the class. The book is available through a variety of vendors. The book is \$8.99 plus shipping through Center for Action and Contemplation: <https://cac.org/>

Register here: [Wondrous Encounters – Fill out form](#)