



2021 FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

for rostered ministers and spouses, synod authorized ministers, and directors of youth & family ministry [of/in] the Northeastern Minnesota Synod - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

SEASONS OF LIFE: The Psalms on Grief and Gratitude The Rev. Dr. Kathryn Schifferdecker - Presenter

We and our congregations have all been living through a difficult season - the pandemic, economic recession, racial injustice, divisive politics. But with the distribution of vaccines, hope is dawning, and we praise God for the opportunity to gather with family and friends soon. Of course, we know that we are not the first to live through difficult times. In our fall theological conference, we will dive into the Psalms, whose authors were no strangers to hardship. We will explore in particular the seasons that the Psalms describe - times of grief and times of gratitude, and the unshaken conviction of the psalmists that in every season and circumstance, our lives are inextricably bound up with God's life. Come to be renewed and refreshed in the company of your fellow rostered ministers and colleagues, and in conversation with these ancient prayers of the church and synagogue.

"We must couple grief and gratitude in a way that encourages us to stay open to life... Life is hard, filled with loss and suffering. Life is glorious, stunning and incomparable. To deny either is to live in some fantasy of the ideal or to be crushed by the weight of pain. Instead, both are true, and it requires a familiarity with both sorrow and joy to fully encompass the full range of being human." - Francis Weller, The Wild Edge of Sorrow

**September 26-28, 2021
Ruttger's Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids, MN**

Registration information forthcoming. We are hopeful to be able to gather safely in person with a limited amount of people as well as provide the opportunity for hybrid learning via Zoom. Should the Minnesota State Health Department determine it is not safe to gather in person, we will be able to switch over to a digital learning platform.