



Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Professional Leaders Conference

April 18, 2018

The Lutheran Center, Augsburg Room
8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631

Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Coffee and Registration
9:30 a.m.	Welcome and Bishop's Greeting
	Keynote: The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz—Baptism in Muddy Waters: An Invitation into a Pneumatological Estuary of Death and Resurrection
11:15 a.m.	Eucharist Worship, Lutheran Center
12:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Workshop Session One
2:00 p.m.	Workshop Session Two

Presenter

The Rev. Leila M. Ortiz is an Assistant to the Bishop of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the ELCA. As a member of the synod staff, she finds great joy in working with congregations seeking new pastors to lead them in transformational ministry and with people who have been stirred by the Spirit and are discerning a call to rostered ministry in this church.

Ortiz is also a doctoral candidate at the newly established United Lutheran Seminary of Pennsylvania. Her areas of interest are Protestant Latino/a Liberation Theologies in the United States and the impact of Latina hermeneutics on Lutheran ecclesiology. Ortiz self-identifies as a Luthercostal—where the Pentecostal experience and Lutheran theology meet—and has introduced the term in her academic work and across the church.

As a Latina Luthercostal pastor and theologian, Ortiz is passionate about justice, peace, and helping her neighbors recognize the unique expression of God's image in themselves and in every member of the human family. She is also a pastor who is less interested in the "right" way to do church and more interested in "being" church for the sake of our complicated, messy, and ultimately, beautiful world.

Keynote Presentation—Baptism in Muddy Waters: An Invitation into a Pneumatological Estuary of Death and Resurrection. There is an unspoken, yet evident, assumption that the religious experience of people who come to our Lutheran congregations from fundamentalist traditions is irrelevant to Lutheran ecclesiology and the future of this church. In our time together, we will challenge this assumption and discover the work of the Holy Spirit as it draws theological and traditional differences into the same sacred- and messy- space for the sake of collective transformation and transfiguration.

Workshops

Session One (Sign-up at event)

AMMPARO: Led by Mary Campbell. This workshop will share information and status updates on how congregations can participate in the ELCA AMMPARO strategy as Welcoming Congregations and a very vibrant Guardian Angel program where ELCA members accompany migrant children and families in Chicago Immigration Court as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom.

Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice: Led by the Rev. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld, Task Force Co-chair, Greater Milwaukee Synod. This workshop will share an overview of the resources provided for discussing the Social Statement on Women and Justice in congregations as well as opportunity to respond to the draft.

Being the Church—Baptism into Muddy Waters: Conversation with Presenter Pastor Leila Ortiz.

Portico Benefits: Conversation and Q and A with Jennifer Prinz, Portico Benefit Services Representative, Region 5. Prinz will be available to share new Portico resources and updates, provide some reminders for accessing care and answer questions.

Session Two (Sign-up at event)

Getting Unstuck—CAT assessment tool: Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT): This workshop will share information about the Congregational Assessment Tool and how it can assist congregations in assessment and planning. The CAT is a customizable assessment instrument that can help you as a leader measure the level of satisfaction and energy in the congregation you lead, identify the critical success factors for improving organizational climate, and pinpoint the strengths of your congregation's culture. Discover where members would like to go in the future. Gauge readiness for change. Uncover potential resources you may be missing. Prepare for a search for your next pastor. Led by Nancy Sayer of SamaraCare Consulting.

Smooth Sailing: Becoming a Resilient Leader in Turbulent Times: Resilience is not perfection, but the ability to move forward in imperfect realities. Whether it's leading the church, dealing with difficult situations, or navigating the inevitable bumps and setbacks of life, it is possible not just to survive, but thrive. Discover how to cultivate your God-given strengths and develop healthy practices that will give you the stamina, confidence, and inner-peace you need to be a resilient leader. Led by Jennifer Prinz, Portico regional representative.

Invitational Christian: Led by the Rev. Dave Daubert. Daubert will share his latest congregational resource for practicing evangelism, his book *The Invitational Christian*. "Have something to share but not sure how to do a better job of sharing it? Across America, congregations are finding their ministries entering uncharted territory. Some congregations are not making the adjustment and will struggle or close. But many congregations are doing good work and experiencing vibrant ministry. People who participate in these places are excited and spiritually renewed. Yet they still aren't sure how to invite new people in to be a part of it. This simple book walks people through how to become an invitational Christian in an invitational congregation."