

**Keynote Speaker Dr. Diane Jacobson on Care of God's Creation
Presenting Saturday April 18 at 10:30 a.m.**



Dr. Diane Jacobson is professor emerita of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN where she taught from 1982-2010. She also served as director of the Book of Faith Initiative for the ELCA from 2008-2016.

When asked to be our keynote speaker, she replied, "I am very pleased to accept. I have been working on issues of creation in Scripture ever since I wrote my dissertation on creation in the Psalms. I presently serve on the Care of Creation team for the St. Paul Area Synod and have been a speaker on the topic in many places. Issues of Creation and Care of Creation is one of my passions."

Dr. Jacobson will be the Saturday morning keynote speaker and will also have an awareness session Saturday afternoon on "Forming Creation Teams in the Congregation."

She is a rostered deacon of the ELCA. Jacobson has been a frequent speaker throughout the Church, including the 2011 and 2013 Churchwide Assemblies, the LWF 50th Anniversary Assembly in Hong Kong, and numerous synodical assemblies, rostered leaders' gatherings, and churchwide consultations.

She wrote her dissertation on creation imagery in the psalms, was a principle translator of the psalms for the ELW, and also served on the consulting board and as a contributor to the *Lutheran Study Bible* (2009).

Dr. Jacobson currently serves on the boards of Augsburg College and Minnesota Opera as well as on the St. Paul Area Synod Caring for Creation Workgroup.

Jacobson is, first and foremost, a lover of Scripture. "I'm in love with this Book," she says. "My calling is to teach Scripture for the sake of God's world, and to invite others into the wonders and rewards of exploring the Bible together."

WORSHIP

Worship: 9:15 a.m. Saturday, April 18

**Worship will be led by Pastor Donna Rutten
of Peace Lutheran Church, Poplar WI**



Pastor Donna Rutten grew up in Altoona, WI and left Wisconsin at age 18 to join the U.S. Army. She graduated from West Point in 1987 was commissioned as a Chemical Officer and served for 23 years. After her retirement, she attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary Gettysburg graduating and ordained in 2014 and returned to Wisconsin at age 50 as a First Call Pastor called to serve Peace Lutheran in Poplar, WI. She is serving as a FIN Coach for the NW WI Synod WELCA organization and enjoys spending time with the WELCA Board and talking about Shiphrah and Puah. Not sure who they are, ask a WELCA Board member!

Reverend Erin Nelson will preach for our worship service. She will focus on our theme verse **Psalm 24:1** **“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.”**



Reverend Erin Nelson grew up in Minneapolis , MN and River Falls, WI before attending college at Gustavus Adolphus in Saint Peter, MN and seminary in Saint Paul, MN. She served two congregations in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin before joining synod staff as Director for Evangelical Mission. She currently lives in Hudson, WI with her husband, Mitch; their children, Rosemary and Peter and their 140 pound dog, Sally.

Music will be provided by a bell choir from Bethany Lutheran Church and a small group ensemble will lead the music for worship.

Churchwide Representative

Becky presents her message 11:30 a.m. Saturday April 18



Becky Shurson
Executive Board Vice President
Woman of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Becky Shurson was elected vice president of the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She served as secretary of the executive board from 2014-2017. She is on the constitution review committee and the executive committee.

Becky served seven years on the board of Pacifica Women of the ELCA (2C) in southern California, first as secretary and then as board member. She also served in leadership of the congregational units of Faith Lutheran Church in Yucaipa, Calif., and First Lutheran Church in Redlands, Calif.

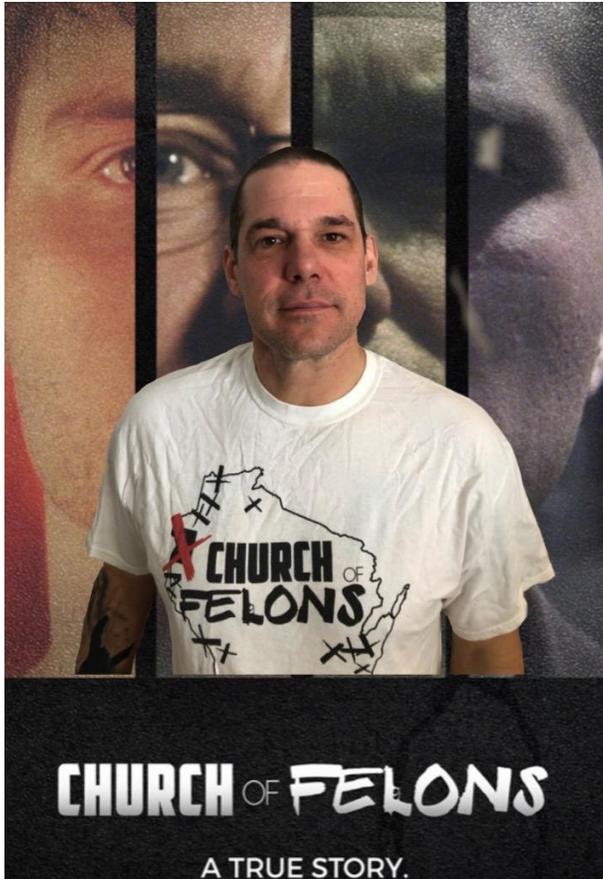
In July 2017, Becky, a Texas panhandle native, and her husband, John, a Minnesotan, moved from southern California to Eugene, Oregon. Their move was in celebration of John's retirement from BNSF Railway and their son Lucas' graduation from St. Olaf College.

Becky works from home for a nonprofit meeting planning company that serves religious organizations, and John works from home caring for their Golden Retriever puppy. Lucas serves in a position with Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Omaha.

A member of Eugene's Central Lutheran Church, Becky volunteers in areas related to worship and hospitality. She attends a weekly women's prayer and Bible study group that adapts *Gather's* monthly study to a weekly format.



Drug and Alcohol Addiction Awareness Session Presented at 1:15 and 2:20



Chris Lyman has experienced on and off drug and alcohol use and abuse that culminated in a death in 2009. All aspects of his life changed as a result of that tragic day some of which is told in the documentary film "Church of Felons".

Since 2012, Chris has been a tireless advocate for the substance dependent and incarcerated. He has sat in on Barron County Drug Court and is working closely for 2 1/2 years with the Treatment Court in Polk County. Chris ministered in Burnett County jail for three years and currently conducts groups twice weekly in Polk County jail that began six years ago. Chris also speaks and helps coordinate Victim Impact Panels in the area. Chris was ordained an Assemblies of God Minister in 2015 and leases a church for several types of ministerial outreach and worship in Dresser, WI.

Chris Lyman was born in Milwaukee 1970 and raised in West Bend, WI where he graduated from West Bend West High School. Chris attended one year of Community College before moving to Milwaukee where he met his soon to be current wife, Rebecca. After moving to the Twin Cities for Rebecca's medical residency they moved to Amery, WI in 1996 and still make our home there.

**Awareness Session Title: “Yoga for Stiff People”
Presented at 1:15 and 2:20**

If you're over the age of 40 and feel like your body just isn't moving as smoothly as it once did or your body isn't a fun place to live anymore, there is hope!

Using gentle, stretching movements designed to lengthen and strengthen the body's muscles, you can transform your stiff and unpleasant experience. After this class, you and your body will feel good from head to toe....and you'll laugh and have fun, too!

No yoga experience required - No pretzel poses - No need to be “in shape” to take part in this class! (No really, I mean it.)



Jane F. Mainz, M.A., has 30+ years of experience skillfully teaching women how to be in charge of their life and to get it all the way down to their bones how beautiful, smart and wise they are.

She teaches the tools needed to live a powerful and authentic life. She provides a safe, non-judgmental and inspiring place for women to explore who they really are; deal with unresolved issues; learn to trust their own inner wisdom; build self-confidence; and identify negative patterns that are holding them back, so they can move forward in life to experience more joy, balance, passion and fulfillment.

Her mission is supporting women to become their own trusted and reliable authority, so they can create a life they love.

Jane is a Women's Midlife (and beyond) Mentor, Shame Rehabilitator & Certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher. She holds a B.A.'s in both Theology and Art, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology and a 200-Hr Kripalu Yoga Certification.

She teaches Kripalu yoga classes in Luck, WI and facilitates workshops & courses designed for women in midlife and beyond. She sees private clients locally out of her home and online nationwide via phone or Skype.

***Renewable Energy in a Nutshell - Accessibility, Affordability & Feasibility
Awareness session offered at 1:15 and 2:20***



Adam Wehling, manager of the Energy Education Center at Chippewa Valley Technical College, is a local leader in sustainability and renewable energy which includes: solar-photovoltaic (PV), solar-thermal, wind, biofuels and geothermal.

Adam will present information on how to audit your energy use/habits for both electricity and heating and suggest energy efficient improvements to reduce the amount of energy being used.

Electricity is essential at all homes and businesses. Have you ever consider producing your own? With competitive pricing, tax incentives and grant programs that are available, owners may want to think about solar energy. The panels are sized to produce no more energy than your operation uses in an entire year and you'll qualify for grant funding, receive a 30% tax credit for the cost of the system and have a 5 year payback on the investment.

Adam will have a wealth of information for you!

Adam grew up on a 55 cow dairy farm outside Fall Creek, WI and attended UW-River Falls obtaining a bachelors degree in Agricultural Education in 2003 and a Masters of Science in 2012. For twelve years, Adam taught both middle and high school students in addition to serving as the FFA Advisor. During this time as a teacher, Adam was selected as the national Outstanding Young Educator in 2009 and the national Outstanding Educator in 2012 by the National Association of Agricultural Educators. After transitioning to Chippewa Valley Technical College in 2016, Adam was selected as the Outstanding Career & Technical Education Leader by the Wisconsin Association of Career & Technical Education.

Besides working at CVTC, Adam, his wife Katie and two young sons(Easton, 8 and Owen, 3) own Cedar Bee Farm, an 80 acre farm north of Mondovi, WI CedarBeeFarm.com. On this 150-year-old farm they raise 10 hives of bees and sell honey, strawberries, free-range meat chickens, egg layers, pasture-raised pork, grass-fed beef, gift boxes and have established 52 acres of wildflower pollinator habitat. Their markets include an on-farm store, local grocery stores and restaurants and partnering with local CSAs.

Care of Creation: The Immigrant Neighbors that God Sends Us **Awareness session at 1:15 and 2:20**

Presented by Rev. Dr. David Anderson and Joyce Anderson

This awareness session tells the stories of local immigrant neighbors, explains the current immigration crisis, separates the facts from myths about immigration, and reminds us of God's call to "love the immigrant as yourself (Lev. 19:34)."



Rev. Dr. David K. Anderson is a retired Lutheran pastor from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. With his wife, Joyce, he has co-chaired the JONAH Immigration task force for eight years. JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope) a grassroots community organizing group built of faith communities and others with shared values. JONAH is an affiliate of the statewide justice organization WISDOM. He is also a board member of the local Latino organization, El Centro de Conexion, a group that collaborates with JONAH's immigration task force. Throughout his ministry and into retirement Dave has had a passion to work for compassion and fairness in the community and to bring people on the margins to the table.

Joyce Anderson (M. A., Specific Learning Disabilities) is a retired special educator from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. In retirement, her volunteer work is largely with a Chippewa Valley grassroots justice organization, JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors Advancing Hope). With her husband, Dave, and with the support of the JONAH organization, she founded and has served as co-chair for the JONAH Immigration Task Force for eight years. With other community members she also founded a no-interest small loan program that has made over \$45,000 in loans to a number of people. In addition, Joyce is a member of the Advisory Board of the Lutheran Office of Public Policy, Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Together Joyce and Dave serve on the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Latino Task Force. She serves out of love for the neighbor and a passion for justice.



SUICIDE AWARENESS

Awareness session offered at 1:15 and 2:20

Presented by Amy Fondroy Eich



Although the word suicide is not in the Bible, there are numerous stories of people who consider or die of suicide. No-where are those who struggle with thoughts of suicide or the families condemned or shunned. But society and churches, even [today](#), often create more struggles of shame and isolation for those impacted by suicide. Three out of every one hundred adults have considered suicide in the past year. Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth ages 10-18. Half of every congregation have or are impacted by suicidal desperation. Yet, few churches talk about suicide, until AFTER someone has **tragically died**.

Pastor Amy Fondroy Eich grew up on a farm in Iowa. She attended Bowling Green State University earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Art Therapy. She worked as an In-Home Family Therapist in Iowa before answering the call to ministry and attend Luther Seminary. Two teenage boys and one in elementary keep her and her husband busy.

None of her previous school or work training prepared her to truly walk with those who were contemplating suicide while serving congregations in Iowa or Wisconsin. Pastor Fondroy Eich has received extensive training through 4 national suicide prevention organizations. She coordinated Soul Shop presentations to Middle and High Schools in Prescott and Baldwin. She was part of the first group in Wisconsin, Connect's Postvention training in Chippewa Falls. She has presented to clergy, churches and Walking Together. "I continue to learn more about how suicide becomes part of someone's thinking. This is not an individual issue, it is a community issue. Don't wait until there is a suicide in your community to offer hope to those silently struggling in your church."