

**QUEEN ANNE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

---

# **FEB. – MAY 2025 FORUM CATALOG**

**OUR ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** is open to everyone: occasional visitors, curious newcomers, or long-timers. Anyone who wants to connect with others, explore Christian thought and practice and the way they intersect with our lives in the world is welcome to join us.

**FORUM** meets on Sundays from September through June, exploring topics from Scripture and theology to faith's intersection with issues of social justice, the faith-science dialogue, and religious expression in music and service to others. Experts including local professors and directors of local non-profits along with our own "resident theologian," Pastor Dan, lead the forums. We welcome others with a passion for learning to join us.

Forums are hybrid, meeting in-person in our Conference Room from 9 to 10 AM on Sunday mornings; they are also accessible via Zoom. The Zoom link goes out in our emails and is posted on our website **FORUMS** page. Contact the church office to get on the email list or to leave a question (206.284.1970 or email [admin@queenannelutheran.org](mailto:admin@queenannelutheran.org)).

---

## DEEPENING OUR RIC IDENTITY

*A four-part Forum series*

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST



## The Language of Pronouns and Other LGBTQ Topics

*Magdalena Phillips and Svea Phillips*

02/02

Come to the Conference Room from 9 to 10 AM! Magdalena and Svea Phillips will share general LGBTQ+ definitions, a brief introduction to American queer history, and a practice session on the use of gender-neutral pronouns. They will also answer questions about their own lived experiences and the current state of political discrimination against queer folks.

**Magdalena Phillips** *has been attending Queen Anne Lutheran Church ever since she was a small child. Since graduating from Duke University, she has become the Adult Education Coordinator and a member of Council. She has known that she was queer for more than a decade and is passionate about helping her fellow Lutherans better understand queer communities.*

**Svea Phillips** *is a recent graduate of Wesleyan University in Connecticut who grew up attending QALC. She transitioned in 2022 and has been active in LGBTQ communities in Connecticut and Seattle, including a student club for transgender folks, online meetup groups, and various in-person events like last year's Pride Month.*

## Living Out Inclusivity—Sharing Research Findings

*Dr. Nathan Todd*

02/09

Dr. Todd will discuss the process that some Christian faith communities engage in to become and then live out being open and inclusive to the LGBTQIA+ community. The presentation is based on Dr. Todd's research, where he has interviewed over 70 people across the U.S. from different Protestant Christian faith traditions. He also will discuss historical context and the broader movement within Protestant Christianity to create LGBTQIA+ open and inclusive faith communities. Overall, Dr. Todd looks forward to sharing his work and engaging with questions and conversation.

**Dr. Nathan Todd** *is a Professor of Psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In his research he focuses on religious spaces such as congregations to understand how they may provide places of belonging, connection, and avenues to engage in social justice. He also does research on LGBTQIA+ health equity and LGBTQIA+ religion and spirituality. Overall, he hopes that his work brings visibility and promotes constructive dialogue around issues of LGBTQIA+ inclusion in religious spaces and beyond.*

## What's Next?

*Magdalena Phillips*

02/16

Open discussion, led by Magdalena Phillips, to talk about ways in which Queen Anne Lutheran church and we as individuals can move forward to create a welcoming community and advocate for others.

## Communion as a Resource to Resist Queer Religious Trauma

*Dr. Mary Lowe*

02/23

Prof. Mary Elise Lowe will introduce us to the ways that Christianity can harm and traumatize many LGBTQIA+ Christians. Then we will explore how a Lutheran understanding of the Lord's Supper as a place of community where God is offered FOR YOU affirms queer persons and extends a welcome of mutuality and affirmation to all.

**Mary Elise Lowe** is Professor of Religion and Philosophy at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her work focuses on Martin Luther's theology, LGBTQIA+ theologies, and religion and trauma. One of her recent articles is "[Communion for All: A Queer, Lutheran Sacrament of Wild Welcome](#)". Prof. Lowe's forthcoming book is *ReEngaging ELCA Social Teaching on Faith, Sexism, and Justice*. The book is co-authored with Mary J.S truefert and will be available in May of 2025. Prof. Lowe and Dr. Streufert will be teaching from their new book at Holden Village in August of 2025 (08/15-08/22).

## ATONEMENT—PT. I

*A four-part Forum series*

### Atonement in the Hebrew Bible/Rabbinic Judaism

*Dr. Beatrice Lawrence*

3/02, 3/09

The word "atonement" is a tricky one in the Hebrew Bible and subsequent Judaism. Even the Hebrew words used to describe this idea are unclear. However, it IS clear that there are concepts within the Bible and Judaism involving sin and reconciliation with other people and with God. What requires such reconciliation? Is it always possible? What are the mechanisms for addressing this? What is the nature of sin, and why does it happen? In this forum, we will use biblical and other Jewish texts to address these questions.

**Beatrice Lawrence** is Associate Professor of Hebrew Bible at Seattle University, where she also teaches courses in Jewish Studies. Though her research interests are diverse (many centered on the history of Jewish biblical interpretation), she is currently working on projects surrounding mental illness and the Hebrew Bible. She lives in Seattle with her two daughters and rescue pup.

# ONE PARISH ONE PRISONER

## The Lazarus Blueprint: A guide for churches to embrace reentry

Rev. *Dexter Kearny*

3/16

When everyone else in Lazarus' life had given up hope, Jesus called his friend back to life. But that was not the end of the story. Jesus called the community to remove the stone that blocked Lazarus from life and then told them to get even closer in order to take off the graveclothes covering his face and restricting his body. People leaving prison face this reality every day. By connecting people exiting incarceration to churches and building communities of care, we begin to practice this resurrection in our lives, our churches, and our world.

**Rev. Dexter Kearny** is a pastor who has been organizing people of faith into the interconnected work of justice through prison ministry, climate justice, and housing advocacy. He believes we are called to a radical imagination where the systems of death in our world are composted into plantings of life. In his free time, you can find him cuddling with his cats (Tennessee & Jersey), reading a book, or baking a tasty treat all with his amazing clergy spouse, Liz.

## ATONEMENT—PT. II

*A four-part Forum series*

### Atonement in the New Testament

*Dr. Lynn Hofstad*

3/23, 3/30

While many of the theological models of atonement were developed long after the writing of the New Testament, New Testament authors applied the idea of atonement to Jesus' death as a means to make sense of why Jesus died and what that could mean theologically. These forums will look at how New Testament authors, Paul in particular, understood the death of Jesus and how that connected to the Jewish understanding of atonement.

**Dr. Lynn Hofstad** holds a Ph.D. in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA. She is the Program Coordinator at Queen Anne Lutheran Church, and her scholarly interests focus on feminist theology, eco-theology, the doctrine of the atonement, and Lutheran theology.

# GOD'S CREATION UNDER THREAT: HOW DO WE RESPOND?

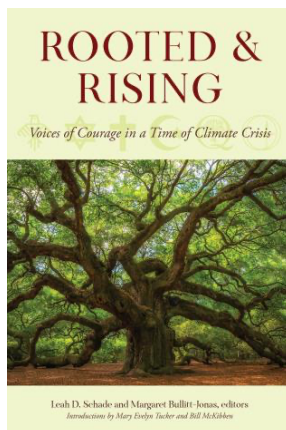
A three-part Forum series

## God's Creation Needs the Church; God's Church Needs Creation: Biblical Foundations for an Earth-Ethic

Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade

04/13

Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade will help us engage with the Bible by rooting in God's Creation to deepen and expand our faith. We will explore how the church can proclaim and enact justice for God's Creation in the face of the many threats to the world God has made. By reading the Bible through a "green lens," we will be inspired to make a difference for our planet, our churches and communities, and for our future.



**The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade** is the Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Kentucky. An ordained Lutheran minister since 2000, Leah has written or edited seven books, including *Creation-Crisis Preaching*, and *Rooted and Rising: Voices of Courage in a Time of Climate Crisis*. She has also written a Creation-centered Lenten devotional, *For the Beauty of the Earth* (Chalice Press, 2019). She has served as an anti-fracking and climate activist, community organizer, and advocate for environmental justice issues. She is also the EcoPreacher blogger for Patheos.com and has partnered with the Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development to create a monthly resource called EcoPreacher 1-2-3 for busy pastors wanting to address environmental issues in their sermons. Leah is currently the director of a \$1.25 million grant from Lilly Foundation, Inc. for the project, "Compelling Preaching for a Climate-Changed World," in partnership with Lexington Theological Seminary, The BTS Center, and Climate Justice Ministries.

## Creation Care and Climate Change: Putting Faith Into Action

Jeff Thiel

04/27 and 5/04

Join Jeff Thiel to talk about our understanding of what is happening in regards to climate change, the status of solutions, how we can do our part as households, and how we can do our part as a congregation.

Jeff Thiel is a member of St. Andrew's Lutheran (and also the son of my dear friend Judy). He has been involved in environmental stewardship for a number of years. Here's what he says on LinkedIn:

I'm "all-in" on developing market-driven solutions to our global climate crisis. Our planet is at a turning point. We've driven atmospheric CO2 levels well past levels our best science deems



safe for our planet. Yet, we're still dumping billions of tons of CO2 into the atmosphere each year, where it will stay for a millennium.

Moving to clean energy rapidly is necessary, but not sufficient to avert catastrophic climate change. We must start removing CO2 from the air at a gigaton scale to stabilize the global climate. We must capture CO2, convert it to useful materials, and embody those materials in durable products. It's technically feasible, and necessary for human survival.

To that end, I'm investing in ventures with carbon-storing products and technologies, organizing the building industry to decarbonize faster, and advocating for a national carbon fee and dividend policy.

Jeff is the CEO of Vitidore, a company that is dedicated to developing and advocating for sustainable agricultural practices and acting as a boundary organization that connects farmers, NGOs, and other companies with emerging sustainable agriculture technologies and revenue streams.

## Isaiah and the Motherhood of God

*Rev. Dr. Dan Peterson*

5/11

Most readers of the Bible assume it speaks about God in exclusively masculine terms. An important exception appears, however, in the Book of Isaiah (chapters 40-66). There we find what the famous commentator Walter Brueggemann calls a "daring use of metaphor" on the part of the author in his (or her) talk about God as the Mother of Zion! Join Pastor Dan as he unearths and explores this "lost" version of God in the Bible.



## Forum Suggestions for 2025/26

*Open Discussion*

05/18

Here is our opportunity to offer suggestions for our next year's schedule. Whether it is a request for digging deeper into what we studied this year or suggestions for new topics or speakers, this is your chance to shape our curriculum.

## FEB. – MAY 2025 QUEEN ANNE LUTHERAN FORUM CALENDAR

02/02	<b>The Language of Pronouns</b>	Magdalena & Svea Phillips
02/09	<b>Living Out Inclusivity</b>	Dr. Nathan Todd
02/16	<b>What's Next?</b>	Magdalena Phillips
02/23	<b>Communion as a Resource to Resist Queer Religious Trauma</b>	Dr. Mary Lowe
03/02 03/09	<b>Atonement in the Hebrew Bible / Rabbinic Judaism</b>	Dr. Beatrice Lawrence, SU
03/16	<b>The Lazarus Blueprint: A guide for churches to embrace reentry</b>	Rev. Dexter Kearny One Parish One Prisoner
03/23 03/30	<b>Atonement in the New Testament</b>	Dr. Lynn Hofstad
04/13	<b>God's Creation Needs the Church; God's Church Needs Creation: <i>Biblical Foundations for an Earth-Ethic</i></b>	Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade
04/27 05/04	<b>Creation Care and Climate Change: <i>Putting Faith Into Action</i></b>	Jeff Thiel
05/11	<b>Isaiah and the Motherhood of God</b>	Pastor Dan Peterson, QALC
05/18	<b>Forum Suggestions for 2025/26</b>	Open Discussion



Queen Anne  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Called to Proclaim God's Love in Christ for Every Person*

2400 Eighth Avenue West • Seattle, Washington 98119

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 17029 • Seattle, WA 98127

206.284.1960 • [queenannelutheran.org](http://queenannelutheran.org)