



**MISSIO DEI
THE WORK &
MISSION OF GOD**
Lutheran Week 2023
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



FAITH FORMATION FESTIVAL

AUGUST 8-9, 2023 | OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

- **8 am** – Registration
- **8:30 am** – Opening Devotion and Prayers
- **9 -10 am** – Introductions: *Where do you serve and in what capacity?*
- **10-10:45 am** – Youth and Family Ministry in the NALC, *Teresa Peters*
- **10:45-11 am** – Break
- **11:00 am-12:30 pm** – Keynote Speaker, *Heather Ruesch*
- **12:30-1:15 pm** – Lunch
- **1:15-2:15 pm** – Keynote Speaker, *Heather Ruesch*
- **2:15-2:45 pm** – Questions and Discussion
- **2:45-3pm** – Break
- **3-4 pm** – Guest Speaker, *Jeff Milsten*
- **4-5 pm** – Guest Speaker, *Emily A.*
- **5-5:30 pm** – Questions and Discussion / Close with Prayer

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9

- **8:30 am** – Opening Devotion and Prayers
- **9-9:30 am** – Solid Rock, *Melanie Corn*
- **9:30-10:45 am** – Guest Speaker, *Wondmagegn Udessa Bidire*
- **10:45-11 am** – Break
- **11 am** – Discussion and Takeaways
- **12 pm** – Lunch



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SPEAKERS & SESSION TOPICS

REV. TERESA PETERS

Associate Pastor at Joy Lutheran Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada and Director of Youth and Family Ministry for the NALC

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY IN THE NALC?

From Faith Formation Festivals, Zoom Education Times, Mental Health Bible Studies, to the Continental Youth Gathering – “We Belong” in 2024, find out what is going on in Youth and Family Ministry in the NALC.

HEATHER RUESCH

Author, founder and speaker of The You Matter Tour™ and executive director of L3 Resources

SEXUALITY MENTALITY

Teens hear a lot of conflicting viewpoints about sex. The world tells them that sex isn't a big deal, that pornography isn't harmful, and that modesty is old-fashioned. But God designed sex as a precious and sacred gift to be enjoyed in the right context, according to his design.

Parents, pastors, teachers, and youth workers will be given the tools to have honest conversations with teens about pornography, self-pleasure, homosexuality, modesty, the value of human life, and, yes, sex.

EMILY A.

Discipleship & Mobilization; World Mission Prayer League

COMMISSIONED LIVING

All believers are commissioned by God. We are in co-mission with our Lord and with one another. What could this look like to commit to living out our faith in community? Anyone living anywhere can live more intentionally by using biblical principles and drawing on ancient practices of faith.



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REV. JEFF MILSTEN

Lutheran Pastor in the NALC and the LCMC

GOD MATTERS TODAY WORKSHOP

Too often students are confirmed in the church and are rarely seen in church again. Other students graduate high school, leave their home, and rarely are seen in church again. Young adults go to college and hear anti-Christian messages and quit the faith. Adults have a family member or friend die after prayer for healing and then give up on God. Yet others stay faithful in the midst of difficulties, continue in the church, even grow in faith. What is the difference? For many the positive difference is they know God Matters in their lives today!

MELANIE CORN

Christian Education Director at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Chapin, NC and Youth and Family Ministry Specialist for the NALC

SOLID ROCK DAY CAMP PROGRAM

Melanie will discuss the manual she developed for mission districts to put together their own 5-day program. This program is geared toward elementary-aged children, where college-age counselors go to a different church each week to lead camp activities and bible study and build relationships with the kids.

WONDMAGEGN UDESSA BIDIRE

Director at Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, Children and Youth Ministry, Spiritual Radio Program Producer, Gospel Preacher & Teacher, and Youth Leadership Trainer

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY IN ETHIOPIA

Wondmagegn will share his vast knowledge and experience with us in the area of children and youth. We will learn what approach Wondmagegn is taking and how God is working in this ministry.