



South Dakota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



**God's Beloved Community Educational Retreat: *Fostering a Synod Where Trust Can Thrive***  
**First Call Clergy, Synod Authorized Ministers, and Pulpit Supply**

**March 15-17, 2026 Central Time Zone**

***The Dakota Event Center & Hampton Inn, Aberdeen, SD***

3216 7th Ave SE. Aberdeen, SD 57401 t: 605.262.2600

**Presenter: Deaconess Valerie Webdell**

**Chaplain: Pr. Shadoe Hanson**

**Sunday March 15**

4:00-6:00 PM Arrival and Check-in at Cedar Shores Conference Center

6:00-7:30 PM Dinner at Dakota Event Center

7:45 PM Opening Worship

8:15 PM Announcements

8:30 PM Fellowship

**Monday March 16**

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast/Coffee Available

8:30-9:00 AM **Morning Devotions and Bible Study:** Pr. Shadoe Hanson (Exodus 18.13-27)

9:00-10:00 AM **Session I – You Can't Do It Alone** – Deaconess Valerie Webdell

10:00-10:30 AM Break

10:30-12:00 PM **Session II – Healthy Community** – Deaconess Valerie Webdell

12:00-1:00 PM Lunch  
(deadline for one-on-one signups)

1:00-2:15 PM **Session III – Emmaus Walk**

2:15-6:00 PM Sabbath Time: (optional board games/puzzles/social time)

3:00-5:00 PM Individual Conversations available with Synod Staff and Presenters  
30-minute slots offered with:  
Jonathan Vehar  
Renee Splichal Larson  
Kathy McHenry  
Joel Pakan  
Kari Webb  
Deaconess Valerie Webdell  
Pr. Shadoe Hason

6:00-7:00 PM Dinner  
7:00 PM **Evening Devotions and Bible Study:** PR. Shadoe Hanson  
7:15 PM Fellowship (games/puzzles/social time)

**Tuesday March 17**

8:00 AM Continental Breakfast / Coffee Available  
8:30-9:00 AM **Morning Devotions and Bible Study:** Pr. Shadoe Hanson  
9:00-10:30 AM **Session IV – Everything Isn’t Terrible** - Deaconess Valerie Webdell  
10:30-11:00 AM Break  
11:00-11:30 AM Q & A with the Bishop  
11:30 - Closing Worship  
12:00 PM Lunch