

# Learning opportunities | Servant events



## The Laboratories

Friday and Saturday 2pm and 4pm

Location: HALL CD

**Migration Lab**, hosted by ELCA AMMPARO and Migrant Ministries, presents *Migrating Mother: Walking in Her Shoes 6 Years Later* which continues the migrant journey started at the 2017 All Anew Gathering. This experience will give participants a glimpse of what women and children, especially unaccompanied minors experience. Your Lab partners will be Mary Campbell, Giovana Oaxaca, and Raed AbuJries.

Through vivid (and sometimes painful) storytelling and profound insights, these leaders in the ELCA will invite participants into deeper conversation about the work that can be done by predominantly white congregations before calling a leader of color. Prepare to learn and understand more about your own call to allyship as an act of living out your baptismal calling.

**Trafficking Lab**, hosted by Phoenix Dream Center, will help us tackle the hard issues of human trafficking by understanding how prostitution has impacted the lives of women, girls, boys, and marginalized teens. Learn through the work of the Dream Center how to better equip your church to make a difference. Join your Lab partner Stephanie Lang for this experience.

**Community Lab**, will host two laboratories.

**Building Beloved Community** is committed action to the language of “building” as opposed to the idea that beloved community has been fully attained or achieved. Through conversations and activities this lab will intentionally engage beloved community principles and dynamics, interactive cross-cultural relationship-building, and understanding resources, so that participants will become architects and builders of building beloved community. Your Lab partners will be Prairie Rose Seminole and Rev. Albert Starr, Jr.

**House of Refuge Sunnyslope**, a local in-kind gifts recipient, will share their story and the growing reasons people end up without the security that comes from a safe home. You’ll learn about the community it has built to support the women, men, and families they are walking with, equipping them to lead independent lives that enable them to break free from homelessness. The Rev. Joel Trout is your Lab partner.

## The Laboratories

Friday and Saturday 2pm and 4pm

Location: HALL CD

**RUHWG Lab** will host four laboratories.

**Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls (RUHWG)** will look at the work of Women of the ELCA's health initiative since its inception in 2005. Now it's time to look forward to what God has in store for the next 20 years and to dream and prepare to celebrate the wins, increase participation, and face the challenges and emerging healthy issues that surfaced from the COVID 19 pandemic. The goal continues: we're all about sharing knowledge and experience in order to prevent women and girls from continuing today's health risks tomorrow. Your Lab Leader is the Rev. Victoria Hamilton.

**My Friends House, Inc.** received a RUHWG Unit Seed Grant in 2010 to meet a need in their community by assisting families in stretching their grocery budget through the end of the month. Thirteen years later, as food prices increase, the number of women, children, and the most vulnerable in need of assistance has increased too. This ministry has expanded, offering nutrition classes and much more. Your Lab Leader is Judith Tutt Starr.

**African Girls Scholarship and Mentorship Program**, a 2022 RUHWG World of Healthy Women Healthy Girls Seed Grant recipient, was created by three young women from Tanzania and Cameroon who are part of the ELCA International Women Leaders Program. They understand the pressing need for women's empowerment in their countries and are paying it forward by creating this program to prepare young girls who are economically disadvantaged for leadership. Meet your Lab Partners Marina Fomgbami and Glory Godwin to learn how you can participate in this new ministry.

**Del la Mano con Jesús**, a 2023 RUHWG Good Soil Seed Grant 2023 recipient, was created by Rebeca Amaro Trevino, a member of the Mexican Lutheran Church and an ELCA International Women Leaders scholar. Del la Mano con Jesús (which mean Hand in Hand with Jesus) provides a place for women to gather to talk and support each other emotionally and spiritually. The Good Soil grant allowed for childcare and a free clinic to the programs offered. Your Lab Partner is the Rev. Maria Paiva.

**Innovation Lab**, hosted by ELCA Innovation Home area, offers the invitation to “Let’s Dream Together.” Innovation is more than looking for the next new thing. When God’s people practice innovation, it involves collaboration, collecting and recycling data while listening, for the Holy Spirit to bring the newness needed for such a time as this. Rahel Mwitula Williams will be your Research Leader.

**Better Chance Lab**, is hosted by Alleluia Better Chance Diaper Closet, a local in-kind gift recipient. You’ll learn the story of how a small congregation changed the lives of babies and toddlers not only by providing a weeks’ worth of diapers and wipes but also by building relationships, sharing prayers and hugs, and cuddling babies and toddlers at each distribution. Thanks to the closet, parents and grandparents leave with the hope of making it through another week. Your Lab partner will be Laura Krueger.

**In-Kind Gifts Lab** will host space for the in-kind gifts drop off, assembly and display. It will be a busy place preparing the thousands of items for the in-kind gifts presentation to the recipients. These in-kind gifts have both a local and global impact. All hands-on deck! Your Lab leaders are Gail Starr and Deborah Banks Williams. Other labs and activities to explore Just love.

**The Quilting Lab** is where you will turn quilt kits into quilts (an in-kind gift) for Lutheran World Relief. You will also hear stories of the people who receive the quilts and those who create them. No experience necessary. Trish Williams and Lutheran World Relief Staff are your Lab partners.

**The Knitting Lab** is where you will hear the amazing story of knitting and crocheting Knitted Knockers, handmade breast prostheses for women who have had breast cancer and undergone mastectomy or lumpectomy. You can help on the spot by knitting, joining the stuffing party and planning how you will continue to walk with women around the world needing knockers. Dale (DJ) Arriaga will be your Lab partner.

**Earth Lab** features ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response is More than Food and Tornadoes. This lab will help you explore your response to the increasing number of yearly natural and human-made disasters here at home and around the globe. Everdith Landrau and Maryn Olson will serve as your Lab Leaders.

**The Language Lab** is the space to explore that words matter in how today’s disciples express “just love.” You will be able to identify your spiritual love, language, and spiritual gifts.

**Women of the ELCA** welcomes you to the gathering by giving you an opportunity to catch up on what’s new, remember why we exist, and learn how to find your place in this community of women.

**The Bookshelf**, hosted by Breakpoint Books, will have books by our speakers and presenters, Women of the ELCA identity items, and Just Love keepsakes that include tumblers, key chains and much more including booking signings by several gathering speakers and presenters.

**The Quilt Challenge Gallery**, this self-guided display features quilts interpreting the gathering theme. These entries were made by women from across the country. Be sure to look on both sides.