

Leading Faith and Civic Life:

An Equipping Series for Rostered Ministers

Five Session Zoom Series
Wednesdays 11am-12:15pm
August 19-September 16, 2026

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Co-facilitated by:

The Rev. Dr. Roger A. Willer



The Rev. Dr. Roger A. Willer is a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) rostered in NEOS and recently retired as the Director for Theological Ethics in the ELCA Office of the Presiding Bishop. He served in that capacity as co- or lead staff person with all the writing projects of ELCA social teaching documents since 2005. He earned his PhD from the University of Chicago (2009) in theology and is a contributing scholar in theology and ethics for both church and academic audiences. His final social statement as director was Faith and Civic Life: For the Well-being of All, adopted last year.

The Rev Dr. Laura L.H. Barbins



The Rev. Dr. Laura Barbins was elected bishop on September 11, 2020 and re-elected June 6, 2026. Prior to her call to the Office of Bishop, she was the pastor of Celebration Lutheran, Chardon, Ohio for 19 years, Interim Pastor at Messiah Lutheran, Fairview Park, Ohio for 1 year, and Associate Pastor for Youth at Holy Trinity, Nashville, Tennessee for 2 years. Holding a PhD in New Testament and Homiletics, Bishop Barbins has also been Adjunct Professor for Preaching at Trinity Seminary at Capital University.

Rostered ministers are being asked to lead conversations that carry real weight in their communities. This five-session Zoom series prepares pastors and deacons to guide their congregations through the ELCA social statement ***Faith and Civic Life*** with clarity and theological grounding.

Each session focuses on a specific part of the study guide. You will work through key concepts, prepare for difficult conversations, and name the challenges you expect in your context. Participants can submit questions and concerns ahead of time so the sessions address real situations you are facing.

By the end of the series, you will have a clear grasp of the study guide, language you can use in your setting, and a plan for leading your community through faithful civic engagement.



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