

Breakout Session Information

Introducing "The Light of Hope Returning"

Presenter: Shawn kirchner

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Room: Choir Room

Description: Shawn's new piece, "The Light of Hope Returning," is a concert-length folk oratorio for Winter Solstice/Christmas/New Year. It includes some of his best-known carol settings as well as many newly written Solstice carols. Come hear the story of the work and explore its varied music—incorporating folk, gospel, bluegrass, and carol traditions—and its timeless themes that take the Christmas story to a deeper level.

Songs and Stories from Voices of Hope

Presenter: Amanda Weber

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Room: Orchestra Room

Description: The Voices of Hope women's prison choir gathers at the Minnesota Correctional Facility in Shakopee, MN each week to create a space for healing and wholeness through music. Founded in 2015 by Dr. Amanda Weber, this choir-turned-organization has worked with over 300 incarcerated people and brought more than 300 outside collaborators into prisons to sing together. In this session, Dr. Weber will share favorite songs from Voices of Hope (including numerous commissions) and tell stories of their impact. If you are passionate about the intersection of social justice and choral singing, this workshop is for you!

Art Haus Paint Along (\$10 fee required to participate)

Presenter: Shannon Dallenbach Durbin

Time: 10:30 am – 11:30 am

Room: Sperati Band Room

Description: Enjoy a guided acrylic paint-a-long of an outdoor scene that captures the spirit of Luther. No prior experience is required. Available to the **first 20** who register. Please email nicholas@luther.edu if you would like to reserve a spot for this session.

Conducting Master Class

Presenter: Andrew Last

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Room: Noble Recital Hall

Description: Dr. Andrew Last will lead a conducting masterclass for up to four volunteer conductors from the retreat choir. Conductors will select a piece of their choosing and utilize the session attendees as their choir. Dr. Last will work with each conductor on conducting technique, effective gestures, and encouraging strong music choices. A call for conductors will occur after the registration window closes.