

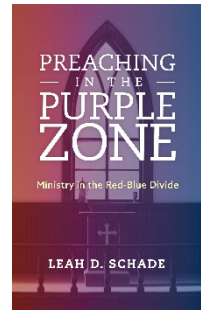
**Presbytery of Northern Kansas
Pastor's Webinar Series**



THE REV. DR. LEAH D. SCHADE
Speaker, Author, Preacher, Professor

Preaching * Political Divides * Dialogue * Research

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Bio: The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade is the Associate Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, Kentucky. An ordained Lutheran minister (ELCA) for more than twenty years, Leah earned both her MDiv and PhD degrees from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia (now United Lutheran Seminary). She has pastored three Pennsylvania congregations in suburban, urban, and rural contexts. She is the author or co-editor of six books, notably, *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), explores how clergy and congregations can address controversial social issues using nonpartisan, biblically-centered approaches and deliberative dialogue. Her forthcoming book is titled *Preaching and Social Issues: Tools and Tactics for Empowering Your Prophetic Voice*, which will be published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2024.

Dr. Schade received a \$30,000 grant from the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning in Theology and Religion to study deliberative dialogue in classrooms and congregations. She has conducted longitudinal research on ministry, preaching, and social issues that has surveyed nearly 3,000 clergy and 1,000 laity since 2017. Dr. Schade received the Kentucky Council of Churches award in 2019 and is the [EcoPreacher](#) blogger for Patheos.

May 9, 2024, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Central

Discovering Our “Theologies of Conflict”

Tensions and conflict are normal within churches and among people of faith, but they are also sources of anxiety and dread for many. However, if we look at conflict from a *theological* perspective, we may discover God’s presence in unexpected ways. This session will explore the unspoken assumptions that people of faith can have about the relationship between God and our human disagreements and skirmishes. Is it possible to be in conflict and yet remain connected? How do we assess our “theologies of conflict” to understand ourselves and our faith more fully? Participants will work with a tool developed by The Rev. Dr. Leah Schade that they can use in their congregations to unearth our beliefs about how God relates to us in the midst of conflict so that we can find common vocabulary and handle tensions in a healthier and growth-producing way.

Agenda:

- 12:00 – 12:15 Conflict in Congregations During This Divisive Time: An Overview
- 12:15 – 12:35 Discovering Our “Theologies of Conflict”
- 12:35 – 1:00 Small group work with Theologies of Conflict Worksheet
- 1:00 – 1:30 Q&A with Dr. Schade

June 6, 2024, 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Central

Preaching Across the Divide: Strategies for Sermons During the Election Season

The challenge of preaching across the red-blue divide in our churches is fraught with risks, but also offers opportunities for proclaiming the gospel and building community in profound and contextual ways. Informed by insights from her longitudinal research of nearly clergy and congregations, the Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade will help you think strategically about your sermons heading into the election season. Based on her book *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2019), Dr. Schade offers a way to approach preaching in this politically divisive climate using a tool she developed called the “dialogical lens” for interpreting scripture. Participants will workshop biblical texts for preaching using these tools so that they can apply them in their sermons during the election season.

- 12:00 – 12:15 Preaching and Taboo Topics, 2017 - 2023
- 12:15 – 12:35 The Dialogical Lens for Interpreting Scripture and Preaching
- 12:35 – 1:00 Small group work with Dialogical Lens on scripture passage
- 1:00 – 1:30 Q&A with Dr. Schade

REGISTRATION: This webinar series is brought to you by the Commission on Ministry of the Presbytery of Northern Kansas. The target audience is congregational pastoral leadership. There is no registration fee, but registration is required for either or both webinars. Please register by no later than noon the day before the webinar (May 8th for the May 9th webinar, June 5th for the June 6th webinar or May 8th if you are registering for both webinars). Register [HERE](#) or by typing this link in your browser:

https://www.cognitofrms.com/PresbyteryOfNorthernKansas/_2024PastorsWebinarSeries