

SAFER TOGETHER

October 27 Launch Objectives



Give participants a common starting place.

Dr. Jillian Peterson's research can help us begin with what we know about mass shootings, gun violence, trauma, and prevention—and identify questions we need to keep exploring.



Introduce a different way of framing restraint and prevention of gun misuse.

Begin exploring the emphasis of the ELCA social message on shared responsibility and a public-health approach rather than starting with the usual rights and control debate.



Model the kind of conversation we hope to have for the Safer Together initiative.

Practice being a community of moral deliberation in which people can share personal experiences, listen carefully, ask questions, explore differences honestly and kindly, and look for common ground.



Begin connecting the issue to our own contexts.

What does gun-related violence and trauma look like in our communities? What is different in metropolitan areas, smaller cities, rural areas, tribal communities, and other settings?



Begin asking the vocation question—personally.

From where I actually stand in my life, what opportunities do I have to reduce harm, strengthen community, or contribute to greater safety? Invite participants to identify at least one action they might take within their own roles and contexts.



Create interest and commitment for what comes next.

Use the evening as the beginning of a sustained regional conversation among Lutherans seeking to build safer and more peaceful communities through further learning, conversation, and action taking shape within participating synods and across the region.