

Homelessness Symposium Events at First Lutheran – Spring 2024

For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me. -Matthew 25:35

Homelessness Immersion Event

Join us this Spring, for a recap of our fall book study, *Same Kind of Different as Me* (2017). The PG-13 film version of this incredible, true story will be shown as a kickoff to the book sequel, *Workin' Our Way Home* (2018).

This New York Times bestseller is an inspirational story that “embraces the beauty of the human spirit.” Successful art dealer Ron Hall (Greg Kinnear) and his wife Debbie (Renee Zellweger) seemingly have the perfect life. But when their faith and family are tested, an unlikely bond with a homeless drifter (Djimon Hounsou) leads them on a remarkable journey that forges an everlasting friendship. This memoir shows how a simple act of kindness can change everything.

The movie will be followed by a *Lunch and Learn* session and VERGE, a homeless simulation*. During the simulation, you will be assigned an identity and encounter life events that can result in homelessness as well as challenges faced by those who live without permanent shelter. Following the simulation, a panel of FM shelter staff and individuals who have experienced homelessness will reflect on the film, share their lived experience of being homeless, and provide additional insights into homelessness in our community.

Bring a friend! This is open to all. You do not need to register for the Spring book discussion to attend.

Date/Time:

- Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm. Meet in the FLC Bible Max Theater.

Location:

- First Lutheran Church Bible Max Theater and Fellowship Hall

RSVP deadline:

- Sunday, April 14

Cost:

- \$10.00 (Includes the bag lunch FLC provides bimonthly to our shelter partners and supports the FM Coalition to End Homelessness)
- Pay in advance at the FLC Welcome Desk

Registration and Information

Please register under REGISTRATION at flcfargo.org or through the FLC Welcome Desk. For more information, contact Polly Kloster, Director of Mission, at pkloster@flcfargo.org.

*You must be 16 years of age or older to participate in the homeless simulation experience.

Homelessness Book Study

Workin' Our Way Home, by Ron Hall (2018)

This memoir is a sequel to *Same Kind of Different as Me*, by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, read for our FLC Fall 2023 book study.

Ron Hall was an international art dealer and Denver Moore, a homeless drifter with a violent past. Their unlikely bond was divine providence, orchestrated by Ron's wife. Join us as Ron and Denver work their way through grief, with humor, faith, fortitude, and the true meaning of friendship, as part of God's ongoing plan for their lives.

This study is free of charge and open to everyone, not just participants from the Fall book study.

Dates/Times:

- 12:00 – 1:00 pm on Wednesdays, April 24, May 1, & May 8, **OR**
- 7:00-8:00 pm on Tuesdays, April 23, April 30, and May 7

Location:

- FLC Luther Room

RSVP deadline:

- Tuesday, April 16

Registration and Information

Please register for this book study under REGISTRATION at flcfargo.org or through the FLC Welcome Desk.

Participants are asked to obtain their own books. If assistance is needed in obtaining a book, or for more information, contact Polly Kloster, Director of Mission, at pkloster@flcfargo.org.