

Synod Connect Day

Join the Grand Traverse Conference for an active mini-retreat and enjoy good food, faithful worship, enjoyable fellowship, and time outdoors in the beauty of Grand Traverse Bay and Leelanau County on Saturday, September 12!

Sponsored by congregations in the Traverse Conference, this Synod Connect Day will focus on the outstanding Leelanau TART Trail from Traverse City to Suttons Bay. The trail is a 20-mile paved bike trail that winds through the hills, forests, and scenic outlooks of the Leelanau peninsula. The path is mostly level, with a few manageable inclines, and it is accessible and safe for all ages.

To participate, participants can bring their own bikes, or the Conference will arrange for an e-E-bike. A scenic hosted vehicle tour of the Leelanau backroads will also be available for those preferring a more accessible option.

Upon reaching Suttons Bay, participants will enjoy a BBQ Lunch at Immanuel Lutheran Church followed by a U-Pick hayride through an active apple orchard.

Following the hayride, participants may choose to return to Traverse City to make their way home or stay in Suttons Bay. Those staying may enjoy the beach or shopping, or gather together at Hop Lot, a family-friendly beer garden with great food, locally-brewed beer, cider, and wine, and a large non-alcohol beverage menu.

Everyone is welcome to participate on Saturday, and all are additionally welcome to gather Friday the 11th at Bethlehem Lutheran in Traverse City. There we will set up a home-base for overnight activities to include worship using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy.

Overnight lodging aside from local hotels will include home-stays, overnight RV Parking at Bethlehem (no hookups), and an old-school sleepover in Bethlehem's fellowship hall.

Thanks to generous sponsors, the cost of the event itself is free. Additionally, E-bike rentals (including regular, trikes, and family models) are available for a greatly-reduced price of \$50 per bike.

Transportation to/from the gathering points is provided; participants may park their cars at Bethlehem and leave them until the end of the event.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday, September 11

7:00 pm	Gather at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City
8:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer

Saturday, September 12

8:15 am	Continental Breakfast at Bethlehem
9:00 am	Travel to Trailhead and prepare bikes.
9:45 am	Depart Trailhead
	Stops along Way
11:45 am	Arrive Immanuel Lutheran Church in Suttons Bay
12:00 pm	BBQ Lunch at Immanuel
1:15 pm	Travel to Apple Orchard for Hayride/Apple Picking
2:30 pm	Bus/Van back to Bethlehem
2:30 pm	Family Gathering at Hop Lot Brewing Company and Beer Garden
4:15 pm	Bus/Van back to Bethlehem from Hop Lot

REGISTRATION

Registration will open Friday, July 17 and close August 23. Participants can point their internet browsers to <https://bike.ilcsb.org> to register starting July 17.

QUESTIONS

Pastor Jonathan Reid, dean of the Traverse Conference, is available to answer questions and to help assist with any special requests at jonathan@ilcsb.org.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that all of the trails that make up the TART Trails network, and the land upon which the entire Grand Traverse Conference lays, now and in the future, exist on the ancestral lands of the Anishinaabe people who are today represented by the nations of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians and the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians.