Western North Dakota Synod

GIFTS Event

DECEMBER 4–5, 2026

Christ Lutheran Church
Minot, ND



Ministry in a Secular Age
Exploring Faith in a Changing World

With Special Guest
Dr. Andy Root
(Princeton Theological Seminary)

FEATURING DR. ANDREW ROOT

Andrew Root, PhD (Princeton Theological Seminary) is a pastoral and practical theologian who researches, writes, and lectures on ministry in a secular age, younger generations and faith formation, the life and pastoral theology of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, and culture and the church. His research, writing, and lecturing meld cultural philosophy with the theology of the cross.

Root is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. He is most recently the author of *Evangelism in an Age of Despair* and the six volume *Ministry in a Secular Age* series (including *Churches and the Crisis of Decline, The Congregation in a Secular Age, The Pastor in a Secular Age, The Church After Innovation, The Church in a Age of Secular Mysticism and Faith Formation in a Secular Age*). He is also the author of *The End of Youth Ministry?* and more than a dozen other books. Root also serves as theologian in residence at Youthfront. He has worked in congregations, parachurch ministries, and social service programs. He lives in St. Paul with his wife, Kara and two children, Owen and Maisy, and their dog. When not reading, writing, or teaching, Andy spends far too much time watching TV and movies.

Rostered Leaders, Deacons, SAMs, and Lay Leaders alike... everyone is welcome to attend all or parts of this event hosted by Christ Lutheran Church of Minot, ND.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, December 4, 2026

6:00 PM – Check-in/Registration
6:30 PM – 9:00 PM – Andy Root

Saturday, December 5, 2026

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM – Gathering and Coffee *(provided)*
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM – Andy Root
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM – Lunch *(provided)*
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM – Andy Root
3:00 PM – Worship with Communion

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"All around the church, people are talking about Andy Root and his inspired, helpful guidance for the way ahead."
~ Will Willimon