



**United  
Lutheran  
Seminary**

**Kindling Faith**  
Learning Never Ends

Where: Gettysburg  
Campus

When: December  
1- 5, 2025

What: An Advent  
Icon Writing  
Retreat with the  
Rev. Bonnie  
Oplinger

Cost: \$350  
includes all  
materials, lodging,  
and meals

To register, please  
[click here](#) or use  
QR code provided  
below:



# Advent Icon Retreat

*To write an icon is to pray with your hands. It is not art for art's sake; it is an act of love, a spiritual journey into the mystery of God made human. — Sr. Faith Riccio, OSB, iconographer*

Join us for a sacred Advent Iconography Workshop, where participants will have the rare opportunity to write an icon of the Madonna and Child. Guided by prayer and tradition, this immersive experience invites you into a deeper meditation on the mystery of the Incarnation. As hands shape sacred image and heart attends to holy presence, the work of iconography becomes a spiritual practice—enhancing appreciation for the season of Advent and drawing participants into a more intimate connection with God, who enters our world in vulnerable love. Participants in this experience will write a Madonna and Child icon.



## Leader



**The Rev. Bonnie Oplinger is a dedicated Lutheran pastor who served in Pennsylvania, particularly within the Lower Susquehanna Synod. She has faithfully led worship and community life in Jerusalem Ev. Lutheran Church in Rothsville, PA, including offering pastoral care, officiating funerals, and leading devotions for civic gatherings. Beyond her pastoral duties, she is remembered for personal warmth and she has historically served as organist and choir director in a number of churches since her college days.**

**Bonnie has been writing icons for over two decades and has facilitated a number of workshops in Lancaster and Berks Counties.**