
Workshops

Workshops and Service Projects on Saturday Afternoon
Locations will be provided upon arrival in your registration packet.

2-Part Workshops

Part One and Two (3:00 – 5:15):

Doorway Evangelizing: An Experiential Workshop in Evangelizing

Leader: Rev. Larry Strenge, Director for Evangelical Mission, Southwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

Ever wonder what it would be like to go out two by two as Jesus sent the seventy? You will have that experience in Redwood Falls at this year's Synod Assembly when this two-part workshop offers to participants a "brief" training in "Doorway Evangelizing." Working with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls participants will first learn the basics of "Doorway Evangelizing." Then, in the second hour, we'll be sent "two by two" to visit with people in Redwood Falls. We won't take a staff but we will take a smile and the gift of Jesus' love through this visit. Come and see!

Note: please wear comfortable shoes for walking; hour one is necessary for hour two.

Part One (3:00):

The Green Church: What can your church do to cut energy costs?

Leader: Hank Wellnitz, LEED AP, Church Building Consultant, Mission Investment Fund

Has your congregation started implementing, or at least thought about, ideas to "go green," cutting waste, energy usage and utility costs? This session will offer ideas, from simple to more encompassing, for your church to become more energy efficient and sustainable. A getting started plan, based on real examples and actual "green" church design, will be presented by an ELCA church building consultant.

** Note: After this workshop, go to "God's Handiwork; Our Working Hands" at 4:15.*

Part Two (4:15):

God's Handiwork; Our Working Hands.

The daily challenge to be faithful stewards of God's rich, diverse, resilient, yet fragile, Creation.

Leader: Rev. Mark Peters, Executive Director of Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota and
Jeff Vetsch, West Central/Southwest CERTs Coordinator

Caring for creation is a profoundly spiritual matter arising from our deepest biblical values. Our faith will ground our initial discussion. Thereafter, we will conduct a "walk-a-bout" of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church with a "kill-a-watt" meter to identify energy-sucking "vampire" appliances. During this hands-on demonstration, we will offer specific alternatives and practical resources that painlessly "save a buck," exercise sound stewardship, and reduce our carbon "pew print." Despite what Kermit the frog said, it really is "easy to be green" and protect the environment in which we work, live, and worship.

Workshops continued....



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Both Workshop Sessions (3:00 and 4:15)

There is Hope: Working Together Feeding the Hungry

Leader: Connie Schwartau, Southwestern Minnesota Synod Hunger Coordinator

In this session you will learn about the realities of hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Find out about the work of ELCA World Hunger. Get resources to use in your congregation and find out about opportunities to put your learning into action.

Lutheran World Relief Quilting Ministry

Leader: Dr. Lisa Baumgartner Bonds, VP for External Affairs, Lutheran World Relief

Join Dr. Lisa Bonds of Lutheran World Relief as she weaves together the uncommon story of Lutheran quilters and the many ways their faith intersects with women and men who daily pull themselves out of poverty. In 35 countries, LWR connects hearts and hands to bring about immediate and life-long hope and opportunity. Learn what your congregation can do to join in this uniquely Lutheran ministry.

3:00 p.m. Session Only

Saying NO to a Pornified Culture (Note: Women Only)

Leader: Rev. Tim Ehling, Coordinator, Cherish our Children

In this workshop participants will: 1) Examine the ELCA Sexuality Statement: Gift and Trust for support and encouragement that empowers the people of God to address and say no to the system of sexual exploitation. 2) Focus on the specific business, magazine, or television advertisement that is using sexual exploitation to sell their product. 3) Write a letter of disapproval and protest to the company persuading them to change or alter their advertisement.

Nurturing Young People's Faith in the midst of Facebook and iPods

Leader: Dr. Terry Martinson Elton, Luther Seminary

This workshop will seek to realign ministry with young people from a program-driven model to a communal approach to nurturing mature Christian faith. Using the findings of the Exemplary Youth Ministry study participants will learn what assets congregations can foster in order to create a robust community that joins young people in their faith journey.

Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI): Walk with Us

Leader: Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Coordinator for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and HIV/AIDS Strategy, ELCA

Learn more about this pan-Lutheran global health initiative with the goal of containing malaria in Africa by the year 2015. Hear about the ELCA's Global Mission approach of "accompaniment" as we walk together with global church partners in dealing with malaria's deadly presence. Statistics say a child under 5 dies every 30 seconds of malaria. Learn how you, and your church, can help change that statistic, and contribute to a healthy life for all children.

Workshops continued....



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

4:15 p.m. Session Only

Pornography and the End of Masculinity....A Look in the Mirror (Note: Men Only)

Leader: Rev. Tim Ehling, Coordinator, Cherish our Children

In this workshop participants will: 1) Look at the ways our pornified culture is changing the way men act towards women, and how they see themselves as men. 2) Talk candidly of the paradox of pornography and sexual exploitation from a male perspective. If pornography is increasingly cruel and degrading, then why is it also increasingly common place instead of more marginalized? 3) Honestly and opening struggle with the question: "How do men grow to be better men?"

Helping Families Practice Faith at Home

Leader: Jim LaDoux, Vibrant Faith Ministries

This interactive workshop will provide participants with hands-on tools to equip parents, grandparents and godparents to be the primary faith shapers in the lives of young people.

HIV and AIDS Strategy: Becoming an HIV-Competent Church

Leader: Rev. Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl, Coordinator for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative and HIV/AIDS Strategy, ELCA

The newly adopted HIV and AIDS Strategy of the ELCA calls us to become an HIV-Competent Church through the action steps it presents. Learn more about the pandemic of AIDS in our world, and also about the growing number of cases in the US. What can you do, and your congregation, do a make a difference in fighting this global threat to health?

Workshops continued....



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Service Projects

***Red Cross Comfort Kits** (3:00; into 4:15 if needed)

Leader: Redwood County Volunteers

Help us assemble kits of basic toiletries and supplies to be distributed to the victims of house fires, floods, tornadoes, and other disasters. Your hour spent packaging these kits will make a world of difference to someone facing hard times.

***Seed Packet Stapling** (3:00)

Leader: Redwood County Volunteers

Did you know you could serve the Lord with a stapler? You can! Come and join in the fun as we staple seed packets on letters to be distributed to area schoolchildren and their families to encourage family togetherness and creation care.

***Relay for Life Bags** (4:15)

Leader: Redwood County Volunteers

Join in the fun as we prepare luminary bags for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life to be held this summer in Redwood County. If you can fold paper, you are qualified!!!

***Habitat for Humanity Storage Shed** (3:00 - 5:15)

Leader: Lutheran Men in Mission

Come and join the Lutheran Men in Mission as they build a storage shed for a family in need.

***Women of the ELCA Quilting** (3:00 and 4:15)

Leader: Women of the ELCA

Are you inspired by helping provide Lutheran World Relief with quilts? Join the Women of the ELCA in helping to make a quilt and learn how this ministry can be sewn into your congregation.

***Women of the ELCA Knitting Hats** (3:00 and 4:15)

Leader: Women of the ELCA

Join us for an hour or two of knitting baby hats to be distributed by Global Health Ministries to newborn babies throughout the world. Learn more about this vital ministry as you send a message of love and care to a new mother and her child. Instructions and materials will be provided. New knitters are welcome, as well as more experienced knitters.

***Women of the ELCA Prayer Shawls** (3:00 and 4:15)

Leader: Women of the ELCA

Calling all knitters! If you are interested in starting a prayer shawl ministry in your community, please join us to learn more about these meaningful gifts that embrace a friend in love. Instructions and materials will be provided. Beginners and experienced knitters are welcome.

**Space may be limited for each service project. More information will be provided at registration.*

