

EQUIPPING CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS DAY

February 11, 2012

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES: Jessicah Duckworth, Luther Seminary

MORNING: A CATECHETICAL SHAPE FOR A MISSIONAL CHURCH

How might a document written in 1531 shape the missional focus of a congregation in 2012? What do fear, love, and trust have to do with mission? How might Luther's question, "What is this?" inspire a new generation? Determined to sustain Christian faith in daily life, Luther wrote the Small Catechism as a simple guide. Together we will explore Luther's gift as a guide for mission.

AFTERNOON: CATECHETICAL PRACTICES FOR A MISSIONAL CHURCH

When describing their faith, Christians are increasingly speaking not only of belief, but of faith-practices. The content of Martin Luther's Small Catechism reveals the heart of Christian life of faith and the church's responsibility to sustain that faith. We will explore together how the shape of Martin Luther's catechisms inspire practices of forgiveness, confession, hearing the Word, responding to the Word, prayer, worship, and mutual conversation and consolation.

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

MORNING SESSION

CATECHETICAL PRACTICES AND NEWCOMERS

Presenter: Jessicah Duckworth, Assistant Professor, Luther Seminary

Description: Are you concerned that newcomers in your congregation are not actively participating and thus not feeling as though they belong? This workshop will explore the themes of the keynote presentations as they relate to newcomers, visitors, and new members in your congregation. Come and explore how catechetical practices in your congregation can facilitate newcomer participation and deepen their sense of belonging within your congregation.

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? Getting to Know the Muslim Community

Presenter: Pastor Jon Dahl and Pastor Mari Thorkelson Bethel Lutheran, Willmar

Description: Jesus calls us to not only love our neighbors but to attempt to understand our neighbors. In this workshop, the basics of the Muslim faith beliefs will be introduced. Hear firsthand stories and experiences from Muslims and Christians who are working and living together in God's world.

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & BRIDGE BUILDERS Part 1

Presenter: Pastor Ron Nichols, Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne

Description: The church is a place of many emotions...joy, peace, discomfort, uncertainty, pain and sadness. Tension carries both seeds of destruction and creation. To move toward the latter, it is necessary for the congregation to make decisions and to set a course of action. Healthy Congregations and The Bridge Builder Program were initiated by Rev. Peter Steinke and others to help congregations gain a more helpful view of inevitable conflict in the church. Pr. Ron Nichols will present principals for better understanding of the System's Approach to conflict, and give aids to encourage those empowered to be responsible, namely the church leaders. Note: This is a 2 part workshop.

MINISTRY WITH YOUTH

Presenters: LYO Members, Sarah Hausken, Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator

Description: How can you involve youth in your congregation? Hear from our Lutheran Youth Organization members and share what is working for you.

DISCOVERING HOPE FOR RURAL CONGREGATIONS

Presenter: Karen Koeder, Waverly Lutheran Church, Trimont

Description: What are the ingredients that make a congregation one of hope with a bright future, a congregation on the move? Based on a study of small rural congregations across the United States, 6 core principals were discovered as keys to success in turning congregations from dying to vibrant. Join us as we explore these keys and discover hope for your congregation.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE PARENTS GONE?

Presenter: Tera Elness, the American Lutheran Church, Windom

Description: Do parents drop their children off for Sunday school, pick them up afterwards and are among the missing at worship? If yes, then this is for you. Join Tera in exploring ways to engage the parents of our children beyond being a taxi driver.

AN EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY

Presenter: Pastor Chad Peterson, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: Community is a word that is thrown around in the church quite a bit. Many of us make assumptions of what a "Faith Community" should look like and how it should function. Are these assumptions helpful? What does "community" look like? How does technology play a role in developing and shaping a church community? Is it possible to create a "virtual community" to connect people in a congregation? What does that look like? At Vinje Lutheran, we have been experimenting with what we call "Virtual Vinje". Come and hear about this experiment in community. (These tools we are developing at Vinje can also be adapted for smaller/rural congregations as well).

PASTORAL CARE IN CONGREGATIONS

Presenter: Pastor Mary Hovland, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: Sharing pastoral care within community helps build stronger communities. The Vinje Lutheran Parish Care Coordinator Team brings hope, healing, and encouragement to the congregation. The Care Team includes synod authorized ministers, parish nurse, friendly visitors, hospital visitors, and a social worker. This workshop will give you ideas on how to multiply ministry and expand pastoral care in your congregation and community.

BECOMING AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH TREASURER

Presenter: David Anfinson, CPA, Former SW MN Synod Treasurer

Description: We will walk through ELCA guidelines for Treasurers, grow in understanding clergy tax issues and talk about software available for churches. Each participant will leave with a reference manual to take home and use.

ELCA WORLD HUNGER AND YOUR CONGREGATION

Presenter: Pastor Bryant Kaden

Description: Learn about the work of ELCA World Hunger both domestically and abroad, explore the latest materials available to your congregation for FREE!), and see how heeding Jesus' call to feed the hungry can connect your church members more deeply to one another, to the ELCA, and to the whole body of Christ.

ELW UNPLUGGED: Traditional Worship Music "Outside The Box"

Presenter: Pastor Matt Philaya and Diane Schulte, Salem Lutheran, Montevideo

Description: A worship service with a "contemporary" feel does not require new songs projected on a screen and a rock band. Join organist Diane Schulte and Pastor Matt Philaya of Salem Lutheran Church in Montevideo as they play and sing right out of the Evangelical Book of Worship (ELW) with guitar, piano and simple percussion. Learn about ELW guitar accompaniment books, easy to play (and affordable) percussion instruments and sing traditional music you already know and love to a fresh new sound enjoyable for all ages.

ADVANCING THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL IN AN AGE OF TURBULENCE AND DECLINE

Presenter: Pastor Tim Larson, Administrative Pastor, Calvary Lutheran, Willmar

Description: Using findings of researcher/author Jim Collins, this workshop will review various principles of leadership that enhance congregational progress and stave off church decline.

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: Why and How?

Presenter: John Jahr, Director of Worship & Music, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: It has been said that our children are the church of TOMORROW...in this session we describe ways that our children are the church of TODAY. How can we design worship experiences to include people of all ages? What elements teach children that they are vital participants in each service? What happens that might teach them otherwise? "Then Jesus took the little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

GETTING YOUR CHURCH CEMETERY RECORDS COMPUTERIZED

Presenter: Doug Gilbertson, Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: Come and get some ideas on how to computerize your church cemetery records. Helpful hints will be given and an example of a computer program in use at Calvary Lutheran will be shown.

TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP I

Presenter: Dale Erickson and Pastor Allan Johnson

Description: Are you thinking about using power points, images, hymns on screens in your worship and have no idea how to begin? Technology In Worship I will give you information on how to get started...equipment needed, basic operating instructions and resources for more assistance.

AFTERNOON SESSION

PASTOR AND PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT (Special for pastors)

Presenter: Pastor Todd Nelsen

Description: This workshop examines a number of methods for personnel management and employee evaluation.

CARE OF CREATION

Presenter: Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds, Prairie Land Lutheran Parish, Hanska/LaSalle

Description: Come learn about what the Bible says about stewardship of the earth and its resources. Learn about how you can conserve energy and save money at home and church with an abundance of resources from Lutherans Restoring Creation. Pastor Mary Suomala Folkerds of Prairie Land Parish in Hanska and LaSalle will share stories from a study trip she participated in 2009 through a grant from the ELCA and World

Hunger to learn more about issues of hunger, poverty and climate change in Nicaragua. This is beneficial for all church members, including church leaders and committee members.

HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS & BRIDGE BUILDERS Part 2 Continued from the morning

Presenter: Pastor Ron Nichols, Grace Lutheran Church, Luverne

Description: The church is a place of many emotions...joy, peace, discomfort, uncertainty, pain and sadness. Tension carries both seeds of destruction and creation. To move toward the latter, it is necessary for the congregation to make decisions and to set a course of action. Healthy Congregations and The Bridge Builder Program were initiated by Rev. Peter Steinke and others to help congregations gain a more helpful view of inevitable conflict in the church. Pr. Ron Nichols will present principals for better understanding of the System's Approach to conflict, and give aids to encourage those empowered to be responsible, namely the church leaders.

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION: Unity of Spirit through the Bond of Peace

Presenter: Pastor Lowell Krogstad, Synod Staff

Description: The Apostle Paul asks us to "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." How do we do this? During our time together we will look at three key components of coming together and discuss practical ways to work with them so that we may be united. (This session will talk specifically about men's groups, but the ideas are not limited to men.)

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP: Why and How? (Repeat of morning)

Presenter: John Jahr, Director of Worship & Music, Vinje Lutheran Church, Willmar,

Description: It has been said that our children are the church of TOMORROW...in this session we describe ways that our children are the church of TODAY. How can we design worship experiences to include people of all ages? What elements teach children that they are vital participants in each service? What happens that might teach them otherwise? "Then Jesus took the little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY MEALS

Presenter: Julayne Mayer & Alice Weiberg, Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: Telling the story of how churches in Willmar are cooperating community meals program. Presentation will include information on the biblical and missional rationale for such ministry, in addition to the practical aspects of coordinating volunteers, underwriting costs, etc.

TEACHING OUR CONGREGATIONS ABOUT WORSHIP

Presenter: Carol Meier, Musician, Eagle Lake Lutheran and Pastor Jay Grave, Bethany Lutheran, Windom

Description: As Lutherans, worship always has been and always will be central in the life of our congregations. We probably agree this is true, but do we (and our fellow worshippers) know why this is so? What do we, as Lutherans, believe about worship anyway? How can we share these beliefs with the members of our congregations through worship services that reflect (and inevitably form) these beliefs? Come to share and discuss ideas for worship that is relevant, authentic, educational, and Lutheran! Leave with practical ideas for worship and worship education that you can implement in your congregation.

PAZ Y ESPERANZA: Your Local Mission

Presenter: Erika Obregon and Idalia Leuze, Paz Y Esperanza, Willmar

Description: This congregation has been established in Willmar with the help of local ELCA leaders who participated in a planning process for outreach to a growing Latino community. Come and learn the tools needed to promote and foster cultural understanding between the mainstream population and Latinos practicing the Lutheran faith.

FAITH BUILDING: NO NEED TO RE-INVENT THE WHEEL

Presenter: Pastor Laura Aase, River of Hope, Hutchinson and Chandra Kropp

Description: Being a new church that worships together only on Sunday evenings, we've had to figure out "Sunday School" a few different times. Now we call it "Faith Building" and have a rhythm that includes "Second Sunday Service, Supper, and Singing." If you are interested in integrating service projects into the faith lives of your kids, youth, and congregation, we'd love to tell you what has worked for us and even what hasn't worked. Bring your questions and ideas.

UNBINDING THE GOSPEL: WHY SHARE OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH?

Presenter: Pastor Art Wiese, United Lutheran Church, Lake Lillian

Description: "Most people would rather get a root canal than think about evangelism", says Martha Grace Reese in her introduction to the "Unbinding the Gospel" series. Our churches can't share their faith until they're loving, relational communities where people (1) pray, and (2) talk comfortably with each other about their own faith experience. If you are looking for a way to bring spiritual renewal to your congregation through the simple process of praying, reading the bible and talking with one another, this workshop will introduce you to the four books in the "Unbinding" series and share the experience of introducing the process in one small, rural congregation in our synod.

TECHNOLOGY IN WORSHIP II

Presenter: Dale Erickson and Pastor Allan Johnson

Description: Technology In Worship II is for you who already are enhancing your worship, but looking for more ideas. This section is for you as Dale and Pastor Allan present advanced information and resources.

THE POWER OF ART TO SPEAK THE FAITH

Presenter: Robyn Sand-Anderson

Robyn Sand Anderson, artist, will speak of her journey of becoming an artist and how she sees God at work in her life as an artist. Using her own work as an example, she will lead participants through the experience of really looking at several pieces of art, discerning how color and shape and movement can evoke thought, emotion and meaning. Can God speak through means other than words? How have the arts given us another language in which to hear God, know God and respond to God's love for us.

LEARNING TO S.O.A.R. IN YOUR MINISTRY

Presenter: Pastor Larry Strenge, ELCA Staff

Description: For many years organizations used "SWOT" (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) when doing planning. A new tool, S.O.A.R. (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) takes what is good about SWOT and makes it better. Building on strengths or assets of an organization S.O.A.R. offers participants a way to look at what is good about a setting and work within a framework to move forward its mission. Participants will learn how one might use this tool in small and larger groups for visioning and setting realistic goals.

WHAT'S UP WITH LIFT?

Presenter: Pastor Dee Pederson, Bethlehem Lutheran, St. Cloud, ELCA LIFT Task Force Chairperson

Description: At the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Assembly in 2010, participants contributed to research being done by the task force for "Living Into the Future Together: Renewing the Ecology of the ELCA". The task force was asked to study the changing culture in which our church finds itself, as well as changes within the ELCA, and to ask, "What is God calling us to be and do? What changes are in order to respond most faithfully?" Based on extensive research across the ELCA, the LIFT task force submitted its report to the ELCA Church Council in the spring of 2011. The Church Council sent implementing Resolutions to the 2011 church wide assembly and the assembly acted on those recommendations. So what was the LIFT report all about? What were the LIFT recommendations that came out of the church wide assembly? What do they mean for our congregations? Come and join the conversation!

"I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THIS!" Congregational Crises- a Lay Leaders Perspective

Presenter: Jeff Danielson, President Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar

Description: An open and frank discussion from a non-professional lay leader on the do's and don'ts in dealing with the unexpected. As volunteers, lay leaders are seldom prepared to deal with a crisis in their congregation. Here's a chance to participate in a discussion with someone who has been through it.

TABLE TALKS DURING LUNCH

FAITH BUILDERS

Have you ever been involved in the Synod Faith Builders Program? Join the group to share your experiences and find out what is up with the program now.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS

Meet others in your field, share ideas and do some networking.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM FOR MUSICIANS John Jahr

The Leadership Program for Musicians is a teaching ministry that gives church musicians an increased sense of vocational awareness, along with the tools and resources to enable congregations to sing well and participate actively in worship. A joint venture between the ELCA, the Episcopal Church, and other mission partners, LPM supports Church musicians by: Strengthening musical skills, Enriching Liturgy and Worship, Affirming the call to ministry, and Fostering vocational commitment.