



RISKY BUSINESS: **Always Reforming**

Growth Group Opportunities

There will be numerous Growth Group (break-out session) opportunities offered for you all centered around Risky Business: Always Reforming. You can choose which group you would like to attend. It is helpful to have members of your congregation attend different groups in order to bring back more information to your congregation.

Faithful Stewards, Lasting Impact

Presenter: Amy Bigot, Regional Gift Planner for the NW Minnesota Synod.

This informative session provides information for you to take back to your congregation about leaving gifts to ministry through our estates. *Faithful Stewards:* In this Presentation, Amy talks about being good stewards of the gifts that the Lord has given each of us, as everything we have comes from Him. These gifts from God are a blessing to us in our lifetimes, but what about after we are gone? Have you considered how the gifts you've received throughout your life may be a blessing to others? *Lasting Impact:* This overview presentation will get you thinking about the gifts you've received, and how your family, your heirs, AND ministry can all benefit from these gifts. In her role as Gift Planner, Amy works with congregation members to help maximize the distribution of their estate to their heirs, using tools that will save on income and inheritance taxes, AND help them to support the ministries that have been important to them throughout their lifetimes. Through our legacy plans we can make a lasting and meaningful impact in this world. Something to ponder - What's the greatest possibility you can imagine God could do with your life story—now and beyond this life-- that would bring joy and blessing to others?" Amy's work is a service provided to you at no charge by the ELCA Foundation, and she is available to discuss Legacy planning with your congregation.

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Presenter: Molly Beck Dean, ELCA Gathering Director and Kristina Dernier, NWMN Gathering Synod Coordinator

Join your Gathering Synod Coordinator and the Gathering Director for all the latest information about the 2018 Gathering in Houston! Come learn pro tips for preparing and leading a group and network with other adult leaders.

Lifesaving Welcome: Why a Specific LGBTQ Affirmation is So Important

Presenter: Zac Baker, Reconciling Works

LGBTQ people and their families have learned by experience that they are often not truly welcome in church, even in churches that state, 'All are welcome here!' Since many have been specifically excluded by name by church and society, it can take an intentional effort to communicate an authentic welcome to LGBTQ people. This Growth Group will give you a 101 introduction to LGBTQ identities as well as give you practical tools to take back to your faith community and have conversations about crafting a specific welcome statement.

Narrative Budgeting: Using the Numbers to Share Your Story

Presenter: Pr. Cassie Anderson

Narrative Budgeting is a way to share the living stories of faith that accompany a traditional spreadsheet budget. It gives you a tool to share about your congregation's generosity. Narrative budgeting allows you to share the story of what God is up to in your faith community. Narrative Budgeting allow people to see how their gifts and offering support allow your congregation to live out your mission. Come discover tips and techniques for introducing Narrative Budgeting. Learn about resources and see examples of how to format a Narrative Budget. Walk away with an excitement to use a Narrative Budget to share the mission of your faith community.

Declaration on the Way

Presenter: Randy McGuire

This is a unique ecumenical text that draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for the 500th Reformation anniversary coming in 2017. Major sources are dialogues at the global level. But, as happened in the formation of the 1999 Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification, there's mutual reinforcement between global and more local conversations, including those in the U.S. By demonstrating how far Lutherans and Catholics have come together on three crucial topics, the Declaration indicates much ground that need not be retraced again, and it offers these Agreements to the churches to be received into their common life. In this way it helps inspire continuing work toward the visible Christian unity, which is Christ's prayer.

Collaborative Conversations

Presenter: Pr. Karla Mickelson

Congregations can engage in conversations not only concerning their own vibrant ministry, but also engaging neighboring congregations into a shared vision for ministry as ministry partners.

Your Life – A Called Life

Presenter: Dr. Mark Tranvik

In this workshop we will see how Martin Luther's understanding of his vocation informs our own faith and life today.

ELCA Campaign

Presenter: Pr. Paul Erdal

The Campaign for the ELCA is a five-year \$198 million comprehensive campaign that will establish a strong culture of stewardship that will position this church to boldly do God's work in Jesus' name throughout the world.

Cultivating a Culture of Call

Presenter: Sr. Krista Anderson

At the core of our Lutheran identity is the message that, at our baptism, we are each called into a lifelong journey of faith in which we participate in God's work for the sake of the world. Created in the image of God, what we do matters. As we lift up, nurture and intentionally claim our vocational calls, we live out God's mission in the world as communities of faith. As we cultivate communities where all people can hear and respond to God's call, we boldly and confidently identify, equip, and send some among us into rostered ministry. In this Growth Group, we will discuss the joys and challenges of being called by God, share best practices for identifying and lifting up lay and rostered leaders, and consider how each person's call informs their vocation, and how we as faith communities can continue to facilitate the work of the Spirit in our lives.

A Data-Driven Look: Building a Thriving Ministry in a Shifting Culture

Presenter: Richard Bauer, Vanco Payment Solutions

Learn how the e-giving data from nearly 4,000 ELCA churches is helping guide fellow ELCA churches in understanding how e-giving is positively impacting the financial health of congregations across the nation. You will also have the opportunity to test drive – text by phone, mobile (debit and credit card) and kiosk e-giving platforms at the conclusion of the workshop.

Viewing of “Luther and the Reformation” by Rick Steves

Presenter: Pr. Justin Fenger

Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther kicked off the Protestant Reformation, which contributed to the birth of our modern age. In this one-hour special — filmed on location in Europe — Rick Steves tells the story of a humble monk who lived a dramatic life. Rick visits key sites relating to the Reformation (including Erfurt, Wittenberg, and Rome) and explores the complicated political world of 16th-century Europe — from indulgences to iconoclasts, and from the printing press to the Counter-Reformation. It's a story of power, rebellion, and faith that you'll never forget.