

Equipping Congregations Day
February 17, 2018
First Lutheran Church – Bemidji, MN

Workshop List

Workshop 1A: Council Training

Pr. Paul Erdal, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

The nature of church and governance is unique. We will explore leadership, decision making, and other council and leadership issues. This training is especially good for current and newly elected council members as well as congregational members.

Workshop 2B: Treasurer Training

Carrie Clemens, Former NW MN Synod Treasurer

Learn financial best practices for new and current treasurers and bookkeepers. Healthy financial stewardship is an incredibly important component of any congregation and managing god's resources requires knowledge and skill. Recent changes to mission giving to the NW MN ELCA synod will also be discussed.

Workshop 3C: Developing a Ministry Funding Plan for your Congregation

Amy Bigot, ELCA Foundation

What practices and processes are needed in today's congregation to create enthusiasm for generosity? What can lay leaders and pastors do to help create new pathways to fund ministries, ones that your congregation's people care about? This workshop provides an overview of how to create a Ministry Funding Plan for your congregation. This includes information on developing a Gift Acceptance Policy and Endowment Bylaws, so when legacy and/or memorial gifts come in from your members, a clear pathway has already been identified as to how these gifts may be used. These practices help to encourage a culture of generosity amongst your members. Included in this discussion is information on ways members can leave gifts to ministry through their estates. In the face of a changing world of giving, participants will leave with an introduction toward ways to meet congregational funding dreams as well as ideas to support ministries that people are passionate about.

Workshop 4D: Making Space for Ministry – The Church Building

LuAnn Ferguson, Mission Investment Fund

The church building is where we gather to worship, study, and pray and often times we either outlive the age of the building or outgrow the space of the building. Join LuAnn Ferguson in discussing options regarding church buildings and what resources the ELCA and MIF provide to congregations seeking to do building projects.

Workshop 5E: Outdoor Ministry and Its Role Today

Maddie Gray, Luther Crest Bible Camp

Outdoor ministry continues to be a growing ministry in the church. Join Maddie Gray, program director for Luther Crest Bible Camp in Alexandria, as she discusses development in the ministry and how congregations can actively participate in the growth of these camps.

Workshop 6F: The Small Group: Leadership Skills and Development

Kris Dernier, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Small group leadership is a key part of most youth (and all) ministry roles but, we often feel unprepared for the task. Leading a small group is not easy, but everyone can learn to do it well. We won't guarantee that your middle school boys will love every small group, but this session will introduce the basic ideas and skills necessary for leading a small group.

Workshop 7G: Hospitality: Breaking Unwritten Rules

Pr. Hope Deutscher, Living Grace Lutheran Church – Hawley, MN

Every community has them – rules that we don't know about, until we break them. From money to worship to building use, every church has some rules that no one has written down or talked about – but can become divisive. Attend this workshop to begin naming the unwritten rules we encounter and discuss helpful healthy ways to address them in your faith community.

Workshop 8H: Mental Health and Community Life

Pr. Margaret Kelly, Keynote Speaker

Mental illness is common in our communities. As people of faith, we are called to walk with our siblings in Christ as they seek recovery. Learn some terms, tools, and resources to support community members in recovery.