

Equipping Congregations Day

February 24, 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Fergus Falls, 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

Catherine Dickey, 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: A New Generation of Faith Formation

Pr. Megan Clapp, Immanuel Lutheran Church – Wadena, MN

Together we will explore some new models of Sunday School & Christian Education and discover how family and intergenerational ministry could help revitalize faith formation in your congregation.

Workshop 9I: Systems Theory and Family Process: An Intersection of Deming, Friedman, Steinke and Others

Pr. Bradley Skogen, First Lutheran Church – Battle Lake, MN

An introduction to how organizational and family systems theories can enhance the life and mission of a congregation. Deming's systems theory can help organize the aim, vision and strategic initiatives of a faith community while the family systems work of Friedman and Steinke sheds light on the relational and parallel emotional processes members and staff experience in congregational life.

Workshop 10J: Tough Love from the Minor Prophets

Pr. Elise Pokel, Trinity Lutheran Church – Crookston, MN

Now more than ever, it's important to lead congregations in discussions about wealth, power, idolatry, and nationalism. Let the little guys (minor prophets) do the heavy lifting! Pastor Elise Pokel led a 12-week study, focusing on how the fiery words of the minor prophets are especially timely now. How can their challenges build faith? What's the role of the prophets in our Christian living?

Workshop 11K: Questions for a Church Planter

Pr. Jodi Houge, Humble Walk Lutheran Church – St. Paul, MN

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Workshop 12L: The Care and Feeding of Ministers

Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

A description is not yet available.

Workshop 13M: Ministry Options for Small-Membership Congregations

Bishop Larry Wohlrabe, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

A description is not yet available.