



Practicing Resurrection Experiencing Vitality

How it Works

Getting Started: Church council and pastor decide to participate, assemble a team and arrange for congregational support by praying, blessing the team and working with them upon their return from the training sessions.

Registration: Submit names and contact information for the team **by January 4th** to Pastor Keith Zeh at keith.zeh@elca.org or send to Northwestern MN Synod, Concordia College, 901 8th St S, Moorhead, MN 56562.

Schedule for January 13, 2018: Training begins at 9:30 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. A detailed schedule for the day will be provided immediately upon receiving the names and contact information for your congregational team.

Cost: \$75 per congregation covers materials, lunch and refreshments.

Training leaders: The training and process will be facilitated by a team of rostered leaders in the EaND and NW MN Synods who have been intentionally engaged in congregational vitality ministry.

More information: Contact Pr. Keith Zeh at keith.zeh@elca.org or 218-790-1764.



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Training Event
Saturday, January 13, 2018
Trinity Lutheran Church

Congregational vitality is growing in transforming, life-giving relationships with God, with one another, in our congregations, and with our communities for the sake of God's mission through the death and resurrection of Jesus for the sake of the world.

The training event is a "from the field, for the field" approach. It is based on the premise that the real experts on congregational vitality are those who experience it first-hand. During this process we'll be learning from one another.

Desired Outcomes

- + At the heart, this process is grounded in the belief that God provides everything needed to carry out ministry God intends.
- + Through the work of God's Spirit, people will be energized about the Good News of Jesus Christ and sharing the living Gospel.
- + Teams will be equipped and encouraged to navigate purposeful change guided by naming core values, practicing resurrection through doing holy experiments and learning from both success and failure in an action-reflection mode.

Practicing Resurrection: Experiencing Vitality

What It's About

- + Experiencing congregational vitality through trusting and acting upon the real presence, power and promise of Jesus.
- + Celebrating and using what you have, rather than lamenting and obsessing about what you don't have.
- + Finding energy, purpose and direction in God's word, prayer, the conversation of the saints, as well as faith practices.
- + Navigating change calmly, confidently and effectively.



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What You'll Learn and Experience

- + *Telling your story*: Discover how God's story and your story reshape community.
- + *Discovering gifts and assets*: Congregations discover and employ their God-given gifts as they use them to serve neighbor and follow Jesus.
- + *Leading through change*: Change is hard, but essential for the church to grow. Learn how to lead through change.
- + *Holy experiments planning*: Teams learn the basic principles of congregational vitality practices and implement holy experiments accordingly.
- + *Building teams*: Teams from participating congregations develop into equippers and encouragers for their congregations, who know where to find support for the holy experiments they live out.

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The Journey and Process

- It's grounded in Bible study, prayer, conversation and action focused on helping the congregation recognize their God-given gifts and how those gifts can be used to live out the Gospel in word and deed.
- + Each congregation has a coach who walks with them during the process, actively listening and asking good questions to keep the process on track.
 - + Prior to the first training day, a congregational vitality team is named and blessed. This team will consist of the pastor and at least 4-7 lay leaders whose commitments and caring for the congregation are well demonstrated.
 - + There will be two Saturday training events, approximately six months apart, beginning on Saturday, January 13, 2018.