

WORKSHOPS

Pre-Assembly Workshops, Thursday, May 30, 2019

1. What's Next?: Going Deeper, Embracing Stewardship!

10am-4pm

What is stewardship? What might it look like in your context and faith community? What might be new and possible resources available to consider? How do pastors and lay leaders serve together as stewards and in leading stewardship ministries? What are new tools and strategies for offering? How might you evaluate your congregation's stewardship ministry effectiveness and needs? These are some of the questions that we will consider with Rev. Chick Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy on Thursday May 30th, from 10am-4pm. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://nebraskasynod.org/events/event/2019/05/30/what-s-next-going-deeper-embracing-stewardship/230831>. Facilitated by Rev. Chick Lane and Grace Duddy Pomroy.

2. Sow the Seeds Inviter Training

1-3pm

Did you know there are approximately 1,000 more open full-time calls for pastors in the ELCA than there are pastors available for those calls and that this gap is increasing? What can you and the people of your congregation do to help reverse this trend? Sow the Seeds is an initiative of the Nebraska Synod that invites people to identify potential pastoral leaders and encourage them to consider if God is calling them to serve as a pastor, deacon or parish ministry associate (PMA). Participants will receive free resources and be trained to identify and encourage those who may be called to rostered ministry or the PMA program. Facilitated by Lisa Kramme and members of the Sow the Seeds Team

3. Reconciling Works

1 - 4 pm

"Come join ReconcilingWorks in an afternoon workshop to learn the ways in which you can help make the welcome, inclusion, and celebration of LGBTQIA+ folks happen in your faith community! ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation has advocated for the full welcome, inclusion, and equity of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Lutherans in all aspects of the life of their Church, congregations, and community. Through their Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program, ministries, resources, events and alliances, ReconcilingWorks builds community for worship, education and support; fosters welcome and acceptance in all Lutheran settings; and advocates for the ecclesial changes necessary to ensure full participation in all sacraments, inclusive liturgical resources, and ministries of the Church, inviting all people into Gospel lives of authenticity, integrity, and wholeness. In this workshop, we will learn about the organization and its RIC program, participate in a brief Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Training, and discuss the ways in which you can bring all of this information back into your ministry setting, extending radical hospitality to all of your siblings in Christ."

Workshops during Assembly

Friday, 2:15

80 years of Welcome...and More, Friday, 2:15 & 3:15

LIRS empowers the Church to answer Christ's call to welcome the stranger. This workshop highlights the evolution of this ministry over its first 80 years and challenges participants to consider how to respond to current needs of refugees and migrants. Presenter: Folabi Olagbaju, Director for Outreach, LIRS

A Language That Speaks Volumes, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

If music has a language of its own, how can we learn it? What is it made of? Is it really universal? In this workshop we sing and share our songs and stories in order to understand what they are telling us, beyond their lyrics, and be able to share their meaning with others. (Learn how to sing songs from four different continents of the world. Experiment how to play drums, percussion, sing in different languages and explore different styles of music).

Congregational Vitality: Assessment, Discernment, Opportunities for Renewal, Fri., 2:15, Sat., 9:15

In this workshop, we'll discuss the definition and assessment of congregational vitality, sharing tools that will enable participants to "take the pulse" on congregational vitality in their local context. We will explore the Transformational Ministry process, along with other options to stimulate congregational vitality and renewal. Facilitators: Rev. Rich Sheridan, Synod Evangelist; Pr. Andreas Stein & Mr. Dennis Remington, Nebraska Synod Outreach Table

Once We Were Refugees: Story Quilts, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 8:15

Ann and the Rev. Bill Say founded Once We Were Refugees, a ministry that helps refugee arrivals in the Kansas City area to identify their interests and teaches skills to help them become self-supporting. The Says will share how Once We Were Refugees began, their mission as they have discerned and defined it, as well as some refugee experience stories. Are you a quilter or does your congregation have a quilting ministry? You'll be especially interested in the story quilts that Ann and her students have created. There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout your time together. Presenters: Ann and Rev. Bill Say, Once We Were Refugees, Kansas City

Peace Not Walls - Nebraska Synod Holy Land Accompaniment, Friday 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

Many people tell stories about WHAT they visited and WHAT they saw on trips to the Holy Land. We'd like to tell you stories about WHO we visited and WHO we got to know on our Nebraska Synod trips to the Holy Land, and the difference that makes in our lives and theirs as children of God walking together and working together in peace. Presenters: Rev. Renae Johnson, The Landing at Williamsburg, Immanuel Communities, and Rev. Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop, Nebraska Synod.

Shared Ministry: Partnering with Other Congregations and Ministers, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

Whether driven by vision for a stronger mission, financial necessity, or the shortage of ministers, congregations coming together to form a shared ministry is an opportunity to renew mission and ministry. We'll explore the benefits of shared ministry and the steps involved in turning ideas into reality. Facilitators: Rev. Rebecca Sheridan, Synod Evangelist; Rev. Steve Meysing, Assistant to the Bishop

Smooth Sailing: Becoming A Resilient Leader In Turbulent Times, Friday, 2:15

Resilience is not perfection, but the ability to move forward in imperfect realities. Whether it's leading the church, dealing with difficult situations, or navigating the inevitable bumps and setbacks of life, it is possible to not just survive, but thrive. Discover how to cultivate your God-given strengths and develop healthy practices that will give you the stamina, confidence, and inner peace you need to be a resilient leader. Presenter: Grace Duddy Pomroy, Senior Financial Educator & Content Developer, Portico Benefit Services

Stewardship Strategies, Friday, 2:15

There are things your congregation can do to invite and encourage more generous giving by your members-most of them aren't too difficult and can make a positive difference in people's attitudes about giving and in your congregation's income. Pastor Chick Lane will share strategies that have worked in other congregations. Presenter: Rev. Chick Lane, Pastor for Stewardship and Generosity at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, MN.

Friday, 3:15

80 years of Welcome...and More, Friday, 2:15 & 3:15

LIRS empowers the Church to answer Christ's call to welcome the stranger. This workshop highlights the evolution of this ministry over its first 80 years and challenges participants to consider how to respond to current needs of refugees and migrants. Presenter: Folabi Olagbaju, Director for Outreach, LIRS

Grant Writing, Friday 3:15

Does applying for grants sound like a difficult task? Do you feel overwhelmed even before you begin? This is the workshop for you! Lisa Reese Parish will be sharing her experience with writing grants as well as her tips and encouragement for success in obtaining grants. Ms. Parish was the Executive Director for the United Way in Kearney before she became the Executive Director of the Kearney Public Schools Foundation. You won't want to miss an opportunity to tap into the wealth of information she has for all of us who can take advantage of the many opportunities to receive grant money.

Presenter: Lisa Reese Parish, Executive Director, Kearney Public Schools Foundation

Intergenerational Formation, Friday, 3:15

In this interactive workshop we will weave together the values and actions that form the foundation for Accompaniment (the why and how of mission) into a ministry plan for faith forming, intergenerational ministry. You will depart this workshop with ready-to implement, practical ideas for cross-crossing the borders of generations and engaging with one another in God's ministry and mission. Presenter: Linda Staats.

It's Not About The Money, Friday, 3:15

... But when you don't have much — thanks to student loans, life expenses, and a not-exactly-CEO-level-salary — how you manage it matters. Learn what you need to pay attention to in your own financial life so you can make the most of what you have. Presenter: Grace Duddy Pomroy, Senior Financial Educator & Content Developer, Portico Benefit Services

Money Matters, Friday, 3:15

How does your congregation handle and talk about money? Pastor Chick Lane will focus on how to take good care of the money so that money can better serve what really matters – the mission of your congregation. Presenter: Rev. Chick Lane, Pastor for Stewardship and Generosity at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, MN.

Sow the Seeds Inviter Training, Friday, 3:15

Did you know there are approximately 1,000 more open full-time calls for pastors in the ELCA than there are pastors available for those calls and that this gap is increasing? What can you and the people of your congregation do to help reverse this trend? Sow the Seeds is an initiative of the Nebraska Synod that invites people to identify potential pastoral leaders and encourage them to consider if God is calling them to serve as a pastor, deacon or parish ministry associate (PMA). Presenter: Lisa Kramme, Director of Faith Formation, Nebraska Synod

The Lutheran Lens, Friday, 3:15

A condensed version of the Emmaus Lutheran Leadership Academy's introductory course, this workshop will introduce (or revisit) the basic principles by which the Lutheran tradition has read and continues to read and interpret the sacred Scriptures. Focusing on the central role of justification by grace through faith alone, the distinction and unity of Law and Gospel, the workshop will consider why and how these frameworks matter for the Church's interpretation and practice. Presenter: Rev. Dr. Adam White, ELLA and Pastor at the Lutheran Student Center, UNL.

We All Have a Story, Friday, 3:15, Saturday, 8:15

Discussing race issues can be both scary and intimidating. Let us help you start the conversation with the understanding that we are more alike than we are different. We each have a story worth sharing. Let's begin there. Presenters: Miriam Blair and Heidi Price, R.A.R.E of the Nebraska Synod (Racial Awareness, Reconciliation and Engagement)

Saturday, 8:15

Deacons: The Duct Tape of the Church - A Gift To Be Discovered, Saturday 8:15

"Deacons" are ministers of word and service who are called to various formal roles in ministry. Some have called them "the duct tape of the church" because they help connect the church with the world, responding to needs within and outside the church as partners in ministry alongside pastors. In particular, deacons equip people for leadership and ministry. This workshop is open to all people, and would be particularly useful for those looking for new possibilities for creative, yet, formal ministry in your faith community, and those interested in how the church in Nebraska might continue to grow by calling and utilizing deacons.

Faith Partners Nebraska, Saturday, 8:15 & 9:15

Faith Partners helps churches form a team ministry to address alcohol and drug issues. Learn how Faith Partners can help identify motivated members (often unknown to the Pastor) for this ministry. We also train and sustain them as a team. Presenter: Otto B. Schultz, M. Div., LADC, Faith Partners Nebraska, Project Developer

Global Relationships 201: Companions, Companions, Companions, Saturday, 8:15

So you're in a global relationship or looking for one. Come and wrestle with how we are preconditioned and how it affects what we bring to global relationships. Healthy engagement globally does not foster dependence and helps to build sustainable relationships. Presenter: Kevin Jacobson

Once We Were Refugees: Story Quilts, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 8:15

Ann and the Rev. Bill Say founded Once We Were Refugees, a ministry that helps refugee arrivals in the Kansas City area to identify their interests and teaches skills to help them become self-supporting. The Says will share how Once We Were Refugees began, their mission as they have discerned and defined it, as well as some refugee experience stories. Are you a quilter or does your congregation have a quilting ministry? You'll be especially interested in the story quilts that Ann and her students have created. There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout your time together. Presenters: Ann and Rev. Bill Say, Once We Were Refugees, Kansas City

Prayer Practices in Daily Life, Saturday, 8:15 & 9:15

If you would like to discover new ways to become more aware of God's presence and activity in your life, join spiritual directors in this workshop on prayer practices. You will have the opportunity to experience a variety of ways to pray and connect with the love and encouragement of the Divine in the midst of your daily life. Presented by Seeking the Spirit Within of the Nebraska Synod

The Generosity Project, Saturday, 8:15

The Generosity Project connects people of various generations and equips households as centers for the faith practice of generosity. If you would like to create a meaningful opportunity for people of all ages to come together to learn and practice generosity, please join Linda Staats for this workshop. Presenter: Linda Staats

We All Have a Story, Friday, 3:15, Saturday, 8:15

Discussing race issues can be both scary and intimidating. Let us help you start the conversation with the understanding that we are more alike than we are different. We each have a story worth sharing. Let's begin there. Presenters: Miriam Blair and Heidi Price, R.A.R.E of the Nebraska Synod (Racial Awareness, Reconciliation and Engagement)

Saturday, 9:15

A Language That Speaks Volumes, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

If music has a language of its own, how can we learn it? What is it made of? Is it really universal? In this workshop we sing and share our songs and stories in order to understand what they are telling us, beyond their lyrics, and be able to share their meaning with others. (Learn how to sing songs from four different continents of the world. Experiment how to play drums, percussion, sing in different languages and explore different styles of music)

Compassionate Listening & Personal Storytelling, Saturday, 9:15

Are stories still important? It seems the days are long gone when we sat on the front porch or around a campfire to share stories. Or are they? Stories are as critical as ever. They help shape cross+generational relationships, pass on faith, heal divisions and restore our spirits. Stories need both tellers and listeners. Presenter: Lisa Kramme, Director of Faith Formation, Nebraska Synod

Congregational Vitality: Assessment, Discernment, and Opportunities for Renewal, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

In this workshop, we'll discuss the definition and assessment of congregational vitality, sharing tools that will enable participants to "take the pulse" on congregational vitality in their local context. We will explore the Transformational Ministry process, along with other options to stimulate congregational vitality and renewal. Facilitators: Rev. Rich Sheridan, Synod Evangelist; Pr. Andreas Stein & Mr. Dennis Remington, Nebraska Synod Outreach Table

Faith Partners Nebraska, Saturday, 8:15 & 9:15

Faith Partners helps churches form a team ministry to address alcohol and drug issues. Learn how Faith Partners can help identify motivated members (often unknown to the Pastor) for this ministry. We also train and sustain them as a team. Presenter: Otto B. Schultz, M. Div., LADC, Faith Partners Nebraska, Project Developer

Peace Not Walls - Nebraska Synod Holy Land Accompaniment, Friday 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

Many people tell stories about WHAT they visited and WHAT they saw on trips to the Holy Land. We'd like to tell you stories about WHO we visited and WHO we got to know on our Nebraska Synod trips to the Holy Land, and the difference that makes in our lives and theirs as children of God walking together and working together in peace. Presenters: Rev. Renae Johnson, The Landing at Williamsburg, Immanuel Communities, and Rev. Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop, Nebraska Synod.

Prayer Practices in Daily Life, Saturday, 8:15 & 9:15

If you would like to discover new ways to become more aware of God's presence and activity in your life, join spiritual directors in this workshop on prayer practices. You will have the opportunity to experience a variety of ways to pray and connect with the love and encouragement of the Divine in the midst of your daily life. Presented by Seeking the Spirit Within of the Nebraska Synod

Shared Ministry: Partnering with Other Congregations and Ministers, Friday, 2:15, Saturday, 9:15

Whether driven by vision for a stronger mission, financial necessity, or the shortage of ministers, congregations coming together to form a shared ministry is an opportunity to renew mission and ministry. We'll explore the benefits of shared ministry and the steps involved in turning ideas into reality. Facilitators: Rev. Rebecca Sheridan, Synod Evangelist; Rev. Steve Meysing, Assistant to the Bishop