

## 2016 Synod Assembly Workshops – June 11, 2016

Plenary Hall – Coquina – Workshop of the Whole – 11:00AM

**Racial Justice Ministry** - Decisions based on race happen each day of our lives – from the neighborhood in which we live, our friends, our political views, our support of organizations and causes, and even our worshipping community. Race is always in the backdrop informing those decisions – whether consciously or unconsciously. It's time we start to learn the complexity and implications of racism and racial issues. This workshop will help us begin the work needed to break through the barriers of racism and oppression. *Ms. Judith Roberts serves as ELCA Program Director for Racial Justice*

### Session A - 2:30 – 3:30PM

**A1 \_\_ Developing a Faith-based Community Organizing Coalition** - Congregational, faith-based justice ministry organizations are having a dramatic and powerful impact on addressing issues of injustice in communities around Florida. This workshop will explain how these organizations accomplish so much and how your congregation can become involved. *Pastor Rusty May is currently the Vice President of L.I.F.E. (Lee Interfaith For Empowerment) in Lee County*

**A2\_\_ A Native Perspective on American History: Truth, Justice, and Racial Conciliation** -- The United States speaks boldly of its foundation of freedom and equality and it's history of Discovery, Manifest Destiny and Opportunity. But Native Americans have a vastly different collection of historical facts and stories. George Erasmus an aboriginal leader from Canada said "Where common memory is lacking, where people do not share in the same past there can be no real community." This seminar will attempt to create a common memory. *Mark Charles is a speaker, writer, and consultant from Fort Defiance, AZ, located on the Navajo Reservation. The son of an American woman (of Dutch heritage) and a Navajo man, Mark seeks to understand the complexities of American history regarding race, culture, and faith in order to help forge a path of healing and reconciliation for the nation. Mark serves as the Washington DC correspondent and regular columnist for [Native News Online](#) and is the author of the popular blog [Reflections from the Hogan](#). Among his many projects, he is Resource Development Specialist for Indigenous Worship for the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.*

**A3\_\_ An Inclusive Church: Just? What is That?**- In order to live out its mission to faithfully do justice, the ELCA intends to be at "the intersection of oppressions" -- embracing all races, ages, ethnicities, sexual orientations, gender identities, and educational and economic strata. There's no app for that, but there is a training program, "Building An Inclusive Church," perhaps coming to a church near you -- or to your very own. *Clergy and lay leaders of Florida Reconciling in Christ congregations*

**A4\_\_ Wondering About the Church in a Time of Cultural Shift** - If your church disappeared tomorrow, would your neighborhood notice? Listening to God in scripture and prayer, in our Congregation, and in the neighborhood can open up new possibilities for joining in God's mission. This workshop, facilitated by Nadine Anderson, was developed by Peggy Hahn, Director for *Way to Lead* in the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod as part of the 2016 Practice Discipleship theme on Wonder. *Nadine Anderson has served as the Practice Discipleship Coach for the Florida Bahamas Synod since January 2015. She is Christian Education Director and a Synodical Deacon at Grace Lutheran, Tampa. She is also on the Program Advisory Team for Luther Springs.*

**A5\_\_ Social Media Basics & Beyond** -- Get a crash course in social media for church (#chsocm) essentials from Meredith Gould, a pioneer in digital ministry who will be beaming in via Skype. Learn why and how to begin with strategy and tactics before choosing tools. If you've already chosen tools, learn which ones to keep or ditch. Also addressed: privacy issues, bad behavior online, managing multiple accounts. *Meredith Gould, PhD (@meredithgould) is an author and digital communications consultant who works ecumenically at all levels of church. Author of nine books, The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways (2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2015) has become the go-to guide for digital ministry and new media best practices. Her new book, Desperately Seeking Spirituality: A Field Guide to Practice is now available for pre-order. Learn more: [www.meredithgould.com](http://www.meredithgould.com) Workshop Moderator: Pastor Keith Spencer (@pastorkeith2000), Trinity in Pembroke Pines, photographer and writer.*

**A6\_\_ Living Out Our Baptismal Promises in the Second Half of Life**– Learn and take home to your congregation the best practices in Adult Ministry and how to equip God's people for works of service. *Rev. Stephen Kauffman and Margo Walbolt, ALOA ~ Adult Lutherans Organized for Action*

## **Session B – 4:00-5:00PM**

**B1\_\_ Eco-Justice and Your Congregation** – Learn some ways for our congregations to not only step into better stewardship practices (e.g. recycling, energy conservation) but also, along the theme of our Assembly, Justice. Learn specific ways to engage advocacy in earth-keeping and environmental stewardship. What works, what doesn't, some examples and stories and resources to help you. *Rev. Jay Bergstresser, Resurrection, Cocoa Beach and Rev. Dr. Johan Bergh, St. Philip, Mt. Dora and Greenfaith Fellow*

**B2\_\_ "Peacemaking and Justice: Jesus' Way of Nonviolence"** - Justice, peace, and nonviolence are the absolute heart of Jesus life and death, yet few Christians mention these words when asked to describe Jesus or Christianity. Together we will look with fresh eyes at Jesus' own kingdom program, explore why it is usually NOT a part of Christian practice and worship, and leave re-energized and empowered to follow Jesus' Way in our own lives, congregations, and communities. *David Ludwig is a graduate of Valparaiso University and of The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. David serves as Worship and Arts Director at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winter Park, Florida. One suggested book that outlines Jesus' Way of Nonviolence is The Powers that Be: Theology for a New Millennium by Walter Wink.*

**B3\_\_ Immigration Law** – there are many different avenues that exist for obtaining legal immigration status in the United States. Find out what Lutheran Services Florida does to assist immigrants and how your congregation can help. *Timothy Drahovsky is an immigration attorney and Director of the Immigration Department for LSF.*

**B4\_\_ Why Intergenerational?** -Both the experience of intergenerational congregations and faith formation research is pointing us toward the need for our churches to be truly intergenerational. But why? This workshop will be an opportunity to learn and discuss why our churches need to seek to create an intergenerational culture, for the benefit and faith of all ages! *The Rev. Melissa Cooper is a writer and reviewer for Sparkhouse. She is an ordained United Methodist clergywoman, the Program Coordinator for the Life Enrichment Center, Florida, and the director of LECFamily, an intergenerational ministry that includes intergenerational retreats and camps, resources for families and churches, as well as training and workshops for local churches and leaders. You can find out more about LECFamily at [www.lecfamily.org](http://www.lecfamily.org).*

**B5\_\_ Observing Reformation500** - October 31, 2017 marks the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the 95 Theses on the Castle Church in Wittenberg. The anniversary is a multi-faceted opportunity for the Roman Catholic Churches and those of the Protestant Reformation. The workshop will provide information about the anniversary and explore ways that congregations can observe this milestone. *Walter Still is the Senior Pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Ft Myers. He earned a Ph D from Duquesne University and is an adjunct faculty with Barry University. He is active in local Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogues. Recommended reading: [From Conflict to Communion: Lutheran and Catholic Common Commemoration of the Reformation in 1517](#). Additional information is available at the ELCA website [www.ELCA500.org](http://www.ELCA500.org) and on Facebook.*

**B6\_\_ Florida-Bahamas Synod Budget Forum** - Have questions about the Florida-Bahamas Synod Budget? *Jerry Johnson, Synod Treasurer will be present to give you an overview and ask any questions you may have.*