

Workshop Menu (3/10/2020)

Session A (11:15 am - Noon)

Presenter: Jeanie Peercy, Lutheran Disaster Relief

Title: Mucking out training: “Muck ‘N Gut” Part 1 (of 4)

Description: Synod and Congregational Volunteer Coordination Training (4 Sessions, 45 Minutes each)

This training is designed to identify the many ways and activities your synod and/or congregation may be involved during the different disaster phases. It will help your members understand the need to identify interests and skill sets ahead of time. We will discuss activities and projects that may help you care for our creation, develop work teams, and/or ways to utilize your facility. We will also discuss safety practices, equipment and other training that would be needed for the different activities.

Muck and Gut Overview and Breakout Training Track

The purpose of the Muck and Gut overview and following breakout training track is to identify best practices and standard operating guidelines when performing Muck and Gut. This will improve coordination and effective operations during the cleanup activities following a disaster. The result is greater efficiency, quality, increased speed and consistency at which cleanup services are conducted. In addition, an awareness of personal health and safety for the volunteer team members as tasks are performed. We will also discuss the importance of record keeping and accurate reporting.

Presenter: Mike Rottman, ELEA

Title: Church/School Partnerships...more than just renting space

Description: Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) is established to support and strengthen Lutheran schools and centers in the ELCA. One important relationship Lutheran schools and centers develop is between a church and the school and more importantly between the Pastor and Principal/Director. We will look at what that means and how ELEA can help, develop, inspire, and assist in strengthening these relationships.

Presenter: Pr. Johan Bergh

Title: ELCA Coaching

Description: Learn about the value of coaching: how to be one, how to use one, and how to be part of expanding the network of coaches in the Florida-Bahamas Synod

Presenter: Kristin Berkey-Abbott

Title: Recharge:Praying as a Congregation

Description: Most congregations are used to the idea of praying together. We're familiar with corporate prayer, with liturgy, with the prayers of the people, with the Lord's Prayer--most of them in a worship context. What might happen if we used other ideas? This workshop will use some of the elements of the prayer chapel, along with other ideas, to talk about how congregations might energize both their corporate and individual prayer lives.

Presenter: Pr. Gabriel Morgan

Title: Politics: a Lutheran Way

Description: If asked, many would say that the church and politics should be kept entirely separate, but is this right? On the one hand, there are good reasons for keeping the church focused on the Gospel and the spiritual care of the people, which is not political, strictly speaking. Moreover, the church should remain non-partisan. Yet, on the other hand, God's Word speaks directly to social and political issues throughout the Bible, and often in ways that relate intimately to the Gospel; God calls the church to preach this Word publicly as well. How can we

hold these two things together? In this workshop I want to explore and perhaps reintroduce participants to the broadly Lutheran approach known as the so-called “two kingdoms doctrine.”

[Commonly misunderstood, this approach does not mean a total separation of spheres between the church and politics, and neither does it mean a collapsing of them together, but rather holds them together under different yet complementary mandates of God. Drawing on the latest research in this field, I will provide a brief introduction to what Luther and the Wittenberg Reformers meant by the twofold kingdom of God, the way this theology played out in the conflict between Dietrich Bonhoeffer and the German Intelligentsia during the war (see e.g. Ethics, DBWE 6:60, 112, and 124-7), and finally how this theology might provide us with some needed guidance for contemporary politics.]

Presenter: Pr. Don Reiter

Title: "The Jesus Fatwah (Teaching): Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself"

Description: In an age of increasing Islamophobia, it is important for Christians to learn who Muslims are and what they actually believe. Much of what passes for information about Islam is, in fact, disinformation rooted in stereotype and watered by fear. This workshop offers an introduction to a five session series about what Muslims believe, how they live out their faith, and how we can be about building relationships across the lines of faith.

Presenter: Peggy Aiello

Topic: diakonia

Description: Learn about the diakonia program--an intentional program that strengthens faith formation and leadership development in lay people.

Presenter: Barbara Miller

Title: "Ending Hunger: What do you know?"

Description: What do you do in your congregation and community? Sharing solutions, ideas, resources!

Session B (1:30 pm - 2:25 pm)

Presenter: LDR Jeanie Peercy, Lutheran Disaster Relief

Title: Mucking out training: "Muck 'N Gut" Part 2 (of 4)

Description: Synod and Congregational Volunteer Coordination Training (4 Sessions, 45 Minutes each)

Presenter: Margo Walbolt and Carol Murphy: ALOA - Florida Region

Topic: Faith Story™: How to Share your Faith Journey

Description: Explore how to share your personal journey with Jesus, as a legacy for your children or grandchildren, or simply to pass on the faith to those around you. Hear some "how to's" for writing and formatting your story, as well as options for making a video recording of it. Tips for congregations interested in making a practice like this a part of their older adult ministry programming will also be included.

Presenter: Pr. Sarah Locke

Title: Brave Space

Description: Creating a brave space to open up difficult or controversial topics in a faith community is hard, but not impossible! Join campus pastor Sarah Locke to hear how she creates these brave spaces and facilitates honest, authentic conversations around difficult topics in her faith community.

Presenter: Rich Langston

Topic: Youth/Youth Gathering

Description: Are you a new youth leader trying to understand what the ELCA Youth Gathering is about? Are you a Gathering veteran and want to know all the new changes for Minneapolis in 2021? Come to the Gathering workshop led by our Gathering Synod Coordinator Rich Langston for answers to these questions and everything in between Gathering related.

Presenter: Pr. Rob Carlson

Title: Generative Hospitality

Description: In a previous life, DEM Rob Carlson helped lead a congregation to remarkable growth in a short amount of time with a formula and an expressive focus regarding "Generative Hospitality", a key principle for the "Vitality Process" of our FBS. In this workshop, Pastor Rob will share insights and the practices for being generative. During our time together, we'll learn about the philosophy, the process, and why it works. There will be handouts and time for Q & A

Presenter: Linda Chambers

Title: Connecting School, Family & Church Through Chapel Time

Description: Chapel Time is a great tool to connect everyone to the Gospel, and to each other! Strengthen your education ministry's connection to your families and your congregation. Explore the components of Chapel Time, and try different ways to make it fun and exciting for everyone.

Presenters: PJ May & Pr. Jaime Dubon

Title: "Open Channel - Creating Pathways for New Immigration Strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean"

Description: Florida-Bahamas Synod Global Mission Table Chair, PJ May, will share a brief update on recent developments and projects with our 5 companion relationships (Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Suriname) followed by a presentation by Pr. Jaime Dubon, Area Program Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, ELCA-Global Mission about the

implementation of a new continental migration strategy, building upon the success of the AMMPARO program in Mexico and Northern Central America.

Presenters: Pr. Ruth Hamilton & Dcn. Connie Schmucker

Title: Listen! God Is Calling

Description: All Christians have been called by God. Our call, or vocation, comes at baptism as we become part of God's family. This call to follow Jesus and live as "little Christs" is both inspired by God and comes in response to what God has done for us. Yet, we all have different gifts, and many different things need to be done. How do we find out what God is calling us to do today? The church calls that process of discovery or finding out "discernment". The goal of discernment is to walk with a person of faith in such a way that you come to a firm sense of what God is inviting you to do now. Come join Pastor Ruth Hamilton, Region 9 Manager for Candidacy and Leadership and Deacon Connie Schmucker, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership and Mobility, to find resources for discernment as well as to practice ways of discovering your true vocation. [NOTE: a workshop on Candidacy, the journey to become a Deacon or Pastor, and lay opportunities such as diakonia and Synod Parish Deacons will follow this workshop.]

Session C (2:30 pm - 3:15 pm)

Presenter: LDR Jeanie Peercy, Lutheran Disaster Relief

Title: Mucking out training: "Muck 'N Gut" Part 3 (of 4)

Description: Synod and Congregational Volunteer Coordination Training (4 Sessions, 45 Minutes each)

Presenters: Dcn. Connie Schmucker & Pr. Ruth Hamilton

Title: God, I Hear You Calling. Now What?

Description: Do you sense that God is Calling you to go deeper in your faith and service and/or perhaps the Holy Spirit is Calling you to public ministry? Would you like to learn more about lay opportunities such as diakonia and Synod Parish Deacons and about Candidacy - the journey to become an ELCA Deacon or Pastor? If so, please join Deacon Connie Schmucker, Assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, and Pastor Ruth Hamilton, Region 9 Manager for Candidacy and Leadership, for information and discussion. [NOTE: a workshop on discernment will precede this workshop.]

Presenter: Pr. Russell Meyer

Title: Connecting the Dots

Description: Does your congregation engage in community ministry? Perhaps you have a food pantry, support a soup kitchen, or have a clothes closet. Maybe you minister with those who lack a home or volunteer in a local school. The ways we connect with the needs and suffering in the community are many and various. What causes this need? We know why we do it in the name of Christ, but what are the drivers? This workshop will connect human needs with economic, social, and education policies. You'll gain a better understanding of what causes suffering in your neighborhood and the ways we can address the causes of suffering even as we attend to those who suffer.

Presenter: Kurt Schmidt

Title: "The door's open, but how do I get in?" Accessibility and Inclusion in Worship Services and Spaces

Description: This workshop will serve as a conversation starter for education and information about inclusion for people with disabilities (mobility, visual, hearing, etc.). We will have a broad-based discussion about understanding different types of disabilities and how to make worship services and spaces more accessible. Additional resources will be provided for further study, research, and conversation.

Presenter: Stephen Bryant

Title: Journeying with Young Adults in Discernment and Action

Description: Stephen recently returned from a year of service through Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), followed by a week of discernment and discussion about environmental stewardship with young adults from around the world at the Taize Community in France. Stephen will share a bit about his experience in Rwanda and at Taize, and talk specifically about the global young adult conversation at Taize around environmental stewardship and care of creation and how the church can listen more intently to the voices of young adults.

Presenter: Pr. Tom Weitzel

Topic: Addressing Times of Transition

Description: Times of transition have their own particular dynamics that affect congregations, whether that transition comes from a pastor's departure, a new pastor's arrival, or a desire to find new direction in mission and ministry. This gathering will examine those dynamics and focus on what it is that motivates ministry so that the "yet to be" is fully in the hands of God, and

God's people are themselves renewed in the transition. The session for congregational members will include information that is shared in the training of pastors for Transition Ministry in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

Presenter: Pr. Marjorie Weiss

Title: Praying on Empty

Description: How many of us have experienced a "dark night of the soul" when God seems absent? This workshop will explore how this can happen, how to live through it, and how to find God again. One can actually mature in faith through such a challenge. Workshop leader, Pastor Marjorie Weiss, experienced a complete loss of faith while still needing to function as a pastor, the breadwinner of her family. Her award-winning memoir, "Praying on Empty, a Female Pastor's Story" grew out of that time in her life.

Presenter: Pr. Gabriel Morgan

Title: Meditation: a Lutheran Way

Description: The benefits of meditation are well documented and widely sought, yet few are aware that Martin Luther maintained a practice of meditation that we can learn from today. The purpose of this workshop is to introduce participants to a broadly Lutheran approach to meditation, with some introductory remarks and then an example practice of this approach.

[Luther was quite fond of St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153), a French abbot who popularized the Benedictine method of meditation called lectio divina or divine reading of scripture. This method of meditation emphasizes reading more slowly, ruminating on, and praying the scriptures, rather than reading them for information (Ps. 1:2). In the Preface to the Wittenberg Edition of Luther's German Writings, Luther describes a modification of this approach, which still focuses on prayer to God and meditation on God's written Word, but then looks to the experience of the power of God's Word as it speaks into the trials of daily life (LW 34:285). Because of their rich and life-giving nature, and because he was such a careful scholar of Luther, we will also explore a few ways Dietrich Bonhoeffer developed this Lutheran approach in his emphasis on the use of the Psalms in prayer, an approach that was enthusiastically received by the Benedictine monks at Ettal when Bonhoeffer sought refuge there in the winter of 1940, where he also wrote the chapter on 'Ultimate and Penultimate Things' for Ethics.]

Session D (3:30 pm - 4:15 pm)

Presenter: LDR Jeanie Peercy, Lutheran Disaster Relief

Title: Mucking out training: "Muck 'N Gut" Part 4 (of 4)

Description: Synod and Congregational Volunteer Coordination Training (4 Sessions, 45 Minutes each)

Presenter: Carol Dunn

Title: ReconcilingWorks, Graceful Engagement

Description: In a time of increased division and polarization, when civil conversation seems a lost art, the concept of grace can help us build and sustain relationships, so we can live together with empathy and compassion. This workshop will give you tools to interact with those whose opinions you do not share.

Presenter: Jen Grumbling

Title: Called to Lay Leadership?

Description: Yes, you, we're talking to you! Maybe you think you're too churchy or not churchy enough. Maybe you're not really sure what lay leadership would look like for you in your current context. During this workshop we'll explore how the Synod Parish Deacon Program can open a pathway to serve in a variety of ways in your parish. We'll share experiences from both pastors and Synod Parish Deacons, discuss the program requirements, and offer resources for discerning and discussing the program and your call to lay ministry with your pastor. The workshop is strongly recommended for anyone exploring lay ministry or interested in encouraging lay leaders in their congregations.

Presenter: Pr. Wynemah Hinlicky

Title: Spiritual Direction: A Sacred Invitation

Description: There's much talk about spirituality these days. Some even include engagement with spiritual direction. But, what is it? The simplest response -- "It's a God-thing!" We do, however, have more worth explaining and exploring. In this workshop we will hear various definitions, review some historical and contemporary contexts, and consider the benefits of spiritual direction as well as connect with resources available throughout the Florida-Bahamas Synod. In addition, our time together will include a brief introduction to Centering Prayer; a contemplative practice that lends itself to a deeper awareness of this sacred invitation called Spiritual Direction.

Presenter: Jim Habermehl

Topic: Disaster protocols and being prepared

Description: Jim Habermehl, the synod's new Disaster Response Coordinator, will share necessary updates and information for congregations regarding being prepared for disasters of various kinds.

Presenter(s): Pr. Khader El-Yateem & Pr. Rob Carlson

Topic: Congregational Vitality

Description: Continuing the learning and dialogue, sharing stories and resources, deepening the journey towards vitality throughout the synod.

Presenter: Tony Cruz

Topic: Choir rehearsal for closing worship

Description: This year's closing worship will include a choir that leads the church's song through assisting with the liturgy and presenting a choral anthem. All voice parts are welcome.