

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

Learning Ministries Day

January 28, 2012

Please read this before selecting workshops!

On the registration form indicate your 1st and 2nd choices for each session by using the letter designated for the workshops of your choice. Workshops will be limited to approximately 20 participants so be sure to register early to secure your first choice.

A. BECOMING A FAITH FORMATION CURATOR (1st session only)

An abundance of religious content and experiences are now available to every congregation – print, audio, video, and online – making it possible to provide faith formation for all ages and generations, 2x7x365. In order to make this vision a reality, the role of faith formation leaders is shifting from **providing** religious content and programming to **curating** religious content and experiences for all ages and making it available to people. Discover how to become a faith formation curator – finding, grouping, organizing, and sharing the best and most relevant content and experiences on a specific subject to match the needs of specific ages and generations.

Leader: **John Roberto** (Lifelong Faith Associates) is editor of the journal “Lifelong Faith,” and coordinator for the “Faith Formation 2020 Initiative” (www.faithformation2020.net). John works as a consultant to churches and national organizations, teaches courses and conducts workshops in faith formation, and has authored books and program manuals in youth ministry, family ministry, and intergenerational faith formation. His latest publications include “Faith Formation 2020: Designing the Future of Faith,” “The Spirit and Culture of Youth Ministry” (co-authored), “Living Well: Christian Practices for Everyday Life,” and “Becoming a Church of Lifelong Learners.”

B. SINGING WITH THE BOOK OF FAITH (2nd session only)

Faith formation today requires new models, approaches, and technologies that are specifically designed for a 21st century world and the diverse religious and spiritual needs of people and communities. Using the work done in the Faith Formation 2020 Initiative, this workshop presents a 21st century model of lifelong faith formation and a variety of strategies, resources, and technologies to bring the model to life in a congregation.

Leader: **John Roberto** (*see biographical description above*)

C. CONFIRMATION: DEVELOPING A VITAL FAITH IN YOUTH (Both sessions)

Confirmation is not only a time to teach students the basics of the Lutheran faith; it can also be a time to help them recognize the Holy Spirit in their lives as the one who connects their faith in God to the world. This workshop will look at curriculum and other resources that are particularly good for this age group, types of prayer and ways to pray with your class, entertaining games that can help your students become familiar and comfortable with the Bible, and ways to help your students connect their faith to the world in which they live. Confirmation can be more than a requirement of membership; it can be a road to an active faith life both now and in the future.

Leaders: **Colleen Hall** and **Emily Brands** are members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Johnsonville. Colleen enjoys working with this age group and watching them grow in their faith. She works at a home for developmentally disabled adults in New Jersey. Emily is a senior at Bangor Area High School where she is extremely active in musical activities. She is the pianist at Prince of Peace's Saturday night service and regularly introduces the congregation to the latest music coming from the Christian rock world.

D. SELECTING CURRICULUM FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL (Both sessions)

Workshop participants will learn how to evaluate curricula in order to select resources of integrity that will meet their needs locally. They will learn the importance of analyzing curricula through "Lutheran eyes," understand the basic criteria to use when evaluating curricula, and apply the evaluative criteria to curricula.

Leaders: **Dave Renninger** leads Christian education workshops for the synod and regional youth events. He is in his 20th year of teaching 7th grade science in the Reading School District. Associate in Ministry **Nancy Steltz** is a retired church worker. She last served at St. Paul, Trexlertown.

E. VIBRANT FAITH CREATES VIBRANT COMMUNITY: ARE WE UP TO THE CHALLENGE? (2nd session only; note that this is a change in session time)

Participants are asked to read Dietrich Bonhoeffer's "Life Together" prior to the workshop. During the workshop, participants will discuss insights discovered in the book that can invigorate or transform their role in congregational life. Each participant is asked to contribute to the discussion by identifying three invigorating, transforming insights from the book. "Life Together" can be purchased inexpensively online from eBay, amazon.com, or alibris. It may also be available in church libraries.

Leader: **Bishop Samuel Zeiser** served four congregations in this synod before assuming office as our synod's bishop in 2008. Parts of what he enjoys in his visits to congregations are conversations with church members about how they see their congregation as a dynamic setting for mission and ministry.

F. ENCOURAGING THE DISCIPLESHIP OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE (1st session only)

Meet with a panel of persons who have had positive experiences as leaders of programs which welcome and involve persons with disabilities in discipleship (witnessing to the forgiveness and love of Christ Jesus) within the church and neighborhood. The panelists are a mix of those with or without significant disabilities who are leading or involved in programs that are successful in this regard.

Leaders: **Pastors Bill Horn** and **Dave Kistler** will be moderating the panel. Pastor Horn was ordained in 1970, served parishes in Minersville and St. John, Pennsylvania and until his retirement in 2009, served for 29 years as director of pastor care at Good Shepherd Rehabilitation Network in Allentown and the greater Lehigh Valley. After serving a couple parishes, Pastor Kistler served for 26 years at the Hamburg Center before retiring in 1996. Both serve on the synod's Accessibility Team.

G. PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS: MUSIC FOR NEW FAITH FORMATION MODELS (Both sessions)

New models for faith formation create new challenges and opportunities for using music to shape faith. We will look at two specific areas where Atonement Lutheran Church is using music in new ways: 1) children leading song in Sunday morning worship and 2) music for Common Ground, a gathering of adults connected to the 12- step community. Come prepared to sing and bring your own examples of how music is being used in new ways to form faith in your setting.

Leaders: **Tom Yenser** is an Associate in Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and for the past 12 years has been Director of Music at Atonement Lutheran Church, Wyomissing. He has a Master of Music degree from Westminster Choir College. At Atonement he plans worship, serves as primary organist, pianist and song leader in worship, and oversees a graded choir program, handbell choir, praise band, concert series, preschool chapel, and music in Sunday school and Vacation Bible School. Tom has a background in musical theater as well as vocal and choral accompaniment. He recently learned to play the ukulele.

H. CHRISTIAN DRAMA AND WORSHIP (Note: This is a 2-part workshop. If you sign up for this workshop, do NOT sign up for an afternoon workshop!)

Workshop leaders Kathy and Karen attended an extended seminar during the 2011 Princeton Forum on Youth Ministry. It was lead by Tom Long, founder of “Friends of the Groom,” a Christian theater group that tries to bring the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ alive through theater. Although by no means experts in this field, Kathy and Karen came away some wonderful things to share with others who are interested in Christian drama. Participants will learn a powerful use of confession and the Lord’s Prayer. Be prepared to lead a meaningful piece during the closing worship.

Leaders: Associate in Ministry **Kathy Schaeffer** currently serves as the Director of Learning Ministries at Friedens Lutheran Church in Oley. She is convener for the Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry Team for the synod and is serving as the synod coach for the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering. Associate in Ministry **Karen Matthias-Long** has served on the synod staff since the fall of 2005 with responsibilities for synodical youth ministry, Christian education and the resource center.

I. BULLYING AND THE GOLDEN RULE: WHAT JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES (1st session only)

Jesus began his public ministry by going to a mountaintop and teaching them how to be disciples. How can we apply what Jesus said to the way we teach our children to relate to one another in today’s world?

Leader: **Pastor Paulette Obrecht** is second-career pastor with over 25 years’ experience as a counselor and school psychologist. She presently tries to serve God and neighbor as pastor of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pen Argyl through various synod and community organization committees.

J. NURTURING FAITH FORMATION IN THE HOUSEHOLD OF FAITH (Both sessions)

For parents, grandparents and individuals who are looking for ways to nurture faith in their home and family life. Come for lots of creative and natural ways to bring God to mind during ordinary moments.

Leaders: **Marlane Druckenmiller** is an Associate in Ministry serving as the Christian Education Coordinator at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Douglassville, PA. **Bruce Saylor** is an Associate in Ministry who is presently on leave from call. Both serve on the synod's Faith Formation Resource Team.

K. CHOOSING 2012 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM THROUGH A LUTHERAN LENS (Both sessions)

This workshop will examine several 2012 Vacation Bible School curricula and demonstrate how we can share our faith with our communities through the exciting ministry of VBS. We will explore the following curricula: Group's "Sky," Cokesbury's "Operation Overboard," and Standard's "Adventures of Promise Island" – all through a Lutheran lens – of course!

Leaders: **Connie Riedy** and Associates in Ministry **Leesa Wimmer** and **Joy Gerhart** are members of our synod's Faith Formation Resource Team and are serving congregations in various capacities and they all LOVE VBS!

L. EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER (2nd session only)

If you are looking for projects for a youth group, studies or videos for an adult forum, ideas for stewardship or evangelism, or personal reading that you don't have to buy or download, we can help! Learn what the synod resource center has to offer and bring your thoughts on how we can serve you better.

Leader: **Debbie Frey** has been a member of the synod staff for seven years. Her responsibilities include managing the Resource Center, serving as registrar at synod events, and compiling parish study books when pastoral vacancies occur.

M. WE HAVE YOUNG ADULTS! WE HAVE YOUNG ADULTS! (Both sessions)

Would you like to more effectively engage young adults in your congregation? Do you want to celebrate the leadership gifts of young adults? Unsure of where to start? Come learn about a NEW resource from Project Connect! No matter if you are a question mark, exclamation point or somewhere in between, there is a place for you.

Leaders: Pastor **Jason Lee** is the associate pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church in Wyomissing. A key leader for Project Connect in the synod, he is on the task force which obtained \$10,000 grant for use in areas of young adult ministry. The mission of this team has now evolved in carrying out ministry with young adults and congregations. Jason also serves on the West Berks Mission District council. **Jacqueline (Jackie) Grauel** is an Associate in Ministry serving as Director of Family Ministry at Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Shillington. She is new member of Project Connect in the NEPA Synod.