

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS FOR 2019 LEARNING MINISTRIES DAY

A. WITNESS OF RELIGION IN AN AGE OF FEAR – (MORNING ONLY)

Fear is pervasive in our current culture, including fear of others different from us in culture and religion. Using material from the book of this title, we will discuss how our Christian faith provides resources to understand and move beyond fear. The author of "The Witness of Religion in an Age of Fear" is Michael Kinnamon, a retired Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) minister, who was a seminary and university professor and a prominent leader within the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the World Council of Churches.

Leader: *The Rev. Dr. Roger E. Timm* is a retired ELCA pastor. In 1970 he received a M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary and an M.A. in philosophy from Washington University, both in St. Louis. Timm completed his Ph.D. in religious studies in a joint program with Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University in New York in 1975. Ordained in April 1971, he has served in both parishes and campus ministry settings. During the 1980's Timm was assistant chaplain and assistant professor of religion at Muhlenberg College. After his retirement in 2011 he and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Emmaus in 2013. Since then he has served on the Faith Formation Resources Ministry Team and has led several Learning Ministry Day workshops. Timm has also taught several courses for the Institute for Learning in Retirement, located at Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania, dealing with faith and science as well as ethics and technology.

B. "The ELCA's Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment" – (AFTERNOON ONLY)

The ELCA's Inter-Religious Task Force, appointed by Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton in 2016, has prepared an inter-religious policy statement to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. In this workshop we will summarize and discuss this proposed statement, "A Declaration of Our Inter-Religious Commitment."

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C. "INTER-RELIGIOUS & INTERNATIONAL CRAFTS" – (BOTH SESSIONS)

Participants will make some simple crafts that children can do in the SS classroom that introduces them to other countries and other faiths.

Leaders: ***Tina Johns*** is currently a member of Prince of Peace Church who serves on our congregational council, worship and music, and Christian education committees. She is also Sunday school teacher and I Sunday school special activities coordinator. She serves on the Faith Formation Resource Management Team. I have been hosting our Advent and Lenten craft workshops for over 10 years, I'm the "go-to-craft gal"!

Deacon Joy Gerhart has served the church for 37 years in roles of Christian Education and Youth Ministry. She currently serves as Director of Youth & Family Ministry at St Paul's Lutheran Church, Douglasville.

D. “FEAR IN THE BIBLE” - (AFTERNOON ONLY)

What are the dimensions of fear for a believer when faced with the power that change can prompt? Does Stephen’s situation offer us insight or have we underestimated the power of change in the life of the church and its members?

Leader: Bishop Samuel Zeiser served four congregations in this synod before assuming office as our synod’s bishop in 2008. Part 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.

E. “MOVING TOWARDS CROSS GENERATIONAL MINISTRY IN A CHANGING WORLD” - (BOTH SESSIONS)

What does the end of “Christendom” mean to Faith Formation? What is Cross Generational Ministry- At Church and at Home? – a working definition. Where does Faith Formation take place today? - Role of the Church, Parent(s), Other Organizations. How does your Church “measure-up”? Where do you want to be, and how do you get there?

Leader: Ed Jones, Director of Christian Education, has been a member of Christ Hamilton United Lutheran Church for 25 years. Ed is blessed to be born into a strong multi-generational Christian Family with parents, grandparents and great-grandparents who understood and modeled Cross Generational Faith Formation and Christian Charity from baptism on. He served in many positions during his membership at various churches in Minnesota, Montana, Iowa, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania

F. “SOCIAL MEDIA CHURCH – Basics” – (MORNING ONLY)

Social media is no longer the latest fad, it is the way people are seeking and finding community. Join a millennial/boomer power team as they lay the foundation of why churches must take the plunge into the digital realm. We will cover Facebook basics and essentials, discuss if websites matter, provide an overview of important social media platforms to watch, and make note of recent technological trends.

Leaders: Michele Barra is a Project Manager (PMP) with 25 years of experience as a Software Engineer, and has been serving as a technology/website consultant for congregations for many years.

Sammy Kelly is Pastoral Assistant at New Life Church, a seminarian at United Lutheran Seminary, and has been editing videos for church use for 10 years.

They are both excited and working hard at launching *Digivangelism*, a consulting ministry seeking to spread the Good News by training churches to connect with people where they are – online.

G. “SOCIAL MEDIA CHURCH – Advanced”- (AFTERNOON ONLY)

Take a deeper dive into social media outreach as we discuss what/how to look for within Facebook analytics, provide a step by step walkthrough of the simple and free graphic design site Canva, and reveal our experience and learnings of using video over the past few months.

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H: “UNLEASHING YOUR YOUTH IN WORSHIP” – (MORNING ONLY)

This workshop will give you the opportunity to learn about different ways you can include all generations, especially youth in your worship service. This workshop will explore some of the different church events that have been done in the past. Youth are just not the future but they are the present too. Unleashing your youth in worship will take about “Youth” Sunday a day for Youth to plan and run the service while teaching youth about worship and encouraging them to be leaders in a fun and exciting ways! Everyone is welcome to attend this workshop.

Leader: *Samantha (Sammi) Johns* is a Moravian College Student, creating her own self-designed major in Educational Advocacy. She has always been active in her church and community. As a 21 year old, Sammi has served on many committees including, Worship and Music, Christian Ed, Call committees, Library committee, Social Media committee, Youth Ministries, Special Needs Ministry. She is also active within the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod serving on two committees; Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministry and Faith Formation. Over the summer of 2018 she worked at Bear Creek Camp as their Day Camp Leader and served as a leader at a new church each week. Sammi has been a workshop leader since she been 17 years old and even though she’s young, she has a passion for serving the lord and doing his work. Everyone is welcome to attend this workshop.

I: “SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY” – (AFTERNOON ONLY)

This workshop will explore and talk about an important topic of creating an environment welcoming to all no matter of abilities. God creates every human to be unique and everybody has a talent that benefit and create an amazing church environment. During this workshop we will explore different ways promote an inclusive church environment. We will talk about all kinds of disabilities from autism to a physical disability.

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J. CROSS GENERATIONAL MINISTRY & CONFIRMATION – (MORNING ONLY)

How do you lead confirmation with only a handful of youth? How can you help people of all ages in your congregation better understand scripture, and basic theology of our faith? These are some of the questions Pastors Lauren & Becca will explore as they discuss ways you can look at Cross Generational Ministry in your congregation specifically geared towards confirmation learning. There will also be a time for discussion where others can share the struggles they are having in regards to confirmation learning & we will brainstorm together possible options.

Leaders: *Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin*, is pastor at St Paul’s Lutheran South Side Easton. She has a passion for youth ministry, creative worship and social justice ministry. She also organizes an afterschool program at 2 elementary schools in Easton. In her free time, she is an active runner and cohost of podcast called “Lit Liturgy” which is about creative worship practices in traditional worship settings.

Pastor Lauren Applegate, is pastor of New Jerusalem ELC in Lower Saucon Twsp. She is a mom to 2 young children; she and her husband home to welcome a dog into their family soon. Pastor Lauren finds hope and inspiration through building relationships especially across generational lines.

K. LIT LITURGY: CREATIVE WORSHIP PRACTICES AND LENT – (AFTERNOON ONLY)

Lutheran liturgy can easily lead to repetition that becomes rote and boring but, it can also be creative and imaginative and innovative. Looking at the five “P’s” of creativity, you will get some ideas to inspire creativity in your worship throughout the Lenten season and beyond.

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L. “BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS – (MORNING ONLY)

Jesus told his listeners at the Sermon on the Mount – Blessed are the Peacemakers. How are we to teach this lesson to our children who are surrounded by images of violence on a daily basis, both real and imagined. Various stops for a rotation style lesson will be tried out and discussed. The lessons are geared for children in grades 2 – 6.

Leader: *Cheryl Statham* is a member of the Faith Formation Resource Ministry Team. She is also something of a political junkie and reads many different sources for the facts of the day. She is an avid reader, gardener and birder, and considers nature as a good antidote to despair. She is a member of Trinity Lutheran, Bangor.

M. “WHO BENEFITS WHEN YOU ARE AFRAID?” – (AFTERNOON ONLY)

The art of fear mongering if used every day by people and organizations who, for various reasons want to make you and keep your afraid. Why? We will explore who benefits by people’s fear and what techniques are used to generate that same fear.

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N. “BEYOND THE HIGH-WALLED HEAVEN: A Lutheran Understanding of Religious Pluralism” – (MORNING ONLY)

How can Lutheran beliefs and readings of the Bible help us deal with the reality that there are many religions in the world? It is relatively easy to be exclusive about God’s saving love in Jesus Christ; how does our rich heritage let us affirm the truth of our own faith without condemning every other religion to being false?

Leader: *Peter A. Pettit* is a Lutheran pastor who teaches Religion Studies and directs the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College

O. “CURIUSER & CURIUSER: When Does Our Interest in Other Religions Go Too Far?” (AFTERNOON ONLY)

YouTube, books, sanctuary visits, and “immersive education” are some of the means by which we can explore religions beyond our own. When does our interest become intrusive or disrespectful? This workshop will introduce a specific resource for exploring the Jewish Seder. Along the way, we will consider the possibilities and pitfalls of engaging other people’s holy things.

Leader: *Peter A. Pettit* is a Lutheran pastor who teaches Religion Studies and directs the Institute for Jewish-Christian Understanding at Muhlenberg College

P. FOLLOW-UP SESSION W/KEYNOTE SPEAKER (check back for description) (MORNING)

Q: BASIC TENETS OF ISLAM (check back for description) (AFTERNOON)

R: “MULTICULTURAL SONGS IN THE ELW – Don’t be Afraid of the Hymnal” (MORNING)

The new ELW hymnal has hymns from many different countries around the world, that can add variety and joy to your worship experience - if you are willing to take the leap. Learn how to use call and response hymns, Spanish-language hymns, spiritual and gospel hymns and more. Bring your singing voice and a spirit of adventure for this fun-filled workshop.

Leader: Lars Potteiger is the Director of Music at Reformation Lutheran Church in Exeter Township, PA. As part of Reformation’s blended service of traditional and contemporary music, Lars and the choirs at Reformation incorporate multicultural music into the services, drawing on the many rich musical traditions found in worship through singing, movement, and percussion.

S: "MULTICULTURAL KIDS MUSIC" – (AFTERNOON)

Introducing your Sunday School students to other cultures is more important than ever, in this age of mounting "fear of the other". One of the easiest way to start is through music. Participants will learn songs from different cultures and how to learn that music as a jumping off point for a deeper learning opportunities.

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T: “CONGREGATIONS: Strong Partners in the Lutheran Disaster Response Network” – (MORNING)

Congregations, Synods, Social Ministry Organizations and Churchwide are all essential partners in the Lutheran Disaster Response network. Come learn how congregations can think about how already existing ministries support the mission of LDR and learn new ways for your congregation can engage with LDR and become more active for responses locally and far away.

Leader: Julia Menzo is Director of Community Outreach for Lutheran Congregational Services. She started in this work as a volunteer in response to Hurricane Katrina and since 2007 has administered the LDR program locally. She currently serves as Chair of the Greater Philadelphia Long Term Recovery Committee formed to respond to the needs of Hurricane Maria evacuees to Philadelphia and is active in the Pennsylvania VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). Since earning her masters degree in Natural Resource Economics, she has been curious about the intersection of land use, disaster resiliency, and social justice. Given these interests, her work with LDR is always filled with welcome challenges. Julia was confirmed at Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, PA and is a member at Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale, PA.

U: “HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES AND TOES” - BOTH

Different faith traditions do different things with coverings, prayer positions, and ways to show reverence to God. Some cover their heads some remove head coverings, some take off their shoes some do not take off their shoes. These practices embody deeply held spiritual beliefs. We will take a look at some of these traditions and historic Lutheran practices which express our piety.

Leader: Rev. Gregory Frey, Pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Douglassville, PA