

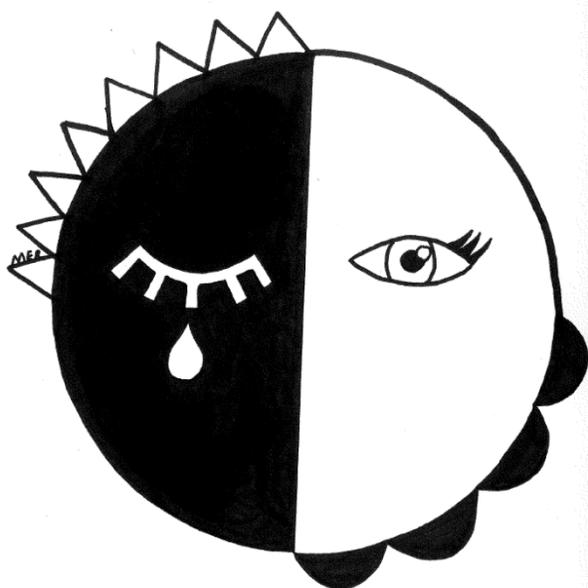
Bishop's Conference 2018

November 6-8, 2018

The Shawnee Inn

Northeastern PA Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



EXPOSING THE IDOLS: REFLECTION AND PRACTICE

This year's Bishop's Conference will focus on the many idols that confront us – the powers, myths, and lies that seek to overwhelm us. The Rev. Dr. Melinda A. Quivik will help us to identify a wide variety of idols: theological, cultural, and personal. She will also lead us to consider pastoral practices that are faithful and fruitful in the face of so many struggles.

Come to this year's conference ready to be challenged, comforted, and energized for ministry.

Thank you to Mary Rigg, the 17-year old daughter of Pastor Mark and Suzanne Rigg, for designing this year's logo. Here is a description from Mary: The left side represents the idols. Since they promise things they cannot give, the eye on the left has a teardrop under it. The left eye is closed and in the dark because the idols have not been revealed. The eye on the right has had the idols exposed and is now open to see the light. The bumps on the right are soft because they are the grace of God, and the spikes on the left are sharp because they are the agony of sin.

From the Planning Committee

The conference will be held at The Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort, 100 Shawnee Inn Drive, Shawnee on Delaware, PA. It will be a three-day event beginning at 4:00 PM on Tuesday, November 6 and concluding after lunch on Thursday, November 8. The registration cost will include two nights lodging, two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners.

To help first-call pastors attend, a \$50.00 discount will be given to all first-call pastors in the first three years of their call at the time of the conference.

For more information about the Inn, see their website at www.ShawneeInn.com.

Conference Overview

Tuesday, November 6

3:00 – Registration
4:00 – Welcome and Session One
6:30 – Dinner
9:00 – Compline

1:30 – Conversation with the Bishop
2:45 – Discussion Groups
3:30 – Free Time
6:00 – Dinner
7:30 – Holy Communion

Wednesday, November 7

7:00 – Breakfast
9:00 – Morning Prayer
9:45 – Session Two
12:00 – Lunch

Thursday, November 8

7:00 – Breakfast
9:15 – Session Three
11:00 – Worship
11:45 – Lunch

SESSION 1 – IDOLS THAT CHALLENGE SACRAMENTAL THEOLOGY

While these plenaries will eventually get to the question of how idols manifest themselves in the community and the larger world, we will begin with idolatries that challenge the church. Our current era—suspicious of organizations and especially churches—questions our fundamental ritual actions. Baptism is charged with being exclusive and unnecessary, altering the work of the Holy Spirit who prepares the baptized to approach the table. What idols are creating this idea? Why have the weekly meal of bread and wine? Who serves? How can the church maintain the radical inclusivity of the sacraments in the face of forces that twist their purposes?

SESSION 2 – IDOLS THAT INFEST SOCIETY'S AND THE CHURCH'S VALUES

Veneration of wealth, size, scope of influence, and other idols can infest the church from a culture that prizes certain classes of people, particular economic structures, technological change, fame, and strength. Jesus confronted the principalities and powers and set us an example of courage by denying the power of conventional and widely accepted values. What does his witness mean for preaching? This session will lay out helpful categories for assessing the church's situation wherever it finds itself.

SESSION 3 – IDOLS THAT THREATEN FAITH: PRACTICING WHAT WE PREACH

We hear a lot about the death of the church. As we watch our numbers dwindle, what might the practices be that would help us to truly be “non-anxious” about the trajectory of the church? We will look at what, in our time, might result in the same kind of positive “correction” as happened in the Reformation. And further, in personal terms, we will discuss what it would take to relieve us as church leaders from responding in reactive and hopeless ways to the idols that cause fear and even despair. In whose thrall do we really live? Where is sacred space and sacred time?

DISCUSSION GROUPS being developed for Wednesday afternoon include: *Technology and Ministry*; *Lutheran Sacred Cows*; *Connecting with Youth and Young Families*; and *Text Study for Christ the King Sunday, November 25*.

Registration Details/Form

Overnight attendees – Includes registration fee, two night’s lodging and six meals (dinner on Tuesday; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Wednesday; breakfast and lunch on Thursday).

Single room - \$432 Double room - \$300
Triple room - \$260 Quad room - \$240

All prices are per person/per room and include WiFi access; use of the fitness center, indoor pool and jacuzzi; business center access; a 6-hole pitch and putt course for night play; and planned activities for all guests.

Day attendees – Includes registration fee and meals for the day(s) you choose.

Tuesday - \$50 (includes dinner)
Wednesday - \$90 (includes lunch and dinner)
Thursday - \$50 (includes lunch)
Three days - \$180 (includes dinner Tuesday, lunch and dinner Wednesday, and lunch Thursday)

Spouses are invited to attend.

PLACE account funds may be used for the registration. **After paying** by credit card or check, mail a completed **PLACE withdrawal form** (found at www.godslove.org) to Debbie Frey at the synod office for reimbursement

**PLEASE BRING A COPY OF
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP FOR DEVOTIONS.**

Register for the 2018 Bishop’s Conference **ONLINE** by following the link on the home page, www.godslove.org.

IF REGISTERING BY MAIL, complete both sides of the form and mail with check (payable to NEPS) to Debbie Frey, Northeastern PA Synod, 2354 Grove Road, Allentown, PA, 18109-3044.

Registration deadline is October 1, 2018.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Staying at The Inn at Shawnee:

_____ Single room - \$432.00
_____ Double room - \$300.00
_____ Triple room - \$260.00
_____ Quad room - \$240.00

Commuting:

_____ Tuesday - \$50.00 (includes dinner)
_____ Wednesday - \$90.00 (lunch and dinner)
_____ Thursday - \$50.00 (includes lunch)
_____ Three days – \$180.00 (includes 4 meals)

TOTAL PAID \$ _____

I am a first-call pastor in the first three years of my call.
(Check here and deduct \$50.00 from the total amount.)

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER
OCTOBER 1**

Facilitator



The Rev. Melinda A. Quivik, Ph.D. was ordained in 1994 and has served as a pastor in Montana, Minnesota, and Michigan, and as chaplain of the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. For several years she taught worship and preaching at the seminary. Her Ph.D. is from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California in worship and preaching.

Her latest book is for individuals and families: *Remembering God's Promises: A Funeral Planning Handbook* (Augsburg Fortress in the Worship Matters series, due in 2018). Other Augsburg Fortress books include two for pastors: 1) *In Sure and Certain Hope: A Funeral Sourcebook* (2017) containing essays on natural burial, considerations on funerals for suicide deaths, music, children, columbaria, and biblical and theological themes

that speak to funeral rites, among others; and 2) *Leading Worship Matters: A Sourcebook for Preparing Worship Leaders* (2013), including thirty different writers—lay and ordained—on worship leadership roles, training session plans, and handouts.

Serving the Word: Preaching in Worship (Fortress, 2009) deals with the relationship between the preaching and the liturgy as a whole. Her essays and preaching commentaries have appeared in, among others, *New Proclamation*, Working Preacher.org, *Currents in Theology and Mission*, and *Preaching God's Transforming Justice*. For *Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion* (WJK) she worked with a team of six other ecumenically chosen liturgical scholars to write new liturgical language for each Sunday of the three-year Revised Common Lectionary.

Having recently moved to St. Paul, Minnesota, Dr. Quivik continues to serve as Editor-in-Chief of the quarterly journal *Liturgy*, leads workshops for pastors and laity, and is writing a book on liturgical time.

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Name(s) of roommate(s): _____
- Please assign me a roommate.
- I have special needs (accommodations, dietary or otherwise). Describe:

INFORMATION FOR NAME TAG

1st name, nickname: _____

Congregation/Agency; Location: _____

COMPLETE ALL THAT APPLY

I am a: Pastor Deacon Spouse/Visitor/Staff