

Beck Hall

Offered Both Workshop Sessions (11:30 a.m. & 4:15 p.m.)

Social Media in the Congregation

Leader: Anna Rendell, Social Networking Manager at Vibrant Faith Ministries

Anna Rendell's passion for faith development, writing, and connecting with others is what brought her to the world of social media. She has now brought Vibrant Faith into that world as their social networking and webinar manager. Anna holds a degree in Youth & Family Ministry, and also a Master of Social Media certification. She has worked as director of youth ministries in a congregation and also as a year-round program director at a Bible camp. Anna writes at GirlwithBlog.com, has created an active social media community, is an ambassador for several brands and companies, and is a regular contributing author to several other sites. Through VFM, she has coached dozens of congregations on social media best practices and created several of their most popular webinars. She loves blogging, but loves being a mom to one-year-old son, Samuel, even more.

Location: BECK HALL: 211

Description: *Ever wondered what a tweet is or why people talk about "pinning" things online? Want some fresh ideas for using social media congregationally? During this workshop we'll look at several popular social media platforms, learning what they are and ways to use them congregationally. Hear examples of good social media use from congregational leaders and connect with other participants. This is a great session for a social media beginner!*

FAITH5 – Pulling Parents into the Core of Children, Youth and Family Ministry “Every Night in Every Home”

Leader: Dr. Rich Melheim

Rich Melheim grew up on the plains of North Dakota but never did own a pickup with a gun rack. A writer, speaker, educational systems designer, media consultant, family systems strategist, cartoonist, comedian, entrepreneur, and amateur student of how people learn, Rich is also an ELCA pastor with a specialized ministry call to the St. Paul Area Synod. Rich is founder and CEO of Faith Inkubators, the Faith Inkubators Foundation, and the Preschool Incubators project, a MN 501 (c) (3). He has spoken on family issues on CNN, WNBC, KTLA, and 50 network talk shows and news channels in between. He is currently on a 55-city book tour for his latest book, “Holding Your Family Together” (Regal Books: April 2013). Rich holds a B.A. in Journalism from the University of North Dakota, an M.Div. from Luther Seminary, and a D.Min. in Semiotics and Future Studies with Dr. Len Sweet at George Fox in Portland. The Preschool Incubators Project has finished its first round of testing in Stillwater, MN, and will begin its first round of international testing in Chennai, India, this fall. Rich is married to his Bible camp sweetheart, Arlyce Joy, and enjoys the company of two adult children, Kathryn and Joseph.

Location: BECK HALL: 311

Description: *Dr. Rich will outline five simple steps to help you call, train, and motivate parents to be the faith teachers, mentors, and role models for their own children. Any parent can do these steps in a few minutes each night to install caring conversations and faith talk in the home. Participants will receive a discount coupon for Rich's new book, “Holding Your Family Together”. (Google: Holding Regal Melheim for book information.)*

Refresh and Renew

Leader: None

Location: Gustavus Adolphus College Campus

Description: *Take time to refresh and renew. Spend some time in spiritual practice be that exercise, meditation, or prayer. The campus has many lovely places in which to be, explore and enjoy.*

***Walking Tour of the Gustavus Linnaeus Arboretum**

Leader: TBD, Gustavus Summer Student Intern

Location: Linnaeus Arboretum

Description: *Located on the western edge of Gustavus Adolphus College, the Linnaeus Arboretum provides the college and community with a living sanctuary of plants and animals for education, recreation, reflection, and stewardship. Take time to enjoy some quality time in the Gustavus Linnaeus Arboretum.*

Beck Hall

Workshops Offered 11:30 a.m. Session ONLY

Theological Education – Continuity and Change, Stress and Opportunity, Experiments and Faithfulness

Leaders: Rev. Rick Foss, Interim President, Luther Seminary; and Rev. Stan Olson, President, Wartburg Seminary

Rick Foss has been serving as interim president at Luther Seminary since January 1, 2013. He previously served 4 1/2 years as director of contextual learning at Luther, 16 years as synod bishop in Eastern North Dakota, and 21 years as pastor in four congregations in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Washington. He and his wife, Nancy, have five adult children and five grandchildren.

Stan Olson has been president of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, since January 2011. He was the executive director for the ELCA Vocation and Education Unit, 2002-11; served as the bishop of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, 1994-2002; and earlier served congregations in New Ulm and Duluth, and taught at Luther Seminary. He and his wife, Nancy, have two adult daughters and a new grandson.

Location: BECK HALL: 201

Description: *Seminaries form valued servant leaders for Christ's church. We will look at the present realities that make theological education a vital, joyful, and challenging venture for the church. Our focus will be on opportunities and experimentation. We're anxious to hear your insights.*

Leading the Way through Health Care Reform

Leader: Tammy Devine, Diaconal Minister and ELCA Wellness Manager

Tammy Devine joined Portico Benefit Services, a ministry of the ELCA, in 2004 to provide whole-person health promotion, education, and inspiration to ELCA rostered leaders and lay employees. She advocates and promotes whole-person wellbeing by speaking, facilitating retreats, and consulting with synod and congregational leaders. She also promotes wellness in the lives of members and their sites of ministry and serves as an external wellness consultant to leaders on behalf of the ELCA and Portico Benefit Services.

Tammy, who is a registered nurse, has a master's degree in leadership from Luther Seminary in St. Paul and a bachelor's degree in nursing from Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. She has completed parish nurse preparations courses at Concordia College, Moorhead, and coordinator preparation course work through the International Parish Nurse Resource Center.

Location: BECK HALL: 101

Description: *Peel back the layers of health care reform to understand its impact on our shared ministry. This interactive workshop hosted by Portico Benefit Services will give you an early look at:*

- Revisions now being made to the ELCA Philosophy of Benefits
- New ELCA health plan options for 2014
- What ELCA employers and plan members will need to do this fall

All are welcome but rostered leaders, lay employees, synod staff, and congregation council members will find it most useful.

Finding Our Way When Every Path Looks the Same – Congregational Strategic Planning

Leader: Rev. Richard Wehrs

Richard Wehrs is an ELCA pastor who, for the last decade, has been serving as a congregational ministry, stewardship, and facilities consultant. He has worked with dozens of congregations from Maryland to Montana, leading strategic planning, stewardship enhancement, and capital appeal programs. Until 2012 he concurrently served as part-time pastor for ministry resource development for a congregation in the Minneapolis Area Synod.

Location: BECK HALL: 217

Description: *This workshop will explore the critical role strategic planning can play in a congregation's life and ministry. Clarity about our mission and a compelling vision for the future are essential for a congregation's purposefulness, vitality, and passion, as well as its financial health. Resources to be shared include a checklist for "donor confidence" linking mission, vision, and "successful" stewardship.*

Prayer Practices for Everyday Life

Leader: Rev. Susan Engholm

Susan grew up in Fargo, ND, and then graduated from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and Luther Seminary in St. Paul. Susan has been a pastor in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod for the past ten years, serving First in St. James and Project Turnabout in Granite Falls. She recently completed a two-year program for Spiritual Direction through Christos Center for Spiritual Formation in Lino Lakes. She lives in Willmar with her husband, Jeff, and their cat, Phyllis, and dog, Beverly.

Location: BECK HALL: 119

Description: *We are called to live lives of prayer! During this workshop we will learn about several different prayer practices and ways we can integrate them into our daily lives. We will also practice a few different prayer and meditation techniques as a group.*

Forming Faith across the Generations

Leader: Mindy Czycalla, Minister of Christian Education and Faith Formation

Minister Mindy was commissioned as an associate in ministry in April 2013, and was called to serve at Zion, Litchfield. She has served at Zion for six years as the education director. She is passionate about cross-generational faith formation, which has been experienced at Zion through intergenerational VBS and education hours.

Location: BECK HALL: 219

Description: *Have you ever wondered how your congregation can form faith inter-generationally? God calls us all as his disciples to go and teach his people about the love of God. Come and learn some practical and simple ways to enrich the faith journeys of your members, and how they can work across the generations to help each other grow in faith in church and at home.*

Walking Together – A Theology of Accompaniment

Leader: Rev. Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner, Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches, St. James

Prior to Pr. Kathleen's ordination, she was the director of youth and education ministries for 23 years in New Ulm. She has a passion for finding effective ways of passing the faith on from generation to generation. Pr. Kathleen is also the SW MN Synod Practice Discipleship Coach, an outreach of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

Location: BECK HALL: 221

Description: *The purpose of this session is to begin to understand a Theology of Accompaniment and how this way of being impacts faith formation and our call to serve young people and families. This may seem daunting, but the main point of this theology is to live out what it means to "walk together." We will explore being in authentic relationship with one another and how this is important as we live out Christ's mission. This workshop will be very helpful for those wanting to strengthen their faith formation ministries – confirmation, youth, Sunday school, Bible study, etc.*

How Congregations Can Help Our Young Adults

Leader: Heidi Hagstrom, Director for ELCA Youth Gathering

Heidi Hagstrom was formed in faith at Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Inspired by a youth worker at ELC, Heidi went to Concordia College with a plan to serve the church as a lay staff person. Her first calls were to Trinity in Montevideo, Calvary in Willmar, and First in Bemidji. She then attended Indiana University and learned the conference planning business. After returning to Minnesota, Heidi worked at St. Cloud State University as director for educational conferences. In 1997 she combined her two loves of the church and meeting planning by moving to Chicago to serve as associate director for the ELCA Youth Gathering. She served in that role for four Gatherings and then became director in 2007.

Location: BECK HALL: 301

Description: *Young adults don't want our help. They want to be part of an authentic community in which they feel wanted as they are, how they are, and where they are. Believing may or may not follow their sense of belonging. Belonging takes time and often happens best outside the church's walls. Most of all, young people want to be part of a community that takes seriously the way of Christ and welcomes their stumbling along the way, with the rest of the community.*

P.I.E. and Gift Shepherds – Ways to Grow Families and a Planned Giving Ministry in Your Setting

Leader: Rev. Larry Streng, Director for Evangelical Mission

Pr. Larry serves as DEM in our SW MN Synod after 22 years in mission development and re-development congregations. He helps facilitate conversations around stewardship, evangelism, and other matters related to growing a vital mission-minded congregation. Recently his call has led him into the area of planned giving. Working with a host of other leaders, including our synod's Endowment Committee, the P.I.E. (Prosper-Invest-Endow) ministry was born and continues to grow. It is now recognized in our ELCA as an important ministry to help families and congregations as they deal with end-of-life issues related to money and other assets being shared.

Location: BECK HALL: 317

Description: *A tremendous shift in assets from one generation to the next is taking place. Between 2013 and 2020 as much as \$20 trillion (yes, trillion) will be shifted! Often families break up when these assets are transferred. Are there ways to grow families when assets are shared? Is there an upper limit to the amount you plan to give to your children or other family members? In this workshop you'll learn why this ministry is important and how the use of story, good legal advice, and planned giving tools are being presented at our P.I.E. events and through Gift Shepherds. "Taste" this ministry that encourages the growth of endowment funds and other gifts to congregations, our synod, and other ELCA-related ministries and institutions.*

Become a Safe Haven Congregation – Preventing and Responding to Abuse**Leader:** Sarah Hausken, SW MN Synod Youth Ministry Coordinator

Sarah Hausken has served as youth ministry coordinator for the SW MN Synod for 12 years. She has spent months researching this topic and gleaning the best strategies from other synods, congregations, and organizations which specialize in preventing and responding to abuse. Sarah lives in Olivia with her husband, Pastor Matt Hausken, and two sons, Leif and Bjorn.

Location: BECK HALL: 111

Description: *One in four people experience physical, emotional, or sexual abuse or neglect. As a church we have an opportunity to be Christ-bearers as we seek to prevent and respond to abuse. Come learn four clear steps to make your congregation a safe haven from abuse.*

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Workshops Offered 4:15 p.m. Session ONLY

The Church is Dying – You Must Be Doing Something Wrong

Leader: Rev. Laura Aase, Pastor, River of Hope, Hutchinson; and Rev. Mark Kopka, Associate Pastor, Faith, Spicer

Laura Aase thinks the church is weird and is suspect when things feel too normal. She's a pretty joyful person, yet embraces the cranky undertones of generation x, who no one talks about anymore. She lives in Hutchinson, Minnesota and is the mission developer and pastor of the joyfully cranky River of Hope. Worship is noisy and often awkward with kid involvement. It's weird. You should come sometime.

Mark Kopka is a pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Spicer. After being a mission developer in inner city St. Paul, he decided to venture west to the prairie and lake country of western Minnesota where he thinks the people are the same, the churches are different...and the fish bite.

Location: BECK HALL: 101

Description: *Ha! We got your attention. We make no promises for solutions or trademarking "the next best thing" in ministry. This workshop is not about "change or die" or "you're doing it wrong." Put down your anxiety about the dying church and look for new life in the same old places, and in new places. We will simply share the chances we've taken in specific and particular contexts and give them to you in writing along with the inner monologue that went along with their inspiration and creation. (Consider this your snark warning.) Then, you can steal them or tweak them for your very specific time and place, knowing that we did that same thing already.*

Planning for the Upcoming Youth Gathering in Detroit

Leader: Heidi Hagstrom, Director for ELCA Youth Gathering

Heidi Hagstrom was formed in faith at Cokato Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC) in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod. Inspired by a youth worker at ELC, Heidi went to Concordia College with a plan to serve the church as a lay staff person. Her first calls were to Trinity in Montevideo, Calvary in Willmar, and First in Bemidji. She then attended Indiana University and learned the conference planning business. After returning to Minnesota, Heidi worked at St. Cloud State University as director for educational conferences. In 1997 she combined her two loves of the church and meeting planning by moving to Chicago to serve as associate director for the ELCA Youth Gathering. She served in that role for four Gatherings and then became director in 2007.

Location: BECK HALL: 111

Description: *Lutheran youth have gathered for worship, service, fellowship, study, and play for well over a century. In 2015 they will gather in Detroit around the theme, "Rise Up Together", to explore a way of living in light of the cross of Christ that compels us to show up where there is great need. This workshop will outline the Gathering's program at this point in the planning cycle.*

Faith Formation in a Missional Age

Leader: Rev. Kathleen Ulland-Klinkner, Augustana/East Sveadahl Lutheran Churches, St. James

Prior to Pr. Kathleen's ordination, she was the director of youth and education ministries for 23 years in New Ulm. She has a passion for finding effective ways of passing the faith on from generation to generation. Pr. Kathleen is also the SW MN Synod Practice Discipleship Coach, an outreach of the ELCA Youth Ministry Network.

Location: BECK HALL: 221

Description: *The world is changing rapidly – one out of every five adults in the U.S.A. claims to have no religious affiliation. Our task of faith formation just got more difficult. This session will open the discussion on the challenges we all face when doing ministry in this era. We will also discuss the opportunities, joys, fears, and anxieties we face. Finally, we will offer a way to begin thinking about how we can move faithfully forward in effective faith formation for all ages.*

Revising and Updating Congregation Constitutions

Leader: Rev. Arthur E. Wiese and David Leitzman

Pastor Arthur Wiese is the Pastor of United Lutheran Church in Lake Lillian, MN. Former member of the SW MN Synod Council, former member of the Synod Executive Committee, and former Chairperson of the Policies and Procedures Subcommittee.

Dave Leitzman serves the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University as their Education Department's Director of Teacher Education. He is the current chairperson of the Synod Council's Policy and Procedures Committee, whose members assist congregations in the review of their constitutions. He is a member of Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Location: BECK HALL: 217

Description: *Thinking it may be time to update your congregation's constitution? With Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, at the core of our life together, congregation constitutions assist in ministry and mission. Up-to-date constitutions provide efficiency and accountability in running your congregation. Come learn more about this process.*

Worship Today – Places of Renewal and Innovation

Leader: Dirk G. Lange, Associate Professor of Worship, Luther Seminary

Dirk Lange's ministerial experience has covered a wide spectrum of activities, but all under one umbrella – liturgy in the lives of people. As a brother of Taizé, he was engaged with the prayer and songs of Taizé. His book, *Trauma Recalled: Liturgy, Disruption, Theology* (Fortress Press, 2009), explores Luther's sacramental theology and begins rewriting theology through the lens of the liturgy. He has served parishes in Atlanta and Philadelphia.

Location: BECK HALL: 201

Description: *What can worship be today? This workshop begins by asking what worship is in the life of a congregation and in the life of each baptized member. It then explores, with specific examples, how worship can be a place of renewal today. Alternative models of worship will be examined with a primary focus on the witness of communal prayer at the Community of Taizé. How can the Taizé prayer be a source for renewal of worship rather than just an additional worship option?*

Building Men for Christ

Leader: Jeff Mason, representative of Region 3, Lutheran Men in Mission National Board

Jeff Mason has served on the LMM National Board since 2011. He presents LMM Building Men for Christ workshops, and he is the chair of the REAL Men ministry team at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Maple Grove.

Location: BECK HALL: 219

Description: *If all you want to do is organize a men's breakfast, start a Bible study, or have a men's golf outing, this workshop isn't for you. BUT, if you have a passion for starting or improving an existing men's ministry at your church and want to develop a ministry that reaches out to all men wherever they are on their faith walk, come and find how Lutheran Men in Mission can assist you.*

Leadership Program for Musicians

Leader: John D. Jahr, Director of Worship and Music, Vinje, Willmar

John Jahr is a graduate of Concordia College and Luther Seminary (Master of Sacred Music). He was also part of the first graduating class of the Choristers Guild Institute and is a certified children's choir director. John has served churches in Fargo, the Twin Cities, and the Dallas area, and has been in Willmar since 2008. John also directs the West Central Singers, a mixed SATB community chorus based in Willmar.

Location: BECK HALL: 319

Description: *Leadership Program for Musicians (LPM) is an ecumenical organization that helps to train and support musicians and worship leaders. LPM offers classes on hymnody, liturgy, choral conducting, song leading, and the philosophy of church music. We discuss worship planning, how to engage people of all ages, and how to teach new music to your congregation. Participants benefit from individualized training based on their own unique needs in their settings. We are in the initial stages of setting up an LPM Chapter in the Southwestern Minnesota area. If you are a pastor, musician, or church member who would like to know more, or if you know a musician who could benefit from this course, please attend this workshop.*

Rebuilding the Clay Pot

Leader: Rev. Linda Lagergren, Associate Pastor, Resurrection, St. Joseph

Pr. Linda's call is to Campus Ministry of St. John's and St. Ben's, Youth and Family, and Small Group Ministries. She is also a retreat leader of quilting, knitting, women's retreats, and a consultant for small groups such as councils or youth and family teams. She has been a Bible study leader and has given several presentations related to quilting and faith. She is married, the mother of four grown children, and grandmother to one grandson.

Location: BECK HALL: 321

Description: *Are you looking for new ways to build a productive team or for ideas for your next council retreat? Join this workshop for a mini-retreat that walks you through just such an activity. Learn some ideas and practices to use in your own settings.*

Telling God's Story: Always Being Made New - 2013 Video Contest

Leader: Rev. Larry Strenge, Director for Evangelical Mission

Pr. Larry serves as DEM in our SW MN Synod after 22 years in mission development and re-development congregations. He helps facilitate conversations around stewardship, evangelism, and other matters related to growing a vital mission-minded congregation. Recently his call has led him into the area of planned giving. Working with a host of other leaders, including our synod's Endowment Committee, the P.I.E. (Prosper-Invest-Endow) ministry was born and continues to grow. It is now recognized in our ELCA as an important ministry to help families and congregations as they deal with end-of-life issues related to money and other assets being shared.

Location: BECK HALL: 317

Description: *View the submissions from our video contest about the witness that the Holy Spirit continues to produce in and through us, as we, and all of God's creation, are always being made new in Christ. How is that witness happening and being lived beyond the walls and doors of your congregation's building?*

South Africa Visit – October 2012

Leader: Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel-Juleen, Dean, Shetek Conference

Pastor Yackel-Juleen has served in the SW MN Synod since 1989. He is Executive Director of Shalom Hill Farm and Lead Pastor of Prairie Star Ministries. He currently is also serving as Dean of the Shetek Conference. He has been instrumental in developing the partnership between the Shetek Conference and the Ondini Circuit and has travelled to South Africa 4 times since 2008.

Location: BECK HALL: 119

Description: *We will explore some of the joys and challenges of our companion relationships on the Conference to Circuit level. Shetek Conference and the Ondini Circuit have been working in close partnership since January of 2008. Since that time, 3 delegations from Shetek have travelled to South Africa and 2 delegations from South Africa have travelled from Ondini to the US, including the delegation currently visiting which will be present at this workshop. We will focus on the development of our relationship and the work we are doing together as examples of what is possible. This workshop will be of special interest to those who are working with their own Conference-Circuit partnerships, those who want to get involved, and those curious about what is happening with our Companion Synod relationship.*