



# Evangelizing:

Living and Telling the Story of Jesus Today

**Thursday, April 14 - 6:30 pm CDT**

6:30-8:00 Presentations

8:00-8:30 Q and A/Discussion

Live-stream Event

&

In Person Event:

Gustavus Adolphus College, St Peter MN

Jackson Campus Center

- Why are we, who have experienced the grace of God in Christ (Eph. 1, 2, 3), so unlikely to talk about Jesus?

- What holds us back?

- What sets us free?

- What practical practices might be put into place to offer testimony to others?

In this TED-talk style event we will explore these questions, as well as offer foundations and approaches, to practice **"Grace-based evangelizing."**

Through foundational material from Luther's *"Freedom of a Christian"* (Mark Tranvik) we move to how we talk about Spirit-led conversion to the Way of Jesus (Christian discipleship) in a multi-faith culture, how we testify without shaming our family or heritage (Salim Kaderbhai). We'll explore how **grace** is the **base** for evangelizing. Then, talks about evangelizing in community (Peggy Hahn) and through the congregation (Tim Olson) will offer practical ideas and examples to witness the Spirit's work in, with and through us as we live and tell the Story of Jesus today.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work Our hands

This event is sponsored by your **ELCA's Region 3 Synods**.

Congregations may attend the in-person or live stream at no cost.

We invite support through a free-willing offering via the SW MN Synod online donation page.

## Registration:

Please register online at [www.swmnelca.org](http://www.swmnelca.org), events page.

Registration deadline is April 14, 2016.

## TED-style talks & Speakers:



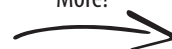
**Pr. Mark Tranvik**

**Pr. Mark Tranvik** is an ELCA pastor and also professor of religion at Augsburg College in Minneapolis. He introduced and translated Martin Luther's *Freedom of a Christian* (Fortress 2008) and is the author of the forthcoming (in April) of *Martin Luther and the Called Life* (also from Fortress). He is married with two grown children and lives in Robbinsdale, MN.

### Talk : "The Art of Living Inside Out."

Much of our lives are spent living "outside in." Our identities are dependent on how busy we are, the job we have, the image others have of our families, etc. We often feel trapped and confined by our need to live up to the expectations of others. But there is another way--a way of freedom--that comes with a living relationship with Jesus Christ.

More!





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**Pr. Salim Kaderbhai**

**Pr. Salim Kaderbhai** is an ELCA pastor and gifted storyteller in Madelia Minnesota. He grew up in the Islamic faith at his home in Tanzania. During study at Concordia College, Moorhead, Mn the “power of testimony” brought about his conversion to the Christian faith. He is married to Katie and they are the parents of three sons--with a fourth, maybe even a daughter, on the way in July 2016.

### **Talk Title: The Power of Reclaiming Testimony (or Telling the Jesus Story matters!)**

We ask, “How do we talk about “conversion” in a multi-faith context without giving in to decision theology, denigrating other faith traditions or using shaming techniques? Salim Kaderbhai grew up as a Muslim in Tanzania and converted to the Way of Jesus in his college years. In this talk Salim will take us into the power of story as he shares about how the Spirit used the power of testimony his conversion to the way of Jesus.

**A Salim quote:** *We all have a story that we are a part of. A story that ties our lives to the lives of those around us; with the lives of our parents and families, the church, our community and the ancestors who have gone before us. Ultimately, these stories of our lives tie into the larger narrative of the world and finally with the greatest story ever told – the one of a God who created us, formed us, knows us, loves us and reconciles us through the story of God’s son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Savior.*



**Pr. Peggy Hahn**

**Pr. Peggy Hahn** serves as the Executive Director for LEAD in Houston TX. Peggy’s passion is to align passionate leaders, resources, and practices to grow Christian leaders. With the heart of an evangelist Peggy tells the Jesus Story so that faith communities discover how to make a difference in their neighborhood and in the world. Peggy is a frequent speaker and author who is never without a pile of books to read. She seeks coaches and mentors for herself in an ongoing quest to learn and grow in the Way of Jesus.

### **Talk: Be a Remarkable Church that Flips the Story**

What does it mean to be a remarkable church? Imagine a movement of Lutheran Christians who embrace their theology so fully that they become known for sending people out from church rather than trying to get people into church. Imagine your congregation as a practice camp instead of a destination event.

How do we flip the story? Embrace four vital behaviors that will turn your congregation inside out. Share stories on social media or over a cup of coffee that bear witness to Christ in a world that has become fearful of church and apprehensive of organized-anything.

Learn the strategies of leaders who are making the word evangelism obsolete as they deepen their own faith and join in God’s mission in tangible ways across their neighborhood and the world.



**Pr. Tim Olson**

**Pr. Tim Olson** is Lead Pastor for Mission & Vision at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Ankeny, Iowa. He has served as pastor/developer in the Northern Illinois Synod and as part of THE ELCA Stewardship staff. Tim is also an adjunct professor in the Association of Chicago Theological School’s Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program. He holds a of Doctor of Ministry in Preaching through the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago; a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. You can follow his thoughts in his blog “Faith Matters.”

### **Title of talk: Climate Change: Tending the Environment for Evangelizing**

It is not just the global climate that is undergoing change. A “spiritual but not religious” culture seems to be cooling the climate outside the congregation for receiving the good news. Inside the congregation the challenge of survival and fear of change has made the climate tepid and ineffective. To address the cultural climate change takes attention to climate change in the congregation.