

Workshop Descriptions

Fostering Accompaniment: 2023 SW MN Synod-ELCA-SED Visitor Exchange

Pr. Janet Adams and Lindsey Scheid

Learn more about the SW MN Synod's Companion Synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa-Southeastern Diocese from participants in the 2023 visitor exchange who traveled to South Africa this fall. This relationship is rooted in "accompaniment," which promotes the values of mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. Through the program, companion churches and ELCA synods nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors, and sharing of resources.

The Outcome/Impact of Storytelling

Pr. Pete Reuss, www.gsbfundraising.com

Because of your congregation, people experience God's presence and God's love. Boldly sharing these stories energizes people, helping them see the profound impact of your ministry. Pr. Pete Reuss, partner at GSB Fundraising, will provide practical steps to bring excitement to your community of faith.

Insights to Better Understand Farming Culture and Mental Health

Ted Matthews, www.farmcounseling.org

Ted is a mental health practitioner with over 30 years of experience in counseling in rural areas. His focus has been farmer mental health support. Ted will discuss what he sees within the farming community and how folks can help.

Room at the Table for Everyone

Synod Minister, Pr. Heather Culuris

Hospitality is part of our Christian call to discipleship. Come listen and consider what the Bible says about hospitality as well as how we live out Christian hospitality in the real-life situations we encounter in our congregations and personal lives.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer —

the 3 simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide.

Forrest Rice, www.woodlandcenters.com

The mission of QPR training is to save lives and reduce suicidal behaviors by providing innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training. We believe that quality education empowers all people, regardless of their background, to make a positive difference in the life of someone they know. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. Each year thousands of Americans, like you, are saying "Yes" to saving the life of a friend, colleague, sibling, or neighbor.

Loving Your Neighbor - Practical Things We Can All Do

Jenny Groen and Fatumo Yussuf, www.arriveministries.org

Many of us want to be more loving and welcoming to all our neighbors. But sometimes it can be hard to know where to begin. Join us for a workshop where two women from Willmar's Arrive Ministries share about their work with newly arrived immigrants to their community. They'll share their personal stories of coming alongside neighbors from all walks of life, meeting tangible needs in practical ways, and most importantly, building relationships that truly embody God's calling for all of us to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer and Poetry, Silence and Singing

Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson, Pr. Sherri Larson, and Bishop Dee Pederson

This session has two goals: First, we will learn about new and creative prayers (often written as poetry) for use in pastoral care, small groups, and worship. Participants will discuss a variety that can help expand our images of God and speak with clarity to challenging times and situations. Second, we will share in a short and simple worship, using some of these prayers and adding both silence and song.