



2018 SW MN Synod Assembly

Workshop and Service Project Descriptions

Service Projects

“Better Together” Redwood Falls Food Packing Event

This event is a service project held at the SW MN Synod Assembly open to the community and surrounding areas.

Leader: Larry Strenge

Location: Field House

Times: 7:30-9am Set-up; 9-11am Food Packing Shift; 11am-1pm Food Packing Shift; 1-3pm Food Packing Shift; 3-5pm packing/clean up.

Description: A “Better Together” Food Packing event has two missional goals:

Goal #1- Provide opportunities for cross-cultural relationship building

Goal #2- Provide nutritious food for local communities

What will happen: Prior to each shift, people from various culture(s) present some educational aspect about their culture (5-10 minutes) and provide orientation for packaging. The participants will package meals of different types that include a nutritional scoop of vitamins. All are designed for American food shelf tastes. For more information, please see outreachprogram.org. Up to 150 persons pack for 2 hours. All food goes to local food shelves, backpack programs and disable/homeless veterans.

Sign up to participate: <http://bit.ly/RWFbettertogether>

Make a Donation: All donations matched! Goal = \$15,000 (matched \$30,000) for 120,000 meals!

All money for this event should be sent to:

SW MN Synod, ELCA

PO Box 499

Redwood Falls, MN 56283

In “memo” line please write: “Better Together Redwood Falls”

Women of the ELCA Fleece Blankets

Organized by the Women of the ELCA

Location: Gymnasium

Description: Make a tied fleece blanket to warm and comfort people in need! Materials and instructions are at the Women of the ELCA table, but you may also contribute by bringing the needed fleece found at https://lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/FLEECETIEDBLANKETS_INSTRUCTIONS.pdf Please have them cut, if possible. Those completed at the Assembly will be donated locally in Redwood Falls. Those not finished will be completed at the Women’s Convention on June 29 & 30 in St. Cloud for the St. Cloud area.

Lutheran Social Service Baby Kits

Organized by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota

Location: Gymnasium

Description: Bring baby items and assemble baby kits for families with young children in need of support. The “wish list” for the baskets includes:

Diapers (Sizes NB- 5)

Wipes (non-allergenic)

Infant Formula, All Brands

Bottles, Pacifiers & Teethers

Receiving Blankets

Bath Towels

Sippy Cups

Baby Wash, Lotion, and Cotton Swabs

Infant Toys

Diaper Bags

Baby Carriers (new or gently used)

New Baby/Child clothing (NB-5T)

Items should be new. This service project is part of LSS of MN’s Families in Safe Hands (FISH) program, which offers services to families working toward self-sufficiency and stability. The baskets will be distributed to families referred to the FISH program to mark important milestones—a transition to a new home or the birth of a child—and support them in the process.

Workshops

Healing Veterans’ Moral Injuries

Leader: Chaplain Jeff Zust

Location: TBD

Description: Moral injuries differ from fear-based Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. They are invisible, value-based soul wounds that extend beyond combat into our homes and communities. This workshop will provide a working model to help veterans, families, and congregations understand the formation of moral injuries and pathways for healing.

Capital Campaign – Ready or Not?

Leader: Paula Kitt, MIF Director Capital Campaign Services

Location: TBD

Description: Is your congregation considering a capital campaign? How do you determine if and when you are ready for a fundraising initiative? We will cover some of the key prerequisites for launching a capital campaign as well as ‘red flag’ factors that can negatively affect a campaign. The discussion includes what traits that lead to an effective campaign, and whether to hire a consultant or do it yourself.

Music – A Language That Speaks Volumes

Leader: Glocal Music Educators

Location: PAC

Description: If music has a language of its own, how can we learn it? What is it made of? Is it really universal? In this workshop we sing and share our songs and stories in order to understand what they are telling us, beyond their lyrics, and be able to share their meaning with others. Learn how to sing songs from four different continents of the world. Experiment with playing drums and other percussion, sing in different languages, and explore different styles of music.

Natural Death through Comfort Care: Trusting God's Timing

Leader: Rev. Chris Wheatley

Location: TBD

Description: What is palliative care? What is physician-assisted suicide? How can I preserve my dignity at the end of life? When should I consider discontinuing treatments? What can hospice care provide that my normal medical team does not?

Come and learn about natural death through comfort care, a policy that provides peace, compassion and dignity to you and your loved ones at the end of life. All could benefit from this thought-provoking, conversation-starting presentation.

Congregational Memory: A Powerful Tool in Mission Planning

Leader: Paul Daniels, ELCA Region 3 Archivist & Luther Seminary Archivist

Location: TBD

Description: This talk will focus on how our shared congregational stories can be engaged creatively to help us move forward in mission. Congregational memory is never a neutral force - we can be held back by it, just as easily as we can be instructed and inspired by it. We will look at examples of both in a conversational "back and forth" style session as we look at an under-utilized asset in our churches.

The Community of Jesus in a World Where People Hunger

Leader: Rev Daniel Rift

Location: TBD

Description: We will look together at where the ministry of hunger response rests in the life of the church:

In scripture

In the world

In our congregation.

Participants will network around their best ideas and experiences of ways in which a concern for hunger can extend beyond "stocking the pantry" into other areas of church life and into the world. The concentration will be upon living past the dichotomies that are often expressed in this work (for example: between charity and justice; between worship and service; between doing and being, between "the poor will always be with you" and "we can end hunger in our life time").

Public Mission: Social Action and Advocacy

Leader: Glocal Music Educators

Location: TBD

Description: Equip yourself with resources to effectively mobilize your congregation to act through service, giving, advocacy, and lifestyle choices. Learn about the root causes of hunger and poverty. Learn about advocacy as a tool for helping our neighbor. This workshop surveys practical approaches to social justice, and is geared toward people with beginning to moderate experience in justice work.

Hunger Issues in SW Minnesota

Location: TBD

Description: Hunger exists in SW Minnesota. Come hear from a panel of speakers on how their organizations help meet the needs of their communities.

The Women and Justice Social Statement: Your Voice in the Process

Leader: Pastor Bruce Berg, ELCA Task Force for the Women and Justice Social Statement

Location: TBD

Description: The Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice is available for your review. All ELCA Social Statements are considered a work of the church (meaning you) therefore, your voice and comments are important and need to be heard. Come learn about the Social Statement process and how you can be a part of the vetting process of this document before it goes to the ELCA Church Council and Church-wide Assembly for adoption.