

## **Workshops - Central States Synod Assembly 2006**

All workshops are offered at both workshop times (2:00 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.) unless noted in the descriptions. Location of workshop will be included in the Assembly binder.

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### **How to Create an Effective Mutual Ministry Committee (Pr. Richard Monson)**

A Mutual Ministry Committee can help a congregation stay connected in the midst of conflict by focusing on issues and not personalities. This workshop is designed to help pastors and lay leaders organize, and implement an effective Mutual Ministry Committee that functions in a spirit of concern for one another and with a desire to grow in the maturity of Christ.

### **Multiplying Ministry (CSS Outreach Team) 2:00 p.m.**

Today the most effective way to grow the church is by beginning new ministries. Parent Churches, Satellite Starts, Mission Stations, Alpha Groups, etc. are all ways that the church expands. In central Missouri, the use of certified PMAs is helping multiply ministry. This workshop will explore ways that will bring insight into various ways of expanding ministry in your context.

### **NCD: Natural Church Development: (CSS Outreach Team) 3:15 p.m.**

Natural church development is not another new program. It is a process that a congregation adopts in which it takes an assessment of its health and then proceeds to develop a plan to work on one area of health using its assets and strengths to improve that specific area. After that is done another assessment is taken and the process begins over again. CSS has trained coaches to walk with congregations in this process. Come and learn more about how NCD can be helpful to your congregation.

### **Straight Talk about Money (MIST team) 2:00 p.m.**

This is a “down and dirty” straight talk session about increasing giving in your congregation.

### **Practical Resources for Stewardship (MIST team) 3:15 p.m.**

Come learn about year-round stewardship planning and learn about the best stewardship practices for your congregation.

### **Leadership in Mission Outreach: Congregational Mission Endowment Funds (Joyce Palmer)**

Leader guidance to establishing a congregational mission endowment fund and how to enhance an already established congregation endowment fund. Discover the joys and benefits of stewardship leadership.

### **Intentional Interim Ministry (Pr. Russ Creydt)**

The time of transition between pastors is like any major life event, a time when a congregation can develop and grow in new ways. It need not be just a period of waiting or marking time. An intentional interim pastor can help the congregation grow and develop in preparation for the next

chapter of life. This workshop explores the resources and role of intentional interim pastors.

**Confidentiality & Privilege - What Every Congregation Should Know  
(Ms. Kelly Dean Brende)**

We will work through a case study regarding one or two situations that may face congregations. Although our case study may seem far-fetched to some of you, the studies are not too removed from situations churches (of all denominations) face. Come learn how you can assist your congregation in dealing with some of these issues regarding Confidentiality & Privilege.

**Building a House of Prayer (Ms. Carla Holste)**

It will address how to begin an active, vibrant prayer ministry within a congregation, giving ideas and spiritual insights on the power of prayer. Many Lutherans shy away from prayer, mainly out of fear or a lack of spiritual understanding regarding the power of prayer. This workshop is designed to confront those obstacles and help congregations start or jump-start a prayer ministry.

**Faith Stepping Stones: Preparing parents to Mark Faith Passages  
(Pr. Susan Langhauser)**

Did you realize that “blessing” is the primary interaction between Jesus and children in scripture? Church Leaders who are looking for a way to support parents and give them resources for faith development in the home are invited to attend the “Faith Stepping Stones” workshop. This program, one of the educational systems from Faith Inkubators ([www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com)) is a simple way to gather families together at each “faith event” in their children’s lives. There are a minimum of 7 “steps” (which your church is probably already “marking” in some way) and the Faith Stepping Stone program is a simple, organizing principle for a consistent educational and theological support system in your congregation. For each of the 7 steps (Holy Baptism, Entry into Sunday School, First Communion, First Bible, Entry into Confirmation, the Rite of Confirmation and Graduation from High School) the program provides 3 elements: “to gift the family, bless the child and call parents back to the promises made in Baptism.”

**Labyrinth Exploration (Mr. Dave Mareske)**

Explore the richness of an outdoor labyrinth, an ancient device used for centering the human spirit and connecting to God. In this session, participants will learn about the history of the labyrinth and have the opportunity to walk one.

**Welcoming New Christians (Ms. Marianne Wilkinson)**

Increasingly persons who visit and wish to become part of our congregations have little or no church background. The basic question is not what it means to be Lutheran; rather we need to start with what it means to be Christian. This workshop will explore some approaches

and resources including the ELCA Catechumenate materials. There will be an opportunity for participants to share their experiences as they welcome new persons to their congregations.

### **Social Statement on Education ( Bethany College)**

The ELCA is preparing a social statement on education at all levels. You are invited to help shape this statement, and where better to start the discussion than at Bethany College! Does God call us to educate? If so, how should we live out that calling? What role should the church play in education? Please join Bethany faculty and staff for conversation on the statement and ideas for how you can use this statement in your congregation.

### **Companion Synod Team**

#### **Building Bridges of Relationships: Far East Russia 2:00 p.m.**

Learn how amazing relationships between Lutheran Churches from opposite ends of the Earth have been started and sustained. Tricia Hinton will share about the relationship between Holy Cross (Overland Park, Kan.) and St. Mark's in Magadan, and Jennifer Robinson and Jack Sharman will share about the relationship that has been developed between Atonement (Overland Park, Kan.) and St. Katherine's in Komsomol'sk. From the Far East of Russia to Overland Park, Kansas there is a support and stewardship commitment that truly shows "God's Amazing Grace" in action. These individuals have a great story to tell about visits and the bridges that have been built.

#### **Building Together in Papua New Guinea 3:15 p.m.**

Learn about a recent Companion Synod trip to Papua New Guinea taken by three members of the Central States Synod: Pastor Gary Teske (Trinity, Lawrence, KS), Don Gay (Hosanna!, Liberty, MO), and Matthew Ekstrum (Salem, Axtell, KS). These individuals spent nearly two weeks building houses, building relationships and building up the Church on both sides of the Pacific in partnership with our companion Church in Papua New Guinea, the Northwest Lower Michigan Synod of the ELCA, Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans."

### **That it May Be Well With You! "I have come that you may have life abundantly." John 10:10b (Ms. Tammy Devine)**

God calls us to live life abundantly. All too often we find ourselves out of breath and out of balance as we try to keep up with our ministries and service in this fast paced world. We are confronted with living up to expectations we place on our selves and those set by our congregations. What does it mean to live well in Christ? As leaders in the church we are called to pass on our faith. We know that healthy leaders enhance lives. How can we live well, balanced and as whole people of God? Come and discover what it means to live well in Christ. Catch your breath and take a look at your own well-being. Healthy leaders enhance lives.

**The Leadership Development Team Gardening Show Presents: “Gardening Tips for Seedbeds of Hope!”**

Over 200 “BUDS” sprouted at the 2005 Synod Assembly last year - names of individuals in your congregations who may someday grow into a pastor, associate in ministry, diaconal minister or parish ministry associate! With an emphasis on gift based ministry, the LDT will offer “Gardening Tips” for congregations who seek to provide a nurturing seedbed for raising leaders for professional ministry in the church. ***All congregations are encouraged to send a representative of your church to this workshop. Congregations in Area Ministries 1- 6 are scheduled for the first hour of workshops. Congregations in Area Ministries 7-10 should plan on attending the second hour of workshops.*** You will receive the names of those in your church that have already been identified with gifts to serve the church and you can add more! Come and find out who they are, where they’re sprouting, and how your church can be a Seedbed of Hope!

**Leadership in God’s Amazing Grace: Tools Without Rules (Duane Larson)**

“The future of leadership formation in Christ’s church,” and open-ended conversation on the ministries of seminaries today.

**Youth and Family Ministry Certification School Workshop (Bethany College)**

Is your congregation wondering, “Where have all our youth gone?” Are you interested in how your congregation can better keep its baptismal commitments to young people in the first third of their lives? Are you willing to consider a transformational ministry for your congregation? If you answered yes to any or all of those questions, this workshop is for you! Come and hear about the Youth and Family Ministry Certification School and how your congregation’s involvement can change and shape how you think about ministry with youth and families.

**Green Eggs and Ham: What you really need to know about financing a theological education in the ELCA! (Mark H. Van Scharrel, Vice President for Advancement, LSTC)**

Have you ever wondered what it costs an ELCA seminary per student per year? Or, perhaps more importantly, what it costs the student who is going to be your pastor? The “good old days” when seminary was “free” or at least “cheap” are gone forever. Students, congregations, and synods need to be savvy and realistic about the “green” ingredients we need for healthy leaders so that together we can cook up something magnificent.