



## WORKSHOPS

Friday, May 29, 2009 10:45 a.m. to 12 noon

### **A Renewable Life: Let's Talk!**

**Hawthorne**

Presented by: Kelly Fryer

A Renewable Life: Let's Talk! - This discussion based workshop will give you an opportunity to ask questions and engage in a lively, fun, meaningful conversation with Kelly about the principles and practices of A Renewable Life. It's time for us to get serious about learning to be who we are and see what we have for the sake of doing what matters wherever we live, work, play, worship, and serve. Let's talk!

**Kelly Fryer** is a theologian and a Renewable Organization consultant and trainer, and prolific author with nearly twenty years of experience leading people and organizations into renewal. After starting a small business, working for an environmental group, teaching high school, and serving as a Lutheran pastor for over fifteen years, Kelly co-founded and now serves as a managing partner of A Renewal Enterprise, Inc. (A.R.E.) which helps people engage work & world with purpose & passion by equipping them to live out their decisions to become Renewable Organizations, Leaders, and Communities. Kelly is a member of the National Speakers Association and an adjunct member of two graduate school faculties – at Spertus College and at the Lutheran School of Theology, both in Chicago, IL – where she teaches leadership and organization. Kelly's books include "No Experience Necessary: Everybody's Welcome" (2005), "Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to be Church Again" (2006), and "Reclaiming the E Word: Waking Up To Our Evangelical Identity" (2008). Together with her partners at A Renewal Enterprise, Kelly is hard at work writing the next book, "The Renewable Organization: How To Clean Up The Toxic Mess We Have Made Of Our Life Together." Kelly Fryer is a graduate of Valparaiso University (BA, econ and political science), LTSP (Master Divinity), and LSTC (Missiology Ecclesiology).

### **Love to Serve: Lay Leadership Development**

**Executive**

Presented by: Reverend Nancy Eldredge Hess

Lay leadership development is as crucial as ever in the 21st century church. This workshop will explore a Lutheran theological understanding of vocation, the urgent need for lay leadership and ways to empower laity for service.

**Nancy Eldredge Hess** was ordained in 1980 and she has served as Pastor of a three point rural parish, two terms as a missionary in South Africa where she earned her doctoral degree in systematic theology and theological ethics, served on the faculty at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago, and served on the ELCA outdoor ministry council since 1996. Pastor Hess currently serves the New England Synod as the Executive Director for Calumet Lutheran Ministries.

### **Nurturing a More Passionate Spirituality:**

**Sturbridge**

#### **Where Natural Church Development and Other Tools are Taking Synod Congregations**

Presented by: Reverend Lisa Stoen Hazelwood, Reverend Andrew Simon and Debbie Brown

Did you know that the number one minimum factor among ELCA congregations lies in the area of "Passionate Spirituality"? However, this isn't bad news at all! Congregations throughout our Synod have been focusing on this area and finding that when they do, the overall health of their community of faith becomes stronger. Join us as we present the many tools that are available from our Synod to congregations for releasing the potential of this common need. Come hear about the real experiences from a congregation who recently worked on improving passionate spirituality for about a year, and what they found along the way. We will explore what "Passionate Spirituality" really means, share tools for congregational health such as Natural Church Development, and tell you how your congregation can participate in one of these processes.

**Lisa Stoen Hazelwood** is currently serving as Ministry Specialist for Congregational Health for the New England Synod. She works with the Evangelism team of the synod and matches congregations with tools--and coaches--to help them improve their health as they discern God's calling for them. Her goal is for every congregation in the synod to be using a tool like Natural Church Development or the Synod Visioning Toolkit to discern where best to focus their energies and resources.

**Andrew Simon** is Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Oxford, Massachusetts. He has been coaching churches through the Natural Church Development process for the last three years. In addition, he is the Evangelism Team chairperson for the New England Synod.

**Debbie Brown** is a member of Our Savior Lutheran Church in South Hadley, MA where she currently serves on the Church Health Team. She is also a member of the NE Synod Stewardship team and of the first graduating class of the NE Synod's School of Lay Ministry. Her work in and through the church continues in the world as she strives to faithfully serve others in her secular vocation as a Medical Technologist.

## **Seeking Treasure in Temples of Trade? Shopping Malls, The Desire to Acquire and Real Grace**

**Cheshire**

Presented by: Jon Pahl

What might scripture say about materialism? How do we live faithfully in a society that claims materialism as the way to meaningful life? This workshop and discussion is based on his latest book "Shopping Malls and Other Sacred Spaces: Putting God in Place", this workshop is a presentation and discussion. This workshop will challenge you to examine the sacred spaces in our lives and the new life that is lived in the promise of God's Word.

**Jon Pahl**, Ph.D. is Professor of the History of Christianity in North America at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He has also served as Visiting Professor of Religion at Temple University, in Philadelphia, and as Visiting Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Jon Pahl received his baccalaureate degree from Valparaiso University in Indiana. His Masters was earned from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, where he wrote a thesis on "Old and new in the New Right." His Ph.D. came from the University of Chicago Divinity School in 1990, where he studied with the noted Lutheran historian Martin E. Marty. Dr. Pahl's dissertation was published as a book in 1992 by Johns Hopkins University Press, under the title: Paradox Lost: Free Will and Political Liberty in American Culture, 1630-1760. For twelve years, Pahl returned to Valparaiso to teach in its Theology Department. Jon lives near Swarthmore, PA with his wife of 25 years, Lisa, and their three children.

## **Continuing to Journey Together Faithfully**

**Seminar II**

Presented by: Reverend Nathan D. Piphoo

A workshop sponsored by the Synod's Task Force for Gay and Lesbian Understanding. The Task Force will host a workshop for reflection, clarification, and discussion regarding materials and proposals presented to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly by the ELCA Church Council and ELCA Task Force on Sexuality Studies. The workshop is presented as an opportunity for further conversation and discernment on human sexuality and the rostering of partnered gay and lesbian persons.

## **God's Work – Whose Hands? Discipleship in Public Life**

**Danforth**

Presented by: Reverend Rick Kremer and Bob Kay

"This workshop will experientially explore the connection between "God's work", our understanding of our witness beyond those closest to us, and the intersection of our faith with the world around us. It introduces the ideas of public policy and advocacy and how these relate to our understanding of discipleship.

**Reverend Rick Kremer** is Director, Office of Public Policy, New England Synod of the ELCA. Rick is associate pastor of an intentional, multi-cultural church in Providence, RI, Gloria Dei Evangelical Lutheran Church. Rick is a member of the Governing Board of the Rhode Island State Council of Churches, and is a past Synod Council member. Rick was ordained this past October. Prior to his new vocation he was engaged in strategic culture change in large corporate systems.

**Bob Kay** is Director of Public Policy and Advocacy for Lutheran Social Services of New England. Bob accepted this position in 2008 after retiring as the Executive Director of LSS Community Services, a position he held for 17 years. He is a graduate of the Catholic University of America School of Social Service (M.S.W.) and the University of Maryland Graduate School of Education (M.Ed.). Bob is an adjunct faculty member in sociology and social work at New England College, and serves on the public policy committee of Lutheran Services in America in Washington, D.C.

## **Lay Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

**Seminar I**

Presented by: Liz Frohrip, Associate in Ministry at Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport, CT

Members of the three lay ministry rosters in the New England Synod - Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers - will use this time to help people discern their spiritual gifts by using a spiritual gifts inventory.

**Liz Frohrip** received her undergraduate degree in music from St. Olaf College in Minnesota and attended the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, earning both the Master of Music (Yale School of Music) and Master of Arts in Religion (Yale Divinity School). In 30 years of parish ministry, she has found the concept of spiritual gifts to be a guiding force in all her interactions and activities.



## WORKSHOPS

Saturday, May 30, 2009 9 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

### **That It May Be Well With You**

**Charlton**

Presented by: Barbara Debski, ELCA Board of Pensions Regional Representative

"I have come that you may have life abundantly." John 10:10b 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 ourselves 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 — let's get moving!

**Barb Debski** is the ELCA Board of Pensions Regional Representative. The Board of Pensions is a Churchwide unit based in Minneapolis. They provide retirement, health and related benefits and services to 50,000 pastors, rostered laypersons and lay employees and their families. Barbara Debski is responsible for Regions 7 and 8.

### **Thrivent**

**Danforth**

Presented by: Barb Giger

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a faith-based, not-for-profit Financial services organization with approximately 2.6 million members. For more than a century, our blend of financial expertise, shared values and service to members has set us apart. Today we're standing strong:

- Thrivent Financial continues to maintain a surplus to meet members' claims that is nearly five times greater than what is required by law.
- While some insurance companies have reduced dividends, Thrivent Financial increased total dividends in 2009 by five percent.
- Thrivent Financial is fulfilling its mission to give back, making more than \$126 million in direct contributions to communities, nonprofit groups, Lutheran institutions and individuals in need in 2008.
- Thrivent Financial has not applied for, and does not expect to receive, any government bailout money.

As a fraternal benefit society, we share a common bond with our members—Lutheranism—and we share your values. We're membership-owned, meaning we don't answer to Wall Street. We answer to you.

### **The Importance of the Ministry of Small Congregations**

**Brimfield**

Presented by: Reverend Sharon L Hughes, Pastor, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Rutland, VT

Often congregations appear to be valued for their larger sizes. In this workshop, we'll be reminded of the value of ministry in small congregations and the intangibles that a small congregation can offer that large ones often cannot.

**Sharon Hughes** is Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Rutland, VT., one of the many small congregations in the New England Synod. Chosen last summer to attend the Collegium on Small Congregations, funded by a Lily Grant and held at the Virginal Theological Seminary in Alexandria.

### **What's Happening in Mission in New England?**

**Executive**

Presented by: Reverend Jane O'Hara Shields, Director for Evangelical Mission, ELCA and Reverend Mark Christoffersen, Chair for Mission Strategy Team and Pastor, Our Saviours, Fairfield, CT

At this workshop you will hear how the ELCA and the Synod are now shaping the way we start new missions and restart missions in existing congregations. Come and hear how others within our synod have come together in geographic areas to create and develop an exciting diversity of new missions to reach out to others. Are you considering a mission start or restart in your area? Come and hear how the Mission Strategy Team can help and guide you in your effort. Would you like to participate in some other way in the work of the Synod in starting missions? Come and hear how you can be a partner, even a founder, in this process.

**Jane O'Hara Shields** is Director for Evangelical Mission, ELCA.

**Mark Christoffersen** is Chair for Mission Strategy Team and Pastor of Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Fairfield, CT.

## **Book of Faith Bible Study**

**Sturbridge**

Presented by: The Rev. Patricia L. Harris, Pastor, Community Lutheran, Enfield, CT and Mr. John Harris

This workshop will allow participants to take part in an actual Book of Faith Bible Study, using one of the texts for Pentecost: Acts 2:1-21. The methodology taught in the "Opening the Book of Faith" educational series by Augsburg Fortress will be used in this study. Details from the new Lutheran Study Bible will be highlighted. Participants will examine the text from historical, literary, Lutheran theological and devotional perspectives

**Reverend Patricia L. Harris** is the Pastor of Community Lutheran Church in Enfield NH. She is serving in her first call after completing seminary in 2005. Her call to ministry came after a long term career in management of technology in the telecommunications industry. **John Harris** is a Special Education Teacher in the 7th grade in the Newport, N.H., school district. He teaches the Adult Forum at Community Lutheran Church and has been a lay leader and teacher in a number of Lutheran congregations. Pat and John live in New London, N.H., where they enjoy skiing, canoeing, kayaking and hiking.

## **Missional Hospitality: Evangelism – Tea Party Style**

**Seminar**

Presented by: The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba, Director of African National Ministries EOCM, ECLA

This workshop deals with reflections and discussion on key principles and practices of missional hospitality. Looking at biblical principles of evangelism as practiced and exemplified by Jesus is at the core of this workshop. Centered in word and sacrament missional hospitality looks at the three major aspects of hospitality, inviting, hosting and sending. Participants will be inspired, informed and encouraged to see mission and evangelism as their cup of tea.

**The Rev. Dr. Gemechis D. Buba** is currently serving as the Director of African National Ministries in the ELCA. He is originally from East Africa, Ethiopia and is currently living in Chicago, Illinois with his wife Nassisse Baro Tumsa.

Dr. Buba received a Bachelor of Theology with high distinction from Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, where he served as a Professor for two years. After working on Masters of Theology in Church History in the Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology he moved to the United States for further studies. In 2003 he received Masters of Divinity and Masters of Arts in Christian Education from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA. In May of 2006 Dr. Buba earned a Doctorate Degree from Columbia Theological Seminary, specializing in Missional Leadership.

Ordained in 2001, he has served as a Seminary professor, mission developer, Senior Pastor, Vice President of Southeastern Black Lutheran Pastors' Conference, an assistant to the Bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod, and President of the world wide union of Oromo Evangelical Churches Inc.

In addition to academic study and ordained ministry, Dr. Buba participated in multiple international ministries through revivals, leadership development conventions and evangelical mission events.

He has traveled extensively and ministered across the nations of Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Germany, England, Norway, the United States, Australia and New Zealand. In his journey across this globe he has ministered the Gospel of Jesus Christ in three languages: English, Oromo and Amharic. He has authored numerous articles, booklets and produced materials for Christian educational use.

Above all, he is proud to be called a Child of God, which is the highest privilege and authority in the Kingdom of God.

## **Opportunity for Conversation with New England Synod CWA Voting Members**

**Cheshire**

In August, 16 members of our synod will serve as voting members at the 2009 biennial Churchwide Assembly (CWA) of the ELCA in Minneapolis, Minn. Join several of these voting members in conversation about the issues and decisions that will be prayerfully considered in the assembly. This is your opportunity to express your views on the work of the Task Force for ELCA Sexuality Studies, Full Communion with the United Methodist Church and other matters that will come before the 2009 CWA.