

Breakout Session I

10:30 a.m to 11:30 a.m.

- † **BE WELL REBOOT** – *Steve Gruenwald, CPS*: New tools and wellness resources are now available to help members of the Concordia Health Plan “Be Well.” You’ll hear about the new rewards platform for healthy behaviors (through Vitality), the new integrated health team; the Clear Savings transparency tool (for procedures and prescription drugs); telecare for acute illnesses (accessed through computers, smartphones, and iPads); and the new Health and Wellness Content section on the CPS website (videos, articles, tips, quizzes, etc.).
- † **CALLED SERVANTS “Miracle Workers” and Doers of Impossible Deeds** – *Dr. Beverly Yahnke, DOXOLOGY*: Dr. Yahnke will offer just the right mix of wisdom, humor, data and spiritual encouragement for those of us who are eager to support our pastors and our teachers. Her presentation will feature reflections and insights regarding precisely what called workers require as they take on the hearty challenges of preaching, teaching and service. Dr. Yahnke will invite listeners to enhance their current awareness regarding the challenges of church service and will suggest specific strategies that church leaders can employ to ensure that their pastors and teachers are best-equipped to continue to serve the sheep and lambs entrusted to them, all the while inviting new souls into the fold.
- † **MUSIC AND VITAL CONGREGATIONS** – *Rev. Stephen Rosebrock, Mt. Olive*: Music plays an integral role in the life of every congregation, whether small or large; rural, suburban, or urban. This presentation is for congregational leadership and musicians together. Specific topics will include how to build or rebuild a music program, the relationship between music and preaching, the role of music in the day school, music as youth ministry, music as outreach, and developing a vision for your congregation. The principles presented can also be applied to other areas of program ministry in the congregation.
- † **NECESSARY ENDINGS IN THE CONGREGATION AND SCHOOL** – *Dr. Chris Cody, SWD*: Endings are a part of life. *“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot...(Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).* Based on the book “Necessary Endings” by Dr. Henry Cloud, this presentation will explore the idea of “endings” within a congregation and/or school. If you have ever been told “this is how we’ve always done it,” it may be time to reevaluate the process/program/etc. in question. Further, we will explore specific strategies on dealing with necessary endings in congregations and schools and the discomfort and pain that often accompanies an ending.
- † **OVERVIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER’S MANUAL – PART 1** – *Karen Sansone, LCMS*: A walk through the LCMS Treasurer’s Manual with its chief editor, CPA, employed at the LCMS in St. Louis. This is a great opportunity for church treasurers and business managers to have their questions answered, particularly if they relate to taxation, Ms. Sansone’s field of expertise.
- † **PASTORAL CARE, EARLY COMMUNION & ADMISSION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER** – *Rev. Peter Bender, Peace, Sussex*: This sectional will explore the subject of Early Communion around the following questions: Who should be admitted to the Lord’s Supper? What are the responsibilities of pastoral care for admission to the Lord’s Supper? What role does the catechesis play in admission to the Lord’s Supper? What does it mean to “examine oneself”? Distinguishing the Rite of First Communion from the Rite of Confirmation and Practical Guidelines for examining catechumens and visitors who desire to commune.
- † **PREPARING OUR TEENAGERS FOR COLLEGE CHALLENGES TO THEIR FAITH** – *Rev. Dan Anderson, Mt. Calvary, Madison*: Our college students are in a unique time and place in their lives. In many vital ways, our children are making decisions for the future in all areas of their lives from their future vocation, to potential future relationships, to their long-term spirituality. College students are challenged in their Christian faith from all directions including their peers, their professors and even the curriculum which often seeks to deny the existence of God and the need for salvation through Jesus Christ. Some questions that will be addressed are those that I have heard from parents, pastors and students themselves over the years such as: *How can we best prepare our teenagers for the challenges to their faith in college life? What can we do to encourage them to remain connected to Jesus and the church during their college years? What can we do to stay connected to Jesus and the church during their college years? What can we do to stay connected to our college students while they are away at college?*
- † **THE FIRST ROSA** – *Rev. Roosevelt Gray, LCMS*: Rev. Gray will be showing the 42 minute film that tells the story of famed LCMS educator-missionary Dr. Rosa Young, “the mother of black Lutheranism in central Alabama”, along with a time for Q&A after the movie.
- † **THE WHY OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION** – *Rev. Dr. Peter A. Meier, Center for U.S. Missions*: With so many existing churches which have plenty of available space, why would and should we consider planting new churches? We will examine the biblical and practical reasons WHY new church multiplication is needed today more than ever.

Breakout Session II

12:45 p.m to 1:45 p.m.

- † **A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR A BETTER CHURCH WEBSITE** – *Brian Jaeger, LutherNew Web Design – Passive Ninja Web Design*: Brian will help you to sort through what is really important for your church website, with an emphasis on keeping it simple and inexpensive. Find out what works well – and what to avoid – as you seek to communicate your church’s mission.
- † **CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN CHALLENGING TIMES** – *Rev. Dr. John Wille, SWD President*: Charles Dickens once wrote, “These are the best of times and these are the worst of times.” We live in challenging times for the church, challenging times for pastors and God’s people. Many of our congregations are in decline. Many of our church workers suffer from a variety of maladies. Our faith and confession are scorned by the world in which we live. Right has become wrong; and wrong has become right. What used to be immoral is now moral. What do we do? How best can we witness to this crazy culture in which we find ourselves? How can we reach those who have turned away from the church? This breakout will discuss those questions and more.
- † **DAM THE DEFICIT WITH DATA** – *Dr. Nathan Jastram, CUW*: When a congregation is headed toward a deficit at the end of the year, here are some questions and answers, backed by data that can make a difference.
- † **ESTATE PLANNING PANEL – ASK THE EXPERTS!** – *Diana Raasch, SWD*: Providing for your family and other heirs, as well as protecting the estate for which you have saved your entire career, is essential. A panel of experts, which includes an estate attorney, a financial planner, and a CPA/tax expert, will provide information and will answer your questions during the breakout session that will prove to be very relevant to your planning.
- † **LIVING ON MISSIONAL PURPOSE** – *Rev. Dr. Peter A Meier, Center for U.S. Missions*: Do you have family, friends, and neighbors who are not Christian or not practicing their faith? Learn how you can live your faith out in the open, everyday, intentionally on mission to bless your neighbors and bring the Good News of Jesus into their lives.
- † **OVERVIEW OF THE CONGREGATIONAL TREASURER’S MANUAL – PART 2** – *Karen Sansone, LCMS*: **A continuation of Part 1.** A walk through the LCMS Treasurer’s Manual with its chief editor, CPA, employed at the LCMS in St. Louis. This is a great opportunity for church treasurers and business managers to have their questions answered, particularly if they relate to taxation, Ms. Sansone’s field of expertise.
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- † **RE: VITALITY – PRACTICAL STEPS FOR REVITALIZING CONGREGATIONS** – *Rev. Mark Wood, LCMS*: Nearly 80% of LCMS congregations have plateaued or are in decline. What can we do about this? What can you do about it if your congregation is one of the 80%? This presentation provides an overview of the approach and the resources being developed by the LCMS Office of National Mission to help congregations take the best steps to work toward lasting revitalization. These resources are (or will be) available through *the re:Vitality* program at little to no cost to LCMS congregations.
- † **SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDY AND RESOURCES** – *Rev. Randy Raasch, First Immanuel, Cedarburg*: Acts 2:46 tells us that the early Christians met together, not only in the Temple, but also in their homes. It is important that Christians engage in both of these God-pleasing activities. Hear how your church can develop a small group ministry that strengthens members’ faith, as well as the congregation’s mission.

SWD PASSIONATE BELIEVERS CONFERENCE - January 30, 2016

“Caring for the Church, Caring for the Church Worker”

For more information or to register visit swd.lcms.org
or contact Barb Slak at 414-464-8100 or slak@swd.lcms.org

