



2017 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly Learning and Service Opportunities: Friday, June 2

SPARK TALKS – Friday, June 2, 2017, beginning at 11:00 a.m.

You may be asking, “What’s a Spark Talk?” These Friday morning sessions are shorter than a traditional breakout, and are designed to engage participants with stories and examples from the presenters that may spark your interest and involvement with that ministry, activity or group, or may inspire you to do something similar in your own setting and context. Many of the leaders for these Spark Talks also have table space in Mission Fest, and you can follow up with them after the morning session. **Each session will be offered twice, 11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. and then again from 11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

Locations for each presentation will be distributed/announced onsite.

Putting Faith into Action for Justice: Formed, Reformed and Transformed

Imagine if members of your congregation felt inspired and equipped to address the most pressing justice issues in your community? The Rev. Dr. Leah Schade will introduce a three-step process for putting faith into action: 1) scriptural and theological study, 2) awareness and education, and 3) action and reflection. Drawing on her experience as a community organizer for local ecological justice issues in Pennsylvania, Dr. Schade will present a case study as an example of the Formed-Reformed-Transformed process.

Led by The Rev. Dr. Leah D. Schade, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship at Lexington Theological Seminary

How Might Your Congregation Observe Reformation 500?

In this workshop, Beth Lewis, President & CEO for 1517 Media, provides an overview of the Reformation 500 Sourcebook with a variety of ideas and resources for worship services, learning experiences, music and visual arts, service projects, connections with other Christians, and communication strategies. Plus, an overview of a number of other new and forthcoming 500th anniversary learning resources for children, youth and adults.

Led by Beth Lewis, President & CEO for 1517 Media

Transforming Relationships for Youth Ministry

Jesus invites us into a relationship where we are known and loved. We will explore how we can engage youth in our congregations in deep, intentional, faith-nurturing relationships where they are known and loved.

Led by Rev. Daniel Fugate, Assistant to the Bishop, I-K Synod

Stories from Shared Ministries

Does it feel like your congregation is alone on its journey? Hear stories about...

- Congregations walking hand in hand to engage mission and ministry in the world around them.
- God working in Area Mission Conversations across the I-K Mission Territory.
- God doing new things.
- God renewing some tried and true things.

Led by Rev. Nancy Nyland, I-K Synod Director for Evangelical Mission, and participants in area ministry conversations in I-K Synod

The Next 500: Toward a just world where all are fed

We produce enough food to feed every person in the world today, but hunger still persists. For Martin Luther, we are called to help and support our neighbor in every physical need (Small Catechism, The Fifth Commandment) as we fear and love God. Come for a fast-paced journey through three questions: What progress has been made? Where are we going next? And how are we part of this journey through the work and ministry of ELCA World Hunger?

Led by Mikka McCracken, ELCA World Hunger Director for Planning and Engagement

Connect

Is your congregation looking toward the future... wondering how to revitalize... seeking ways to build on what is already being done? Then this Spark Talk is for you. Connect, the IK Synod Transformational Ministry process, invites congregations into a two-year journey of renewal training. During this session participants will be introduced to the process and hear hope-filled stories from congregations already engaged in Connect.

Led by members of the I-K Synod Renewing Mission Table

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

The ELCA Youth Gathering is a special event for high school youth that only happens once every three years. In the summer of 2018 the Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas. It's a time where Lutherans get together from all over the world to grow in faith, worship our Lord, and serve God's people. The hope is that the Indiana-Kentucky Synod will be well represented at the Gathering. For more information join Deacon Julie Schuessler Peralta during the Spark Talk. *Led by Deacon Julie Peralta*

WORKSHOPS AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES – Friday, June 2, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Synod Assembly attendees will have a variety of learning and service opportunities to choose from on Friday afternoon. The 2-hour workshops are designed to give ample time to explore and study these topics. There will also be limited opportunities to serve in the local community.

Service Opportunities (off-site)

We have partnered with two off-site local charities to provide them some hands-on support: The ***Emergency Shelter of Northern Kentucky*** and ***Welcome House of Northern Kentucky***. Both sites will involve landscaping, cleaning, painting, and other physical type jobs. There are a limited number of openings for these projects. Transportation will be arranged.

If you are interested in serving at one of these organizations on Friday afternoon (during the workshop time), please click on this link to sign up (to assist us in arranging transportation): <https://ikassemblieservice.eventbrite.com>. We have a limited number of spots, so please sign up only if you intend to serve that day.

Faith, Sexism, Justice

The ELCA's next social statement *Faith, Sexism, Justice* is slated for publication in 2018. It is a work-in-progress that relies on the input and shared wisdom of the church. To that end, synods and congregations around the ELCA are having focused conversations about scripture, women, sexism, and discipleship. Lend your voice to the process! We will facilitate a conversation using ELCA resource material, and equip you to lead similar conversations in your congregation. Materials will be provided.

Led by Rev. Jane Aicher and Rev. Cindy Geisen, Social Statement Process Builders for the IK Synod

Reforming Stewardship

Do you long for Holy Spirit to reform your congregation's stewardship? Your personal stewardship? Join us for this engaging workshop as we discuss a fundamental paradigm shift in our understanding of stewardship. We will explore what it means to be a faithful steward of our whole lives (not just our finances!) and how this might change the ways we engage the world around us.

Led by Rev. Jerry O'Neal, IK Director of Stewardship & Mission Support

Healthy Church Leaders: Building an Effective Ministry Team

What are the key practices of a healthy church leader? Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse (a trainer for *Healthy Leaders, Healthy Congregations*) will explore how healthy lay leaders and staff are vital to helping a congregation effectively maneuver times of anxiety and change. Participants will consider a leadership paradigm shift that can promote a climate of discipleship in the local congregation.

Led by Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse, pastor and author

Grow, Hold & Fold: Turning around faith-based organizations for the 21st century

In the face of rapid changes in the importance of religion in society, lifestyles and technology, how do faith-based organizations make the radical shifts necessary to continue to proclaim a grace-filled Gospel while renewing and revitalizing our ministries for the 21st century? 1517 Media, the ELCA's ministry of publishing, has wrestled with this challenge and dramatically changed their priorities and processes in recent years. By focusing on a "grow, hold, fold" strategic framework combined with effective use of technology, not only for delivering content, but also streamlining internal processes, they have moved from a money-losing traditional denominational publishing house to a successful media organization creating dynamic print, digital and video content for congregations, higher education, individuals and families. In this workshop, you'll learn some practical techniques to apply to your ministry.

Led by Beth Lewis, President & CEO of 1517 Media

Telling Mission Stories for Future Mission Ambassadors

This workshop is directed at lay persons and pastors who would like to help their congregation members grow their spirit for mission. It is of particular interest to persons who might be interested in serving as a Mission Ambassador in their congregation. Telling mission stories is one way that Mission Ambassadors connect their congregation members to God's work being done by their congregation, their Synod and the Church at large. This workshop will focus on crafting and telling these stories. How does the Mission Ambassador find the stories to tell? How do they craft these stories into a narrative that highlights God's work locally and around the world? How do they tell the story? The workshop will focus on answering these questions and will introduce participants to many resources that can help them.

For more information on the work of a Mission Ambassador, go to

www.ikmissioninterpretation.weebly.com

Led by Phil and Susan Schmidt, Indiana-Kentucky Synod Mission Interpretation Coordinators

All God's Children Have Gifts--Defining and Discovering Our Gifts from God

The Bible says that everyone has been given gifts. Do you ever wonder what gifts God has given to you? The term "spiritual gifts" can sometimes be confusing and even a little scary, especially if your spiritual gifts are outside of your comfort zone. In this workshop, spiritual gifts will be defined and discussed. You will have the opportunity to use tools for discovering your spiritual gifts. After discovering your gifts, you will be encouraged to explore what God's plan is for these gifts.

Led by: Rev. Roberta Meyer

FAITHWALKING

This workshop will present an overview of the program. Faithwalking is creating a community of disciples of Jesus who are being personally transformed and becoming catalysts mobilizing Christians to become the functioning Body of Christ in their neighborhoods, workplaces, and third places: to serve the poor, marginalized, and those in need; to work for the common good; and to restore individuals, social systems, communities, and nations to God's design.

Led by: Dr. Ken Shuman