



2016 Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly

Spark Talk and Breakout Information

Spark Talks – Friday, June 10, 2016, 10:30-11:00 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.

Stories from Shared Ministries – Suite 1

Led by Rev. Nancy Nyland and participants in area ministry conversations in I-K Synod

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.

Zimbabwe to Flint: The World Water Crisis – Suite 2

Led by Mary Anderson, ELCA World Hunger Ambassador for I-K Synod

In Zimbabwe, 80% of the population lacks access to clean water, and the leading cause of death is waterborne disease. In Flint, MI, estimates are that over 8,000 children have been exposed to lead levels in the water supply that are high enough to affect growth, behavior and intelligence, and could cause learning disabilities, attention and fine motor skills deficiencies. What is the ELCA doing? What can YOU do? Come and find out!

What gives you LIFE? – Suite 3

Led by Rev. Dan Forehand and Rev. Randy Schroeder

We have been asking several questions dealing with the church today. Why don’t people come to church anymore? How will we get them back? What will happen to us? Maybe these are the wrong questions. What if we began our inquiry exploring the gifts God has placed in us so that we can become the reconciled person in God’s reconciled creation? God has placed something unique to you and your context to help expand God’s reconciling love. God has placed a joy in you. We know this through faith and affirmed it during our Holy Conversations we began at last year’s assembly. Let’s take a few minutes to explore where the Spirit is guiding/driving us, the Indiana Kentucky Synod, now as we continue to ask, “What gives you life?”

Supporting Your Church Through Stewardship and Generosity: As Easy as A, B, C! – Suite 4

Led by Thrivent Representatives

Every day, life presents opportunities to help someone in need. What are you passionate about at your church and in other organizations? Learn how Thrivent Financial can help you live generously!”

Connect – Suite 5

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

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.

Virtual Mission Trips – Connecting your congregation to the work of the ELCA – Suite 6

Led by Phil and Susan Schmidt, I-K Synod Mission Interpreter Coordinators

Congregation members often have only a vague idea of how their mission dollars are used. During our time as teaching missionaries in Slovakia, we learned about and were inspired by several ELCA ministries. We want all the members of congregations in our synod to connect to ELCA ministries in our synod and around the world. The Indiana-Kentucky Synod's Mission Interpretation Ministry, which we will introduce in this session, is one means through which this connection can be made. Using storytelling and other methods, Mission Ambassadors will take congregations on "virtual mission trips."

Not a Dress Rehearsal – Suites 8-9

Led by Rev. Rick Barger, President, Trinity Lutheran Seminary

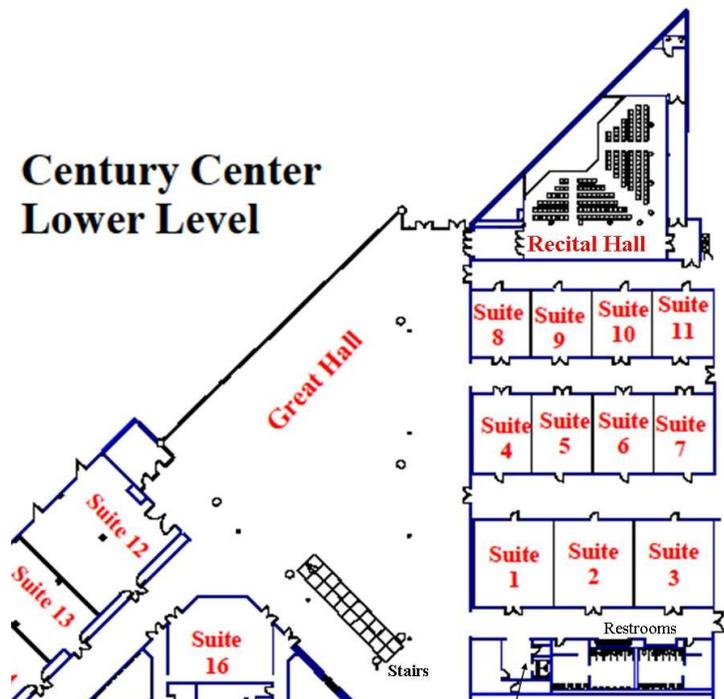
The psalmist proclaims, "This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it." In other words, this is the day that we are given. It is a day meant for living life to its fullest potential. This day is not a dress rehearsal for something later on. It is the real deal. Christian vocation is not so much about having a job but rather about God's call to a life that matters every day. As persons grasped by the empty tomb that held our crucified Lord, let us be inspired by the empty tomb to live joyfully, thankfully, and hopefully in ways that bless and heal the world and those around us. As Ephesians 4 states, "I beg you to live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called."

Music – A language that speaks volumes

Suites 10-11

Led by ELCA Global Musicians

If music has a language of its own, how can we learn from it? What does it teach about God's mission for the world? How can music help connect us across languages, cultures, and borders as agents of God's hope in the world? In this workshop we sing and share our songs and stories in order to understand what they are telling us, beyond their lyrics, and are able to share their meaning with others. Participants will learn songs from the global church and be invited to play drums, percussion, sing in different languages, and explore different styles of music.



Breakouts – Friday, June 10, 2016, 3:15-4:00 p.m.

Welcome and Hospitality in the Church – Suite 1

Led by Rev. Dr. Jessica Duckworth

This interactive workshop will encourage participants to practice theological thinking around God's welcome. God reorients Christian communities toward the newcomer so that we might anticipate their arrival, encourage their participation and welcome their life among us.

Area Mission Conversations – Suite 2

Led by Rev. Rudy Mueller and Rev. Nancy Nyland

A pastor for every congregation? – That's the way it used to be. But we are a new church for a new age. In this break out you will discover new ways to imagine the church, form partnerships and envision new models of leadership that will enhance and empower your mission and ministry in the world.

Pass It On: The Power of Intergenerational Relationships in Faith Formation – Suite 3

Led by Rev. Dan Fugate

A faith community has the potential to bring all the generations together to pass on faith, yet too many congregations provide only age-segregated opportunities. Using the latest research from Search Institute on developmental relationships, this session will address why it is essential to gather the generations together and share strategies for empowering adults with the skills and intention to help nurture the faith of young people. You will gain access to tools, practical strategies, resources, and models of ministry to enhance your congregation's faith formation efforts.

Our Global Companions: A Look into the Huria Kristen Batak Protestan (HKBP) Church, Indonesia – Suite 4

Led by Rev. Dr. Willem Simarmata, Ephorus, HKBP

Do you want to learn more about the Lutheran church in Indonesia? The HKBP is part of the Lutheran World Federation, has about 4,000,000 members and is one of the largest Lutheran churches in the world. The HKBP is divided into 26 districts, with 1,300 ordained pastors and more than 220 women pastors. The majority of people belonging to the HKBP live in the Tarutung and the Batak regions in the mainly Muslim nation of Indonesia. The church also runs a theological seminary, a teacher-preacher school, a Bible women's school and a deaconess training school. Ephorus Simarmata (similar to a presiding bishop) and our other HKBP guests will share stories of what God is doing in and through the people of the Protestant Christian Batak Church in Indonesia.

Our Global Companions: A Look into the Iglesia Evangelica Luterana en Chile (IELCH) Church, Chile – Suite 5

Led by Rev. Izani Bruch, Bishop, IELCH

Do you want to learn more about the Lutheran church in Chile? The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile is the communion of persons in which you hear, live and experience the grace and mercy of God in Jesus Christ, sharing faith in egalitarian relationships. The IELCH is made up of 11 congregations and 4 missions – come hear how the Holy Spirit is filling these places and making an impact in their surrounding communities.

Called Forward Together in Christ – Suite 6

Led by Rev. Wm. Chris Boerger, Secretary, ELCA

What does the future of our church look like? The ELCA is a young church at only 28 years old. It is a good time to take a look at where we are as God's people and try to understand what God has in store for us. We want to create a vision for the future ELCA – as a church with solid foundations sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and making a difference in the world locally and globally. Come join the conversation, give feedback, and share your ideas and hopes for the future.

Spiritual Gifts – Suites 8-9

Led by Rev. Jerry O'Neal

Does your church feel like a football game – a few people exhausted from too much effort, while many others sit on the sidelines? If so, then come and learn how spiritual gifts can transform your ministry. You will discover your own spiritual gifts and learn ways to encourage others to use their gifts to strengthen your local congregation.

One Roster of Word and Service – Suites 10-11

Led by E. Louise Williams, Associate in Ministry and Deaconess, Lutheran Deaconess Association; Rev. Dr. Bill Gafkjen, Bishop, Indiana-Kentucky Synod

In August, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly will consider a recommendation to transition the three current rosters of Word and Service – Associate in Ministry, Deaconess, and Diaconal Minister – into one, new, unified roster of Word and Service, most likely to be called Deacon. Bishop Gafkjen and E. Louise Williams have served on the ELCA task forces and teams that crafted this recommendation. Through questions and conversation we will explore the opportunities and challenges, hopes and concerns that are involved with this transition.

LWR Personal Care Kits Service Project – Suite 12

Led by the I-K Synod Women of the ELCA

When Lutheran World Relief distributes Personal Care Kits, it's often to people who have lost everything. In the wake of an earthquake, or having fled from violence as their homes were overtaken, they clasp a towel from a faraway place, with a bar of soap, a toothbrush...and washing up, they know that they have not been forsaken by the world. The very simple gesture of giving a Personal Care Kit can give someone the encouragement to start anew, starting with a bath. You can share God's grace and love by providing that simple comfort. This breakout will be assembling the kits to send to the LWR and learning more about how this small gesture can make a big impact in someone's life.

Would you give a gift that cost you nothing? – Recital Hall (lower level)

Led by Chris Burnette, ELCA Gift Planner

Join Chris Burnette, Regional Gift Planner for the Indiana-Kentucky Synod, for an informative session and discussion about your passion, your plan and your gifts for those you love and causes you care about. Chris will share valuable tips and information on planned giving and how to give back to your community.