



Delaware-Maryland Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

2018 Synod Assembly Workshops

On Saturday, June 2, all are welcome to attend two workshops as a part of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly. The first workshop, from 8:40-9:30 a.m., will be held in the main ballroom and will be presented by Brian McLaren. For the second workshop, from 9:45-10:45 a.m., you may choose one of the following options. You must register to attend these workshops. Synod Assembly voting members and visitors will have the opportunity to indicate their preference on their Assembly registration. Guests will have the opportunity to register on a separate form, to be released on May 1.

Canoeing the Mountains: Navigating the Terrains of a Changing Church

American author, Phyllis Tickle, once said that the church reforms itself every 500 years. Having just celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the church seems due! The church — as we once knew — is indeed changing. This seems both simultaneously scary and liberating; it creates both anxiety within us and, yet, creates tremendous sparks of creativity. How are we to navigate this untrodden path, while maintaining our rich traditions and doctrines? If we are to adventure together through these uncharted territories, we might just need additional navigational tools to adapt to this reforming landscape. *This presentation will be, in part, based on Tod Bolsinger's book, Canoeing the Mountains. It is **NOT** a requirement that participants have read the book to engage in this workshop. Rather, we commend this book to you as further study if you find the Spirit leading you to untrodden paths within the church.*

This presentation/discussion will be led by The Rev. Chasity L. Wiener, pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Fallston and member of the Delaware-Maryland Synod Council.

Developing the Courage to Listen and Lead

How can we as followers of Christ develop the necessary maturity and ability to engage in deep conversations about race and be united in the work against racism? We will share healthy behaviors we can model in our individual lives and communities of faith which create space for dialogue and direction to encounter the sin of racism.

This workshop will be led by members of our synod's Racial Justice Ministry Team.

Becoming a 21st-Century Congregation, responding faithfully to the cultural changes

Why are 80% of our congregations stagnant or dying? Attend this workshop and learn about one important dynamic and how it can be properly addressed so your congregation can grow!

This workshop will be led by the Rev. Fred J. Lehr.

Ramifications of the New Tax Bill for Churches and Clergy

On February 9, President Trump signed into law a new tax bill that has some significant changes that could affect churches and clergy. Although there were no direct issues for churches and clergy, there were issues that could have an adverse consequence if not known or addressed. This workshop will identify the issues and suggest remedies where possible.

This workshop will be led by the Rev. Dick Goodlin.

Church Real Estate - Five Things to Consider

In this workshop, we will review five ideas that can help you utilize your church real estate into a more effective mission field. Through existing assets and commercial real estate analysis you will leave with a game plan that can improve your churches bottom line and community outreach.

This workshop will be led by D. Scott Smith, CCIM, member of the Synod Finance Committee

Celebrating Generosity

This interactive and exciting workshop will highlight practical tips for increasing generosity in congregations and model activities especially focused on two areas: Intergenerational Generosity and Year-Round Stewardship. We will explore giving attitudes, faith practices of generosity, engaging offering ideas, narrative budgets and have fun! Join our synod Generosity Team and gain practical techniques to enhance generosity in your congregation and life!

This workshop will be led by Karen Kretschmann, Associate for Generosity, and our synod's Generosity Team.

New and Renewing Congregation

God is doing amazing things through your support in our synod. We have eight new starts in our synod, five of which are new this year. Join the panel of mission developers for a time of missional conversation. Come and listen to their joy and struggle as they start new church and how you can be part of these incredible sign of hope in our life together.

This workshop will be led by the Rev. Dr. Amsalu Geleta, Executive Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission.

Faith Formation in a Mission Age: How Culture and Context Create Community and Define our Call

This workshop will address the ways in which our culture informs our Christian context and how our Christian context informs our culture. We'll discuss topics that develop our sense of cultural awareness, strengthen our communication skills, and reinforce the uniqueness of our individual and collective identities. This workshop pulls on themes from sociology, anthropology, cultural sustainability and theology. Our commitment to faith formation in a missional age comes from our understanding of our call to discipleship and it is our great joy to wrestle with what that means in a rapidly changing, yet traditionally rooted, world and church.

This workshop will be led by Adam Fairchild and Colleen Carpenter-Gonia, members of our synod's Practice Discipleship Leadership Team.

38 Theses 201

This is a follow-up conversation about diversity and allows us to develop strategies that address basic questions and issues related to being a multicultural church. After our discussion of the 38 Theses we must live into our baptismal identity in ways that deepen our love of God and undermine the evils of racism in our country. Participants will address ideas, issues, and concerns of persons of color in the church. This is an opportunity to understand one's own culture, share it with others and allow people of diverse cultures to come together in more wholesome ways. This session will provide a framework and set direction for the vision of this community as it continues its faith journey. The proclamation and practice of a fundamental belief in human dignity and life is constantly tarnished through experiences of racism, sexism, classism, and other forms of discrimination. Help promote health and healing for people of African descent, for others, and for God's world. The challenge for people of African descent in a variety of ways and through various callings must continue to promote justice, healing, and human dignity for all. Learn to build congregations and leadership through Christ-centered community consensus.

This workshop will be led by members of our synod's African Descent Lutheran Association.

Leveling Up: Free Communication Tools for Ministry

You just posted about your congregation's annual festival on Facebook, but you aren't sure it will catch anyone's eye. You want to start sending out weekly newsletters and offering online registration for events, but the thought of setting everything up seems daunting. Come learn about free tools you can use to enhance your ministry's digital presence and the reach of your posts. This workshop is designed for those who already have a working knowledge of one or more social media platforms, especially Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

This workshop will be led by Deacon Julie Stecker, Assistant to the Bishop for Communications, Youth + Family Ministry.

Adaptive Leadership Tools You Can Use

Today's challenges call for new solutions that arise out of a process of discovery and experimentation. This interactive session will provide you with hands-on experience using practical tools to help you identify, plan and implement new approaches to help your congregation thrive. Roll up your sleeves and come join us!

This session is led by Candace Maxwell, Lay Leadership Development Director.

Leading Change from the Inside Out

It's a basic leadership desire to make things better. However, the challenge is often not what to change, but how to go about the process in a way that is successful while including and validating others. This workshop will help you learn some of the best strategies from Christian, business and biological leadership. However, in addition to some new ideas and a framework for change, you'll have the opportunity to re-imagine how a specific change could be accomplished in your context.

This workshop is led by Pastor Stuart Luce, Leadership Development Director.