



“Sunday School” Offerings

La Crosse Area Synod Assembly 2016

Your Church's Website: Your New Front Door

Rev. Ben Morris, Campus Minister, La Crosse Area Synod

55% of people will spend less than 15 sec. on your church's website. Is your website equipped to keep them there longer? Can all the relevant info be gathered in that time? In this breakout we'll look at what makes a good website and a bad website; look at well-designed sites and poorly designed ones; and, if brave, look at yours! It's 2016 and it doesn't matter if you're in Seattle or the Coulee Region, your website matters!



Stomp Out Hunger

Rev. David Bersagel & members of synod World Hunger Subcommittee

We used “cows” to raise \$500+ for World Hunger. What else can a congregation do to support the ministry of ELCA World Hunger? Four local congregations of varying sizes will share what they do to support World Hunger. We'll encourage you to share what your congregation has done and send you home with at least 1 new idea to share. Moosey on down and we'll be sure to Mooove you!

Accompaniment: Walking Side-by-Side

Elise Hynek, Youth Director, Good Shepherd / Immanuel Lutheran Churches, Viroqua

Elise was 21 when she learned that she would be a missionary through Young Adults in Global Mission, an ELCA program which invites young adults to become the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. Over the next 18 months, she would navigate new terrain where God showed her what it means to serve others around the world.



Accompaniment of Returning Vets

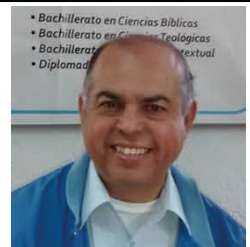
Sharon L. Kjos, RN, BSN, former Caregiver Support Coordinator, Tomah VA

We watch as soldiers return home from deployment: the surprise, the smiles, the laughter, the tears and excitement, and we are filled with delight. What we don't see are the struggles, loneliness, and tears that show up several weeks after their return. Members of faith communities can be leaders in responding to this need. There are simple things we can do for veterans and their caregivers to show that we care and that they matter.

Iglesia Luterana del Perú, our Companion Synod in Peru

Pastor Presidente Pedro Antonio Bullón Moreano

Pastor/Presidente Pedro Bullón will introduce us to the newly refocused Iglesia Luterana del Perú. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.





“Privilege” and Promoting Empathy for Others

Sam Scinta, publisher, author, educator and community activist

With “Never Alone” as our Assembly theme, we have thought and prayed about God’s call to provide for our sisters and brothers in need, working for justice and peace, and following Christ as a public church. Join community activist and educator Sam Scinta for an interactive conversation about privilege—historically and currently. Beyond earlier “privilege” workshops, this session will allow people to see their own privilege and discover how to respond to others because of that; and to become more comfortable having these difficult conversations.

“I’m Living Well” - Learning from ELCA plan members and answering the Lutheran question, “What does this mean?”

Rev. Jeff Thiemann, Pres. & CEO, Portico Benefit Services

By April 2016, almost 600 plan members that completed the annual Health Assessment identified themselves as living well and completed a detailed survey about what that meant to them, their congregations, their ministry, their families, etc. We’ll also get an overview of the state of health for leaders across the ELCA, what we’re learning about living well and engage in discussions about the implications for Portico and for the ELCA.



Navigating the Virtual Playground

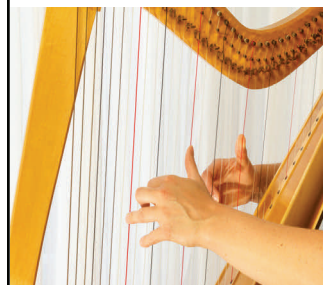
Alison Feigh, Prog. Manager, Jacob Wetterling Resource Center, Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center

Cyberbullying + Texting + Screen Time + Toxic Images = Yikes! As technology grows and adapts, children are growing and adapting right along with it. Youth can find themselves in over their heads as technology choices move faster than their developmental abilities. This presentation details the risks youth are facing and practical, positive ways that adults can respond.

Music-Thanatology in Care for the Dying

Ruth Kittleson, Zion Lutheran Church, Viroqua

Music-thanatology is a palliative medical modality and end-of-life practice of caring for the physical and spiritual needs of the dying with prescriptive music. The music delivered responds to both the physiological pain and interior suffering of those who are dying, and is delivered live, at the bedside, with harp and voice. Ruth is a student at the Chalice of Repose Project School of Music-Thanatology based in Mt. Angel, OR. Ruth is a music-thanatology clinical intern and her field placement has been developed between the school and the La Crosse Area Synod.



Community Response in Times of Crises

Sherry Simmons Kelly, organizer of community-wide efforts in response to crises

Communities and individuals come face-to-face with crises of all sorts, ranging from natural disasters to tragic deaths. How can the community and church respond? In this workshop you will learn how to utilize your resources, how to support and help those in need during traumatic events. You’ll hear about immediate and longer term responses, how to mobilize people to help, and how to encourage financial support for those affected.