

Roadblocks to the “Mission” so it’s not “Impossible”

Mission Festival 2015 Workshops

Are YOU the Road Block? — Rev. Jody Becker (Bethany and Bethel Lutheran Churches – Hawkins and Catawba, WI)

As leaders, we tend to worry about the health of our congregations and those sitting in the pews, but how often do we assess our own health? God commands us to love our neighbors, but that can only be done if we know how to care for and love ourselves! The Sabbath is an important part of the mission — come and spend time resting and learning about one of the things God focuses most on in Scripture!

Lutheran Disciple-Making Pastors — Bishop John Bradosky (NALC)

Lutheran pastors have many rich responsibilities on the mission: baptism, confirmation, preaching, celebrating the Lord’s Supper, marriage, and counseling — just to name a few. What does it look like to understand our rich background in Lutheran theology, which is central to the mission but not to lose sight of the vision of making disciples? Have you ever struggled with wondering how the call to Word and Sacrament relates to or defines making disciples? This is a much needed stop on the mission!

Congregational Mission Teams — Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba (NALC)

For those who were unable to attend “Mission Driven” at the NALC 2015 Convocation, please join Dr. Gemechis Buba for an encore presentation as he explains the NALC’s model for Congregational Mission Teams — the driving force to help the mission succeed.

Congregations in Transition — Rev. Mark Chavez and Rev. Dr. David Wendel (NALC)

There are many jokes to be made about Lutherans and “change.” Join Pastors Mark Chavez and David Wendel for a practical, hands-on-training. Change brings unique opportunity for the church to ask questions about vision, God’s call, and the exciting adventure ahead!

Embrace the Mess?

Rev. Doug Gast (Bethel Lutheran Church – Noblesville, IN)

Rev. Eddy Perez (Iglesia Luterana San Pedro – Miami, FL)

Mission is messy, and sometimes that can feel challenging. Join Pastors Doug Gast and Eddy Perez to laugh, learn, and lose your heart to the fact that mission is really about relationship! Learn some practical tools for along the way because, while it might be messy and cause for some detours in mission, it will be the best thing to ever ruin your life!

When the Mission Stalls Out — Rev. Brad Hales (Reformation Lutheran Church – Culpeper, VA)

What do you do when you feel like you're running out of gas? When no one seems interested, shows up or wants to volunteer to help with the mission? Join Pastor Brad Hales to talk about the "when it feels like your church has plateaued" roadblock to mission, because Pastor Brad has great news: This isn't negative! God is laying a wealth of opportunities and possibilities at your door!

Mobilizing Women for Leadership — Ms. Valerie Hobbs (Woodbine, MD)

The vision is clear... Or is it? What is your call and role in the mission? Let's take a moment to step back and evaluate. We are thankful for the gift of "women's ministry" but where are you as a woman ministering?

Leading Effective Change — Rev. Brian Hughes (St. John Lutheran Church – Columbia MD)

Leading effective change is an emotional business, especially in churches. The failure to address the impacts of change is at the root of most failed change initiatives. It is not enough just to "manage" change; people need to be led through change. Giving a congregation sufficient reason to pack up their tents to leave "here," travel through the "wilderness," and end up "there" — all while not losing your mind (or your position!) — requires certain competencies and character on the part of the leader. This workshop will explore what is needed IN the leader and the effective skills necessary for leading a transformation away from a traditional Sunday School model and into a multi-generational, multi-national discipling culture. **NOTE: This is a two-part workshop. Be sure to register for both parts.**

When Everyone Is Fighting — Rev. Dave Keener (Christ the King Lutheran Church – Evans, GA)

Every parent has that moment where they threaten to pull the car to the side of the road so the kids will stop fighting. The same happens in our church families. Join Pastor Dave Keener to wrestle with some of the tough questions so you won't have to call a time out for everyone in the car or the mission as you deal with congregational conflict!

Reaching Muslim Immigrants in our Communities — Rev. Dave Mann (Pastor for Internationals, Upper Arlington Lutheran Church – Hilliard, OH)

Though many countries dominated by Islam are closed to overt Christian witness, innumerable immigrants from those very countries have settled in ours. How can we who follow Jesus effectively share His love with those who also trace their spiritual lineage to Abraham?

Awakening Lives for World Mission – Harvest Connection — Rev. Bill Moberly (ALWM Director, Albuquerque, NM)

An interactive and enthusiastic session that teaches the basic building blocks for fruitful and personal world mission involvement – helping to call and equip congregations and Christians to actively respond to Jesus' command to take the Gospel to all nations!

Technology in the Tool Bag — Rev. Dr. Scott Ness (St. John's Lutheran Church – Grove City, OH)

Take advantage of the fact that your phone has more power and technology available than the first few Apollo space shuttles! Pastor Scott Ness will share how technology can be an amazing tool for both mission and discipleship, and make the mission easier for you as a leader!

Mobilizing Youth and Families for the Mission — Mr. Gary Pecuch (NALC Youth and Family Ministries Congregational Coach)

Faith webbing is a deep, purposeful approach to connecting youth to faith through a congregation. Our vision is to wrap our children and youth in a web of faith so loving and caring that they will know Christ and always want to be a part of a local congregation.

20/15 Vision: Better than Good — Rev. Trina Petersen (A New Thing Christian Church – Lithonia, GA)

Preparing for the mission requires planning and preparation. You want to make sure you have a good plan, know where you're going, and the stops along the way. It also means that you want every member of your team to be on the same page. The "vision" is knowing where you're going and the "mission" is how you get there! Looking for hands-on tools to help prepare your team? Find that you're a little lost along the way? This is the place for you.

The Top Three Christian Pop-Culture Potholes — Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin (President, the North American Lutheran Seminary – Ambridge, PA)

Using our Lutheran heritage and the lens of Law and Gospel to help us avoid these potholes can make for a successful mission and "road trip." How can we talk about discipleship without slipping into dangerous discussions of cheap grace and weak theology that will end up causing problems in the long term? Join the Rev. Dr. Amy Schifrin as she explores these ideas and shares real life stories and experiences of what this can mean. This workshop is not just for those who have the Lutheran Confessions memorized — all are encouraged to journey down this path together!