

WORSHIP

at the **CENTER**
2017

Exploring
**OCCASIONAL
SERVICES**

Workshop Sessions

The church year as spiritual director / Pastor Margaret Payne

Think of its rhythm and how it moves us through the year in God's time, not the world's time, and sometimes takes us to places where we would rather not go, but need to experience to grow spiritually. Each season gives us opportunity to deepen and grow; we can be more effective when we link our pastoral work in occasional settings (as well as weekly worship) with the current season of the church year. In this, we transcend the Chronos of the world's time, and infuse the blessings and occasions with God's Kairos.

Explore the seasons / Pastor Margaret Payne

Using hymns, contemplative moments, and word associations, we work our way through the church year. What does each season give us? How does it challenge us? How do we use those insights and feelings to envelop an occasion of pastoral care with a spiritual connection to the life of Jesus and the Christian community on its church year journey?

Household Blessings / Pastor Susan Briehl

"Blessing for a Home is a celebration of vocation in the deepest and broadest sense," says the introduction to this occasional service in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Pastoral Care*. Easily adapted for a variety of settings and households, this domestic liturgy moves us from room to room following the light of Christ. With the help of Scripture, art and story we will explore will the many blessings of this rite and their meanings for our daily lives.

Domestic Church Liturgies / Pastor Susan Briehl

"Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them," Christ assures us (Mt 18:20). Disciples long have gathered in small groups or domestic settings to pray for, comfort, and encourage one another, especially in times of loss or distress. They meet for "Mutual Conversation and Consolation," hearing one another's burdens, speaking forgiveness and healing, and sharing the peace of Christ. How might we shape brief rites for such occasions?

Ritual in the Long Journey of Bereavement / Dr. Elaine Ramshaw

As virtually everyone outside of the post-industrialized West knows, coming to terms with the death of a human being is a process that stretches out over considerable time. We will look at the goals of the Christian funeral or memorial service in the context of this process of long term care. We will also identify ritual opportunities later on in bereavement, for individuals and communities. What are the formal or informal rituals in your circles that serve as markers later on in the long journey of bereavement?

Guidelines for Co-Creating Rituals for Transitions without Official Rites / Dr. Elaine Ramshaw

There is no way the church could ever prepare ritual resources for every possible situation where faithful ritual would be helpful and appropriate. Instead, we need help in crafting or adapting ritual to suit the occasion, whether that's a birth event where one twin is born alive and one is stillborn, or

a move post-divorce, or a wedding that was delayed because the groom's sister was killed in an accident, or the diagnosis of a chronic illness. We will discuss guidelines for how a pastoral caregiver can with the individual or family co-create ritual that embodies Christian faith and that addresses the particular situation.

Creating Congregational Guidelines for Life Passages / Pastor Delmer Chilton

In this workshop we will explore the pastoral care reasons for creating congregational guidelines and we will examine a flexible process involving the whole congregation in a way that is creative and not restrictive, inviting parishioners to think theologically and liturgically about baptism, weddings and funerals so that these sacred life passages are well-thought out moments of pastoral care and Gospel proclamation.

Preaching the Occasions / Pastor Delmer Chilton

In this workshop, we will explore the unique preaching challenges presented by the Life Passages, paying particular attention to marriage and funeral sermons. We will examine the opportunities presented by narrative preaching to create appropriate sermons that employ the personal in proclaiming the Gospel. The workshop will involve a short presentation and a working discussion in small groups.

A Marriage Rite Refresher / Pastor Craig Mueller

Come walk through the ELW marriage rite with attention to ritual, contextual, practical, and pastoral issues. Some topics will include: working with non-member and inter-religious couples; same-gender ceremonies; procession options; couples that want to write their own vows; assembly singing; non-religious music; Eucharistic weddings; and ways to make the rehearsal more productive.

A Funeral Rite Refresher / Pastor Craig Mueller

Come walk through the ELW funeral rite with attention to ritual, contextual, practical, and pastoral issues. Some topics will include: adapting the funeral rite for cremation and/or memorial services; the placement and length of remembrances; balancing the desire to personalize the funeral with tradition / congregational practice; Eucharistic funerals; funerals within liturgical seasons; and expanding music beyond several oft-used hymns.

Ritual occasions that lead us to being Church for the life of the world / Pastor Mark Hanson

When might we engage in public acts of communal lament, repentance, confession and healing outside of our defined Lutheran worship spaces and occasional services? What is the power of such acts?

Pastor Hanson will open the conversation sharing reflections on these questions and related experiences from his ministry. Participants will be encouraged to share their insights, questions and experiences.

Pastoral Care at the intersection of Baptism and Blessing / Pastor Margaret Payne

A biblical case for blessing: looking at a series of bible passages that tell about blessings, and specifically, God's impulse to bless what is it that we bless? how do we understand this as part of our baptismal life? Role of blessing in Celtic Christianity: what can we learn? Remembered blessings: when have we given blessing, or received it? (discussion, sharing, offering templates or wording) Inviting the congregation into the impulse to bless: blessing as a learned behavior in the lives of the members of the community - it's not just for pastors anymore! Concluding discussion: what will be different when we go home?

A look into worship resources for the life passages / Pastor Kevin Strickland and Augsburg Fortress