

Workshop Descriptions for Prayer and Revival Events

1. "This Is Not the Church I Was Trained To Serve....What Do I Do?"

Rostered leaders' training has not changed to accommodate massive church, societal and cultural shifts. How can a rostered leader become retooled to meet the needs of today's changed church and society? How can a rostered leader take necessary steps that will lead to hope and new life, rather than despair and resignation? This workshop will offer strategies on how to minister in a changing, complex world.

2. "Faith Practices"

When we say we are Christian we have to ask ourselves, "Is our faith only a statement of what we believe or does our trust and belief in Jesus Christ lead to a transformed way that we live our lives?" The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Faith Practices Initiative offers practical ways that we can enhance our ability to follow Jesus Christ, to grow in our discipleship, using our grounding as children of God through our baptism as the foundation for how we live the faith that we believe in. The promises that are made at our baptism are the faith practices we implement into our lives as we live out our call as children of God. In this workshop there will be a presentation of these five faith practices and also reflection on how participants can enhance their spiritual lives and their commitment to their call as followers of Jesus Christ.

3. "How to Deal with Change"

Change is inevitable. Every person faces change in varying degrees throughout the entirety of their vocations. Most people prefer things to remain the same and therefore change often causes stress, frustration and moments of doubt about their vocations. Fortunately, there are ways of dealing with change. This workshop will offer strategies to deal effectively with change so that their ministries can operate in a healthy environment.

4. "Prayer and Discernment"

This workshop will offer strategies to answer the following questions; How do we (re)discover the importance and necessity of the lost art of prayer and discernment? How does it apply to our churches, our lives and our experiences? How will it influence or empower leadership?

5. "Spiritual Renewal Through Confession and Absolution: Hindrances to Prayer"

Romans 3:23-24 reminds us that all of us are sinful and are in need of God's grace; "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift." Yes, we confess our sins during our worship service and in prayer, but perhaps at times we need to reflect on the power of God's forgiveness and those factors that keep us from sustaining the prayer lives that will strengthen our faith and help us through the challenges of rostered ministry. This workshop will discuss the transforming power of confession and absolution and those factors that prevent us from living optimum prayer lives. Participants will be able to experience the rite of confession and absolution from confidential workshop leaders.

6. Developing a Congregation-based Prayer Ministry

Prayer changes things. Is your congregation a praying congregation?

Prayer ministry in congregations can be transformative and renewing as the body of Christ seeks God's guidance in all decisions and comes together to support and pray for each other. Starting with a small core of dedicated, praying people (members and non-members alike) is enough to begin a prayer ministry in your congregation. This workshop will look at practical steps to beginning a prayer ministry that could include regular meetings, on-line prayer groups, prayer card ministry and other ideas. A praying church is a growing church. Come hear how to begin such a ministry in your congregation.

7. One Year to Live Retreat Workshop

The One Year to Live retreat and follow-up is the most life-changing experience for men that we have ever seen. We invite you to come to this workshop and get a taste of what this retreat is about. This experience helps a man see how he got to where he is today and, more importantly, what God wants to do with him the rest of the way. This retreat is spreading to all areas of the country and this workshop will give you a taste of what happens so that you might encourage men to attend when it comes to your area.

8. Somebody Prayed for Me

A workshop to develop the art of personal prayer as a part of your spiritual arsenal.

“Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.” James 5:13-15. Many of us would like to incorporate more prayer for others and ourselves into our daily lives; however, our busy schedules often distract us from setting aside time to pray. Others lament about not knowing how to find the words to communicate properly with God. This workshop is designed to explore practical ways to enhance your ability to pray and useful tools and techniques that can enrich your prayer experience. The desired outcome of this workshop is to create new possibilities for you to take full advantage of prayer as a means of grace to foster your spiritual growth and discipleship.

9. **Helping Congregations to Name and Explore Their Defining Story**

This workshop will introduce participants to a process that will allow a congregation the opportunity to discover a biblical passage that identifies them as a missional congregation. The congregation will then take time to study that passage and discuss how God is calling the congregation into mission in new ways. There will also be discussion on how this process can lead congregations to exploring ways to grow in their discipleship and how the new ELCA Faith Practices Initiative can be used as a framework for intentional disciple-making.

10. **Worship-based Prayer**

In this workshop you will experience intimacy with God through learning to use the Lord's Prayer as a model for your own praying. So often our prayers center on seeking God's hand (God's blessings) rather than God's face (God's Self). You will learn to reverse that tendency. The model that you will both experience and learn moves you past self-centered praying to God-centered praying.

11. **How Can I Pray When You Can't?**

This workshop explores ways to pray when we are in the midst of spiritual dryness and do not feel like praying, do not want to pray, and do not have the energy to pray. It will offer simple yet profound techniques that anyone can use when in the midst of a spiritual desert.

12. **An Invitation to Discipleship: a Gift of Grace**

This workshop introduces participants to the practice of "Invitation to Discipleship" that is often experienced at revivals, but is a strategy that ministry settings might choose to use on an on-going basis during worship. This practice offers participants the opportunity to become members of the congregation as well as allowing a time for worshipers to come to the front of the sanctuary and have a special time for individual prayer.

