

Walking Together:

A Congregational Resource Event

March 20, 2010
Chippewa Falls Middle School



TOPICAL GUIDE TO WORKSHOPS

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Leadership for a New Day: Moving from Meetings to Ministry

Scott Miller, *Pastor at First Lutheran, Eau Claire*

Looking for a new approach to organizing your congregation? Join Pastor Scott Miller as he shares a different model for structuring the church—a way that facilitates permission-giving in congregations.

Effective Use of the ELCA Model Constitution

Andrea Gapko, *University Lutheran, Eau Claire*

It's 30 pages long! Do we really have to use it? Why should our congregation rewrite its constitution to follow the ELCA Model Constitution? Get tips on how to save time in using the ELCA Model Constitution and how to focus a group charged with writing or amending your constitution and bylaws.

Admin 101

Todd Iverson, *Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

Learn what they didn't teach you in seminary or council president school about the administrative details of the church:

- Why is this parochial report important?
- What is a statement of intent and why should I care?
- How do we update our constitution?
- What is a Letter of Call and how can it help the congregation engage in mission?

Find answers to these questions and more!

Grant Funding for Your Ministry

Joy Skjegstad, *author of Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry (Alban Institute, 2007), Skjegstad Training and Consulting, Minneapolis*

Are there grants for your ministry? If so, how can you get them? Join 20-year grantwriting veteran, Joy Skjegstad to learn what funders are looking for, the elements of a winning grant proposal, and how to find potential grant funding opportunities.

Stewardship: A Faith Response, A Way of Life

Mark Quade, *Stewardship Consultant, LaCrosse*

A noted churchman once said, "Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe.'" So what does stewardship look like in your congregation? Is it mission-oriented or a maintenance mindset? You'll walk away from this workshop with tools to help you grow stewards and stewardship in a year 'round approach involving ALL of your members.

Raising a New Generation of Stewards

Greg Gullicksrud, *Pastor at Peace Lutheran, Poplar*

The workshop will expose participants to internet based programs that focus on developing stewards rather than congregational income. Attendees will learn the strengths and weaknesses of the various programs and will experience a portion of the ShareSaveSpend program produced by Nathan Dungan.

Starting a Nonprofit at Your Church

Joy Skjegstad, *author of Winning Grants to Strengthen Your Ministry (Alban Institute, 2007), Skjegstad Training and Consulting, Minneapolis*

Many congregations form separate 501C3 nonprofits to draw new funding, new people and new partners into ministry work. Incorporating your day care, school, or youth center, for example, as a separate nonprofit may be a model to consider as you look at ways to move your ministry vision forward. Get tips from the author of Starting A Nonprofit at Your Church and a veteran leader of church-based nonprofits.

Called to Work for Justice and Peace

Amy Johnson, *Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, Madison*

When we affirm our baptism or say the words of the Lord's Prayer, we proclaim ourselves to be Lutheran Christians built for God's work in the world around us. We will dive into the surprising opinions of Martin Luther and then return to the 21st Century to learn how we can work to bring daily bread to our sisters and brothers in need.

NO Machetes Please!

Karen Ressel, *GLOCAL Mission Gathering Facilitator*, Terri Goetl, *GLOCAL Registration Facilitator*, and Lissa Briggs, *GLOCAL Communications Facilitator*

No machetes or safari pith helmet necessary to attend this workshop! In fact, the only requirement is a desire to join in conversation as we develop a better understanding of the changing context of mission. Let's transform those mission "To Do" lists into faithful, sustainable ways of serving God's Mission. Let's go GLOCAL together!

Bringing Circles Together

Diane Kaufmann, *Companion Synod Coordinator*; and Marcia Lindseth, *Joy Lutheran, Prescott*

The circle of love is repeatedly broken because of the sin of exclusion and racism. Sometimes unknowingly, we create separate circles—the inner circle and the outer circle, the circle of power and the circle of despair. Diane and Marcia are trained as anti-racism educators for Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality network of the Women of the ELCA.

Circle of Grace--When Sunday Doesn't Work

Esther Marie Pufall, *Parish Nurse at Saron Lutheran*; Paul Simmons, *Pastor at Saron Lutheran*; and Dale Chesley, *Pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran*, and Walter Day, *Ashland*

Every community has folks on the fringes—for whom life is work, for whom Sunday worship is too much. These are often the chronically mentally ill and their families. How often do they get to the Means of Grace? How often do they hear God's Word or get invited to share a meal? Could your church do it? How would it look, sound? Do you dare?

Learning Styles and Students with Special Needs

Hollie Holt-Woehl, *Interim Pastor, Mt. Olive Lutheran, Brooklyn Park, MN*

People with special needs ought be included in Christian education. This presentation will offer a brief overview of learning disabilities and learning styles then suggest practical tips for teaching students with special needs. There will be time for questions and the sharing of thoughts, ideas or experiences.

Rebirth of the Church in Russia

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Come and hear what amazing things can happen when you reach out in partnership with brothers and sisters across the globe. The story of the deep faith of the people in the Republic of Karelia, Russia, will help to strengthen your own hope and assurance in the transformational power of God. Hear how a northern Wisconsin woman's journey to connect with her Finnish culture has opened her eyes of faith in learning about the Ingrian Churches.

Prayer: The Foundation of Personal, Trusted Relationships

Kristin Hildebrand, *Youth and Family Ministry, Our Savior's, Menomonie*

In a world where everyone is in a hurry, overwhelmed by many responsibilities, we have forgotten how the simple act of prayer can bless the person we pray for, as well as bring comfort into our own hearts. Catch a glimpse of how this simple ministry can lift your own burdened heart while it blesses another.

This is Who I Am

Sue Eidahl, *Pastor at Zion Lutheran, Stratford*

There is a huge hole in most congregations involving the 20-30 year olds. Why? And what can we do about it? It's not about programs, but how intentional we are about thinking missionally and building relationships.

Leadership—Dealing with Conflict

Carl Heidel, *Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Falun*

This two-part program examines the structure and nature of conflict from two theoretical perspectives together with theories of emotion. Participants will learn to recognize the causes, phases, and interacting forces in conflict, and begin to develop strategies for managing conflict.

A Look at Parish Nursing

Parish nurses: Geraldine Long, *First, Eau Claire*; Marti Hofer and Pat Garber, *Trinity, Eau Claire*; Diane Lechman, *Peace, Dresser*; and Esther Marie Pufall, *Saron, Ashland*

Why would a church have a registered nurse on staff? Join several experienced parish nurses as we explore an avenue of ministry that reclaims the church's role in health, healing and wholeness. Gather practical ideas about how to create congregations that are places of healing through the care of individuals and families in your faith community.

I Came to Church Sunday. What More Do You Want?

Michelle Pride, *Our Savior's Lutheran, Eau Claire*

Is church more than a place to worship on Sunday mornings? Share and gain ideas on how to open the doors to the entire church family and bring them in all week! Explore opportunities to 'congregate in ways that grow faith, encourage participation and engage all generations in church education.

Tending the Baptismal Journey

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This workshop is all about passing on the faith. How? Through Baptismal Journeys. Zion Lutheran believes in giving parents tools to pass on the faith to their children. Families learn together. Come with questions. Leave with ideas and resource information for your congregation. Let us pass on the faith together.

21st Century Church Guy—Body, Spirit And Faith

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Care Ministry—It's Not Just the Pastor's Job!

Gary Grindeland, *Pastor* and Sylvia Kreutzmann, *RN, Care Ministry Coordinator at Christ the King Lutheran, Delafield, WI*

How do you spell relief? At Christ the King Lutheran Church in Delafield, Wisconsin, we spell it C-A-R-E M-I-N-I-S-T-R-Y. Our congregation is blessed by having a wide array of medical and human services expertise. Hear this story of care for a congregation—from an e-prayer chain to health fairs. And what about the experiences you can share?

Teaming Together for Confirmation and Youth Ministry

Bert Schultz, *Pastor at Wilson/Immanuel Lutheran, Wilson/Glenwood City*; Erin Nelson, *Pastor at St. John's Lutheran, Spring Valley*; and Pete Friberg, *Pastor at Gilman/Spring Lake Lutheran, Spring Valley*

Less can be more! A number of churches in the Spring Valley area have combined for confirmation and youth ministry. Together they are doing more than they were able to do alone. Let's talk about these and other ministries to which the Lord may call you.

Caring for the Congregational Family (cont.)

Joys and Frustrations of Small Group Bible Studies

Jim Christenson, *Osseo Evangelical Lutheran, Osseo*

What are the purposes of small groups? How big is "small?" Who should be in a small group? What should be done during the gathering? What are the benefits of a SMALL group as contrasted with a large group? What is the role of prayer in these gatherings? These are a few of the questions that will be discussed during this presentation.

Circle of Grace--When Sunday Doesn't Work

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Faith Formation

Will Our Children Have Faith?

Russ Sorensen and Jeff Elmquist, *Pastors at Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake*

How do we develop a congregational climate where we partner with families to naturally grow in faith and life? In this workshop you will explore four keys to passing on the faith to the next generation. You will discover the tools that are available for all people to work together to raise up followers of Jesus.

How to Nurture Newfound Faith and Connect Believers

Harlen Menk, *Pastor, Jon Tonsager, Pat Linder, Bill Moquin, Darla Moquin, and Chris Gutting, English Lutheran, Ellsworth*

We would like to share with you how the Alpha Course has helped transform the lives of people who were disoriented, wandering, or lost in their faith and how it has helped our congregation move from maintenance to mission, successfully reaching new people and connecting them in Christ-centered community

University-style Confirmation

Sue Eidahl, *Pastor at Zion Lutheran, Stratford*

While most link "education" and "classroom learning" as synonymous, we cannot deny that much of our most influential learning comes through experience. With this in mind, Zion Lutheran's confirmation program has been designed to go beyond the limits of classroom education and families busy schedules.

NEW Resources for Women

Avalene Swanson, Marcia Lindseth, Phyllis Beastro, Dawn Olson, *Synodical Board members, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin W/ELCA*

Sacred Spaces, Finding Your Bold, God Colors Outside the Lines, Lessons for Today's Disciples, Cafe, Bold Connections, womenoftheelca.com—what is this all about? In this workshop, discover tips to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Exploring Scripture Can Be Fun

Greg Kaufmann, *Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

Does the mention of Bible Study sound boring or scary? Would you like to experience some creative and fun ways to dig into our Book of Faith? Who says games and the Bible don't mix? Bring your Bibles and join the fun.

Lay School Wants YOU!

Howard and Bonnie Weber, Janelle Thompson, Tim and Gay Fehr and Kathy Tulman, *Lay School Graduates*

Has it been a long time since you revisited the core foundation of your faith? Would you like to dig into Scripture and our Lutheran heritage now that your frontal lobes are developed? Does learning together with folks from across our synod sound exciting? Find out about the Lay School of Ministry from some of its graduates.

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Summer Children's Ministry: Not Your Ordinary VBS

Sarah Dodge, *Ministry Coordinator at Zion Lutheran, Woodville*

A new way to view summer programs at church by including ALL children in the community. Come hear about this exciting program and learn ways you can incorporate it into your church. Handouts will be given.

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Reading and Understanding the Bible

Dean Simpson, *Cross Lutheran, Roberts*

The Bible is "God's Word," but those two words have various meanings among Lutherans. This workshop will focus on the Bible as Scripture. What is biblical truth? What about so-called "errors?" Why is it so hard to understand? Participants will think about their approach to the Bible and be challenged to deepen their understanding.

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Extreme Makeover: Christian Edition

Jenny Nieman, *Secretary/Education Coordinator, Rebekah Tarras, Pastor, and Kelly and Alyssa Lawrence, Ashley Stini, Rudy Nieman, and Kyle Herman, St. John's, Spencer*

Tired of Christian education that results in youth falling away from the church? Then it is time for Extreme Makeover: Christian Edition to revitalize your Christian Education into discipleship training. We'll share our story and give you tools to take back to use in your congregation.

Global Mission

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ELCA World Hunger

Kristina Jensen, *Pastor at Our Savior's, Iron River*

Walk away with the tools you need to educate and advocate members of your congregation to be an active part of the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. See slides from the presenter's recent trip to Mexico City following one project the ELCA supports. Learn what fellow participants are doing to combat hunger and leave with many resources, tips and stories.

Faith Ministry: God's Provision

Jill Corr, Eileen Bentzen, Barb Gardner, Pat Hall, Karen Anderson, *First Lutheran and its ecumenical partners, Port Wing*

God will provide all you need to fulfill his plans and purposes. Hard to believe? We saw great need all around us locally and globally and asked, "How can we help?" God's response, "If it were just you and me, would it be enough?" How we answer that question is critical. Come, see, and hear how God is more than enough. He is everything!

Companions in the News

Diane Kaufmann, *Companion Synod Coordinator, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

Earthquakes in Malawi, soon a new Synod Pastor (Bishop) in Brazil, new congregational matches in Malawi and Brazil, a delegation coming from Malawi in April—lots to talk about! Get up-to-date on the latest happenings with our companion synod relationships with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi and Sinodo Centro Campanha Sul, Brazil.

ZIP! Companion Congregation Relationships

Diane Kaufmann, *Companion Synod Coordinator, NW Synod of WI*, Jan Lothe, Lois Helland, Rev. Harold Oelschlager, *Immanuel Lutheran, Eau Claire*

Immanuel, Eau Claire, has been in relationship with Zomba Parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi since 2000. What have they learned in that time? How does ZIP (Zomba Immanuel Partners) function to keep this treasured relationship growing? How does Immanuel live into the Covenant we have with the ELCM? From hosting visitors to the strong role of the Immanuel Trust Fund, Immanuel has a story to share.

Our Journey to Midweek Worship

Sandra Johnson, *Pastor at First Lutheran, Prentice and Zion Lutheran, Brantwood*

Join us for a conversation about our Journey to Midweek Worship. We'll talk about the history of our service; why, when and where we started and how our midweek worship has evolved. We'll talk about the "gap" that this worship service fills and take time to share ideas and encouragement with one another.

Care Ministry—It's Not Just the Pastor's Job!

Gary Grindeland, *Pastor* and Sylvia Kreutzmann, *RN, Care Ministry Coordinator at Christ the King Lutheran, Delafield, WI*

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Creating the Starbucks Experience on Sunday

Jim Page, *Pastor at Trinity Lutheran, Eau Claire*

A simple cup of coffee joined with a unique atmosphere created the "Starbucks Experience"—an experience based on connections between people. Attendees will learn how principles from Starbucks can be used to nurture hospitality while connecting with guests. Effective outreach to new members will also be presented.

Building a Church: One Door at a Time

Ned Lenhart, *Pastor at Living Water Lutheran, Cameron*

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Leadership

Look Around You! Who Are Our Future Leaders for God's Church?

Heather R. McClintock Doidge, *Director of Admissions and Enrollment Services*, and Lee Gable, *Wartburg Theological Seminary*

How do we, as members of the body of Christ, help to identify leaders for God's church and 'walk the journey' with them? What does it mean to live out the vocation that we have been called to? And how are seminaries helping to educate, nurture and form both rostered and lay people for public ministry? Come, share your own insights and join in our conversation.

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Mission

Community Outreach: Backpacks & More!

Mary Ann Bowman, *Pastor at Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck*

Looking for new ways your congregation can address local poverty issues? This workshop will help you start a weekend backpack program with your school district. You will also get tips on how to find the hidden poverty issues in your community. We will share ideas that are working in your congregation with each other as well.

Beyond Our Walls: Looking Outward

Glen Waterhouse, *Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Eau Claire*

Join us for an outline of current missions of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Eau Claire, including "Just Because," Interfaith Hospitality Network/Beacon House, Community Table, etc. Learn how these missions and ministries have evolved and grown. We will include a roundtable discussion of successful missions at other congregations.

God on the Move

Bob Leshner, *Pastor at Faith Lutheran, Marshfield*

Change that equips congregations for mission often gets stalled. This workshop will discuss some of the qualities and characteristics that help congregations to move into the mission field that is around them—congregation, community, country and abroad. After an opening presentation, it will be dialogical so bring what has worked for you and your questions.

Walking Together: Partnership With the Wider Church

Amy Odgren, *Assistant to the Bishop/Dir. for Evangelical Mission*; Rebecca Carlson, *ELCA Church Council*; and Greg Kaufmann, *Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

Just who is the ELCA? What does the ELCA Church Council do? How does the ELCA support our faith and life together? How does the ELCA help us to strategize about mission? We are the church together and we support one another. Come and hear about the many ways that the ELCA is really "us" walking together.

Let's Talk Turkey

Duane Pederson, *Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

Last year, in his report to the Synod Assembly, Bishop Pederson said, “*I want what I say to be part of an ongoing conversation about who we are as the people of God and how we witness to and serve Jesus in this time and in this place. It's time to talk turkey!*” Join him for this candid, straightforward discussion of mission—in this time and in this place.

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NEW Resources for Women

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Sacred Spaces, Finding Your Bold, God Colors Outside the Lines, Lessons for Today's Disciples, Cafe, Bold Connections, womenoftheelca.com—what is this all about? In this workshop, discover tips to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Stories of Hope & Promise—Telling What God is Actively Doing Through the ELCA

Amy Odgren, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission and Al Arndt, Mission Interpreter Coordinator, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Whether we're feeding the hungry, supporting young leaders or advocating for justice, we never work in isolation. We work together as the three expressions of this church—congregations, synods and churchwide—to share God's boundless love. Learn how Mission Interpretation is a way to tell the stories of our shared ministry through temple talks, bible studies and written communication.

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There is a huge hole in most congregations involving the 20-30 year olds. Why? And what can we do about it? It's not about programs, but how intentional we are about thinking missionally and building relationships.

NO Machetes Please!

Karen Ressel, *GLOCAL Mission Gathering Facilitator*, Terri Goetl, *GLOCAL Registration Facilitator*, and Lissa Briggs, *GLOCAL Communications Facilitator*

No machetes or safari pith helmet necessary to attend this workshop! In fact, the only requirement is a desire to join in conversation as we develop a better understanding of the changing context of mission. Let's transform those mission "To Do" lists into faithful, sustainable ways of serving God's Mission. Let's go GLOCAL together!

Rebirth of the Church in Russia

Gail Saari, *Peace Lutheran, Poplar*

Come and hear what amazing things can happen when you reach out in partnership with brothers and sisters across the globe. The story of the deep faith of the people in the Republic of Karelia, Russia, will help to strengthen your own hope and assurance in the transformational power of God. Hear how a northern Wisconsin woman's journey to connect with her Finnish culture has opened her eyes of faith in learning about the Ingrian Churches.

Stewardship: A Faith Response, A Way of Life

Mark Quade, *Stewardship Consultant, LaCrosse*

A noted churchman once said, "Stewardship is everything we do after we say, 'I believe.'" So what does stewardship look like in your congregation? Is it mission-oriented or a maintenance mindset? You'll walk away from this workshop with tools to help you grow stewards and stewardship in a year 'round approach involving ALL of your members.

Missional Stimulus Package

Gerd Bents, *Pastor at Rush River Lutheran, River Falls*

What? God works OUTSIDE the institutional church, too? Yes, indeed! Learn to break down barriers of institutions, so that God's mission can flourish in the lives of pew sitters and rebels alike. Get in here! You'll like it.

Faith Ministry: God's Provision

Jill Corr, Eileen Bentzen, Barb Gardner, Pat Hall, Karen Anderson, *First Lutheran and its ecumenical partners, Port Wing*

God will provide all you need to fulfill his plans and purposes. Hard to believe? We saw great need all around us locally and globally and asked, "How can we help?" God's response, "If it were just you and me, would it be enough?" How we answer that question is critical. Come, see, and hear how God is more than enough. He is everything!

**Doing Worship Well
Without a Cast of Thousands**

Bill Wilson, *Pastor at Svea Lutheran and Tabor Lutheran, Hager City*

Do you look at "the big churches" and wish you could imitate them? Join this group for a discussion of presiding at engaging and inspiring worship in small congregations. Take a look at holy drama that is life giving even when everyone wears a couple of hats.

Playing to an Audience of One!

Monica Bahr, Ruthann Knutson, Dan Petschow, Kim Vlcek, Art Syth, Kathy Tweet, and Cathy Winger, *Pleasant Valley Lutheran, Eleva*

Starting a new music ministry can be an exciting way for a congregation to bring people together, to share the Gospel, and to reach beyond your church in ministering to others. The Pleasant Valley Praise Team will share their experiences in creating a band led by none other than Jesus Christ.

**Adding High Tech to Your Worship,
the Wellspring Experience**

Rick Hoyme, *Pastor at Central, Chippewa Falls*

Have you wondered how using screens might change your congregation's worship experience? Have you ever wished you could show a movie video clip or inspirational message during worship? We will discuss the joys and challenges of going high tech in worship, from placing screens and planning themes to baptisms up close and personal and the importance of tech support. Come with your questions and we'll talk.

**Getting Folks to the Easter Vigil
(O Really Holy Night)**

John Sutherland, *Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran, Beldenville*

Make the most out of this great night and celebration. Our Savior's Beldenville has been packing folks in to celebrate the pinnacle celebration of our church year. We don't follow the rubrics, and we even use fireworks and luminaries. Come and see what your congregation can do as well.

Paperless Worship: Going High Tech

Nadine Willett, Lynn Brodziski, and Rebekah Tarras, *Pastor, St. John's, Spencer*

Want to save on paper and printing plus help the environment? Consider going high tech with your worship. We will share our experience of implementing projection in our worship including traditional liturgies and hymns as well as music videos and much more. We'll tell you about our successes as well as blunders and the procedures we use.

**"Full-Service" Wednesdays: Worship,
Confirmation, and Children's Ministry**

Rick Hoyme, *Pastor at Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls*

Sabbath is not just for Sundays anymore! Come discuss the great advantage of adding worship to children's ministry, confirmation, and choir on Wednesdays. Our Wellspring worship offers an alternative contemporary worship approach that is attended year-round by young and old alike. We'll discuss its beginnings and how it has developed into our largest worship service of the week.

Reaching Out Through Music

Freedom Central, *Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls*

Our mission is not to "steal" people from other congregations, but rather to reach out to those who don't go to church because they think it is "scary" or "boring." How are we reaching those people? By connecting secular to sacred through music and alternative styles of worship.

The Gathering: Come, Meet, Share, Live

Gerd Bents, *Pastor at Rush River Lutheran, River Falls*

Worshipping the emergent way. Come and experience meaningful Word and Sacrament, without all the other fluff!

Our Journey to Midweek Worship

Sandra Johnson, *Pastor at First Lutheran, Prentice and Zion Lutheran, Brantwood*

Join us for a conversation about our Journey to Midweek Worship. We'll talk about the history of our service; why, when and where we started and how our midweek worship has evolved. We'll talk about the "gap" that this worship service fills and take time to share ideas and encouragement with one another.