



**Eastern District LCMS
PROFESSIONAL
CHURCH WORKER
VIRTUAL CONFERENCE**

October 9, 2020

“Behold, I am doing a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert”.

Isaiah 43:19

“Everything is New”

is the theme for our 2020 Fall Professional Church Worker Conference.

Based upon Isaiah 43:19 (*Behold I am doing a new thing.*),
this indeed will be a new venture in many ways for the PCWC.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This is your preliminary notification of the schedule and workshops.

Registration information will be sent very soon.

OPENING WORSHIP

This fall's conference will begin with an all-district worship service on Thursday October 8th at 7:00 PM, hosted online from a variety of places throughout our district. The preacher, Rev. Barry Keurulainen, will be challenging all of us to be the new creation that we are in Christ. ALL members of Eastern District congregations are invited to participate in this unique worship service.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

On Friday October 9th, we'll have a variety of workshops and presentations, again, all online.

The schedule for the day is:

8:00 - 8:30 -- Gathering in local groups for coffee and fellowship

8:30 - 9:30 -- Workshops A

9:30 - 9:45 -- Break

9:45 -10:45 -- Greg Finke presentation 1

10:45 - 11:00 -- Break

11:00 -12:00 -- Greg Finke presentation 2

12:00 - 1:15 -- Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 -- Keynote with Sue Steege

2:15 - 2:30 -- Break

2:30 - 3:30 -- Workshops B

Participants are encouraged to gather together locally with other clergy, faculties and friends (according to what is safe and feasible) to have conversation and comradery throughout the day. Costs for lunches will be reimbursed via a mailed check for \$15.00 made out to each participant who completes and submits an electronic registration prior to October 9th.

Workshops will be conducted via Zoom (or a similar platform), allowing for some

discussion and interaction with the presenter. See below for a complete listing of the presenters and workshops.

KEYNOTES

Rev. Greg Finke, author of *Joining Jesus on His Mission* and *Joining Jesus: Show Me How*, will be doing 2 1-hour presentations during the morning. In session #1, Greg will be helping us see how we personally can be a part of Jesus' mission in 2020 and beyond, especially in a prolonged season of "social distancing." In session #2, he will present a simple plan for discipling others to be a part of Jesus' mission that reflects the way Jesus Himself disciplined His followers in the gospels. The world around us may be "new" – but our mission is not. Hear what Greg has to say to all of us.

Ms. Sue Steege, Director of Transformation Ministries at First Trinity, Tonawanda, NY, author and speaker, will be our afternoon keynote speaker. Sue always has such keen insight into God's Word and applying it to our lives and situations. Join us as we hear what she has to say to us about *Everything is New* and what God is saying to each of us.

WORKSHOPS A (8:30-9:30 AM, October 9th)

A New Look at Stewardship - Join Pastor Billy Brath, LCEF Vice-President of Ministry Support, as he explores some of the ideas and biases that cloud our understanding of stewardship and the work of the local parish. He will draw upon his experiences working with leaders and congregations across the synod and will present practical ways to re-engage your people with the ministries of your church.

Different Generation, Same Jesus - It's no secret that we are experiencing a generational shift, as those born between 1981 and 1996, dubbed "Millennials," now have children of their own. How does the church connect with and foster faith in our rising Generation Y and Generation Alpha youth & young adults? Jesus' message for all people and all times remains; however, its embodiment in the lives of the faithful through the Holy Spirit adapts and adopts in various contexts. Our aim is to describe not only challenges but also ministry insights and positive outlooks for the upcoming generations. This workshop will be led by Rev. Sam Fink (St. John's, Orchard Park) and Rev. Tim Anas (Our Savior, Buffalo).

The Power of Focus – We all have the same number of hours in a day and using them to their greatest advantage requires mental strength and planning. Paperwork, phone calls, emails, meetings, finances and the all-important personal time can be effectively scheduled and maintained with some basic practices and positive habits. Learn practical tips and mental exercises to help you joyfully strive toward all that God has in store for you. This workshop will be led by Rev. Bryan Spang (Good Shepherd, State College).

Habits For A Healthy Heart - Pastors and teachers alike go through seasons of weariness, stress and anxiety. It can be difficult to keep a positive perspective given the challenges faced in ministry. In this session, participants will receive encouragement to put what many in the church have identified as "spiritual disciplines" into practice; those disciplines or habits that keep us connected to Christ and abiding in His love, such as prayer, meditation on the word, solitude, fellowship, silence and many others. Resources and time will be spent encouraging these practices and giving resources that enable us to behold the beauty of Christ and be refreshed in His presence. This workshop will be led by Rev. Barry Keurulainen (St. Luke, Cabot) and Rev. Fred Hoover (Christ Memorial, Malvern).

The Social/Emotional Effects of the Pandemic Crisis on Your Students and The Resulting Behaviors: Addressing New SEL Needs in the Classroom.

Presented by SEL Professionals from the Public Sector. This workshop will have 4 "sections" for different age levels.

WORKSHOPS B (2:30-3:30 PM, October 9th)

God's Vision & Strategic Planning in Pursuit - Planning for the future is critical to the success of any organization. While true for the church, the future we pursue is the one Jesus calls us towards. Join Pastor Billy Brath, LCEF Vice-President of Ministry Support, as he shares church-specific visioning and strategic planning process tools that will drive your ministries forward according to God's will.

Pastors/Principals/Parents as a Team – An effective partnership of Church and School leadership yields positive communication, growth and ministry among staff, parents and students. The multi-faceted roles of today’s leaders in Lutheran education require not only a firm grasp of law and Gospel, but also imaginative thinking and clear vision. How can you best use and nurture the gifts and talents of your leaders to fulfill your mission? Presented by Tom Wrege, principal of Zion Lutheran School in Georgetown, TX and an LCMS National Award-Winning Principal of 35 years.

Partnerships for Ministry that Create Growth - Churches working together has often been described as akin to a group of cats getting along. The old mentality of one church taking over another or surviving off the back of another are antiquated archetypes that need to be explored and explained. There are healthy, helpful ways for churches to partner together for the sake of Jesus. Our time together explores several successful partnerships to function as a blueprint for your congregation and their future, in 2020 and beyond. This workshop will be led by President Chris Wicher.

A Dual Topic Practical Application Session for Various Grade Levels: Effective Distance Learning Platforms/Faith-Integration Practices Across the Curriculum.

- ECE
- Kindergarten-Grade 2
- Grades 3-4
- Grades 5-8

Multiple teachers from within our District who have proven the effectiveness of their practices in the classroom will lead these workshops.