

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

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Worship Workshop

Viktor Andersson

Come and learn creative worship ideas, how to utilize the talent in your congregations, and ways to enhance the worship life of your congregation. Viktor Andersson is the director of music at Calvary, Richland Hills where he oversees a multitude of worship ministries in varying styles.

Music/Worship with Children and Families

Janelle Miller/Debbie Villavicienco

Engaging children and families in worship and music is an essential part of welcoming new people into your congregation's ministry. Additionally, by engaging them in music and worship you equip them to invite others to take part in the work of the church. Learn tools and techniques for teaching children and families and engaging them in explaining worship. This includes learning about worship booklets for kids.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services

Folabi Olagbaju

LIRS is a ministry of our churchwide organization (ELCA) that does important work serving those seeking refuge in our nation and around the world. Learn about current immigration issues from those serving on the ground around our nation and world and how your congregation partner with LIRS to better serve our neighbors.

Operating a Food Pantry Ministry

Mark Hadley

Shepherd of Life in Arlington has been operating a food pantry for over three years. In that time it has become a major ministry for the congregation. In this workshop the leaders of "Shepherd's Pantry" will share their insights on how to get a food pantry started, how to build a financially stable operation, and how to get a congregation fully engaged.

Speaking to Children about Death

Kristen Klade (Chaplain-Cook Children's Hospital)

This session will focus on how different age groups understand and process death as well as helpful pastoral care language and techniques for caring for children of all ages. Included will be vital tips for recognizing normal vs. complicated grief and signs of potential self-harm in children, so that timely referrals are made when additional professional support is needed. We will also discuss and share creative ideas for involving children and young adults in funerals, funeral planning, and memorializing a death.

Bishop Forum

Erik Gronberg

An open time of conversation with Bishop Gronberg.

#InMissionTogether Ministry Better Together Kris Totzke and Len Avecilla

For years, our approach to ministry has been in the form of congregations functioning as “silos” apart and independent of each other. Now we are learning that we can be so much better if we share resources and gifts. What are ways congregations are working In Mission Together? What are the options for new ways of doing ministry together, not only for the sake of sustainability but for the sake of being more effective and stronger in ministry? Len Avecilla has been working with the Metroplex West Conference on those very questions. Pr. Kris Totzke, Bishop’s Associate, has also been working with congregations on relationship building with the goal of collaborative ministry. Both will be sharing ideas and experiences in this session.

Compassionate Communication Todd Porter

(in sanctuary, must attend all three sessions to participate) From a lifelong quest to understand what separates us from our own humanity, Marshall Rosenberg developed a way of being that leads us to connection with ourselves and with others. He called it “nonviolent communication,” in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rather than judging, projecting, insisting, and demanding, Rosenberg encourages us to separate observation and judgement, to experience our feelings and share them with others, to acknowledge the needs to which our feelings point, and to make requests that would meet those needs and, in doing so, make life more wonderful. Join this workshop for an overview of this way of embodying compassion and an opportunity to experiment with it through interactions with real humans.

Session 1: Narrative 4 Story Exchange

Since 2012, students all over the world have been using the Narrative 4 Story Exchange to practice fearless hope through radical empathy. The concept is deceptively simple: you tell a randomly selected partner a story from your life and they tell you a story from theirs. Then you join the other pairs involved in the Exchange and you tell your partner’s story in the first person, as though it were your own because, at least for those few moments, it is. It’s a simple concept with transformative results.

In this session, we’ll share some additional detail about Narrative 4’s history and work throughout the world. We will also provide an opportunity for you to experience the process in a small way through an “object exchange”. Choose an object that holds special meaning to you and prepare share a one-minute explanation of that meaning. Your partner will do the same thing, then you’ll trade objects and tell each other’s story to new partners. Don’t worry, you’ll get the object back at the end of the game!

Session 2: Improv: empathy at play

Ever been frozen in place, at a loss for words for fear of saying the wrong thing? Of course! We all have. Improv is one way to practice yourself out of that predicament, and many others. Maybe you’re thinking, “but I’m not funny.” Improv is about so much more than humor. It’s about being so present to others that you can step into a world you create together and, in that moment of creation, connect with one another. Through a posture of active listening and supporting and building trust through play, improv games are a

powerful tool for building empathy.

Join this workshop for a facilitated journey into spontaneous creativity. Building skills in being present to and connecting with others can create collaborative trust, postures of active support, and lead us together to places we could not have gone alone. Improv is applied empathy, giving us a co-created space in which to encounter ourselves and others.

Session 3: Compassionate Communication

From a lifelong quest to understand what separates us from our own humanity, Marshall Rosenberg developed a way of being that leads us to connection with ourselves and with others. He called it “nonviolent communication,” in the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Rather than judging, projecting, insisting, and demanding, Rosenberg encourages us to separate observation and judgement, to experience our feelings and share them with others, to acknowledge the needs to which our feelings point, and to make requests that would meet those needs and, in doing so, make life more wonderful.

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Stewardship

Sandra Gass

NT-NL has restarted its stewardship team and is offering opportunities across the synod to deepen our congregations and leaders understanding of biblical principles of stewardship. Learn about how your congregation can participate and be equipped by the work of the team.

A place without Lutherans?!?

PLM Don Heller, Pr. Bob Barnet, Pr. Diane Eggemeyer

Our rural congregations are part of the diversity of our synod. While they share much in common with all our congregations there are unique gifts and challenges rural congregations face. Whether you live in a rural area or want to learn more about rural life and ministry today please join us for this important conversation.

Outreach and Evangelism

Irma Bañales

Reaching out into our communities is a key part of our discipleship. Whether it is forming a new outreach programming, engaging in intentional evangelism, or wanting to partner with NT-NL and plant a new ministry our DEM can help. Come and learn ways that NT-NL is working to identify opportunities for new ministries and revitalize existing ministries.