

Hosted by the Division
for Congregational Life



Metro Washington DC Synod

Together In Mission

Saturday, January 21, 2012

King of Kings in Fairfax, VA

Registration, Displays, and
Coffee begin at 8:00am

Welcome & Opening
Keynote 9:00am

Workshops 10:30am

Lunch 11:45am

Workshops 12:30pm

Closing Keynote and
Worship 2:00pm

What questions will be addressed?

- Who is Jesus & why do we follow him?
- How do we learn to talk about our faith in Jesus Christ?
- How do our faith stories help spread the Good News?
- How does Bible study help us in sharing our faith with others?
- What resources are out there to help us?

Re-Presenting Our Faith

Lutherans love God, the church and the world.
We just don't talk about these things very often.

In 2012 we will learn ways to speak about faith that are authentic, practical and helpful to others. Together we will learn to answer three simple questions with language of our own: Why should someone follow Jesus? What part does the church play? How would someone connect with my congregation?

Keynote: Brian McLaren

Brian D. McLaren has a passion for the Gospel of Jesus Christ and for helping the church make that known in our fast changing world. He is an author, speaker, activist, and public theologian. A former pastor and college English teacher, he is an ecumenical global networker among innovative Christian leaders.

Brian has been active in networking and mentoring church planters and pastors since the mid 1980's, and has assisted in the development of several new churches. He is a popular conference speaker and a frequent guest lecturer for denominational and ecumenical leadership gatherings

His public speaking covers a broad range of topics including evangelism, leadership, global mission, spiritual formation, worship, postmodern thought and culture, Biblical studies, pastoral survival and burnout, inter-religious dialogue, ecology, and social justice.



A frequent guest on television, radio, and news media programs, he has appeared on Larry King Live, Nightline, and Religion and Ethics Newsweekly. He has appeared in Time Magazine, Christian Century, the Washington Post, Huffington Post, and many other print media.

Brian is married to Grace, and they have four adult children. His personal interests include wildlife, ecology, fishing, hiking, music, art, and literature.

In the morning...

The Jesus question:

Who is Jesus, and why does he matter so much?

In the afternoon...

**Practical implications and a Q & A with
Brian and Bishop Graham**

Childcare and transportation from Metro provided by reservation.

10:30am Workshops

“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What We've Learned About Welcome

Over a year ago our synod began focusing on how to welcome the newcomer. We had secret visitors report on their experiences and congregations have tried various ways of improving their first impressions. What worked well and, as importantly, what didn't? What are the best things to try if your Church is serious about connecting with first time visitors.

Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch

Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Walk into a Bar: Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World

Move beyond both hostile religious absolutism and weak religious relativism, embodying a new kind of Christian identity, robust and benevolent, strong and hospitable.

Brian McLaren

Key Ingredients to Getting Children to Follow Jesus-

The tradition has been to drop children off so the church can teach them how to follow Jesus. It's been happening for years. This model for discipleship is no longer working. The first and most effective role model a child has is a parent/s and other

adults in their lives. They are *faith* role models whether they want to be or not. We face a challenge today. Key ingredients needed to help congregations establish solid faith formation programs beginning with children and families will be discussed.

Debbie Streicher

Get Out of the Boat!

We have all been called to be followers (disciples) of Jesus but how do we get started? One of the first things we must do is get out of the boat. Lutheran Men in Mission has as its vision to help congregations develop an effective life changing men's ministry which will encourage and equip men to become disciples. At this workshop we will explore what it means to be a disciple and how congregations can help men get started on their journey to become a disciple of Jesus.

Rich White

What's Working in Young Adult Ministry in Metro DC ?

Congregations have struggled with how to best connect with young adults in their communities, but more and more congregations are making a go of it. Four different congregations (Luther Place, DC; First Trinity, DC; Faith , Arlington; Good Shepherd, Gaithersburg) will share their approaches to young adult ministry. We'll think about where the similarities and differences lie in their approaches, and ask them what change was/is required for the ministry to be successful in re-presenting the gospel to a new generation!

Rev Amy Sevimli

State of Youth Ministry

Forum for sharing and discussing the findings of the National Study of Youth and Religion and the Exemplary Youth Ministry study toward helping our youth cultivate a consequential faith.

Barbara Harner

“Men do not decide their future. They decide their habits and their habits decide their future.”

Unknown

Social Media

Social media has become a buzz word among any organization that intends to communicate with its constituents or end users – which honestly, should be a priority for all organizations. From an overview of frequently used digital properties to share tools that increase connectivity to strategies on how to maintain member relationships, this session will explore how you can integrate social media into your regular outreach plans. A small portion of time will be dedicated to questions and group discussion.

Christine Dela Rosa



Dr. He Qi

12:30pm Workshops

"He who is faithful in little will be faithful in much."

Jesus Christ

A Simple Way to Read the Word

Tired of trying to find the right curriculum from which to teach the Bible? Perhaps there is a simpler way to get people to read the Bible together letting it form faith and guide lives. Let's help others discover again the simple pleasure of Bible reading and reflecting on its meaning for our lives.

Rev. Dr. Phil Hirsch

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2012 ELCA Youth Gathering

Open forum for learning and sharing information about the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans in July, 2012.

Barbara Harner

More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism in the Emerging Culture

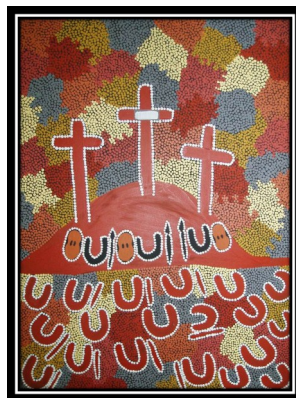
This presentation, based on one of Brian's most popular books, uses a real-life email conversation to help people understand the questions, objections, fears, and needs of people around us.

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Aboriginal Art
Karina Penhall

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Rev Amy Sevimli

"Until you have given up yourself to Him you will not have a real self... "

C.S. Lewis

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