

Phoenix, AZ Workshops – 2009 Faith Formation Clinic – June 6

Activating Faith with Spark! (Break-Out Session I only)

What if we could find new ways to bring Bible stories to life? How could we better reach kids who learn in different ways? What if teachers could be more prepared in less time? How can we prepare kids with the biblical foundation they need for a lifetime of faith? This workshop will introduce Augsburg Fortress's new SPARK curriculum and how it's designed to help activate faith—whether your congregation uses traditional classroom, lectionary-based or rotational formats. This workshop features the new *Spark Story Bible* (age2-Gr.2) and *Spark Bible* (Gr. 3-Gr.6), the learner resources that form the foundation of this curriculum.

Presenter: Leslee Nestingen

Leslee has served congregations in various capacities throughout her career, most recently as one of the congregational and seminary relations managers for Augsburg Fortress. Prior to joining Augsburg Fortress five years ago, she worked with the national volunteer network at Lutheran Brotherhood (now Thrivent) and learned from Lutherans at a grassroots level while serving as a church organist, choir director, Sunday school teacher and youth leader. Leslee's roots are in southwestern Minnesota's Clarkfield Lutheran Church, and she is currently a member of St. Peder's Lutheran in Minneapolis. She is the proud mother of one Wartburg College grad and an Augustana College junior.

Nurturing a Spiritual Environment

This workshop is designed for anyone who lives and works with children. Come discover ways to nurture faith growth by creating an environment where a child or young person can thrive in "God's delight"!

Presenter: Diane Monroe

Diane is the Director for Christian Education of the Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission Unit of the ELCA. Her work continues to be devoted to supporting lifelong learning and discipleship, for people of all ages—with special emphasis on the youngest in our midst.

Invite, Ignite, Unite!

Recruiting, Training and Mobilizing Volunteers for Ministry (Break-Out Session I only)

Having trouble inviting talented, energetic folks into your Chris Ed teacher group? Challenged to ignite their spirit and enthusiasm? Stumped on how to equip and empower them? Explore a faith-filled, creative, Bible-centered approach to this amazing opportunity for mutual ministry! In this session, learn techniques which Sue has fine-tuned through her years of teaching and leading ministry teams, including 'rolling out the red carpet,' the Eagle Awards, and more.

Presenter: Sue Lennartson

Sue is a national speaker and keynoter as well as a workshop, seminar and retreat leader for multi-generational audiences, currently serving as the Groups Pastor at Eagle Brook Church in White Bear Lake, MN. She is the author of *Kids, Games & Christian Education*; *Invite! Ignite! Unite!: Recruiting, Training, and Mobilizing Volunteers for Ministry*; *When School Is Off, Church Is On: Exciting Ideas and Plans for Extended Hours of Ministry*. After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College, Sue was a physical education teacher and coach before serving as Director of Children's, Family & Women's Ministries at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN for 13 years. Some of Sue's adventures have included leading Mother/Daughter DogSledding retreats, Gorilla trick or treating with her grandsons, singing with the *Good News* gospel jazz band, and leading mission trips to Jamaica, Ukraine, Liberia, Guatemala, and Brazil.

Building Biblical Literacy in Children

This workshop will focus on understanding the importance of providing faith formation opportunities for the youngest members of your parish through teaching them their first language of faith—Scripture! Focus on the possibilities when kids open their Bibles and engage with God's Word regularly. Explore the creative language and artwork of *Spark Story Bible* (age2-Gr.2). Find

Squiggles on every page. Experience an intentional design that encourages kids' imaginations and facilitates biblical literacy. Take a good look at how the *Spark Bible* (Gr.3-Gr.6) helps kids think about Biblical texts in a personal way and helps us move 'from zippers to stickers' thinking!

Presenter: Cindy Paulson

Cindy is a Curriculum Developer, Congregational Life & Learning at Augsburg Fortress. Previously Cindy served as the Sunday School and VBS Director at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, MN, and as a Fifth Grade teacher at Westchester Lutheran School in Westchester, CA. She has also worked with older youth serving as a youth worker at Mount Olivet and then Youth Director at Westchester Lutheran Church. Her volunteering includes teaching confirmation and working with Destination Imagination, a competitive creative problem solving program for kids. Cindy says, "Being the Curriculum Developer on The Spark Story Bible is the most challenging, rewarding and fun job I've ever had, other than raising my two incredible daughters!"

Equipping, Empowering, and Encouraging Your Teachers (Break-Out Session II only)

How can you help your teachers (and your faith formation program) grow? Leadership development is a valuable skill for anyone who manages a team, and teams of teachers that are well-prepared, well-trained, and connected to one another can have a powerful impact on the faith life of the entire congregation. This session focuses on some practical ways that program administrators, pastors, and directors can better support teacher teams with lasting results.

Presenter: Leslee Nestingen (see bio above)

Bringing Church Home

All Christian adults are called to be faith parents to God's children. Learn insights about how to help faith parents and congregations work together to pass on faith and values to the children we all cherish. This session will emphasize that all the generations bring gifts to the body of Christ and that connecting them is essential.

Presenter: Linda Staats

Linda Staats is a practical theologian and a passionate speaker and popular workshop leader for passing on faith through cross+generational and milestones ministry. She and her spouse, also in ministry, enjoy giving away children's Bibles to friends and neighbors as a means and mission for engaging all ages in faith-filled conversation. Linda holds an MS degree in Human Development & the Family and is the director of HomeGrown Faith and former Assistant to the Bishop for Faith Formation in the Grand Canyon Synod.

Teaching Stewardship to Children

Want to instill the importance of sharing and saving in children? Looking for a Confirmation workshop that fosters money value in middle-schoolers? Learn from a local financial representative about Thrivent Financial's interactive, values-based workshops created to help kids (and their parents) learn how to share, save, and spend. The engaging format of *Parents, Kids & Money Matters* (ages 6-10) and *Parent, Teens and Money Matters* (ages 11-14) is an ideal fit for congregations and schools. Stewardship has never been this fun!

Presenter: Ottis Smith

Ottis Smith is a representative of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who believes that teaching kids to share is important from an early age.

