

FAITH FORMATION CLINIC

CHARLOTTE, NC • MAY 2, 2009

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & BIOS

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2. Building Bible Literacy in the Sippy-Cup Set by Dawn Rundman
3. Activate Faith with Spark by Dawn Rundman
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5. Creating a Safe Haven by Neil Christians
6. Creativity Counts: Having Fun with Children's Messages in Worship by Pebbles Cloninger
7. Spiritual Formation in Children through Music by James H. Johnson
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1. Equipping, Empowering, and Encouraging Teachers by Wayne Theurer

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 and directors can better support teacher teams with lasting results.

Wayne is a graduate of Concordia University in St. Paul, MN where he was trained as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) and currently serves as an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA doing consulting work with congregations and synods in developing, training and equipping students, adults and leadership teams for ministry. He has served congregations in CO, FL, and NC in the area of Youth and Family Ministry. He also shares his gift of being a DJ and has performed at National Youth Gatherings in Atlanta, San Antonio, and Orlando (and New Orleans this summer).

2. Building Bible Literacy in the Sippy-Cup Set by Dawn Rundman

How can your congregation support and educate families of young children so that these little ones grow up hearing and loving God's word? From the decor of your church nursery to the songs sung during worship, infants and toddlers can experience God's word through the stories, rituals, and images in your congregation. Expect lots of ideas to inspire early faith formation, including ways to help families read and share Bible stories together.

Dawn Rundman is a Curriculum Developer of children's resources at Augsburg Fortress. She received a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of Oregon. Dawn is passionate about helping parents and congregations recognize the amazing opportunities for supporting kids' faith formation. Dawn lives in the Twin Cities with her husband Jonathan, and their two children Paavo and Svea.

3. Activate Faith with Spark by Dawn Rundman

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 using traditional classroom, lectionary-based or rotational formats. This workshop features the new SPARK Story Bible (age 2-Gr. 2) and SPARK Bible (Gr. 3-Gr. 6), the learner resources that form the foundation for this curriculum! (See bio on page 1)

4. Training VBS leaders by Kristen Rank

VBS has the potential to be many things—an outreach ministry, a creative way to teach the Bible, and a mentor program. None of these things can happen without dedicated and motivated volunteers. This workshop will discuss different methods of recruiting and training volunteers so they become advocates for your program. Their enthusiasm becomes contagious! We will discuss tips on volunteer training that will keep your program exciting and vibrant—and keep your volunteers returning to teach again and again!

Kristen is the Director of Elementary School Ministry for Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. She served as the Director of Preschool Ministry for 2 years before moving into her current position in 2007. She has been the Director of VBS at Christ Lutheran for the past 5 years and has seen many changes in how we recruit and train volunteers. Kristen has been part of the Christ Lutheran family since 1994. She lives in Charlotte with her husband Dean and her two children, Marisa and Matthew.

5. Creating a Safe Haven by Neil Christians

Working with Children, Youth and Families is very different in 2009. It is messier and riskier than it has ever been! They are exposed to high risk behaviors such as drugs, alcohol, cutting, suicide, abuse, pornography and much more. How do you create a Safe Haven in your congregation not only for these children, youth and their families but also for your adult volunteers? Come ready to discuss, develop and discern where God is calling your congregation in this process.

Neil is a graduate of Luther Seminary, specializing in Children, Youth and Family Ministry. With 17 years of experience, he currently serves at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC as the Director of the Family Ministry Team. He also serves as a consultant to congregations for Milestone Ministries, Safe Haven and Peer Ministry. Neil works alongside other organizations such as the Youth & Family Institute, Youth Leadership, the National Peer Ministry Training Center and the Youth Ministry Network. He also serves on the executive board for Camp Hope; a three week Summer Day Camp ministry hosted at your own congregation.

6. Creativity Counts: Having Fun with Children's Messages in Worship by Pebbles Cloninger

The youngest children in our faith communities deserve a relevant and engaging worship experience just like the adults! Come explore ways to creatively involve children in fun and memorable messages during worship without shocking the adults. We will explore resources and share practical tips for using ordinary household items to teach those extraordinary Bible stories to children. We will also explore other ideas for including children in worship while teaching the Bible to them.

Pebbles Cloninger worships at Philadelphia Lutheran Church in Dallas, NC, with her family. She has been the Director of Christian Education at two churches in NC, worked in youth ministry for the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA, and has worked for Augsburg Fortress for fourteen years in several capacities.

7. Spiritual Formation in Children through Music by James H. Johnson

Children are capable of theological substance. Making use of Luther's dual understanding of music as both part of the order of creation and a tool for teaching the faith, this workshop will illustrate in age appropriate ways how music can assist in the theological and spiritual formation of children. Participants will engage in a conversation on how to translate theological substance into child like, but not childish ways, contributing to faith formation. The role of the musician as a pastoral and relational model for spiritual formation will be included.

James H. Johnson is a graduate of Wittenberg University with both Bachelor of Music and Master of Sacred Music degrees. Additional studies include a year at the Berlin Church Music School and a summer as an organ scholarship student at Chautauqua, NY. After 35 years in parish ministry, including 17 years at Ebenezer Lutheran in Columbia, SC, he now serves as Executive Director of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and as Adjunct Instructor for Liturgical Ministries at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

8. Welcoming All God's Children:

Ministry with Children & Families with Special Needs by Rebecca Davis

This workshop will explore ways to nurture faith in families and children with special needs. From listening to families and the challenges they face to creating Independent Christian Education Plans we will examine how to create a holistic and inclusive ministry that enriches the lives of children, families and the congregation.

Rebecca Davis is the Associate Pastor for Children and their Families at Myers Park Presbyterian Church and Adjunct Professor of Christian Education at Union-PSCE, Charlotte. She has a Ph.D. in Christian Education, has served congregations of all sizes in West Virginia, Alabama and Texas and was an Associate Executive Presbyter for Congregational Programming and Leader Development. Before moving to Charlotte she was the Religious Action Director for the Children's Defense Fund and worked with the National Council of Churches' Committee on Justice for Children and the Families.

9. Rotation Model Sunday School 1, 2, 3 by Lane C. Ducker

What is Rotation Model Sunday School? How does it work? How can I implement and sustain it in my congregation? This workshop is designed for all those who want to know more about Rotation Model Sunday School, and how to organize their church's leadership to implement it.

Lane has been a full time educator in the Presbyterian Church USA for 15 years. Prior to her full time employment, she served as a consultant and interim educator in congregations in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. She is an elder, has chaired committees for the local church and Presbytery, has taught numerous workshops, has been a Sunday School teacher, a youth advisor, has served as a Co-Director for Youth Conferences at Montreal Conference Center and has implemented rotation model Sunday School in three congregations, all of which are continuing to use this model. Currently she is the Director of Christian Education at First Presbyterian Church in Salisbury, North Carolina.

10. Multidimensional Learning and Faith Formation Workshop by Jeff Taylor

There is no question that we are living in a time in which youth learn in much different ways than they used to. Just go to some schools and see if you can find a chalkboard! There is a culture shift occurring, and the church needs to shift with it. Through the use of media, music, drama, technology, etc. the Good News can be taught and we have to open our hearts and minds to the possibility of changing the way we reach kids. This workshop will allow us to talk about how kids learn differently and how we can change our teaching styles to mesh with today's culture. (continued on next page)

Jeff serves as the Director of Middle School Ministries at Christ Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC, where he has been on staff for six years. Jeff graduated in May of 2008 from Luther Seminary specializing in Children, Youth and Family Ministry. Jeff, along with others on the family ministry team, has re-worked the way Confirmation is taught at Christ Lutheran, adding technology, drama, music and other experiential ways of learning. He is currently writing his first book, on media, technology and faith, due to be released this fall.

11. Teaching Stewardship to Children by a local Thrivent Financial Representative

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 Thrivent Financial Representative about how to share, save and spend. The engaging format of Parents, Kids & Money Matters (ages 6-10) and Parents, Teens and Money Matters (ages 11-14) is an ideal fit for congregations and schools. Stewardship has never been this much fun!

12. Linking Mission and Meaning to Sunday School by Bonnie Sanford

This workshop will focus on working with elementary-age students in developing a service-minded faith. Sunday School is a promising place for learning about mission. Learn to create an environment where kids understand their identity as children of God and learn to care for their brothers and sisters, no matter where they are in the world. See how children in different places live and play and the meaningful ways Sunday School students can help those less fortunate through prayer, work, time, money, and donations

Bonnie is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University and has taken courses at various seminaries over the years. She is an Associate in Ministry in the ELCA, currently serving Shelby Presbyterian Church, in Shelby, NC. After 46 years of serving churches, her light still shines brightly and her enthusiasm is stronger than ever for sharing the love of Jesus with children. Her first love is helping a child to grow up knowing that they are a child of God.

13. Enhancing Your Faith Formation Outreach Plan by Terry Poplava and Judi Sullivan at American Church, Inc.

Are you looking for new ideas to maximize participation in VBS, Rally Sunday and Christian education opportunities? Learn about some new tools that will get kids to show up, reinforce your education message, support faith formation at home, and set the stage for a lifetime of active membership. In this session, get information and ideas about specialized services that will help grow attendance for various children's ministries.

14. Nurturing a Spiritual Environment for Children by Diane Monroe

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"!

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--and with special emphasis on the youngest in our midst.

Lunch and Learn Opportunities

Grab your lunch and join the energizing round-table conversations facilitated by our workshop presenters. During this lunchtime networking opportunity you will get acquainted with fellow Christian educators, exchange ideas ask questions, share stories and more!

We look forward to seeing you there!