

FAITH FORMATION CLINIC

GETTYSBURG, PA ▪ APRIL 25, 2009

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS & BIOS

1. They Know the Answer is Jesus; How do I Ask the Question?
Children's Messages in Worship - Rev. John Brock
2. Birth to Three Ministry - Marsha Roscoe, MAMS
3. Bringing the Bible Home - Celia Domines
4. Let the Children Sing! - Pam Drenner
5. Doors Open to All God's Children - Rev. Charles H. Lisse and Gary W. Shaffer
6. Linking Mission and Meaning in Sunday School - Christopher Couch
7. Training VBS Teachers and Volunteers - Elisabeth Kirk
8. Equipping, Empowering, and Encouraging Teachers - Debbie Streicher
9. Inviting, Supporting and Keeping Volunteer Teachers - Linda Walker
10. Nurturing Faith with Multicultural Ministries - Linda Walker
11. Activate Faith with Spark! - Chad King
12. Nurturing a Spiritual Environment for Children - Diane Monroe
13. Teaching Stewardship to Children - Thrivent Financial Representative

1. They Know the Answer is Jesus; How do I Ask the Question? Children's Messages in Worship by Rev. John Brock

Our little ones deserve much more than last minute preparation. This workshop will help you prepare messages that will be relevant and engaging. Participants will explore methods of offering children's messages within the worship setting with emphasis on development of a personal style or formula. Practical tips for using everyday household items, stories, and puppets will be included.

Pastor Brock serves as Associate Pastor at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Camp Hill, PA. A graduate of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D., his M.Div is from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Gettysburg. He also served as pastor of Elysburg Lutheran Parish, Elysburg, PA after he was ordained in 1997. His wife, Marianne, is director of Camp Nawakwa, and Associate Executive Director of the Lutheran Camping Corp. of Central PA. They have 2 sons. Pastor Brock has also been a bike mechanic and stills enjoys playing with Lego.

2. Birth to Three Ministry by Marsha Roscoe, MAMS

This workshop will focus on understanding the importance of providing faith formation opportunities for the youngest members of your parish through biblical, spiritual and psychological exploration. Participants will gain deeper insight into infancy - 36 month old early childhood development and how the church can build and nurture some very basic faith formation building blocks that will carry them into their toddler years.

Marsha is the Minister of Faith Formation and Congregational Outreach at Zion Lutheran Church in Hummelstown, PA. A consecrated diaconal minister in the ELCA, Marsha serves as a regional education and communications resource. For more than 15 years she has worked in all areas of faith formation. Most recently she started a five-day per week Lutheran/Christian-based preschool program that integrates faith and learning to help students succeed academically, develop socially, and grow spiritually in Christ's love. Marsha has a passion for building the basic faith foundations in the early years of a child's life to help provide the stepping stones for their future faith development.

3. Bringing the Bible Home by Celia Domines

Are you looking for ways to help families strengthen their spiritual life after Sunday morning? In this workshop, we will be looking at ways to help congregations equip families to enhance their faith at home. We will also look at various ways to make ordinary things extra special, like enhancing mealtime with prayer and devotions, celebrating baptismal birthdays, teaching children about the seasons of the church year, celebrating the saints, and other creative ways to help children grow in their faith at home.

Celia Domines is an Associate in Ministry rostered with the ELCA. She is a 1995 graduate of Lebanon Valley College with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education, and a 2000 graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, with a Masters of Arts in Ministerial Studies with a concentration in Christian Education. She has served various congregations as Youth Director and Director of Christian Education. She has also worked as a teacher in early childhood settings. She currently resides in Elizabethtown, PA with her husband, Reverend A.J. Domines and their three children, Lydia, Priscilla, and Albert.

4. Let the Children Sing! by Pam Drenner

Experience what creative music is and how it can be used in children's faith formation ministries. This workshop is very much about actively doing something! Musicians and non-musicians will learn practical, simple tools for helping children explore Bible stories with sound and movement.

Pam serves on the staff of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, supporting congregational ministries and connecting people and resources in the Resource Network Office. She is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania and has served congregations in Central Pennsylvania since 1976.

5. Doors Open to All God's Children by Rev. Charles H. Lisse and Gary W. Shaffer

Because special needs come in many forms, it takes more than a ramp to make a church accessible. With a few adjustments, a congregation can enable persons with special needs to worship and learn freely and regularly, and share their unique, God-given talents and gifts in the congregation's ministries. This workshop provides some ideas for making persons with special needs feel welcomed, connected, valued, and in harmony with the community of God's people.

Recently retired, Pastor Lisse has served on the committee for the Ministry of People with Special Needs, Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA. Born and raised in Harrisburg, PA, he received his M.Div. from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg and served parishes in Albany, NY; Cumberland, MD; Brooklyn, NY; and Lancaster, PA. He and his wife, Shelley, live in Lancaster and have three adult children, Marc, Monica, and Matthew, who was born with Down Syndrome.

Gary is both an architect and a Christian Educator. While attending the University of Maryland and after his graduation in 1974, Gary worked both in architectural firms and as an assistant youth minister at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD. In 1978 Gary accepted the position of Youth Coordinator at St. James Lutheran Church. He has taken courses at both Wesley Theological Seminary and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. In 1984 he returned full time to the practice of architecture. Gary and his wife, Jane, have six children, including Kendra, who was born with special needs..

6. Linking Mission and Meaning in Sunday School by Christopher Couch

Like many patterns of behavior, attitudes and understandings of mission are formed in children. (The lack of attention to mission becomes a pattern, too.) The children's program in Sunday Church School is a promising place for learning about mission and in particular acting in mission. Through narrative and our own interaction, we will look at models for mission in the children's Sunday Church School and maybe come up with some models on our own. Resources for having children in mission will be provided—or composed together—as well.

Christopher Couch is Director of Learning Ministries at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Camp Hill, PA., where he has served for five years. Christopher oversees a Church School program for all ages, which meets on Sunday, at mid-week, during the church seasons, and at many other times. Christopher designs, composes, or coordinates all kinds of church studies and curricula. Prior to coming to Trinity, Christopher worked at Messiah College in Grantham, Pennsylvania, as a teacher and administrator.

7. Training VBS Teachers and Volunteers by Elisabeth Kirk

VBS is perhaps the biggest evangelism ministry event in a congregation. We often hear that many hands make light work, but perhaps the toughest challenge of any successful VBS program is recruiting and training volunteers. Learn how to create an environment that will inspire volunteerism. We will provide tips on volunteer training that produces confident, well equipped, mission focused leaders that will bring their talent, energy and passion to VBS and have so much fun doing it, that they will want to return year after year. This workshop will also address the importance of planning a staff dedication service, making meaningful staff connections during VBS week and post-VBS volunteer appreciation. Workshop examples will be taken from the Discovery Canyon VBS, but can be used with any curriculum.

Elisabeth is a born organizer, having worked many years at a large accounting firm in Maryland as Director of Community Services organizing community events. Elisabeth has delivered meals for two years for Meals-on-Wheels. She has also served as a Stephen Minister for Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, MD for the past seven years. For six years she watched the toddlers Sunday mornings at Saint Luke. Elisabeth taught Vacation Bible School for three years prior to taking on the responsibility as director of Saint Luke's VBS for the last four years. Elisabeth lives in Laurel, MD with her husband and three small children.

8. Equipping, Empowering, and Encouraging Teachers by Debbie Streicher

How can you help your faith formation program grow? Uplifting and encouraging our volunteers to recognize the gifts they bring to our programs is essential. Developing a leadership team while equipping and empowering them to do God's work is key. Those managing and participating in learning programs in our congregations will be guided through a step by step process as we address the importance of the time and talents contributed by teachers and their helpers. Connecting with one another and with children each week can have a powerful impact on the faith life of the entire congregation. This session focuses on an understanding of the importance of empowering leaders with their God-given gifts and encouraging and equipping them in real life practical ways that provide lasting results.

Debbie served as Director of Family Ministry in her own congregation for 10 years. She remains active in children's ministry and serves on council. She was a Christian Education partner with the ELCA for 8 years. Debbie is presently Chair for the Division of Congregational Life in the Washington Metro DC Synod, Region 8 Representative for LACE and Director of Children and Family Ministries at Faith Inkubators. Debbie's vision for ministry is to equip and enthuse all ages to use their God-given gifts so that congregations become vital centers of Christ's love in action.

9. Inviting, Supporting and Keeping Volunteer Teachers by Linda Walker

Are you having trouble getting enough teachers for your education program? Learn how to invite and support volunteers who can teach the faith, plan a lesson, have a good time doing it, and will come back next year to do it again. When people love what they do, others not only hear the good news, they see the good news in them.

Linda is currently the Director of Adult and Family Ministries at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Somerville, NJ. Previously she was the principal of a Lutheran parochial school and the Director of Parish Education in a large suburban NJ church. I have a BS in Elementary Education, a MAR from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and have been an Associate in Ministry for over 20 years. She has traveled all over the world and has made 3 mission trips to Namibia.

10. Nurturing Faith with Multicultural Ministries by Linda Walker

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Luke 18:16. Learn how to make your Sunday School a welcoming place for ALL children and tell the Good News in a multicultural context. Let your teaching and meeting space reflect the diversity of your communities. Through music, art, food, clothing and programs you can embrace the ethnicity of your children and neighborhood. (see bio above)

11. Activate Faith with Spark! by Chad King

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!

Chad is the Marketing Manager for Congregations at Augsburg Fortress. As a former youth director, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, and Bible study leader, he has worked with persons of all ages in a variety of faith-formational settings. Chad is passionate about finding creative and innovative ways to help "activate faith" in children, youth and adults.

12. Nurturing a Spiritual Environment for Children 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.

13. Teaching Stewardship to Children 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!



**Lunch and Learn only: Enhancing Your Faith Formation Outreach Plan
by Daisy Liko and Stephanie Gaphne, 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.

Lunch and Learn: Biblical Literacy with Children with Jessicah Duckworth

An energizing round-table conversation facilitated by our keynote speaker. Join this lunchtime networking opportunity to exchange ideas with fellow Christian educators, ask questions, share stories and more.

Other 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!

