



37th Annual Rural Ministry Conference

Center for Theology & Land | Dubuque, Iowa
March 4-6, 2018

CONGREGATIONS COOPERATING IN MISSION

LOCATION:

All sessions at Best Western Plus
Hotel in Dubuque

ACCOMMODATIONS:

To make hotel reservations at
the \$80 group rate (plus local
and state tax) contact Best
Western at 563-557-8000 and
use group name Rural Ministry
Conference by February 14th.

REGISTRATION:

Registration is limited to the first
200 people and includes lunches
and dinners. Does not include
lodging.

Early bird rate due by Feb 3:

1 person: \$180
2 or more: \$160/person

Standard is due by Feb 26:

1 person: \$195
2 or more: \$175/per person

SAVE \$50!

If you are a pastor who has
been serving in a rural
congregation for less than 5
years, you save \$50!

Register:

www.wartburgseminary.edu
click on Calendar of Events

Partially Funded by:

The Ester and Carl Merklein
Foundation

2018 LEADERS AND SPEAKERS:



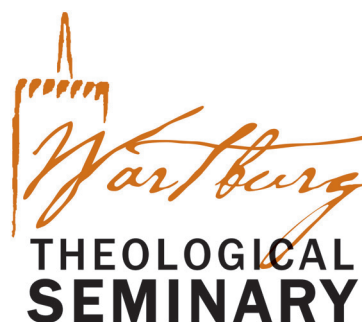
REV. MARCIA KIFER has been a Lutheran pastor for 34 years. In 2010 she was called to serve the Shared Lutheran Ministry of Fayette County – four small, rural congregations who made a bold decision in 2001 to enter into a truly shared ministry. Pastor Marcia loves to share their story along with some nuts and bolts for congregations looking at some form of shared ministry. It is her conviction that shared ministry isn't a last ditch effort to keep a church's doors open; it is a way for churches to thrive as they answer Jesus' call to grow disciples and share the Good News.



REV. DR. MARK YACKEL-JULEEN is a graduate of Luther Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN and celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination in 2014. In 1992, he and his spouse Margaret founded Shalom Hill Farm, a rural ministry education and retreat center in southwestern Minnesota. In 2004, he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Mark came to Wartburg in 2015 as Director for Small Town and Rural Ministry with the Center for Theology and Land. Mark and Margaret (also an ELCA pastor serving a small town and rural parish) have been married for 35 years and live in Elkader Iowa. They have three children, one of whom is an ELCA pastor serving in rural southeastern Minnesota.



REV. DR. GWEN SAYLER is a professor of Hebrew Bible, avid bicyclist, and Green Bay Packer fan. In 2011, she celebrated the 40th anniversary of her consecration as deaconess in the Valparaiso Lutheran deaconess community, and in 2012, she celebrated the 30th anniversary of her ordination in the ELCA. The 2017-2018 school year will mark her 27th year of service at WTS.



CENTER FOR
Theology & Land



BREAKOUT LEADERS

ROLAND MARTINSON is Emeritus Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry and Emeritus Vice President for Academic Affairs and Academic Dean at Luther Seminary. He came to Luther Seminary as assistant professor in 1977 and was named professor of pastoral theology and ministry, pastoral care, in 1982. "Rollie" was the project director of the landmark Exemplary Youth Ministry Study, and a participant in the Search Institute's original "Effectiveness of Christian Education" study. He, with Jay Beech, is currently directing six synods of Region 3 in the ELCA in a Study and Enrichment of Worship and Music in Small Congregations.

DEAN SAFE grew up on a small family dairy farm in southeastern Minnesota, working with his parents on the farm and attending an open country Lutheran church. Safe holds a B.A. from Waldorf University in Forest City, Iowa, an M.Div. from Luther Seminary, and is currently pursuing his S.T.M. degree from Chicago Theological Seminary. Serving churches in rural Lanesboro and Canton, Minnesota he is grateful to serve in a setting where relationships are enmeshed in landscape and where the work of the Gospel takes on a new importance through that lens.

ELAN HACKER is a transplanted southerner, swapping the city life and ocean for the joys of rural living and Minnesota sunrises, 36 years ago. She is the pastor of a three point parish. Elan enjoys writing, public speaking, and riding and training horses.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE:

Please note: All sessions take place at the Best Western Plus Hotel, 3100 Dodge Street, Dubuque, IA. A more detailed schedule will be available to all registrants.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4, 2018

3 pm	Registration, Refreshments, and Resource
5:30 pm	Introductions, Greetings
6:00 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Presentation – Rev. Marcia Kifer

MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018

9:00 am	Bible Study with Gwen Sayler
10:00 am – 11:15 am	Keynote – Rev. Marcia Kifer
11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Lunch
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Concurrent Workshops, Round One
1:45 pm – 2:45 pm	Concurrent Workshops, Round Two
3:00 pm	Workshops, Round Three
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Dinner, Mississippi
7:00 pm	Movie or Taize Worship Service

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 2018

9:00 am	Bible Study with Gwen Sayler
10:00 am	General Session – Rev. Dr. Mark Yackel – Juleen
11:00 am	Eucharist Service
12:00 pm	Boxed Lunches and Farewell

Register at www.wartburgseminary.edu
click on Calendar of Events

2018 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

"Enriching Worship and Music in Small Member Congregations"

Rollie Martinson

Drawing on a study of worship and music in small member congregations on the upper plains, presenters and participants will reflect on the faithfulness and effectiveness of worship and music practices in these churches all of whom are facing daunting challenges. Participants will learn how better to develop worship practices for small numbers, identify intergenerational music leadership in the community, and, build on the strengths and opportunities present in small member, rural churches.

"Going Deeper with the Speaker"

Marcia Kifer

This breakout session allows participants to explore topics raised in the plenary in further detail, ask questions, share experiences, and continue the conversation around cooperating parishes.

"Creative Innovation"

Mark Yackel-Juleen

This session features creative innovations that small town and rural congregations are implementing in their communities. The goal is to stimulate pastors and laity to think about what might be possible in their places and congregations.

"Cooperating Parishes"

Mark Yackel-Juleen

This breakout session is an opportunity for those involved multiple point parishes and cooperative parishes to network, share stories and resources and offer mutual support.

"Knowing Your Story and Its Worth: The Importance of Rootedness in Modern Rural Evangelism"

Dean Safe

This breakout will explore the importance of history and story in rural contexts - primarily those of how rural congregations embody Gospel ministry - and how getting to the heart of this relational ministry is the bedrock of evangelistic work in the changing landscape of 2018's rural congregation.

"Freeze Plays"

Elan Hacker

Freeze plays were developed for busy people on a small budget. They can be done with either no or very limited practice sessions. Attendees will learn how to offer memorable, meaningful content to multiple size and age groups. They will also receive free Freeze Plays used with children's groups, women's retreats, church services, Good Friday's and Christmas Eve, plus the skills for how to write their own!



37th Annual Rural Ministry Conference

Center for Theology & Land | Dubuque, Iowa
March 4-6, 2018

CONGREGATIONS COOPERATING IN MISSION

Name(s) _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Daytime Phone _____ Email _____
Church Name _____ Denomination _____

Confirmations will be sent electronically, if email is provided.

I would like Continuing Education Credits ☐ YES ☐ NO (One continuing education credit is available.)
☐ Please check here if you are traveling to Dubuque by plane and need transportation between your accommodations and the conference.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS - Please choose your top three Breakout Sessions:

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ "Enriching Worship and Music in Small Member Congregations" | ☐ "Cooperating Parishes" |
| ☐ "Going Deeper with the Speaker" | ☐ "Knowing Your Story and Its Worth: The Importance of Rootedness in Modern Rural Evangelism" |
| ☐ "Creative Innovation" | ☐ "Freeze Plays" |

REGISTRATION FEES

(Conference fees include **lunches** and **dinners**)

Early Bird fees: (due by February 3, 2018):
1st person - \$180, 2 people or more - \$160/person \$ _____

For group rates copy form, complete, and mail together.

Standard fees: (due by February 26, 2018):
1st person - \$195, 2 people or more - \$175/person \$ _____

Cancellations made after March 1, 2018 may receive only partial refunds.

Registration option for Monday Workshops only:
(includes worship, banquet, keynote), \$50/per person \$ _____

Please note: In order to emphasize the importance of informal discussion and fellowship during mealtimes, the cost of registration and meals has been combined.

SAVE \$50!

Subtract \$50 from total if you have been serving in a rural congregation for less than 5 years. \$ _____

Special meal needs: _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Method of payment: ☐ Check ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Cardholder Signature _____ Cardholder Address _____

Mail registration and payment to:

Center for Theology & Land
333 Wartburg Place
Dubuque, IA 52003

Please make checks payable to Center for Theology & Land
or register at www.wartburgseminary.edu
click on Calendar of Events

