Concurrent Sessions A: Friday, July 14, 10:30-11:45AM



A1 Who ARE those Guys? The (Not So) Minor Prophets (Offered Twice)
The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, Bible Study Leader
The twelve short books at the end of our Old Testament (commonly called the "Minor" Prophets) have indeed played a minor role in much Christian teaching and preaching. But these books have much to tell us that is particularly relevant to our current circumstances.



A2 Building the Kingdom of God through Public Policy
Sheila Herlihy Hennessee, Faith Organizer for Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy
The work of justice is hard to wrap our brains around (and for both individuals and our churches), but it is essential to building a society more like God envisions. Join VICPP Faith Organizer, Sheila Herlihy Hennessee, to talk about the difference between justice and charity, the importance of working together, and how you and your congregation can get involved!



A3 Oyster Shell Angels Craft
Maribeth Ocock, St. Mark, Yorktown
We will make two angels, one for you to keep and one to give away. all supplies provided! Using a Virginia Oyster shell as the body, a wooden bead as the head, Spanish moss as the hair, and two cotton boll husks as wings. Paint in your choice of sea water colors for a beautiful treasure to remind us of God's gifts of nature.



A4 Truth in Love: Conflict Management for Congregations through the Lens of God's Love
The Rev. Liz Radtke, Truth in Love Coordinator, Virginia Synod
We are all created in the image of God, and when we look at one another we are looking into the face of God. When we are in conflict with another person, it's sometimes hard to look at them and see the face of God. We can easily reduce another to a tag line, a position, or an opponent, and forget to see the image-bearer in front of us. In this workshop we will take the time to learn how to healthily navigate conflict while honoring God's presence in others.



A5 Growing Congregational Compassion
The Rev. Terrie Sternberg retired pastor and
The Rev. Libby Pfaff, Mission Developer in Radford
Spiritual, theological and medical responses and responsibilities for faith communities to create loving and safe environments for stigmatized persons struggling with addiction, mental illness and incarceration.



Concurrent Sessions B: Friday, July 14, 1:30-2:45 PM



B1 “And Strangers Now Are Friends”: Seeking and Evangelism
The Rev. Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore, Keynote Presenter
In the hymn, “I Come with Joy,” we sing, “The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.” We often describe our congregations and evangelism strategies with the words, “welcoming” and “inviting.” In this workshop, participants will consider the evangelism strategy of a “seeking” congregation. Come and learn specific practices of outreach that characterize the seeking congregation. See how Christian community looks different when we imagine all of us (both “we” members of a congregation and “they” who are outside it) seeking Jesus together.



B2 Who ARE those Guys? The (Not So) Minor Prophets (Offered Twice)
The Rev. Dr. Steven Tuell, Bible Study Leader
The twelve short books at the end of our Old Testament (commonly called the "Minor" Prophets) have indeed played a minor role in much Christian teaching and preaching. But these books have much to tell us that is particularly relevant to our current circumstance.



B3 Music in Today's Worship
Michael Benshish, Musician
This workshop will focus on musical stewardship in today's church and how that works hand-in-hand with our weekly worship services. "Training and equipping" has never been more diverse in practice, when the implementation of music in worship has the potential to include choirs as well as praise bands, handbell groups as well as rhythm sections, and solos that originate from oratorios to K-LOVE. The wonderfully multi-generational opportunities to serve are so clearly evident - so how do we get started in fulfilling our congregations' potential in this area? How do we "sing a new song" in today's church, and what can that sound like? And of course, how does this musical work of the people allow us to pray twice? All of this represents an exciting and very present opportunity to renew and enrich our music in worship.



B4 Lutheran Perspective on Christian Nationalism (Part 1)
The Rev. Jim Cobb, Retired Pastor, First, Norfolk
Will seek definition and history of this movement and how it’s entangled with evangelicalism and how it presents a threat to democracy and core values and how Lutherans can critique such a movement.



B5 Biblical Storytelling
Kathy Thompson and Judy Wilfong, Muhlenberg, Harrisonburg
Listen to stories and learn how you can become a Biblical Storyteller. Learn the methods used to tell stories by heart and how to use Biblical Storytelling in your own congregation.



Concurrent Sessions C: Friday, July 14, 3:15-4:30 PM



C1 Look at the History of Black Lutheranism
Sylvia Eley, St. Timothy, Norfolk
In the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the whitest denomination in the US (96% white), black Lutheranism is a little-known part if its history. The church's recognition of Black history should not be based on obligation but out of our love for humanity. Loving our fellow man includes learning about them. Just as Jesus loves us, we should love all of humanity. God wants us to value diversity. Black History is all our history. Come learn about Blacks who's sacrifices and faith helped shape Lutheranism and see how the past meets the present.



C2 Seeking and Finding in Short Story Literature
The Rev. Robert McCarty, Christ, Staunton
The arts, including literature, offer various reflections that affirm the Christian gospel message of hope for lost and wandering souls. Artists depict Biblical moments in the settings and clothing of their period to help make the meaning local. Writers can re-imagine the Biblical stories in new and inventive ways to expand the meaning and insight. This workshop will highlight examples from familiar secular authors. For those who wish to read ahead, we will discuss Oscar Wilde's "The Selfish Giant" and Leo Tolstoy's "Papa Panov's Christmas."



C3 What Do You Practice?
Maribeth Ocock, St. Mark, Yorktown
Joy . . Anger . . Worry . . Kindness . . Love . . Judgment. We will explore all the ways we can practice our life choices with more positivity ownership. A fun and low key workshop to help us all be very good with what we practice!!!



C4 Early Church in Virginia
Trenton Hizer, Christ, Richmond
We will be exploring Virginia's religious history from the founding at Jamestown in 1607 to the passage of the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom in 1786, looking at laws, citizens' petitions, and other documents to see how Virginians expressed their religious views and how those views may have changed over time. We will see how the concept of religious practice and freedom grew and adapted from the colony's earliest laws to George Mason's Declaration of Rights and Thomas Jefferson's statute.



C5 Lutheran Perspective on Christian Nationalism (Part 2)
The Rev. Jim Cobb, Retired Pastor, First, Norfolk
Will seek definition and history of this movement and how it's entangled with evangelicalism and how it presents a threat to democracy and core values and how Lutherans can critique such a movement.

Continuing Education Credits

Rostered Ministers who attend will receive 10 CEUs. If a certificate is needed you can contact Lenae Osmondson at osmondson@vasynod.org.