

Power in the Spirit Online, Summer 2021: “Advent in July!”

Sunday, July 11, through Thursday, July 15, 2021

Just as the Church spends each Advent season in hopeful waiting, this “Advent in July” we will examine our hopes as we emerge from the pandemic. A ministry of the Virginia Synod, Power in the Spirit is for everyone and anyone who wants to be part of a community that enjoys worship, learning, and fellowship. Join us!

Every morning, Sunday through Thursday, begins with an E-Devotional. Check your email for readings, brief videos, and guides for at-home arts and crafts. Study, learn, pray, and play on your own time. Join the rest of the group each evening on Zoom, ready to share what you’ve learned!

Presentations, Each Night!

Sunday, July 11, 6:15 PM to

- Keynote I: “Coaching: What Is It, Why Is It Helpful?”

As the VA Synod beings a coaching ministry, this session introduces a framework asking questions and defining successful change.

The Rev. Cathy Mims, First Lutheran, Norfolk; Coaching Coordinator for Coaching Ministry of the VA Synod

Monday, July 12, 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM (Choose One):

We gather at 6:15 for greetings and prayer, followed by presentations at 6:30.

- “Best Practices for Church Councils/Boards”

From identifying and selecting members with diverse experiences and perspectives to on-boarding them to managing the group dynamics and critical work of this leadership team, you’ll walk away from this workshop with valuable specific actions to incorporate into your church/synod council or board.

Beth Lewis, Getting2Transformation

(Beth Lewis will be Keynote Presenter next year at Power in the Spirit 2022—on campus at Roanoke College!)

- “Happy Birthday to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea!”

Today, July 12, marks the 135th “birthday” of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea. In this workshop, you will learn more about the people of PNG, about 20% of whom share our Lutheran faith. **Our special guest, Pastor Kinim Siloi of the ELCPNG, will join us live on Zoom!!**

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod

- “Galatians: Epistle of Freedom”

“For freedom Christ has set us free!” (Galatians 5:1). What is this freedom that a Christian enjoys, and how does Saint Paul explore this theme in his epistle to the Galatians? Attend this Bible Study to learn more!

The Rev. Dr. Paul Hinlicky, Tise Professor of Lutheran Studies Emeritus, Roanoke College

Tuesday, July 13, 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM (Choose One):

We gather at 6:15 for greetings and prayer, followed by presentations at 6:30.

- “Mending a Nation’s Broken Faith”

America is at a crossroads, dealing with a great political divide and racial injustice. How have we strayed so far from, and more importantly, how can we return to, God’s intended vision of beloved community? In this workshop, Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse draws from the insights of his new book *The World is About to Turn: Mending a Nation’s Broken Faith*, reminding us of what we have in common as people of faith. We will explore concrete ideas for moving forward into a new future with love, respect, and mutual understanding.

The Rev. Dr. Rick Rouse, ELCA Parish Consultant

(Rick Rouse will be Bible Study leader next year at Power in the Spirit 2022—on campus at Roanoke College!)

- “Lay Preaching Academy”

Explore this new ministry for all who are interested in learning more about what goes into a sermon, and how lay people may have opportunities to preach in the years ahead. We’ll even include some preaching exercises of our own!

The Rev. Colleen Montgomery, Director for Digital Ministries of the Virginia Synod & All Places Together

The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop, Virginia Synod

- “Do You Know Mary?”

“Mary, Did You Know?” is the repeated question asked of Mary the Mother of Jesus every Advent and Christmas season in song. This July, let’s change the question around to “Do you know Mary?” Join Pastor Anne Jones Martin to explore the ways Mary has been remembered throughout history and explore a Lutheran understanding of her.

The Rev. Anne Jones Martin, Christ Lutheran, Fredericksburg

Wednesday, July 14, 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM (Choose One):

We gather at 6:15 for greetings and prayer, followed by presentations at 6:30.

- “Isaiah and Advent in July”

“Advent in July” means there is a sense in which every day is Advent because every day offers its own juxtaposition of law and gospel; every day shows us the depth of sin in this world and every day shows us glimpses of the hope that is coming in the person of Jesus Christ. It follows for me, then, that if every day is Advent, then every day is made for Isaiah!

The Rev. Dr. Wes Smith, Zion, Waynesboro

- “Prayer”

Rooted in scriptural approaches to prayer, in this workshop you will learn several forms of prayer, including “The Five-Finger Prayer.” We’ll close our session with a centering prayer.

Edith Blake, Saint Andrew, Portsmouth

- “The Legend of General Pete: The Muhlenberg Family and the Founding of our Nation.”

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg is regarded as the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America. His oldest son, John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, a.k.a. General Pete, gained his fame on the territory of the Virginia Synod. We’ll tell his tale and review scholars’ thoughts on its veracity. We will also review the contributions of other Muhlenbergs to government, science, and more.

Dr. Bill Franz, Christ, Richmond.

Thursday, July 15, 6:15 PM to 7:30 PM:

- Keynote II: “Coaching with Grace”

How does coaching help us grow in faith and in accountability to God’s mission? When are we called to wait? When are we called to take action?

The Rev. Cathy Mims, First Lutheran, Norfolk; Coaching Coordinator for Coaching Ministry of the VA Synod

Every Evening, Sunday, through Thursday, we conclude our time together with Evening Prayer at 7:30 PM.

Join us as George Donovan, Director of Music for Bethel, Winchester, leads our evening prayer services! We’ll celebrate Advent in ways traditional and innovative—much as our congregations have done over the last year!

Support Our Partner Synod in Papua New Guinea! There is no fee to attend Power in the Spirit Online, but we do suggest a freewill offering to the Power in the Spirit Fund on the VA Synod Giving Page. 100% of what we collect will be used to support our partners in ministry in the New Guinea Islands District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea

Registration Opens June 10, 2021! Visit <https://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/> to register! Questions? Contact Pastor David Drebes, Power the Spirit Coordinator, at pastordrebes@gmail.com.