

**The 2016
Northern Illinois Synod
Congregational
Resourcing Event**

*We Make the Road by
Walking Together*

Saturday, March 12

Kishwaukee College, Malta



We Make the Road by Walking Together

As we walk together, our Lutheran Christian faith continually evolves, matures, and is strengthened in, with, and through our congregations and in community with other believers.

The Northern Illinois Synod will continue its journey of faith and service with the election of a new bishop at the June 2016 Synod Assembly. Bishop Gary & Polly Wollersheim will retire after faithfully serving the synod for three terms (18 yrs).

It has been a long time since we elected a new bishop in the NIS, so we have been reflecting on what it is to be a synodical bishop and what qualities we consider important in our next bishop. Keynote speaker, the Rev. Wayne Miller, Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, will help direct our reflections as we walk together to make this new road and seek ways to serve God and God's people through our congregations and communities.

Invite many people from your congregation to come share, gather information, grow, and learn together on March 12.



Keynote Presenter Workshop

- 1 View of the Office of Bishop from another of the 65 ELCA Synods**
The Rev. Wayne Miller, Bishop, Metropolitan Chicago Synod Bishop Wayne Miller has served eight plus years as the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, headquartered in Chicago. Bishop Miller will share what he has learned from his time as a Synodical Bishop and answer questions from those attending regarding both the joys and challenges of being the “Pastor to the Synod.”

Special Workshop

- 2 Reflections on the Northern Illinois Synod**
The Rev. Dr. Gary & Polly Wollersheim Bishop and Polly reflect on their service together in the Synod

Administration/Council/Treasurers

- 3 Congregation Constitutions for Dummies (not really)**
Denise Norman, John Engebretson, Pr. Pat Esker, and Daryl Stienstra, Synod Constitution Review Committee Is it time to update your congregation’s constitution? Constitutions are Missional documents that free the congregation to serve Christ fully and in good order. If your congregation has not updated its constitution since the Model Constitution for Congregations was updated at the 2013 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, there’s no time like the present! This workshop will walk congregational leaders through the process of congregation constitution review and be a guide to update your “road map for ministry.”
- 4 Rostered Leaders’ Salary Guidelines**
Pr. Tom Rogers, Jr. This workshop will be on the current Rostered Leaders Salary Guidelines. Following the presentation, with time allowing, there will be an open discussion to answer questions.
- 5 Treasurer’s Workshop Part 1 and Part 2**
Pr Kurt Nordby, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development and June Cain, Synod Bookkeeper As a new congregational treasurer or bookkeeper do you feel overwhelmed, stressed and maybe at loss over your congregation’s finances and church accounting? We hope to reduce some of your stress at Workshop Part 1 and Part 2 by providing information on financial resources available, review Congregational

Treasurers’ and Bookkeepers’ Financial and Accounting Guide through the ELCA, other relevant topics and allow for questions and answers. Resources for Congregational Treasurers will be distributed at this session.

Education

- 6 Emergency Preparedness for Churches and Congregations**
Joy Medrano, LSSI A discussion on what congregations can do to better prepare themselves for disaster, whether natural or man-made.
- 7 Growing in Faith through diakonia™**
Dr. Denise L. Rode, Pr. Doug Liston and NIS diakonia™ graduates & students Learn about the NIS diakonia™ program from its students, graduates, teaching pastors, and coordinators. The diakonia™ journey is offered at several locations across the synod. Find out more about this two-year course of study that can support your faith journey.

- 8 Mark It Up - Intro to Manuscript Bible Study**
Rev. Lucy Wynard, Open Arms Lutheran Church, Rockton Learn a great method for going deeper in bible study, both personally and with others. Manuscript study digs for the treasures in the text and invites you to question the story and discover God’s word for your community today.

Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality

- 9 Collaborating for Success**
The Rev. Dr. Denver Bitner, Assistant to the Bishop and President Emeritus of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois and Pr. Gary Erickson, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission In a world of shrinking budgets and worship attendance, how do we build new strategies for collaboration and success in parish ministry; or as a recent article in the Lutheran asked, how do we do more with less?

Global/Inter-Faith

- 10 Building Cross-Cultural Relationships**
Pr. Lucy Wynard and Pr. Daniel Wynard Having lived a combined 23 years outside the US, Dan and Lucy will share their experiences in building strong relationships with people of other cultures. From overcoming communication barriers to navigating confusion and conflict, their stories might help anyone wanting to grow in cross-cultural skills.

11 Global Mission Partner Updates & Planning Future Travels *Art Milton, Ron Gustafson, and Ron Henning* Hear about NIS activities with our Companions in the North Central Diocese in Arusha TZ and the Arcot Lutheran Church in Tamil Nadu, Southeast India. Find out about planning for upcoming visits to Companion Congregations.

12 My Muslim Neighbor *Rev. Brant Clements* A brief introduction to the Islamic faith and a discussion of how to foster good relationships with the Muslims in our community.

Leadership

13 Breaking the Cycle of Status Quo *Pr. Josh Ehrler, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Morris* Few questions are more important to congregational life than, “Why are we here?” During this session, we will practice the ‘SWOT’ and other techniques designed to break open communal imaginations. Participants will leave with confidence and a set of leadership tools they can take to their home churches to foster meaningful, lasting conversations about their mission.

14 The Sabbatical Journey: Tips for Pastors and Congregations *Pr. Tom Rogers, Jr., Redeemer, Woodstock* The sabbatical journey can be an amazing blessing for pastors and congregations. Learn about sabbatical guidelines, planning, grant writing, and congregational resources.

15 Loving God, Loving Neighbor: Using Appreciative Inquiry to Cast a Vision *The Rev. Dr. Janet Hunt, First Lutheran Church, DeKalb* Using Appreciative Inquiry, this workshop will offer a simple tool for helping congregations discern how the Holy Spirit has already been at work in their midst in order to begin to imagine where God is leading next.

16 Word & Service Roster: Bridging the Church and the World *Rev. Cherlyne Beck, ELCA Program Director, Support of Rostered Leaders & Schools* In 2016 the Churchwide Assembly will vote on a proposal to form a new roster of Word & Service. In this workshop we will talk about the history that lead to this proposal, the hopes surrounding this proposal and the practical steps of implementation, particularly for those on the present three lay rosters of Associates in Ministry, Deaconesses and Diaconal Ministers.

Social Justice

17 Welcoming the Stranger *Kim Snoddy, Staff RefugeeOne* Curious about starting a refugee ministry? Want to renew one? Have advice to share. Join the staff of RefugeeOne our local LIRS affiliate to learn how your congregation can help people fleeing war and persecution. Leave inspired to engage your church in this important work. This workshop is hosted by the Social Ministry Committee of NIS.

18 Pigs on Trees and Walking on Water *Carol Erickson, Chairperson World Hunger Subcommittee, Pr. Jeff Schlesinger and Becky Wright* Come hear about and see hands on ideas to build world hunger awareness. Join with the 9,000+ congregations of the ELCA to be part of the solution to food security on local, national, and global levels.

19 Start Seeing Refugees *Pr. Chuck Olson, Social Ministry Committee* NIS Refugees are everywhere - and invisible. Meet three individuals who immigrated to the United States, and now help refugees - for their experience and their answers to how we can now help.

Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness

20 Dwelling in the Word *The Rev. Dr. Janet Hunt, First, DeKalb* Practice and adopt a tested process for deep listening to God, one another, and your neighbor. Live into a Bible passage over time and see how it shapes your imagination and vision for God’s mission and your church. Learn what happens to persons and churches who practice this habit.

21 End of Life Documents and Funeral Planning *Rev. Vince Marolla, Beacon of Hope Hospice* Most of us do not like to think about facing the end of life. Chaplain Marolla will talk about the legal documents we need for healthcare at the end of life. He will also present information on planning your Christian funeral.

22 Everything You Are Dying to Know About Hospice *Rev. Vince Marolla, Beacon of Hope Hospice* Too often people look at hospice as “end of life” care for the final days or weeks of life. Hospice is so much more than that. It is care centered around the whole person -- body and soul -- for people with a life-limiting terminal illness. Rev. Marolla has been in hospice since 2000 and will talk about all aspects of hospice including services provided and payer sources.

23 Healthy Boundaries between Congregation and Pastor: What a Congregation Needs to Know *Pr. Jon Pedersen Bishop's Task Force on Healthy Boundaries* Healthy relationships between congregations and their leaders are essential for carrying out the mission of the church. An understanding of proper boundaries is a major part of their healthy relationships. What does a congregation need to know in order to maintain those proper boundaries?

24 Healthy Leaders/Healthy Congregations *Pr. Bob Hansen, Health & Wellness Subcommittee and Jennifer Prinz, Portico Benefits* Church leaders and pastors can perform ministry the best when healthy, spiritually lifted up and positively encouraged by their church family. Let's brainstorm ways that would be healthy for them and thus for our congregations. We will have encouraging ideas shared as we begin.

25 Stretch and Pray *Pr. Bob Hansen and members of the Health & Wellness Subcommittee* Take a break from sitting and join us as we stretch our prayer life. We will share space together where we can pray using our bodies in prayer postures. This popular and safe exercise will energize your prayers and your healthy body at the same time.

26 The Great Work: The Bible, the Climate, & The New Universe Story *Rev. Jim Roberts, ELCA pastor* The Great Work of our time is to understand how the Bible & our spirituality, the challenge of the climate disruption, and the New Universe Story of the Creation interconnect to create an empowering movement for our churches and communities.

27 Wherever You Are: A Spiritual Event *Rev. Twila Schock, Senior Pastor Christ Lutheran Church, Belvidere* Expand your imagination and enrich your prayer life while learning about the four spiritual paths: the path of the mystic, the mind, the heart, and the activist. Receive ready made resources and templates to share in your congregations.

Please copy this brochure and distribute widely!

For online registration, additional brochures, and updated workshop information, visit nisynod.org/cre or contact Nancy Corey at the Rock Island Synod Office: ncorey@nisynod.org or 309-794-4004.

Stewardship

28 First, We Give of Ourselves Tips and Ideas *Pr. Kurt Nordby, Assistant to the Bishop for Stewardship and Development* Are you using the First, We Give of Ourselves stewardship program or planning to in the next year? This workshop is a great opportunity to learn how congregations have used the program. Through conversation, we will discover tips and ideas in using the material.

Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry

29 Cross Generational Ministry *Rev. Katrina Gallagher, First Lutheran Church, Prophetstown and Amanda Schanze, Youth & Family Director* Every generation has a gift we need and every generation has a need we can gift. This workshop will help you find ways to embrace every generation in your congregation and plant seeds for thriving cross generational ministry in your context. We will discuss what we've learned, what we've done, what we've got planned, and how you all are already doing it in your own congregations.

30 Following the Lectionary with Children *Judy Washburn, Augsburg Fortress Customer Education Specialist* Would you like to build your education program around the life of Jesus and the early church? Are you interested in making strong connections to worship and the family? Join us for a 45 minute lively discussion where we review benefits and provide effective strategies for following the Revised Common Lectionary with children. Using curriculum samples from Whirl Lectionary and Spark Activate Faith Lectionary you will discover how following the seasons of the church year can help. • Present stories about Jesus and the early church throughout the entire school year • Integrate children into the worship experience with greater impact • And experience a multi-sensory learning approach that incorporate the sights, sounds, and symbolism that will delight students, teachers, clergy, and families.

31 Sharing our Best Practices in Youth Education *Michelle Heinrich Youth & Family Coordinator, Faith, Rochelle* Christian Educators and Youth Leaders are invited to share their best practices in their ministries of Sunday School, VBS, and Youth Groups. Come prepared to share which curriculums work best and/or the ones that don't! Other topics that could be discussed in the time allotted are mission trips and fundraisers.

Registration Deadline Feb. 25

\$20 per person (includes lunch) before February 25

\$25 per person (lunch may be provided if enough are available) after February 25

Register online at nisynod.org/cre or use the form below.

Registrations may be sent individually or as a group by the congregation.

Congregation	
City/Town	
Total number of participants	Amount enclosed \$

Participant's name	E-mail address	Preliminary workshop selections			
		For room assignment purposes only. You may attend any three workshops you wish.			
					Alternates

Childcare will be available, *with pre-registration only*, on site in the campus Childcare Center, *a separate building on the NE corner of campus*. Children will be with others in their age group and will be provided lunch and age-appropriate activities coupled with a lively and interactive schedule throughout the day. A free-will offering will be graciously accepted.

Child's name	Age	Parent's name	Allergies, medications, or other pertinent information

Fees

Registration with payment (Please make checks payable to *Northern Illinois Synod*) **on or before February 25 is \$20 per person and includes lunch.** Registration after February 25 is \$25 per person. Lunch may be provided, if enough are available.

Return this completed registration form and payment by February 25 to:

Nancy Corey, Registrar
 Northern Illinois Synod-ELCA
 Augustana College - Lutheran House
 639 38th St.
 Rock Island IL 61201-2296

Phone: 309-794-4004
 Fax: 309-794-2088
 E-mail: ncorey@nisynod.org

Invite everyone from your congregation to attend this year's CRE, **Saturday, March 12.**

In addition to workshops from the keynote speaker, MCS Bishop Wayne Miller, and NIS Bishop & Polly Wollersheim, other workshops feature topics including: Administration/Council/Treasurers, Education, Evangelism/Outreach/Hospitality, Inter-Faith, Leadership, Social Justice, Spirituality/Prayer/Health & Wellness, Stewardship, and Youth/Young Adult/Family Ministry.

Bring everyone from your congregation to attend different workshops. Then get together and learn from each other!

Session and room assignments will be based on how many people register for each workshop. This information and any updates will be posted at nisynod.org/cre by March 1.

Kishwaukee College is located at
21193 Malta Road, Malta, IL 60150
between DeKalb & Rochelle on IL Route 38.

Kishwaukee College is handicap accessible.

Schedule

8:30–9:10 am.....Registration & coffee
9:15–10:00 am.....Welcome/Worship
10:00–10:45 am.....Keynote Presentation
11:15–12:15 pmWorkshop Session a
12:15–1:00 pm.....Lunch
1:15–2:15 pm.....Workshop Session b
2:30–3:30 pm.....Workshop Session c



Please copy this brochure and distribute to members of your congregation.
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or contact Nancy Corey at the Rock Island Synod Office: ncorey@nisynod.org 309-794-4004.

Change Service Requested

www.nisynod.org

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Rockford IL 61101-1105

God's work. Our hands.

Northern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

