

Treasures Old and New: A Conference on Adult Faith Formation
October 20-22, 2020
Please note: All times are CDT.

Tuesday | An Invitation to Explore an Adult Faith Formation Process

1:00 – 2:15 pm **Treasures Old and New: Putting Vintage Wine into New Wineskins**

Drs. Kent Burreson and Rhoda Schuler will outline the shape and goals of the conference by familiarizing participants with the adult catechumenate model of the early church and by describing its relevance for our contemporary context based on their research at three diverse LCMS congregations. The session will conclude with a Q & A time for the participants.

2:15 – 2:45 pm **Break**

2:45 – 5:00 pm **Painting a Vision for Forming Lutheran Christians**

2:45 – 4:00 pm

In this panel discussion Pastors Dien Ashley Taylor, Timothy Droegemueller, and Scott Bruzek will each describe the development and structure of the adult faith formation process in their respective parishes and highlight its strengths. Drs. Burreson and Schuler will join in a dialogue with the three parish pastors to explore in greater detail the specific context of each congregation.

4:00 – 4:15 pm **Break**

4:15 – 5:00 pm

Participants will engage in a Q & A session with Pastors Bruzek, Droegemueller, and Taylor.

5:00 – 5:15 pm **Closing Prayer**

Evening Time to do the “homework” video-watching for Wednesday morning’s session.

Wednesday | An Invitation to Explore Catechumenal Rituals, Resources, and Catechetical Methods

9:30 am – Noon **The Transforming Power of Robust Ritual Practices**

9:30 – 10:30 am

Prior to this session, participants will watch videos of four rituals associated with the catechumenate from Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Bronx. During the first hour of this session Drs. Burreson and Taylor will discuss the Rite of Acceptance and Rite of Election through the lens of authentic ritual and embodied practices, unpacking ways in which these rituals impact not only the catechumens but congregational identity and ethos. This first hour will include time for Q & A with participants.

10:30 – 11:00 am **Break**

11:00 am - Noon

Drs. Burreson and Taylor will discuss Redeemer’s Holy Thursday liturgy (with foot washing) and Easter Vigil through the lens of authentic ritual and embodied practices, unpacking ways in which these rituals impact not only the catechumens but congregational identity and ethos. The discussion will conclude with time for Q & A with participants.

9/13/2020 8:39 PM

<https://forminglutherans.org/>

Wednesday –continued

Noon – 2:00 pm

Lunch!

2:00-3:00 pm

Resources, Ancient and Modern, for the Catechumenate

Pastor Danny Eggold will lead this “literature review” session to introduce participants to key resources on the catechumenate, including readings from the Church Fathers and contemporary authors, worship resources, handbooks for the catechumenate, and catechetical materials. A fuller bibliography will be available to participants as well.

3:15-3:30 pm

Break

3:30-5:45 pm **Forming Lutheran Christians through Catechesis**

3:30-4:30

Our trinity of parish pastors will return for another panel discussion focusing on the teaching and faith formation aspect of their catechumenal model.

4:30-5:00

Break

Participants are encouraged to submit questions for the panelists and then get a beverage and snack.

5:00-5:45

Drs. Burreson and Schuler will moderate a discussion based on questions submitted during the break by participants.

5:45 Closing Prayer

Thursday | Exploring Practical Issues to Introduce and Build an Adult Faith Formation Process

9:30-10:30

Break-out session I

10:30-10:45

Transition to next breakout session

10:45-11:45

Break-out session II

Noon-1:30

Lunch

1:30-2:45

Congregational Transformation through Adult Faith Formation

Drawing on their research and dialogue with the parish pastors, Drs. Kent Burreson and Rhoda Schuler will explore how a robust catechumenate has impacted the life and missional identity of the congregations they studied and has prepared the laity to live the Christian life during a pandemic. They will propose ways in which an adult catechumenate could foster a habitus of hospitality in congregational life in the aftermath of the current pandemic.

Thursday Morning Break Out Sessions

1. **“Lay Involvement in the Catechumenal Process”** led by Rev. Timothy Droegemueller
As Martin Luther said, “I never did a thing; God’s Word did everything.” By using the one-year lectionary and structuring your Catechumenate around God’s Word, the necessary truth and salvation of Christ can flow into the lives of participants and also lead lay people to excel in the use of their gifts. Learn how to setup the logistics of a proficient catechumenate by involving a catechist, sponsors, and an adult catechumenate director.
2. **“How Hospitality Builds Community”** led by Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek
We live in a world where most folks feel alone and unloved. Our recent troubles – political, racial, economic, cultural, and pandemic – have left many feeling even more shattered. But why would anybody imagine that the Church has a solution that satisfies body, mind, and spirit? Hospitality is an on-ramp to the Community which has the Christological gifts to heal.
3. **“Rich Ritual”** led by Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor
Do we do things just to do things or does doing things actually do things? This breakout session focuses on the use and power of ritual in the Catechumenate in the service of the Word and Sacraments.
4. **“Lessons on Implementation”** led by Pastors Danny Eggold, and Kevin Loughran
Drs. Bureson and Schuler mentored these pastors, the “runners-up” from our list of congregations willing to partner with our first Vital Worship grant. We listened as they described their nascent attempts to develop a stronger adult formation model, made suggestions to build it up further, and invited them to interact with the pastors of the “model” congregations at a Capstone Event in June 2019. This session might be a good choice for those who want to introduce the concept to a congregation.
5. **“Re-Thinking the Study of Scripture for the Adult Catechumenate”** led by Dr. Rhoda Schuler
With all the zeal of a recent convert to this discussion-based method of Scripture study, Dr. Schuler will challenge the time-honored practice of proof-texting as the primary way in which we seek to engage laity with the Word of God.
6. **“A Brave, New Life: Baptismal Identity for Mission”** led by Dr. Kent Bureson
One participant said, “It changed my very life.” To what did he refer? The process of becoming a Christian. That process leading to and from baptism creates a new identity, including a missional identity. We’ll reflect on this brave, new life for the new Christian lived in missional service to God’s good creation.
7. **“Life in Christ: Christian Formation through Narrative Preaching”** led by Rev. Dr. Adam Filipek
When the Church speaks of “Christian formation,” we tend to speak of a classroom setting: Sunday School, Confirmation class, Adult instruction, and Bible Study. But for the early Church catechumenate, preaching and the liturgy were central to catechesis. Dr. Filipek will discuss how narrative preaching can be used not only to recover the Biblical narrative in an ever increasingly biblically illiterate world, but to form Christians to live their lives in Christ, here in time: weekly in the Divine Service, and daily in their respective vocations, and there again in eternity.
8. **The Liturgical and Catechetical Setting of the Gospel of Luke** led by Rev. Dr. Arthur Just
Luke’s Gospel is a book of the church, written for the church, to be used by the church in teaching and preaching the Gospel. The community that receives Luke’s Gospel is a liturgical, catechetical and eucharistic body. It is already engaged in a process of making Christians based on Jesus’s three-year catechumenate of his twelve disciples, and Luke’s Gospel is the basis for the catechesis of the unbaptized. In his prologue Luke himself describes the purpose of his Gospel as catechetical and kerygmatic (Lk 1:4) where certainty in the catechesis comes in the breaking of the bread (Lk 24:31).
9. **Panel Conversation with the trinity of leaders, Pastors Taylor, Bruzek, and Droegemueller**
This break-out session with no set agenda will be an open conversation with the trinity of pastoral presenters. Come with questions and be prepared to be challenged. (Unless #1, 2, & 3 are very popular; then we would offer those twice and this session would not be offered.)