

Proposed Agenda

Friday, May 5, 2006		Saturday, May 6, 2006	
8:15 AM	Registration opens – North Lobby Augsburg Fortress Store & Displays – Auditorium	8:30 AM	Registration – North Lobby Augsburg Fortress Store & Displays – Auditorium
9:00	Opening Worship – Presentation Hall – Bishop Usgaard preaching	9:00	Service of Morning Prayer with Remembrance of Baptism – Exhibit Hall
10:30	1 st Plenary – Exhibit Hall <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening of an Assembly • Report of the Credentials Committee • Adopt Agenda & Rules • Introduction of Special Guests • Treasurer's Report • Presentation of 2005 Audit • Adoption of the 2005 Audit • Presentation of 2007 Proposed Budget • Recognition of pastors and associates in ministry retiring 	9:30	The Bible and Lutheran Worship – Rev. Michael Burk
11:15	Bible Study Session I – Rev. Craig Koester, Luther Seminary	10:00	3 rd Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Credentials Committee • Elections • Report of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Bishop • Adoption of 2007 Budget • Recognition of 50, 55, 60 & 65th Anniversary of Ordination • Reports of the Bishop – ELCA • Report of Reference & Counsel
12:15 PM	Lunch	12:15 PM	Buffet Lunch – Auditorium
1:30	2 nd Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of the Credentials Committee • Recognition of 25th Anniversary of Ordination • Report of Nominating Committee • Report of Reference & Counsel 	1:45	4 th Plenary <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Credentials Committee • Report of Elections Committee • Report of Reference & Counsel
2:15	Bible Study Session II – Rev. Craig Koester	2:00	Bible Study Session III – Rev. Craig Koester
3:00	Recognition of 40 th Anniversary of Ordination Deadline for Resolutions	2:45	4 th Plenary continues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report of Reference & Counsel
3:20	Break	3:30	• Closing of the Assembly
3:45 – 4:30	Bible studies – Session 1		
5:00 – 5:45	Bible studies – Session 2		
6:00	Buffet dinner & entertainment – Auditorium Deadline for Nominations Deadline for Budget changes		



Bible Study Session 1 – 3:45 – 4:30 PM Friday

- **Ruth - "Love is a Choice"**

"Where you go, I will go. Where you lodge, I will lodge." Those verses from Ruth are often read at weddings. When they were first spoken they were a pledge from a woman to her mother-in-law, not to her husband. What binds us together in family, in community, and in faith?

Rev. Kristen Schlauderaff (St Paul, Redwing)

Location – Ballroom West

- **Galatians – "Freed for Service"**

We are freed from the power of sin and the law to serve our living Lord.

Rev. Kathleen Lowery (Stordahl, Zumbrota)

Location – Legion North

- **2 Timothy - "Dear Timothy, I Hear You Are Discouraged"**

This study will focus on an unusual book of the Bible, a personal letter to the young pastor, Timothy. In this letter we can see how Paul encourages a person who is fighting many battles in the ministry. This gives hope to anyone engaged in ministry conflict today.

Rev. Glenn Monson (Our Savior's, Austin)

Location – Ballroom East

- **Amos - "Just a Member of the Laity"**

At the height of national prosperity Amos, a layperson, could no longer remain silent as he witnessed the gross inequalities between the increasing number of wealthy elite and those crowded off their ancestral farms and plunged into poverty. We shall witness a farmer and tender of fruit trees confront a nation unaware it was on the road to disaster. When ordered by the priest at the national shrine to stop prophesying, Amos responded "I am not a prophet, but a layperson."

Rev. Dick Rehfeldt (Retired)

Location – McDonnell North

- **Matthew 20:1-16 - "Parable of the Vineyard"**

In this study we will take a look at what has been considered one of the most mind-boggling and misunderstood of Jesus' parables. We will explore the economic conditions and practices of small rural villages in Galilee at the time of Jesus that are reflected in this parable, as well as the literary skill of Jesus as a parable teller. He enticed the listeners into the tale, so that they became emotionally involved in and committed to this story. In the same way, Jesus pushes every listener or reader of this parable, including you and I, into a response. The nature of the response reveals a great deal about our own hearts.

Rev. Jim Radatz (Greenfield, Harmony)

Location – Mayo South



- **John 2:13-22 "Praying Through the Text Using Ignatian Prayer"**

We will walk with God through biblical stories and prayer; in particular this story of Jesus cleaning of the temple as told by John.

Rev. Peter Reuss (Peace, Eyota)
Location – Elliott North

- **Ps. 120-134 – "The Songs of Ascent"**

The psalms are always worth knowing better, but with a hundred and fifty to choose from, where do you begin? Our session will help us feel at home with one collection from within the Psalms, called the Songs of Ascent. These were the "pilgrimage" songs that Israel would sing together as they traveled from every point of the compass to worship together in Jerusalem. We too, will hear our journeys sung in these fifteen songs that encourage faith in every season of our lives.

Rev. Eric Finsand (Chatfield, Chatfield)
Location – Mayo North

- **1 Corinthians 12 - "What does it mean to be a diverse church?"**

In this Bible study, we will be looking at the Biblical concept of spiritual gifts in relationship to a church that is focusing on diversity. What does it mean to be a diverse church? Possibly, it could have something to do with spiritual gifts. Let's talk about it.

Rev. Mark Wendland (First, Glenville)
Location – Legion South

- **Acts 2:1-21 "Guided by the Spirit"**

In this bible study we will take a closer look at the Holy Spirit as it appeared at the Pentecost. We will examine the calling and gifts it brings to us. We will also compare this text with the initial Pentecost in the book of Exodus. Together we will attempt to discern how the Holy Spirit moves and pushes us in our lives.

Rev. Joanna Mitchell (Our Savior's, Faribault)
Location – McDonnell South

- **"Theology of the Land"**

What does the Bible tell us about land and its use? What is this 'Jubilee Year' Stuff? Does God's ministry work through the Land? How does the biblical understanding apply to some of today's farming methods? We will try to answer these questions and more.

Rev. Lane Zaffke (Cross of Christ, Houston)
Location – Elliott South



Bible Study Session 2 – 5:00 – 5:45 PM Friday

- **Luke 10:25-37 - "With Whom do You Identify?"**

The Parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the most beloved of all of Jesus' Parables. In this study, we will look at the parable from the point of view of every character in the parable and try to determine with whom do we identify? Do we find ourselves lying in the ditch, walking by, stopping to help, or welcoming a hurt person into our midst?

Rev. Dan Doering (Grace, Waseca)
Location – McDonnell North

- **1 Corinthians 12 - "Discerning God's Gifts"**

This study will look at 1 Corinthians 12 and the Apostle Paul's teaching on our God given gifts. We will look at the source of our gifts and abilities, the variety of gifts and the purpose behind these gifts. Each person will be asked to think about their own gifts and the ways God calls them to use them.

Rev. Louise E. Stromberg (Cross of Christ, Houston)
Location – Ballroom East

- **1 Corinthians 4:1-2 "We Say Yes - to What?"**

Augsburg Fortress uses 1 Corinthians 4.1-2 as the foundational scripture for its "We Say Yes" Stewardship Resources, yet doesn't provide a Bible study on the passage. Come and see how understanding four key words in these verses can unlock a world of meaning for stewardship today.

Rev. Scott Olson (Central, Winona)
Location – Legion South

- **Psalm 121: "God in the Midst of Busy, Daily Living"**

Funerals and hospital rooms - that's where we often hear Psalm 121.

Certainly these words bring comfort and hope to those in distress, yet these words also proclaim a powerful message in the midst of our busy, everyday lives. As we race about, coming and going here and there, Psalm 121 invites us to reorient our lives as we strive to live with our eyes focused on God. Come take a new look at this old, familiar psalm.

Rev. Karen Behling (Our Savior's, Austin)
Location – Mayo South

- **Luke 15 "Finding the Lost"**

In the parables of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin, and the lost sons, Jesus redefines Old Testament Metaphors for God (Based on the work of Kenneth Bailey).

Rev. Mary Waudby (Garness Trinity & Scheie, Mabel)
Location – Elliott North

- **Luke 15:11-32 "The Prodigal Son"**

This is a story of a prodigal father, a restless son and a sour home-body/ or a waster, a wait-er and a grouch/ or a giver, a grabber and a grump.

Rev. Dave Hernes (East Freeborn, Albert Lea)
Location – Elliott South



- **Acts – “Expanding Our Mission”**
When Jesus ascended into heaven, Peter and the other disciples concentrated their efforts on bringing Jews to faith in Jesus. The Book of Acts describes the conflict that occurred as the early church expanded its mission to include Gentiles. What would be the requirements for these outsiders (Gentiles) regarding circumcision and table fellowship? What can we learn from Acts that will help 21st Century churches expand their vision and mission to include “outsiders?”

Rev. Paul Meierding, Ph.D. (Bethlehem, Mankato)
Location – McDonnell South

- **“Looking at Covenants with Missional Eyes”**
Get a new look at covenants by looking through the evangelizing lens of mission. In a new book from Augsburg Fortress, *The Evangelizing Church: A Lutheran Contribution*, one of the authors, Kelly Fryer sums up the missional lens in the words: “Now it must be said, of course, that Jesus is at the center of this mission to save the world. But from the very beginning, the gospel story has been about a world full of people who insist on going their own way and a God who relentlessly pursues them.”

Rev. Joel Xavier (Community, Geneva)
Location – Mayo North

- **Jonah - "Get a (Whale) Belly Laugh from Jonah"**

Do you think that God has a sense of humor? Because we are thousands of years from the date of the writing of the Bible, we often miss the subtleties of the text. Jonah is ripe with irony and humor. Enjoy the story--while learning something of God's great love for all people.

Rev. Norm Wahl (Bethel, Rochester)
Location – Ballroom West

- **Exodus 3:1-4:17, 27-31 - “Excuses, Excuses: When God Called Moses”**
When God called Moses to go back to Egypt and confront Pharaoh, Moses was full of excuses.
We also find excuses to say "No!" to God. God did not give up on Moses, but empowered him.
God will empower us to do what needs to be done, much to our amazement.

Rev. Tom Kolden (LeRoy, LeRoy)
Location – Legion North

