



**SOUTHWESTERN
PENNSYLVANIA
SYNOD** EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

MONTHLY MINISTERIUM

Wednesday, January 3, 2024

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN 2024

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“Community is much more than **belonging to something**; it’s about doing something **together** that **makes belonging matter.**” -Brian Solis

At the Bayer Center for Nonprofit Management at Robert Morris University’s Rockwell School of Business, we build a stronger community by helping to build stronger, more knowledgeable nonprofits. We incorporate collaboration, patience, and decades of knowledge and past successes into our educational programming for the dedicated folks who work to bring justice, opportunity, and hope to our region.

Our 2024 spring catalog is full of online (and a few in-person!) sessions in nonprofit finance, fundraising, board governance, human resources, marketing, and more. We hope you will take a class, learn something new, and make new friends while you’re at it! Peruse the catalog at rmu.edu/about/bcnm/classes. Questions? Email <mailto:bcnm@rmu.edu> or call 412-397-6000.



LUTHER SEMINARY

Get equipped for the future of ministry.

God is leading us into new ways of being church. [Are you ready to join in?](#)

Faith+Lead hosts both live and asynchronous online learning options. Here are some to consider as you plan your continuing education for 2024:

Interested in clergy coaching?

Experience the life-changing gift of [coaching](#): a conversation partner who can hold sacred space, listen well, and reflect back to you your own wisdom.

Train to become a coach! Faith+Lead offers learning cohorts for those just beginning their coaching practice or those with experience ready to take it to the next level:

[Segment 1 Basic Skills](#) (cohorts forming in January, March, and July)

[Segment 2 Coaching](#) (cohorts beginning in March and September)

Develop leadership skills for your context.

[Faithful Innovation Learning Community](#) training in April

Create your own personalized retreat.

On your own or in a group, at a location of your choosing, learn with an on-demand course:

<https://faithlead.org/academy/all-courses/>



Festival of HOMILETICS

May 13–16, 2024 | Pittsburgh

Get Early Bird rates through February 15, 2024

festivalofhomiletics.com

Sustaining and Nurturing the Preaching Life

We have been through it, preachers. We have adapted and pivoted and survived. We have proclaimed the Gospel faithfully and preached God's hope passionately. But now is the time for some serious self-care. We have heard from you and from preachers around the world that what preachers need now is help in sustaining and nurturing the preaching life.

The 2024 Festival of Homiletics is an invitation to lean into a little self-love. Together, we will relearn ways to care for the craft of preaching and discover new habits to support the preaching life. We will listen to uplifting sermons and experience inspiring worship, but we will also have time for reflection and renewal and remembering – to recall once again the why for what we do.

The hope for this year's Festival is that you take home practices that will support you in the days to come and that you leave nourished in your proclamation of the Gospel.

Come renew, refresh, and recharge your spirit!





United Lutheran Seminary

Kindling Faith

Center for Sabbath Rest and Formation

Kindling Faith has amazing programming as we begin 2024 together!

- For Congregational Councils seeking to learn more about this vital ministry of the church—a new six-part zoom series kicks off on January 8th at 7 pm (meeting on the second Monday of each month through June).
- For church leaders who want to get better at living through the anxious moments (Pastoral Care online series with Dr. Beth Toler, January 8 & 11.)
- For those who wish to understand more about the challenges Black Americans face from day to day (Kindling Faith with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission presents the short film “Burden” on January 10th at 7 pm. Free online event for rostered and lay people.)
- For those seeking spiritual formation throughout the 2024 in an easily accessible online interface. (Breathing in Christ with Deacon Marsha Roscoe.)
- For Rostered and lay leaders seeking to grow justice advocacy and ministry in their congregation, the “Pillars of Sacred Justice Lenten Series” starts on February 15th.
- “Leading from the Second Chair” is a special in-person program for Associate Deans and Pastors serving in corporate-sized congregations. February 26-27 on the Gettysburg Campus.



- A special one day event for lay and rostered leaders who feel weary from wandering in the wilderness—“Fostering Spiritual Resilience” will be held on the Gettysburg campus and online February 29th. Part of the Small but Mighty Church series.
- Synod-authorized training programs are available in March and April. We are offering in-person training on both the Philadelphia and Gettysburg campuses in March. Online trainings will be available in April. Anti-racism, LGBTQIA2S+ Competency, and Boundary concepts are the topics.
- The Nolde Lecture series welcomes author Anthony Ray Hinton to the Philadelphia campus on Monday, March 18th at 7 pm for a free lecture about his experience of living on death row for thirty years. The event will also be livestreamed and his book *And the Sun Does Shine* will be available for purchase and signing.
- For Women in Ministry to be Affirmed and Celebrated: Calm in the Chaos 2.0 with Dr. Crystal Hall April 4-6 at Gettysburg.
- “Rediscovering Hope” with Nancy Nyland will take place on April 11th at the Gettysburg campus and online. Nyland has taught the ELCA’s congregational vitalization workshops for several years. This workshop will focus on reclaiming our hope in Jesus Christ and how this shapes our evangelism and outreach; part of the “Small but Mighty Church Series.”
- Spring Convocation on the Gettysburg Campus will take place April 24th. The theme is “Theodicy” and will feature Dr. Natalia Marandiuc and New York Times bestselling author Dr. Kate Bowler.

unitedlutheranseminary.edu/calendar



July 29-August 1, 2024

CALLED TOGETHER

A retreat for Married Couples in Professional Ministry

GROW STRONGER IN MARRIAGE AND MINISTRY.

Called Together is a four day retreat for couples in any stage of professional ministry. The event focuses on these tenets:

- *Relationships*: Strengthen your partnership as a couple; develop friendships with other couples who get the unique challenges and blessings of being called together.
- *Renewal*: Enjoy the gift of letting others plan opportunities for your spiritual renewal. Take time for Sabbath in a beautiful corner of God's creation.
- *Resources*: Participate in continuing education. Leave better equipped for ministry by gaining tools from our leaders as well as the community of ministry couples.

BRING YOUR FAMILY!

During retreat activities for adults, children of all ages will enjoy a program designed especially for them. Enjoy opportunities for recreation and renewal as a family, as well as time to be among other adults while the kids participate in their own activities.

QUESTIONS?

Email Colleen Earp at colleen@massanettasprings.org



N O N P R O F I T
STORYTELLING
C O N F E R E N C E

Learn How to Connect and Communicate Better with Donors

NOVEMBER 11-13, 2024

HYATT REGENCY TAMAYA RESORT AND SPA | SANTA ANA PUEBLO, NEW MEXICO

The Nonprofit Storytelling Conference helps fundraisers raise more money by telling better stories. Because when you tell the right story, to the right donor, at the right time -- your donor will respond with their most generous gift.

At the Nonprofit Storytelling Conference, you'll be surrounded by your peers. You'll learn from the best storytellers and fundraisers in the industry. And you'll leave with so much more than a notebook full of ideas. You'll leave having rock-solid fundraising materials written -- some people even raise money AT THE CONFERENCE!

Want fundraising help immediately? The Nonprofit Storytelling Conference's weekly e-learning series is called *Tactical Thursdays*. It's FREE and it's awesome. Every Thursday the industry's best fundraisers will open up their bag of tricks and help YOU raise more money. In about 10 minutes, you'll learn tactics that will help you tell better stories and motivate your donors to give.

nonprofitstorytellingconference.com



PRC – Practical Resources for Churches

consultants-webinars-workshops-

resources

631-821-2255 631-486-4350

www.prcli.org

The Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod is a member of PRC - Practical Resources for Churches

What does this mean to you?

Every congregation member in the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod may reach out to the PRC staff for help!

PRC's mission was and is to provide faith communities time-effective, cost-efficient, and results-oriented programs and services to help your congregation fulfill your mission and ministry.

PRC operates primarily on the internet and by phone, so its resources are equally accessible to all congregations, no matter their location.

What services does PRC provide?

Explore the [PRC Online Resource Center](#).
Sign up Christian Education office hours [Calendly](#),
or reach out to elizabeth@prcli.org
Join a [Cohort group](#)
Register for a [webinar](#)

Timely resources are regularly shared. Click to follow and join!

[PRC - Practical Resources for Churches](#)
[Cultivate Faith with PRC](#) Facebook page
[Cultivate Faith with PRC](#) YouTube

Want to get started? PRC is just an email or phone call away.

Call us at the 631 486 4350 or 631 821
Or email charlaine@prcli.org with your questions and she will forward it to someone who can help you.

PRC's motto is - Everyone Has a Calling – Ours Is Helping You!

Have more questions about PRC
Contact; Deacon Elizabeth Caywood
Resource Specialist
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SWPA Synod Coaching Coordinator
o: 412-367-8222
c: 412-398-0200
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Current list of FREE webinars for 2024 January - June

[From Pew to Pulpit: Preaching Your First Sermon](#)

Tuesday, January 16, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leader - Rev. Fred Weidmann

[GENERatiONs Together with GenOn](#)

Thursday, January 18, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leaders - Betsy Dishman, Liz Perraud

Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

[Tuesday, January 23, 2024](#)

2:00 - 3:30 PM EST

Leader - Patti Berner

[Out of the Pew and Into the Community](#)

7:00 - 8:00 PM EST

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Leaders - Joy Skjegstad, Heidi Unruh

[Practical Practices for Faith in Families](#)

Tuesday, January 30, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leaders - Elizabeth Christie, Johannah Myers

[The Crisis of Loneliness and What the Church Can Do](#)

2:00 - 3:00 pm EST

Thursday, February 1, 2024

Leaders - Joy Skjegstad, Heidi Unruh

[Helping Newcomers Connect](#)

2:00 - 3:00 pm EST

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Leaders - Joy Skjegstad, Heidi Unruh

Anti-Harassment & Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

[Tuesday, February 13, 2024](#)

7: 00 - 8:30 PM EST

Leader - Patti Berner

[Talking With Kids About Injustices](#)

Thursday, February 22, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Sara Pantazes

[Well Done: A Good and Faithful Path to Church Closure](#)

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Charlie Kuchenbrod

Does your church's culture impede creativity and change?

Thursday, February 29, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM

Leader - Meghan Hatcher

Anti-Harassment & Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EST

Leader - Patti Berner

Leading Faithful Innovation

Thursday, March 7, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leader - Dwight Zscheile

Sexual Misconduct and Harassment Prevention Training

Thursday, March 14, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Leader - Patti Berner

Anti-Harassment & Sexual Harassment Prevention Training

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

2:00 - 3:30 PM EDT

Leader - Patti Berner

Managing Investments and Endowments for Churches

Thursday, April 18, 2024

2:00 - 3:00 PM EDT

Leader - Charlie Kuchenbrod

How to Create Transformative Ministries Through Theological Innovation Workshop

Thursday, May 9, 2024

2:00 - 3:15 PM EDT

Leader - Meghan Hatcher

COHORT GROUPS RUN FROM JANUARY TO JUNE AND JULY THROUGH DECEMBER

TEACHER TRAINING COHORT

Quality teacher training for future leaders in children's ministries

OUR TEACHER TRAINING COHORT INCLUDES:

Monthly 90 minute sessions to equip teachers for today's children's ministries

Meet on Zoom on the first Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 pm eastern

Access to recordings of sessions

Time for questions and troubleshooting

Access to Office Hours for one-on-one questions

Two sessions per year: January to June and July to December, but participants can join at any time

[Teacher Training – Individual- Member Judicatory - \\$70](#)

[Teacher Training – Team – Member Judicatory - \\$125](#)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COHORT

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES COHORT INCLUDES

Monthly meetings to discuss important matters in the field and to provide support and solutions to questions and concerns in your ministry

Meet second Wednesday of each month (1-2:30 pm eastern) or second Thursday of each month (7-8:30 pm).

Access to recordings of sessions and notes from the session

Access to Office Hours for one-on-one questions

Two sessions per year: January to June and July to December, but participants can join at any time

[\\$125 for a Children's Ministry Team from a Member Judicatory](#)

[\\$70 for a single person Children's Ministry Individual Membership from a Member Judicatory](#)

OFFICE HOURS FOR PRC MEMBERS, INCLUDING CONGREGATIONS WHO BELONG TO A MEMBER JUDICATORY

Individual sessions with children's ministries consultants
Providing individualized support and solutions for concerns in your context

Half hours sessions on the second Monday of the month (7-8 pm eastern) or

Second Friday of the month (1-2 pm eastern)

Schedule through [Calendly](#)

Email Elizabeth@prcli.org

PRC has compiled a Sunday School lectionary curriculum that is emailed at the beginning of each month. To receive a sample email

Debbie@prcli.org.

Reclaiming Discipleship

2024 Albright-Deering Lecture and Conference

In Person and Online

Feb. 23, 2024



This year's Albright-Deering events are sure to energize your imagination around youth and young adults in our congregations, communities, and neighborhoods.

For more than 25 years, the Rev. Dr. Frederick Edie and the Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount have been thinking together about faith formation of young people. Their respective areas of expertise will come together in this day-long event to consider how to reclaim a sense of discipleship in our faith traditions.

Free and open to the public!

SPEAKERS



The Rev. Dr. Frederick Edie is associate professor of the practice of Christian education at Duke Divinity School. He is the author of *Book, Bath, Table and Time: Christian Worship as Source and Resource for Youth Ministry*.



The Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount is the Murray H. Leiffer Associate Professor of Formation, Leadership and Culture and director of the Church and the Black Experience at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. He is co-author of *Let Your Light Shine: Mobilizing for Justice with Children and Youth*.

Worship Service	10:00 a.m.	
Lecture	11:00 a.m.	The Rev. Dr. Frederick Edie; <i>Corporate Worship, Means of Grace, and the Faith Formation of Youth</i>
Lunch	12:15 p.m.	(Complimentary, register by Feb. 13 to attend)
Lecture	1:30 p.m.	The Rev. Dr. Reginald Blount; <i>Social Impact and Social Witness as Acts of Discipleship</i>
Panel	3:00 p.m.	Reflections, Feedback, and Closing Thoughts

REGISTER: www.pts.edu/ALBRIGHT-DEERING-2324

Questions: ConEd@pts.edu or 412-924-1346



BISHOP BILL GOHL'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

Valparaiso University Institute of Liturgical Studies
valpo.edu/institute-of-liturgical-studies

Mini-MBA:

Augsburg University: augsborg.edu/cace/continuing-education-courses

Luther Seminary: luthersem.edu/academics/continuing-ed

California Lutheran University callutheran.edu/cpe

Pacific Lutheran University: plu.edu/continuing-education

Wartburg Theological Seminary Online Continuing Education
wartburgseminary.edu/ministry-resources

Chautauqua Institution, NY
chq.org

Kirkridge Retreat and Study Center, PA
kirkridge.org

Kanuga: Conference, Retreat and Camp Center, NC
kanuga.org

Trinity Church Wall Street: Leadership Fellows
trinitywallstreet.org/grants-partners/leadership-development/trinity-leadership-fellows