

# Everyday Evangelists

## Deepen your faith. Share your story

Keynote Speaker: Peggy Hahn, Executive Director, LEAD, Gulf Coast Synod, ELCA

Date: Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: First Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, IA

**Conference at a Glance:** We are “Called Together in Mission”! Each of us is an everyday evangelist called by God to boldly live out our faith and share Jesus’ love. This year, CTIM welcomes Peggy Hahn, Executive Director of LEAD: Living every day as disciples, Gulf Coast Synod. Peggy will inspire, share ideas and provide resources that will expand your thinking and deepen your spiritual life. This is an event for everyone in your congregation including your entire evangelism team and council.

*This year’s Workshops include:*

**Sharing Faith Through Art** – Have you ever been stopped in your tracks by a painting or stained glass window that caught your eye? Cyndee Buck, a leader of Artistic Expression for the 2015 Detroit Youth Gathering, will teach us the potential impact of artwork that visually reflects the emotion of the crucifixion and visually shares the meaning of God's Words from the Bible. You will learn how to engage people’s hearts, build community, and reach out to people through Christian art.

**Websites Open Doors** – Did you know your website is the new front door of your church? It’s true! What does your “front door” communicate about your faith community? Minda Davison studied communications and religion at Wartburg College and has fused the two for us as our synod’s Director for Communications. Minda will teach you the few things every well-designed church website must have and how a good communication plan can work to reach people for Christ.

**Unbinding the Gospel** – Martha Grace Reece’s best-seller “Unbinding the Gospel” has helped transform many congregations in our area from a group of people who cringe when we hear the “E” word (*evangelism*), to a community of faith who is hopeful, powerful, prayerful, and joy-filled when it comes to sharing their faith. Gloria Dovre will help facilitate a conversation among church members like you who have been through this study and similar successful studies to learn from one another.

**The Power of Listening** – Clark Olson-Smith recently launched a “listening campaign” at All Saints in Davenport where he serves as a pastor-reveloper. A team of eight church members trained in deep listening, are heading beyond their doors this spring with the goal of deepening relationships, strengthening community, and expanding their ministry in their neighborhoods. Learn how you can seek renewal of faith, relationship, and community connection through the ELCA redevelopment process.

**Bringing Social Change** – What can you do when you encounter an unjust law or practice in your community? What if you want to reclaim the area around your church as a “sacred neighborhood?” In this workshop you’ll hear how Leslie Kilgannon of Quad Cities Interfaith uses faith-based, community-based organizing to inwardly develop and empower ordinary people like you to strengthen their congregation and outwardly create systemic change.

**The Disciple Frame** – Every year for the last decade people in 8<sup>th</sup> grade through adults gather near San Antonio, Texas for a week of worship, study, mentoring, and fun known as The Disciple Project. Discover how Peggy Hahn has been transforming people like you to discern God’s call, create an inclusive, outwardly focused Christian Community, and to live in response to God’s grace.

**Going Outside the Box: Cowboy Worship** – Dave Rex is a retired Pentecostal Pastor who felt led to start the Bar None Cowboy Church to reach the unchurched in Newton. They have a weekly worship of 250 people, swarming to 400 some weeks. 60% are men and one-third are previously unchurched. Dave says he often hears the comment from women, "My husband wouldn't dare step foot in a typical church but he doesn't miss a week of Cowboy church!" So saddle up to hear a great storyteller with an amazing story to tell.

**WWMT: What Would Mary Tweet?** – Imagine if Mary Magdalene had the technology of Twitter, Facebook, or Instagram running from the empty tomb, what do you think she’d type as her status as she ran to the disciples? The truth is “story” was, is, and will always be the key to sharing our faith regardless of whatever medium we use. Find out from Paul Amlin the key to using these tools to effectively reach others in faith and share #The #Story.

**Reaching Out With Action: ELCA Malaria Campaign** – Inspire your people with the remarkable story of ELCA churches working together to raise \$15 million to help eradicate Malaria by 2015. Walter Gwenigale will describe creative projects church members like you are doing to impact the lives of people both in your pews and across the globe. Thanks to you, we’re providing lifesaving medication and health care,

educating people about the disease, and using malaria nets to stop the disease in its tracks.

**Worship, Evangelism, and Conversation** – Join Southeastern Iowa Synod Bishop Michael Burk for a conversation about the relationship between worship and evangelism. This time will also provide the opportunity to talk about happenings within the synod and throughout the ELCA.

**Telling the Good News Through Numbers** – How does your budget give witness to Jesus to those who read it? Have no idea? Synod Treasurer Jodi Schumann will help you shape a mission spending plan that tells the story of your mission and ministry in the name of Jesus. Find out how to communicate with others through your website, worship, and words how our financial message gives witness to Christ and how your church is making a difference in the world.

**Reaching Our Youth** – The world our youth are growing up in today is dramatically different than the one you and I experienced. Touching hearts for Christ in an increasingly postmodern era is difficult but not impossible. Hear how Danny Stone at Faith Lutheran in Marion is attracting teens not by one-time evangelistic rallies, but by a daily, consistent, multi-generational, practical demonstration that Christianity works and that God's love is real.

**Sharing God in the Garden** – A mainline church is “going green” to reach out to the diverse community planted around them. St. Olaf graduate & Senior Pastor Bob David of the United Church of Christ of Cedar Rapids is partnering with the neighborhood association to lead people to reach across boundaries of race and income by developing novel programs such as a community garden, harvest parties, outdoor festivals, banjo songs, and a Café run by middle school students. Come be inspired by the story of the church that turned up the topsoil to feed hungry hearts with Christ's love.

**Evangelism Through Words (A Bible study)** – How do we talk to a neighbor, relative, or friend at work about Jesus when we're not an overzealous person, i.e. Lutheran? Relax, Pastor Julie Higgs has been in your shoes, working a career in public policy before she became a pastor. Julie will walk us through the story of the disciples' hesitancy to share in the resurrection in Mark 16. Hear Christ's call to his early followers and us to see how believers throughout time successfully share the faith.

**Evangelism Through Actions (A Bible study)** – You’ve probably heard, “Preach the Gospel, use words if necessary!” In this breakout session our keynote speaker Peggy Hahn will inspire you with a Bible study from Matthew 25 how God has challenged Christians to communicate the love of Christ with others through their acts of kindness since the very beginning.

**\*Feeding the Hungry as a Faith Practice** – Join Ryan Cumming, Program Director for Hunger Education, ELCA World Hunger; Libby Crimmings, formerly with ONE.org; and members of the SE Iowa Synod Hunger team to receive ideas and examine resources to begin or strengthen anti-hunger efforts in your congregation. You will receive specific information about the work of ELCA World Hunger, review new resources available for congregations including resources for use with youth groups. Those in attendance will experience a new simulation “Food for a Week” which can be repeated in local congregations. There will also be suggestions for involving congregations in the work of advocacy as a faith practice, and opportunities to share concerns and ideas from local experience. **Participants should plan to attend and register for all three sessions for this special CTIM track.** While supplies last, participants will receive a complimentary copy of Exodus from Hunger by David Beckmann.