

# **A Day of Thanksgiving and Renewal: Blessed to Rejoice Ministerium 2012**

Metropolitan New York Synod + Advent Lutheran Church, Manhattan  
February 13, 2012

## Gathering:

- 9:30 – 10:00 Registration, Conversation and Continental Breakfast
- 10:00 – 10:20 Welcome and Introduction to the Day  
Gathering Music  
Prayer of the Day

## Word:

- 10:20 – 10:30 Scripture Readings
- 10:30 – 11:00 Keynote Address/Sermon  
Hymn of the Day
- 11:00 – 11:30 Prayers of Intercession  
Prayer Stations for Individual Prayer Concerns, Renewal  
and Healing  
Sharing the Peace

## Meal:

- 11:30 – 12:00 Holy Eucharist
- 12:00 – 12:45 Lunch

## Sending:

- 12:45 – 1:45 Workshops
- 1:45 - 2:00 Break
- 2:00 - 3:00 Workshops
- 3:00 - 3:30 Sending Rite and Renewal of Ministerial Vows  
Sending Song  
Blessing and Dismissal

## Workshop Descriptions

*(Each Workshop is offered twice; choose two)*

### 1. **This Is Not The Church I Was Trained To Serve....What Do I Do?**

**Elise Brown/Bob Fritch**

Many rostered leaders were trained in seminary for a church that no longer exists. Rostered leadership in the ELCA (and predecessor church bodies) was designed using a model of a full-time pastorate with leaders serving an existing congregation in a well-functioning physical plant. This era of the church's life passed some time ago, but rostered leaders' training has not changed to accommodate massive church, societal and cultural shifts. How can a rostered leader become retooled to meet the needs of today's changed church and society? How can a rostered leader take necessary steps that will lead to hope and new life, rather than despair and resignation? This workshop will offer strategies on how to minister in a changing, complex world.

### 2. **Faith Practices**

**Brenda Smith**

When we say we are Christian we have to ask ourselves, "Is our faith only a statement of what we believe or does our trust and belief in Jesus Christ lead to a transformed way to live our lives?" The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Faith Practices Proposal offers practical ways we can enhance our ability to follow Jesus Christ and grow in our discipleship, using our baptismal grounding as children of God as the foundation for how we live our faith. The promises we make at baptism are the faith practices we implement in our lives as we live out our call as children of God. In this workshop there will be a presentation of 5 faith practices and reflection on how participants can enhance their spiritual lives and commitment to their calling as followers of Jesus Christ.

### 3. **How To Deal With Change**

**Jack Horner/Rich Hill**

Change is inevitable. Every pastor faces change in varying degrees throughout the entirety of their calling. Most people tend to prefer things to remain the same. Therefore, change often causes stress, frustration and moments of doubt about their vocations. Fortunately, there are ways of dealing with change. This workshop will offer the participants strategies to deal effectively with change so their ministry can operate in a healthy environment.

### 4. **Prayer and Discernment**

**Jonathan Linman**

What is God's will for my life and our life together as a church? What would God have me do with my life? What would God have us do as a church? These are questions of discernment, a spiritual practice that is much talked about today, but oftentimes with little understanding of what discernment really is or how to practice it. This workshop will deepen your understanding of discernment as a spiritual practice and give you tools for how to undertake discernment in a spirit of deeper prayer.

### **Additional Opportunity Throughout the Day: Individual Confession and Absolution**

**Paul Britton, Martha Jacobi, Jerome Taylor**

Romans 3:23-24 reminds us that all are sinful and are in need of God's grace; "since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are now justified by his grace as a gift." Yes, we confess our sins during worship services and in prayer, but perhaps at times we need to reflect on and experience the power of God's forgiveness for us in particular. Participants in this day of renewal will be able to experience the rite of confession and absolution with confidential confessor colleagues.