

Syllabus for the Yearly Intensive Series (2021-2022)

NE Minnesota Synod Lay Leader Network

Description: The Yearly Intensive Series is designed to provide adult participants the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of biblical and Lutheran theological skills while enhancing their ability to lead missionally within their context. Participants will have the opportunity to grow deeper in their faith, spirituality, and being in community with one another, through the four Saturday sessions along with readings and exercises/discussions between sessions.

Instructors: Rev. Dr. David Mesner, Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner

Meeting dates/locations:

- Session 1** Oct. 2, 2021 (in-person) Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd or Oct. 9, 2021 (in-person) Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth
Oct. 26, 2021 In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm
- Session 2** Nov. 13, 2021 Meeting through Zoom
Jan. 11, 2022 In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm
- Session 3** Feb. 5, 2022 Meeting through Zoom
Feb. 26, 2022 LLN Annual Gathering (optional - location TBD)
Mar. 15, 2022 In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm
- Session 4:** Apr. 2, 2022 (in-person) Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth or Apr. 9, 2022 (in-person) Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd

Format for our sessions together:

- 9:00 am Gather/introductions/check-in
9:15 am Engaging the Gospel of Luke/Acts presentation and discussion (and break)
11:30 am *Life Together* presentation and discussion
12:15 pm Lunch
1:00 pm *The Congregation in a Secular Age* presentation and discussion (and break)
2:15 pm Small group breakouts
3:00 pm Wrap-up, evaluation, and departure by 3:30 pm

Bibliography: required texts for the Yearly Intensive Series

Root, Andrew. *The Congregation in a Secular Age: Keeping Sacred Time against the Speed of Modern Life*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2021.

Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community*. New York, NY: Harper and Row, 1954.

Session 1: October 2021

Seasonal Focus	Advent/Christmas
Contextual Reading	Alpha/Omega: Luke 1-2 and Luke 24; structure of Luke
In-depth Exegesis	2-3 Advent: Luke 3: 1-18: Fruit of repentance
Meditation/Small Group/Sharing	Discipleship/Community application (Bridge to Bonhoeffer/Root) Personal/Congregational Fruit of Repentance

Life Together

Read the introduction and chapter one, "Community" (pp. 7-39).

The Congregation in a Secular Age, Root

Part 1: Depressed Congregations, chapters 1-4 (pp. xi through 55).

Session 2: November 2021

Seasonal Focus	Epiphany
Contextual Reading	Luke 4-9:50
In-depth Exegesis	3-4 Epiphany: Luke 4: 14-30: Spirit of the LORD is upon me
Meditation/Small Group/Sharing	Discipleship/Community Application (Bridge to Bonhoeffer/Root) Personal/Congregational Liberation Theology

Life Together

Read chapter two, "A Day with Others" (pp. 40-75).

The Congregation in a Secular Age, Root

Part 2: Examining Congregational Despondency; Our Issue Is Time, chapters 5-11 (pp. 59 through 147).

Session 3: February 2022

Seasonal Focus	Lent
Contextual Reading	Luke 9-19: Journey to Jerusalem/Gospel of Outcast
In-depth Exegesis	4 Lent: Luke 15: 1-32: Lost/Found/Rejoice
Meditation/Small Group/Sharing	Discipleship/Community application (Bridge to Bonhoeffer/Root) Personal/Congregational Calling to Outcast

Life Together

Read chapter three, "A Day Alone" (pp. 76-89).

Faith Formation in a Secular Age, Root

Preparation: Please read chapters 7-9 (pp. 97-151).

Session 4: April 2022

Seasonal Focus	Easter/Pentecost
Contextual Reading	Luke 24-Acts
In-depth Exegesis	Acts 16-19: Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth, Ephesus
Meditation/Small Group/Sharing	Discipleship/Community application (Bridge to Bonhoeffer/Root) A Pauline Epistle as A Contemporary Mission Document

Life Together

Read chapters four and five, "Ministry" and "Confession and Communion" (pp. 90-122).

The Congregation in a Secular Age, Root

Part 3: Moving from Relevance to Resonance, chapters 15-17 (pp. 215 through 262).