

2002

## Luther Seminary Midwinter Convocation, 2002

Luther Seminary

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/midwinter>

---

### Recommended Citation

Seminary, Luther, "Luther Seminary Midwinter Convocation, 2002" (2002). *Midwinter Convocation*. 13.  
<http://digitalcommons.luthersem.edu/midwinter/13>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives & Special Collections at Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. It has been accepted for inclusion in Midwinter Convocation by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Luther Seminary. For more information, please contact [akeck001@luthersem.edu](mailto:akeck001@luthersem.edu).

F O L L O W I N G J E S U S

**CONGREGATION AS  
TEACHING & LEARNING  
COMMUNITY**

Mid-Winter Convocation  
Jan. 9-11, 2002



*"But we have this treasure in clay jars..."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7-15*

 LUTHER SEMINARY

---

F O L L O W I N G J E S U S



**CONGREGATION AS  
TEACHING & LEARNING  
COMMUNITY**

*Jesus sent his disciples to teach, preach and heal. At Mid-Winter Convocation 2002, we will explore how congregations are both called and sent to be teaching and learning communities. Through the ages, the Church has been continually called to "equip the saints for ministry." We believe there is a new stirring and desire across the Church to faithfully attend to this calling.*

Christians have shown an increasing desire for their faith to be the core organizing force of life—a deep desire for greater wholeness and continuity in how we live out our faith in family, community, workplace, church and the world. People yearn for their faith to be vital in everyday life. This Convocation begins a year in which we hope to ignite a renewal in congregations' abilities to be more than places where people gather and are ministered to. We will work to help congregations become places where members are equipped for ministry and sent out to live their personal and corporate callings in their unique vocational settings.

*Convocation* is centered in worship: in proclamation, sacrament and singing. Come and revive your soul.

*Convocation* is about theology and Biblical interpretation that serve the Gospel. Come and renew your mind.

*Convocation* is for the sake of your leadership and ministry in the church and the world. Bring others who are interested in learning how to effectively live out their faith at work, school, home and in their community. Come and consider the apostolic ministries of teaching into which God is calling and sending the Church of Jesus Christ in the 21st century.

We look forward to seeing you!

---

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

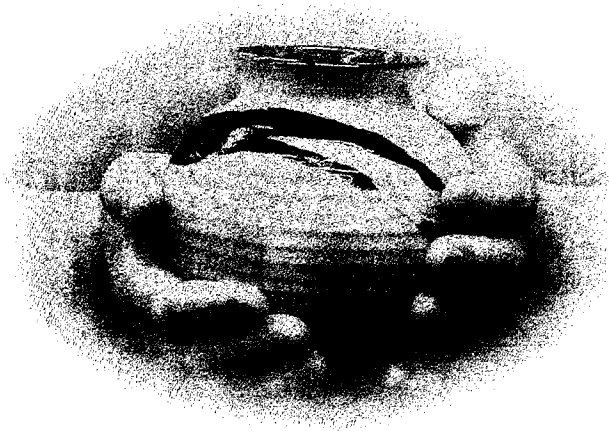
Interested in how churches become "sending" congregations, equipping the whole people of God for ministry in their daily lives? You will find useful and thought-provoking information at *Following Jesus: Congregation as Teaching & Learning Community*. Pastors, lay leaders, parish education directors, congregation members and educators are welcome to attend.

## WHY ATTEND

Affirm or re-envision your personal call in daily life. Re-energize or establish a congregational atmosphere that can help individuals fulfill their commission to be lifelong learners and teachers. Or, simply explore what others are doing in their congregations. This conference will give you the background and ideas on how to help all of God's people discern their gifts and encourage them to live out their personal and vocational callings. The conference will also benefit individuals who yearn to claim their own personal sense of calling in daily life.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information and updates, visit the Convocation Web site at [www.luthersem.edu/convo](http://www.luthersem.edu/convo). You may also call or e-mail for more information or with any questions: 651-641-3419, [lmoratzk@luthersem.edu](mailto:lmoratzk@luthersem.edu).



## CONVOCAATION SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, JAN. 9

- 10 a.m. Seminary Chapel, Preacher: Dr. Darrell Guder, "The Apostolic Script for the Church in Mission," 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Registration, check-in, visit vendor displays
- 1-1:10 p.m. Greeting by Luther Seminary President David Tiede
- 1:10-1:30 p.m. Hymn sing led by the Rev. Bob Brusic, Seminary Pastor, and Dr. Paul Westermeyer, Professor of Church Music
- 1:30-2:45 p.m. Plenary with Dr. Walter Brueggemann, Dr. Darrell Guder, Dr. Mary Hess: "Rescripting the Church's Learning and Teaching in Changing Contexts"
- 2:45-3:15 p.m. Break
- 3:15-4:30 p.m. Plenary with Dr. Mary Hess: "Rescripting Christian Education as Performative Practice"
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. Reception music
- 6 p.m. Luther Seminary alumni/ae reunion dinners

### THURSDAY, JAN. 10

- 7:30-8:45 a.m. Optional Breakfast/Charitable Planning Session hosted by Luther Seminary and Lutheran Brotherhood/AAL
- 9 a.m. Plenary with Dr. Walter Brueggemann: "Rescripting for a Fresh Performance"
- 10 a.m. Seminary Chapel, Preacher: Dr. Mary Hess, "The Apostolic Script for the Church in Mission," 2 Corinthians 4:7-15
- 10:30-11 a.m. Coffee break
- 11 a.m. Seminars
- a) Passion for God vs. Seduction of Consumerism
  - b) Models for Reflecting on Spirituality and Work
  - c) Mobilizing a Congregation for Ministry in Daily Life
  - d) Children's Spirituality—Godly Play and Learning
  - e) Faith Factors Research—Youth & Young Adult Ministry
  - f) Vinje Village—Rotation Sunday School
  - g) Faith & Life: Where is God Leading Me?
  - h) One Congregation's Efforts at Downtown Ministry
  - i) Sculpting Leaders for Life
  - j) Grow Groups: An Alternative Way to Engage Adults in the Word
- 12-1:15 p.m. Lunch (*included in registration fee*) and discussion with plenary speakers
- 1:15-2:30 p.m. President's Forum: Luther Seminary President David Tiede; "Centered Life—Centered Work" presented by Jack Fortin, Executive Director of Lifelong Learning; Faithfulness in Ministry Awards Ceremony

- 
- 2:30-3 p.m. Break
  - 3-4 p.m. Seminars (*see page 3*)
  - 4-5:30 p.m. Visit vendor fair and bookstore
  - 5:30-7 p.m. Dinner buffet and theatre
  - 7-8:30 p.m. "Thursday Night Live: Mime, Music and Mirth" with Bob Stromberg and Fred and Anna Mae Vagle

#### **FRIDAY, JAN. 11**

- 9 a.m. Plenary with Dr. Darrell Guder: "Rescripting the Missional Mandate of the Church"
- 10 a.m. Seminary Chapel, Preacher: Dr. Walter Brueggemann, "The Apostolic Script for the Church in Mission,"  
2 Corinthians 4:7-15;  
Honoring of Vocation/Commissioning Service;  
Holy Communion
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch (*included in registration fee*)

#### **VENDOR & RESOURCE FAIR**

Resource materials are available for viewing and purchase at the vendor fair. The fair will take place in the Northwestern Hall atrium, where a number of Convocation seminars will be offered. Be sure to visit the fair on Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 10 from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

#### **OPTIONAL THURSDAY MORNING BREAKFAST**

All Convocation participants are welcome to come and learn about the five-step estate and charitable checklist that is based on a personalized faith and values system. The breakfast will be held on Thursday, Jan. 10 in the Olson Campus Center dining room from 7:30 to 8:45 a.m. Representatives from Luther Seminary and Lutheran Brotherhood/AAL will lead this unique seminar that links faith and values with estate and charitable planning. This breakfast is optional and there is no charge for participating. **Seating is limited so please reserve early and indicate your reservation on the Convocation registration form.**

#### **THURSDAY NIGHT DINNER BUFFET & ENTERTAINMENT**

Catch up with old friends and acquaintances or make new ones over a delicious meal at the Thursday evening dinner buffet. The buffet starts at 5:30 p.m. and ends at 7 p.m. in the Olson Campus Center dining room. Advance tickets are required and cost \$10 per person. Space is limited so please register in advance on your Convocation registration form.

---

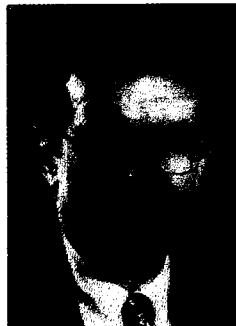
Following the dinner, Bob Stromberg and Fred and Anna Mae Vagle, nationally recognized, Twin Cities-based Christian entertainers, will present "Thursday Night Live: Mime, Music and Mirth." More details about this program will be available online at [www.luthersem.edu/convo](http://www.luthersem.edu/convo), or call 651-641-3419 in November for more information.

## PLENARY PRESENTERS



Dr. Walter Brueggemann is the William Marcellus McPheeters Professor of Old Testament at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. He is a well-known theologian, author and lecturer. His interest in interpretation drives his studies of the Old Testament. His books include *The Threat of Life: Sermons on Pain, Power and Weakness*, *Theology of the Old Testament: Testimony, Dispute and Advocacy* and a commentary on the Prophet Isaiah.

**Dr. Walter Brueggemann**



Dr. Darrell Guder is Peachtree Professor of Evangelism and Church Growth at Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. His teaching and written works help equip evangelists to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to people of the 21st century. His books include *Be My Witnesses: The Church's Mission, Message and Messengers*, *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* and *The Continuing Conversion of the Church*.

**Dr. Darrell Guder**



Dr. Mary Hess is assistant professor of educational leadership at Luther Seminary. She is also the director of the privately funded Religious Education and the Challenge of Media Culture Project. Hess' most recent professional experiences include serving as associate editor of *Religious Education*, a lecturer in religious education at Boston College, a research assistant for the Public Conversations Project at the Family Institute in Cambridge, Mass., and a media coordinator for the Cambridge Forum.

**Dr. Mary Hess**

---

## SEMINAR INFORMATION

### **a) Passion for God vs. Seduction of Consumerism**

This session will focus on spirituality—as an antidote to consumerism, as the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of “abundant life,” and with a variety of suggestions and experiential exercises to open ourselves more deeply to the presence of God.

The rampant and seductive nature of our consumer culture has no intrinsic restraint—only the ethic of an insatiable appetite that does not satisfy or yield lasting joy. Christian faith calls us to a different path—an ancient call from Jesus to “lose our life in order to find it,” and a path whose theology is centered in a loving God and letting go of self into God.

#### *Presenter*

Andrew Rogness serves as the senior pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minn. Before returning to the Twin Cities in 2000, he served for 24 years as a co-pastor of an ecumenical parish in Madison, Wis. He is a 1974 graduate of Luther Seminary and 1970 graduate of Augustana College, Sioux Falls, S.D. He is the co-author of *Crossing Boundary Waters, A Spiritual Journey in Canoe Country* and *Journeying Through Lent with Matthew*.

### **b) Models for Reflecting on Spirituality and Work**

We take our faith to work, whether we notice or not. Sometimes we even look for God at work because we understand at a deep level that we are part of God's creative work in the world. Difficult to believe? This session looks at our work and how it allows us to get in touch with the God who is always present in our places of work. Explore the intrinsically spiritual nature of work as we make hard choices and partner with others to make the world a better place. Sharing stories, plunging into work situations, seeing the spiritual in the languages and activities of our daily hustle and bustle will help us get in touch with the divine presence in our own workplaces.

#### *Presenter*

Sally Simmel is director for ministry in daily life for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Her work includes concept development, advocacy, interpretation, support of networks, creation of occupational groups, development of resources such as Working and Connections, and many opportunities to visit people in their places of work.

Simmel staffs groups such as the ELCA Alliance on Faith, Science and Technology and the Faith and Life Forum. She is president of the board of directors of the ecumenical coalition on Ministry in Daily Life. She holds a bachelor's degree in English literature and a master's degree in adult education. She is a graduate of the Program of Spiritual Direction, Vancouver School of Theology.



---

### **c) Mobilizing a Congregation for Ministry in Daily Life**

Congregations often focus solely on recruiting people for their own programs and do not attend with equal vigilance to preparing people for ministry in their families, workplaces and wider communities. As a result, members of the Church often have difficulty connecting Sunday with the rest of the week.

Every believer is called, equipped, sent and held accountable to exercise their primary ministry in the workplace and community. It is there that the deepest questions of faith and ultimate concerns of life surface and are challenged.

This presentation will discuss the efforts of one congregation to mobilize its members for their ministry in daily life. Lay people will tell of their experience of being supported in this endeavor by their congregation. Participants will also learn of the new, emerging role for pastors when the daily ministry of the laity becomes an intentional congregational focus.

#### *Presenter*

Robert Ericson is senior pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown, Minn. He previously served congregations in New York, Illinois and Iowa. In Iowa, Ericson was minister of education in a 4,000-member congregation where he expanded Sunday morning adult offerings from three to 13 classes, oversaw midweek education involving hundreds of children and adults, and worked with Wartburg Theological Seminary to conduct lay academies in congregations. At his present call, Ericson is involved in a doctorate of ministry program at Luther Seminary. His thesis will focus on helping believers live out their faith in everyday life.

### **d) Children's Spirituality—Godly Play and Learning**

What is the spiritual nature of a child, and how can we nurture that spirit? How can adults grow spiritually as we walk the journey of faith with the children in our lives? What is Godly Play and how can it enhance the learning experience?

We will explore together the assumptions about children's spirituality, some of the research being done in this area, and ways to nurture the spirit of the child. Workshop participants will also experience a Godly Play story and learn more about this way of teaching the stories of our faith.

#### *Presenter*

Kathy Meyer is a nationally certified Godly Play teacher/trainer. She was a kindergarten teacher and later an actress, director and workshop leader with Covenant Players, an inter-denominational, international repertory theater company. She served several congregations as director of Christian education and has authored articles and books related to children's faith development. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Huron University in S.D. and a master's degree in human development from St. Mary's University, Minneapolis. Her greatest joy continues to be learning and discovering the process of children's spirituality.

---

**e) Faith Factors Research—Youth & Young Adult Ministry**

What are the most effective means of communicating the grace of the Gospel to and with youth and young adults? Research shows two-thirds of 16- to 19-year-olds baptized as Lutherans leave the Church, and that only half of those who leave return by age 35. This presentation will explore eight key faith factors identified in the Faith Factors project, a recent ecumenical study on youth and faith.

The presentation will also examine an apprenticeship model of engaging youth and young adults in ministry—where they become active leaders in congregations, working under the guidance of adult mentors.

*Presenter*

Roland Martinson is the Carrie Olson Baalson Professor of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary. He is the key player in a longitudinal study aimed at identifying factors that contribute most effectively to the maturation of faith in young people. He is a graduate of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., Luther Seminary and San Francisco Theological Seminary. He was scholar-in-residence at the Institute for Religion and Wholeness at Claremont, Calif., and attended the California Family Study Center in Burbank and The National Training Lab at Monterey while in the parish. He is a member of the National Council on Family Relations.

**f) Vinje Village—Rotation Sunday School**

What happens when a congregation takes responsibility for passing on the faith? Creativity, lots of adult participation, and an excitement for learning about God and the scriptures. This session will look at the rotation model for Sunday School from two perspectives: 1) a quick review of what it is and how it works; and 2) a reflection on the impact such a model has had on one congregation and its use of scripture.

Working from an understanding that children and adults learn best when they use all their senses and their imagination in a variety of ways, Vinje Village uses a collection of learning environments that explore the biblical stories. Rather than skimming one story per week, classes work through a significant narrative or theme for six weeks, rotating through a computer lab, movie theater, play acting stage, Bedouin tent, science room, kitchen, and an art lab.

*Presenter*

Steve Knudson is senior pastor of Vinje Lutheran Church in Willmar, Minn. He has served congregations in Minnesota and California. He holds an undergraduate degree in philosophy from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn., and a master's degree in divinity and master's degree in theology from Luther Seminary.

---

### **g) Faith & Life: Where is God Leading Me?**

Have you ever asked these questions: What am I doing with my life? How is God connected to my journey? These are commonly asked questions, especially in teen and young adult years. *How* people discern where they are going is crucial. Participants in this workshop will be given the opportunity to explore a recently written junior high curriculum developed around these questions. The curriculum provides some resources for how to listen to God's movement in our lives. Some of the specific topics are: looking at our God-given gifts and talents, seeing who we are as created children of God, and exploring where God is leading in our lives.

#### *Presenter*

Emily G. Hegener Rova is currently serving as associate pastor at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, Minn. She is also in her second year of training to become a spiritual director at Christos Center for Spiritual Formation. Her passions include helping teens and young adults discern their gifts and God's leading, spiritual formation and direction, and outdoor ministry and retreats.

### **h) One Congregation's Efforts at Downtown Ministry**

The mission statement of Saint Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis is to "serve as a living sign of Christ's saving presence in the heart of the city." How this vision drives programs and services offered to the downtown workforce and community will be explored in this seminar. Daily Mass, opportunities for confession and prayer, lecture series on faith and work, and a café are some of the ways the congregation ministers to people's need to connect their faith and spirituality with their work.

#### *Presenter*

Father John Forliti is pastor of Saint Olaf Catholic Church in downtown Minneapolis. Previously, he was vice president for student affairs at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minn., an instructor and administrator at the Nazareth Hall Preparatory Seminary and director of the religious education for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. He also served as pastor of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Minneapolis and was director of programs at the Minneapolis-based Search Institute.

Forliti holds a master's degree in church history from The St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., a master's degree in liturgy from the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Ind., and a doctor of ministry degree from Luther Seminary. He has conducted research, led seminars and published extensively on topics dealing with family life, adolescence and sexuality.

---

### **i) Sculpting Leaders for Life**

God has called all believers to be leaders. Yet the supply of pastors, teachers and administrators is diminishing. The demand in every facet of life—work, home and community—for meaning and membership is rapidly increasing. The importance of developing leaders at every level has never been more vital.

This session will introduce practical tools and insights for sculpting leaders at every level—youth through mature adults.

#### *Presenter*

John Busacker, a partner and president of The Inventure Group, develops and deepens relationships with the firm's covenant clients. His background includes three years as a high school counselor and 14 years as a top sales leader and manager in the financial services industry.

Busacker has been both a student and teacher of life planning for over 20 years. He currently co-authors a monthly online life planning column and is a recognized speaker and facilitator on self-renewal and leadership. He has a degree in psychology and education with advanced studies in counseling.

### **j) Grow Groups: An Alternative Way to Engage Adults in the Word**

While most leaders know the power of Christians gathering in small groups around the Word, many struggle with just how to call and gather people into these experiences. Grow Groups are short-term sermon and scripture-centered small groups that are a wonderful way for people to engage the Word and grow in their faith. Over the past two years, hundreds of adults have participated in Grow Groups at St. John Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa. For many, this has been their first intentional Bible study or small group. If you would like to learn more about how Grow Groups can connect your congregation more deeply with the Word and one another, share in this workshop.

#### *Presenter*

Pastor Jeff Whillock leads the discipleship ministries at St. John Lutheran Church. He is a Luther Seminary graduate and is currently working toward a doctor of ministry degree focusing on adult spiritual formation.

---

## CONVOCATION REGISTRATION

**Advanced registration for Mid-Winter Convocation is required.** Space is limited, early registrations are strongly encouraged. **No walk-in registrations will be accepted.** Refer to the enclosed Convocation registration form for pricing. You are also welcome to register online at: [www.luthersem.edu/convo](http://www.luthersem.edu/convo).

## REFUND POLICY

Prior to convocation

If a participant is unable to attend because of a pastoral or family emergency, a full refund is granted if notice is given before Jan. 9 by calling 651-641-3419. Refunds are not given for absences due to inclement weather. No refunds are available for part-time registrants.

During convocation

If a participant is called away because of an emergency during convocation, there will be a \$30 refund. Requests for refunds must be made to someone at the registration desk during the convocation. No requests for refunds are accepted after the conference.

## NEXT YEAR'S THEME:

**FOLLOWING JESUS: CONGREGATION AS  
PREACHING COMMUNITY**



*"But we have this treasure in clay jars..."*

*2 Corinthians 4:7-15*