Virginia Synod

EPIC

Virginia Synod Leadership Development Conference

Effective Practices for Innovative Congregations (EPIC) is a one-day Virginia Synod Leadership Development Conference designed to strengthen congregational leaders and members for their ministry in the congregation and the world. This year's theme is Intertwining Hope.

Event Schedule

8:30 AM	Check in opens
9:00 AM	Opening Worship
	Workshops
11:45 AM	Lunch
12:20 PM	Large Group
	Closing Worship
2:00 PM	Go in peace!

Cost & Registration

Cost: $20 per person

Register at: www.vasynod.org/epic

Dates and Locations Offered

March 8 - Norge

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
87479 Richmond Rd
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Registration closes February 27

November 8 - Harrisonburg

Muhlenberg Lutheran Church
281 E Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Registration opens Fall 2025

Workshop Descriptions

Session 1 - Intertwining Hope in God

- **A1 - A Tangle of Vines: Worship as Individual and Communal Experience -** While each of us has our own experiences when we gather for worship, we do gather - together - and are sent out as the body of Christ into the world. This workshop explores the intertwining of our individual experiences and how they enhance our communal experience.

- **A2 - Daily Rooting: Fostering and Strengthening Biblical Identity through Bible Study -** As people of God, followers of the Word made flesh, we turn to the Bible as the source and norm of our faith. When life presents challenges and uncertainty, we can find our identity and therefore our mission by turning regularly, deeply, and prayerfully to the Bible. This workshop will encourage Bible study that goes beyond just "study" to encounters that shape us.

Workshop Descriptions Continued

- **A3 - Finding Your Trellis: Supporting Growth through Coaching -** Growing in faith is a life-long process, whether as an individual or a congregation. This workshop will explore the benefits and workings of seeking help to grow through spiritual coaching.

- **A4 - Tending the Soil: Promoting Health through a Variety of Spiritual Practices -** There are as many different types and styles of spiritual practices as there are different types and styles of people. This workshop will move beyond "one-size-fits-all" practices of prayer and devotion to explore the wonderful variety of spiritual practices available to God's people.

Session 2 - Intertwining Hope with Each Other

- **B1 - Abiding in All Seasons: Showing Up and Being Present through Accompaniment Ministry -** It is easy and natural to want to do something when we see a problem or someone hurting. But sometimes, the best way to love and serve our neighbors in their times of need is less about doing and more about being with them. This workshop will explore how accompaniment ministry can demonstrate Christ's abiding love when it is most needed.

- **B2 - Bearing Good Fruit: Finding Your Niche in Service Ministries -** The world we live in is full of people in need - physical, emotional, and spiritual needs. Christ sets the example of a foot washing servant who serves the needs of others and commands us to love like him. This workshop will review the various ways that congregations can find their niche within their communities to serve their neighbors' needs in faithful ways.

- **B3 - Cross Pollinating: Widening the table through Ecumenical Ministries -** As members of the ELCA, we do not live lives that are separate or isolated from our neighbors of other Christian denominations. The ELCA is a part of seven full-communion agreements in North America, both for the practical ways that working together can serve communities, and also as a public witness to our unity in Christ. This workshop will explore the opportunities of ecumenical cooperation and ministry.

- **B4 - So that Every Branch May Grow: Exploring Welcome through Reconciling in Christ (RIC) -** Paul writes to the church in Corinth: "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it." This workshop explores how congregations can extend welcome to the LGBTQIA+ members in their community so that every child of God is honored.

Contact Us
Pastor Liz Radtke:
Radtke@vasynod.org
+540-389-1000
www.vasynod.org/EPIC