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 Date and Location

November 8 - Harrisonburg

**Muhlenberg Lutheran Church**
281 E Market Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

## Event Schedule

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| 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

Registration closes on October 30

## Workshop Descriptions

### Session 1 - Intertwining Hope in God

- **A1 - Experiential Worship -** God created us as vastly unique individuals with personalized and differing gifts, and we are called to use our whole selves in worship of our Creator. When we walk into the worshiping space, and when the space reflects back to us these varied gifts, that we are seen and welcomed, we can connect to and worship God in a deeper way. In this workshop, you will join Norma Fredrickson and Pastor Liz Radtke, where we will explore and try out different ways to incorporate our full, varied, and intricate selves into our worship services through intentionality, interactive prayers, communal art, and more.

- **A2 - Exploring Alternative Financial Models for Congregations -** In many congregations, shifting patterns of membership and participation are creating financial stress. In this workshop, Pastor John Wertz, Jr. will share examples of emerging financial models for congregations including partnerships, increasing building utilization, and different approaches to stewardship campaigns.

## Workshop Descriptions Continued

- **A3 - Fostering and Strengthening Biblical Identity through Bible Study -** Think of all the different influences that shape you. What story is shaping you the most? When we discuss the Bible in small groups or Bible study, is it just that: study? A presentation of facts and some stimulating but "nice" discussion? Or is the Bible, the Word of God shaping you, and your identity? Is it intertwining your hope with God's will, with the other people around the table, in your congregation, in your communities? Pastor Ryan Radtke will guide the participants in this workshop which will encourage and equip you for Bible study that goes beyond just "study" to encounters that shape us.

- **A4 - 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. Join Bishop Milton in this workshop that 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 - Exploring Fresh Expressions and Dinner Church -** Fresh Expressions is a movement across multiple denominations focused on developing lay-led ministries rooted in the community. Examples of Fresh Expressions include Dinner Church and Messy Church. In this workshop, with Pastor John Wertz, Jr. as the facilitator, you'll have an opportunity to learn about Fresh Expressions and discover more about the Dinner Church movement as a fresh expression of Christian worship and life. Come and see how Fresh Expressions and ministries like Dinner Church might be a good fit for your context.

- **B2 - Welcome Like Jesus -** The church sign says "All Are Welcome," but do we actually mean it? And moreover, do we actually practice the kind of hospitality that puts that phrase into action? Using Luke 13:10-17 as a centering text, we invite you to join Pastor Adam Schultz as you explore what it means to welcome like Jesus - especially those who are traditionally along the fringes of the church

- **B3 - Nurturing Lay Ministry in the Virginia Synod -** God creates all people with spiritual gifts to share with their communities. The varieties of gifts and skills of lay people are vital to congregations. This workshop, led by Pastor Colleen Hetrick, will include a spiritual gifts inventory and will explore how those gifts can be used and grown in congregational and synod life.

- **B4 - Shaping 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. We invite you to join Pr. Lou Florio who will serve as a guide as you explore the opportunities of ecumenical cooperation and ministry.

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