

2016 Educators Conference Breakout Sessions

Session A – Wednesday Afternoon

A-1 Church/School Relationships in the EC and Early Elementary Classroom

Mrs. Bonne Faherty
Immanuel Lutheran School, Brandon, FL

How to integrate the faith and partner with the church to build a strong relationship in the early childhood and early elementary classes. Discover ways to include the pastor in the classroom and ways to encourage communication and cooperation.

Target Audience Pre-K/Early elementary

A-2 Dan's Dime on Dollars

Mr. Daniel J. Reichard
Vice President, LCEF/FLGA District, Orlando, FL

Daniel J. Reichard will lead a session on a variety of financial topics. Dan developed his "Top 10" list from Educator-provided feedback and will (attempt to) address these issues. In addition, this conversational session will tackle any money topics that pop into the attendee heads (or Dan's). Let's make sense/cents of it!

Target Audience All Participants or EC

A-3 Designing Dynamic School Chapels: Simple steps to planning, preparing, and leading memorable and impactful school chapel services.

Mr. Richard Schumacher
Lutheran Special Education Ministries

Chapels are special times during the week when the entire school community comes together to worship. Learn how to make the most of these opportunities by developing unique services utilizing visuals, participatory activities, and music blended to reach students of all ages.

Target Audience K-8 Educators

A-4 Leading Without Controlling

Mr. Scott Gress
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

Most come to the workplace not prepared to be controlled or told what to do. So how does one lead without controlling? In this workshop we explore another way: taking a coach approach in working with staff, volunteers and others.

Target Audience Administrator

A-5 Making a Joyful Noise on Instruments You Make: Rhythm Instruments For All Ages - Gator Guiro, Egg Shaker, and a PVC Hand Drum

Mr. Tim Jacobsmeyer
Music Director

The Gator Guiro is made from a paint stir stick, a print of an alligator body and legs on card stock, two wiggly eyes, a pick (cut from a plastic file folder), and a length of ribbon to tie the pick to the stir stick. Colored pencils decorate the gator and a paper crimper provides the ridges on the gator's back that produce the sound.

The Egg Shaker is a paper mache egg, decorated with paint, colored tissue paper and ModPodge, or by applying stickers. They are filled with anything from rice to popcorn.

The PVC Hand Drum uses 4 inch PVC pipe cut in six inch lengths. A piece of pack cloth becomes the head of the drum, attached with a 4½ inch hose clamp. A strap on the side serves as a way to hold the drum as well as covering the worm screw on the clamp. The drum may be decorated with paint, tissue paper with ModPodge, or simply covered with stickers.

Target Audience Classroom Music

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A-6 More Than Numbers: Math in Preschool Classrooms

Mrs. Jessica Miller & Ms. Patricia Weingart
Loving Arms, Largo, FL; Good Shepherd, Sarasota, FL

Join us for an interactive discussion on the importance of play-based math activities for some of our youngest students. You will learn about recent research, tips for including math throughout the day, resources for finding fresh ideas, and some examples of activities that can support this important area of learning.

Target Audience EC Educators

A-7 Musicians Meeting

Ministry Group Meeting

Music directors, teachers, and leaders will gather to plan events, discuss worship trends and other topics related to music programs in our churches and schools.

Target Audience Musicians

A-8 Numbers Please!!

Mrs. Susan Brockberg
Trinity Lutheran Downtown, Orlando, FL

Number sense is thought by many to be a skill you either have or you don't. But just like any of Gardner's Multiple Intelligences, we can improve the Number Sense skills of our students. Explore fun ways to begin math class each day while improving your students' math vocabulary, mental math skills and overall Number Sense.

Target Audience Math

A-9 Cancelled

A-10 Putting the Physical back into Education

Ms. Candace Thomason
Grace Lutheran, St. Petersburg, FL

This workshop will provide you with ideas, games and resources to go back and apply to your classes whether it is Pre4 or 8th grade there's a "Fun way" to bring fitness back into our PE curriculum. Our goal as Physical Educators is to provide a physical learning environment that is meaningful and fun-filled: one that will promote positive health habits and attitudes for a lifetime. Come ready to play, workout and have fun.

Target Audience All Participants

A-11 Responding to Stress and Anxiety

Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

Stress and anxiety is normal in life and ministry. Do we respond or do we react? Which one do we prefer? What effect does each have to relationships and the goals of ministry and leadership?

Target Audience All Participants

A-12 Restorative Justice: A Theology of School Discipline

Dr. Kevin Brockberg
Trinity Lutheran Downtown, Orlando, FL

How does a "Three Strikes" or "Zero Tolerance" mantra square with your theology? As clever quips, they appeal as swift solutions to misbehavior in schools. However, transgression followed by penalty/punishment never resolves; in God's design only a gracious Savior could draw wayward humankind back into fellowship with Him. Restorative Justice pitches the two questions to prompt offenders to redress wrongs, pursue just behavior, and

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return fully restored in the fellowship of school community. Explore school discipline that is Gospel-aligned and mercy-driven.

Target Audience School-wide discipline program

A-13 Teaching Students to Learn to Love to Write through Novel Writing

Mrs. Jennifer Hundertmark
Resurrection Lutheran School, Cary, NC

Have you ever wanted to write a novel? Do your students secretly wish to write their own novels? Each year, the Young Writers Program, in association with NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), provides resources for you to teach novel writing in your classroom. In this session, you will learn more about NaNoWriMo, explore ways to use novel writing to master a variety of language arts and literature objectives, examine the advantages of using novel writing, and share ideas and experiences. The focus will be on middle school students, but can be applied to grades 3-12.

Target Audience Grades 6-8

A-14 Technology Policy Discussion

Mr. Matt Bergholt
LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

Do you have a school technology policy? What about a specific one for your classroom? More importantly, do you have questions about what others are doing to address the problems and challenges of having technology in your ministry? Come discuss the major issues, share your thoughts, and walk away with ideas of how to address the pressing issues of technology in education today.

Target Audience All Participants

A-15 The Church's Kodak Moment

DCE's Annalisa Fitzsimons, Steve Durheim, Megan Skelton
DCE Group

It's sad but true: The American church is shrinking...fast. God-loving people are leaving in droves, and most things that attracted them in the past simply don't work anymore. In this session, we will take a look at a parable of what is happening in the church from Thom and Joani Schultz' book Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore.

Target Audience DCE

Session B – Thursday Morning

B-21 Administrators Meeting

Ministry Group Meeting

School Administrators, assistants, and people who serve in other administrative roles will gather to discuss trends in administration, accreditation, and other topics of interest for the group.

Target Audience Principals

B-22 Artists and Their Art: Sharing Visual Stories

Professor Deb Herman
Concordia University Chicago, IL

Art history lessons for grades 6-8, this workshop focuses on the important role art history plays in a well-developed art curriculum. Your students will benefit from learning about the lives of artists and their art. Lessons include biographical information, details about the art, guided questions for your students and ideas for art production.

Target Audience Grades 6-8

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B-23 Ask And It Shall Be Given to You: Tapping into Thrivent Money for Your Ministry

Mrs. Lori Schwan

St. Michael, Ft. Myers, FL

Ever pray for a way to give more for God's kingdom, but can't find it in your personal budget? You have all kinds of money available for your ministry in your Thrivent Members all around you and it doesn't cost them one dime to partner with you. Find out how, at St. Michael, we have learned to partner with Thrivent members to give \$250 in seed money over 100 times to service educational or fundraising activities (many of which were things we already were doing). You can do the same for your classroom or area of ministry through Thrivent Financial's Action Teams. When you leave the workshop, you will have an application filled out and ready to be submitted for your first \$250. You will have a list of additional events in your ministry calendar that you already do that would benefit from \$250 each and some ideas for additional events you might want to try. Electronic devices for the workshop are a benefit, but not necessary.

Target Audience All Participants

B-24 Characteristics of Effective Elementary Science Programs: Taking the Fear Out of Teaching Science

Ms. Nancy Larson

Nancy Larson Publishers, Old Lyme, CT

Children love science, but elementary teachers often struggle to plan lessons that engage children and provide appropriate content. In this session we will explore program components and teaching strategies that help elementary teachers love teaching science as much as children love learning science.

Target Audience Science

B-25 Education at the Bleeding Edge, 2016 Edition

Mr. Matt Bergholt

LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

Do you know what is coming next in education? Have you investigated Virtual Reality, personalized learning systems, or microcredentials? Haven't even heard of these terms? Come join us as we take a look at the bleeding edge of education and what you can expect to see in the coming years.

Target Audience All Participants

B-26 Emotional Literacy: Getting to the Heart of Lutheran Education!

Dr. Gary Dresser

Concordia University, NY

Do you desire to make a lasting impact on the students of your classroom? Research demonstrates that the level of emotional literacy your students possess is positively correlated to academic achievement, faith development, social adjustment and leadership skills. The great news is that emotional literacy can be taught! This workshop introduces participants to the skills and techniques necessary to develop personal, emotional literacy and to teach emotional literacy to students. The workshop gets at the heart of Lutheran Education by providing a window into the "affective" domain of education so often neglected in our schools. Emotional literacy will change your views of student behavior and classroom discipline. It will help promote positive relationships in your classroom, including the strengthening of a relationships with our Savior Jesus Christ. While the overwhelming focus of Common Core draws teachers deeper and deeper into the "content" of education, emotional Literacy enables teachers to address the needs of the "Whole Child" in ways that will impact them for their "Whole Life."

Target Audience All Participants

B-27 Listen, Learn, Lead, & Laugh

Mr. Peter LeBoribus

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner Robins, GA

Church ministry is based on relationships, our relationship with God and with the people with whom we share our ministry. In this session Pete will present a variety of tools to help leaders within the church listen to their congregation, learn from their experiences, lead their ministries more effectively, and laugh at how our awesome God is able to do such amazing things, sometimes in spite of our "best" efforts.

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Target Audience All Participants

B-28 Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship for Teens

Miss Eva Baker
TeensGotCents

For over three years I have run a website about personal finance topics for teens. I am also the teen blogger for LCEF's World Changers blog. I would like to present on how educators can help teens have a better understanding of how to manage their money for God's glory as well as how teen entrepreneurship can be an amazing opportunity for Christian teens to develop skills they might not learn otherwise.

Target Audience Youth & Family Ministry

B-29 Preparing Preschoolers for Kindergarten Success

Mrs. Bonne Faherty
Immanuel Lutheran School, Brandon, FL

From a former preschool teacher and current kindergarten teacher...the skills and concepts most important for a preschool student to master to ensure success in kindergarten (and beyond!)

Target Audience EC Educators

B-30 The Three-Legged Stool and Reaching Millennials

DCE's Annalisa Fitzsimons, Steve Durheim, Megan Skelton
DCE Group

Roughly 9 out of 10 churches in the United States are declining or growing more slowly than the community around them. In this session, we'll consider trends and research from Thom Rainer and how this may impact the church.

Target Audience DCE

B-31 What You Don't Know May Health You

Mr. Steve Gruenwald
Concordia Plan Services, St. Louis, MO

You have wellness resources at your fingertips – and chances are you don't even know what they are. Discover the nuances of the new rewards platform for healthy behaviors through Vitality. Hear about the new integrated health team, the Clear Savings transparency tool for procedures and prescription drugs, telecare for acute illnesses it's like Facetime with a doctor, the new Health and Wellness Content section on the CPS website, and much more!

Target Audience All Participants

Session C – Thursday Afternoon

C-41 Achievement Testing What to Stop, Start, and Continue!

Dr. Kevin Brockberg
Trinity Lutheran Downtown, Orlando, FL

Today testing dominates much of the headlining in education, and teachers lament how testing dictates instructional practice in classrooms. How do you test in your Lutheran school? Within the context of educational research, this discourse will engage you in a discussion of what to "stop, start, and continue" in achievement testing.

Target Audience All Participants

C-42 Artists and their Art: Sharing Visual Stories

Professor Deb Herman
Concordia University Chicago, IL

Art history lessons for grades 3-5, this workshop focuses on the important role art history plays in a well-developed art curriculum. Your students will benefit from learning about the lives of artists and their art. Lessons include biographical information, details about the art, guided questions for your students and ideas for art production.

Target Audience Art

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C-43 D.C.E. Disrupting Christian Education

DCE's Annalisa Fitzsimons, Steve Durheim, Megan Skelton
DCE Group

In this final session, participants will reflect on insights from the previous sessions that may have disrupted the way they do education in their churches. As we walk through the steps of Perspective Transformation, participants will develop their very own action plan in collaboration with other professionals.

Target Audience DCE

C-44 Developmental Milestones

Mrs. Megan Miessler
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

Students need to resolve different developmental stages throughout their life. Each developmental stage involves a crisis that needs to be resolved. How can we assist students in resolving this crisis appropriately? How do stages of development affect how we communicate with students and what we allow to take place in the classroom?

Target Audience All Participants

C-45 Early Childhood Faith Development

Dr. Gary Dresser & Mrs. Kathy Dresser
Concordia University, NY

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14 ESV) As Christian teachers, our greatest calling is to bring little children to the feet of our loving Savior so they might have faith in His death and resurrection. We know that saving faith comes through the power of the Holy Spirit, but what can we do to nurture that faith in our classrooms? What best practices can we use to support the developing faith of our students? This workshop will define the stages of faith development in children. You will learn how to establish a "Culture of Grace" in your classroom that will serve as the foundation for all your faith based curriculum. Hands-on faith development activities and experiences will be shared as you learn to go beyond the "Content" of your curriculum materials and reach the hearts of your students.

Target Audience Early Childhood

C-46 EC Directors Meeting

Ministry Group Meeting

Early childhood directors, assistants, and people who serve in other administrative roles will gather to discuss trends in administration, accreditation, and other topics of interest for the group.

Target Audience EC Directors

C-47 Effective Ministry in Times of Transition

Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

It has been suggested that most schools and churches today are in the midst of transitions in their organization and ministry together. Endings take place. New beginnings occur...and are looked forward to. How do we experience those times? How do we deal with the time in between?

Target Audience All Participants

C-48 Florida Virtual School and Blended Learning

Ms. Chellyn Rinehart
Florida Virtual School

This workshop is a discussion of online learning best practices, and how your students can benefit from this unique learning environment.

Target Audience Distance Learning/High School

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C-49 Fundraising through Social Events and Experiences

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Weston, FL

Youth ministry and even some school ministries require fundraising from time to time. Wouldn't it be great to create a fun social event or experience and raise money at the same time? We will explore some ways to do this in church and school settings, including Free Car Washes, Trivia Nights, 5K Fun Runs/Walks, and others as well as templates for creating events in your ministry setting.

Target Audience All Participants

C-50 Legal Issues Affecting Our Churches and Schools

Mr. Rusty Huseman
Lutheran Legal League, Orlando, FL

In this session we will answer the most frequently asked legal questions by administrators and educators. This will be your opportunity to get the answers to the legal problems that we face in our school system. If you have a specific question you want to be addressed, please forward your question to the FLGA District at: lvoss@flgadistrict.org

Target Audience Administrator

C-51 Making a Joyful Noise on Instruments You Make: Rhythm Instruments For All Ages An Ocean Wave Drum and a Rain Stick

Mr. Tim Jacobsmeyer
Music Director

The Rain Stick is made from a 2 foot length of 1¼ inch thin wall PVC pipe. Rolled up chicken wire is inserted into the pipe and rice or popcorn is added to make the sound of rain as the pipe is turned over. In this session, we will make rain sticks from scratch, working as teams to cut pipe, cut chicken wire, and roll and insert it in the pipe. You can decide from that experience what steps of the project are appropriate for your students. All materials will be provided, but if you have a pair of work gloves, it might be helpful to bring them. I will have some gloves as well as safety goggles on hand. The Ocean Wave Drum mimics the sound of waves coming on the shore. Materials include two 9 inch plastic plates, (one blue and one clear) and silver BBs or Airsoft pellets. The clear plate is painted (or stickered) and attached to the bottom blue plate containing 100 or so BBs. As the plates are slowly rotated, it creates the sound of the ocean.

Target Audience Classroom Music

C-52 NOT the Same Old Thing!

Ms. Patricia Weingart
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church & School, Sarasota, FL

So many times we see claims to "make your classroom more culturally diverse, add gender unbiased curriculum." What does this mean especially in an Early Childhood classroom? Don't we already have enough to do meeting standards and giving assessments? Come, interact, and enjoy story time while learning diversity can be fun!

Target Audience EC Educators

C-53 Preparing Students for Life in 2028

Mr. Matt Bergholt
LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

The Kindergarten students in your ministry today will graduate high school in 2028. Scary right? How are you preparing your students of all levels today for life when they enter college in a drastically changed world of the future? Come learn about a few best practices of today which will equip and prepare your students to succeed in the world of tomorrow.

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Target Audience All Participants

C-54 Raising the Bar

Mr. Terry Schmidt
LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

Engaging Lutheran schools in the pursuit of Quality, Witness, Mercy and Life Together

Target Audience All Participants

C-55 Teachers as Ministers: Practical Tools to Stay Engaged in Your Call

Rev. Billy Brath
Live/UCF, Orlando, FL

While education practices continually shift and society's expectations of teachers change, one thing remains the same in our schools: teachers are first and foremost ministers of the Gospel and front line missionaries of congregations. Let's explore how we can remain encouraged and engaged in loving our students and their families in Christ-like ways everyday. This session will send you home with practical tools to guide you in your classroom ministry work.

Target Audience All Participants

Session D – Friday Morning

D-61 Artists and their Art: Sharing Visual Stories

Professor Deb Herman
Concordia University Chicago, IL

Art history lessons for grades 1-2, this workshop focuses on the important role art history plays in a well-developed art curriculum. Your students will benefit from learning about the lives of artists and their art. Lessons include biographical information, details about the art, guided questions for your students and ideas for art production.

Target Audience K - Grade 2

D-62 Athletic Directors Meeting

Ministry Group Meeting

Athletic directors, teachers, and leaders will gather to plan events, discuss trends and other topics related to athletics/sports programs in our churches and schools.

Target Audience Athletic Directors

D-63 Effective Ways to Communicate to Parents

Mrs. Megan Miessler
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

Teaching approaches on ways to communicate difficult information to parents. Learn ways to phrase statements and things to keep in mind when approaching parents.

Target Audience All Participants

D-64 Fiscal Management for Administrators

Mrs. Loretta Gibbons
Open Arms of Fort Pierce, FL

This workshop will share tips on how to run an Early Childhood Center cost effectively while still keeping it a ministry.

Target Audience Administrator

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D-65 Making a Joyful Noise on Instruments You Make: Pitched Instruments for Middle School Kalimba or Thumb Piano

Mr. Tim Jacobsmeyer
Music Director

The Kalimba (or Thumb Piano) has its origins in West Africa. It consists of metal tines attached to a piece of wood. When the tines are lightly plucked, the instrument makes a beautiful metallic tone that can be tuned to any scale. The tines for the original kalimbas were made from flattened nails. For this session, we will be using roller bobby pins attached to a 5x4x3/4 inch piece of pine with a metal bracing plate. A variety of scales may be chosen from a five note to an eight note scale. Phillips head screwdrivers will be on hand, but if you would like to pack your own, that would save some time. A small hammer for tapping the tines (for tuning) would also be a great tool to bring, though some will be provided. Tuning will require the longest time so a tuner app on your phone would really come in handy.

Target Audience Classroom Music

D-66 Promoting Your Sweet Spot

Mr. Terry Schmidt
LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

No matter the size of your school, every Lutheran school has a unique "sweet spot." This workshop will help every school identify and promote your school's special place in your community.

Target Audience All Participants

D-67 STEM Education: Why all the Fuss?

Mrs. Susan Brockberg
Trinity Lutheran Downtown, Orlando, FL

As educators we are tasked to prepare the next generation for success in all areas of life. Business people and those in higher education tell us to teach our kids to think critically and to be problem solvers. Joining inquiry and STEM together in the classroom is one avenue for increasing the thinking skills of our students, as well as providing them with problem solving opportunities; skills that will allow them to be successful learners and to be ready to tackle opportunities that lie ahead in terms of their further education and future careers. Join in on the dialog and glean a few ideas for integrating STEM into your classroom.

Target Audience Science

D-68 Stewardship of Life: Living in Balance

Mr. Scott Gress
Lutheran Counseling Services, Winter Park, FL

With the pressure of so many things to do and so many demands on one's time, we will examine the principles that lead to balance and the pitfalls that can knock you down. Practical exercises for leaning into more intentional choices.

Target Audience All Participants

D-69 The Importance of Having Well-Written School Policies

Mr. Rusty Huseman
Lutheran Legal League, Orlando, FL

In this session you will learn of the importance of having properly prepared policies to aid in the defense of any potential conflict that your school or church may face. This is especially timely considering all of the attacks that are happening on churches across America. You will be given tips and templates to bring back to your

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congregation and school. If you have a specific policy or topic that you would like discussed, please send your suggestion to: lvoss@flgadistrict.org

Target Audience Administrator EC Directors

D-70 Tools For Missional Congregational Planning

Mr. Peter LeBorious

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Warner
Robins, GA

Leading a congregation through any type of planning process can really be a challenge. This workshop will explore some basic steps that must be followed if you desire long term ministry health and success. In addition to the planning outline, participants will also be given tools for accomplishing each step along the way.

Target Audience DCE

D-71 What is the CWU and How Do I Search the CMIF?

Mr. Matt Bergholt

LCMS School Ministries, St. Louis, MO

Calling all Commissioned Ministers and Calling bodies! The Lutheran School Portal LEIF system is now GONE and there are new systems in place for workers to update their information and for ministries to search for Rostered workers. Come learn what this means for you and why you need to be familiar with the Church Worker Update (CWU) and Commissioned Minister Information Form (CMIF) systems.

Target Audience All Participants

D-72 Pastors & Lutheran Schools: Building a ministry relationship

Rev. Billy Brath

Live/UCF, Orlando, FL

Clergy are often not as involved in school ministry as we would like for various reasons, many that are out of yours and their control. This session will explore ways of overcoming common barriers between the pastoral office and the school and give planning tools to keep the relationship healthy and beneficial for students, families, and faculty. The session is designed for all teachers, administrators, and pastors.

Target Audience All Participants