

How do we effectively raise up the next generation of Christians?

In a time of cultural indifference, smaller congregations, lower participation and shrinking resources, the usual models for Sunday School no longer apply. How in this day and age are we called to nurture the faith? Join us as we listen, share, sing, work and worship together, exploring new ideas and models for Christian discipleship and formation. Conference leaders include:



Gary Pecuch

The author of "Faith Webbing" and "Outcome Based Youth Ministry," Gary serves as Director of Youth and Family Ministry at St. John Lutheran/Grove City, Ohio, and for the Southern Ohio Synod—ELCA.

Swen and Dean

The brothers Swenson bring their experience in youth and family ministry along with good humor and engaging music. Dean is the Family Care and Connections Pastor at Hosanna!

Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN; Swen serves as Cross+Generational Director (Family Ministry) at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnesville, MN.



Workshops...

Equipping a Family for Faith: How parents and other adults can lead, model and nurture a growing faith in the home. Led by Dineen Dowling, Preschool Director at Faith Lutheran Church, Akron, Ohio.

Carving Out Sabbath Space: Making room in busy lives for time to rest, refresh and reconnect with God. Led by Mary Ann Schwabe, assistant to the Bishop, Northeastern Ohio Synod—ELCA.

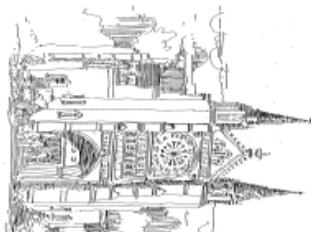
Effective Small Group Ministry: Ways to develop and grow a variety of small groups (care, service, study) within your congregation.

Websites, Podcasts, and Other Online Faith Resources: There are some good things available on the web. Here are some tips on finding the best of them. Led by Karen Kaufmann, Resource Center Director, Northeastern Ohio Synod—ELCA.

Serving-Learning Projects...

Participants will get to work out their faith: cleaning and visiting at Ronald McDonald House, assembling and distributing Blessing Bags, sprucing up a local park, helping the Family Promise ministry, singing at area nursing homes, or delivering cookies and cleaning toys at the Harvest Home womens' shelter.

Plus: all-day childcare for infants and pre-schoolers, and a day-camp program for elementary-aged children.



Phone: 330-376-5154 + Email: info@holyltrinityakron.org

50 North Prospect Street + Akron, Ohio 44304

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Praising. Loving. Serving in Jesus' name.

Friday and Saturday
September 5 and 6, 2014
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Akron, Ohio

Growing in Christ



Challenges and Possibilities for Christian Discipleship.

This conference is offered to parents, grandparents, baptismal sponsors, and volunteer Sunday School teachers as well as the church's professional leaders: all those who have a hand in sharing the faith with the next generations.

Growing in Christ... from Root to Fruit.

"...you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with your children among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place into their hands the holy scriptures, and nurture them in faith and prayer..."

- The Rite of Holy Baptism, Evangelical Lutheran Worship, page 228

If you are a parent or family member, pastor, youth worker, or Sunday school teacher, you've probably wondered how best to live up to the promises made at baptism...how to pass along the faith to our children and youth in a world that is often dismissive of or even hostile to the Christian message.

We've had the same questions. So we decided to gather folks...lay persons, church volunteers and professional church workers...to learn, share ideas, and work together to be better equipped for the task of apprenticing our young people into faithful maturity.

A new perspective...

Sunday School classes. Youth activities. That's the current paradigm. We'd like to imagine our goal, however, to be one of formation...of raising up disciples for Jesus Christ through loving, mentoring relationships. These relationships are to be found at home and within the congregation. The adults responsible for them must be equipped to be models of the faith...the very soil out of which these new disciples will grow and flourish.

In this model, it is the duty and delight of the whole Christian community to bring our children and youth to faith. And it means that, as adults, our own faith needs to be regularly refreshed and encouraged by worship, study, and the love of our Christian communities.

Can we be such disciples? Yes...by the grace of God and the on-going work of the Holy Spirit. Join us as we explore the possibilities.

"Growing in Christ" + Conference Schedule +

Friday + September 5

- 6:00pm Registration Opens
- 7:00pm Plenary: Outcome-Based Youth Ministry – Gary Pecuch
Middle and High School Youth Rally with Swen and Dean
- 8:45pm Evening Prayer with Swen and Dean

Saturday + September 6

- 8:00am Registration Opens
- 9:00am Welcome and Announcements
- 9:15am Plenary: Faith Webbing – Gary Pecuch
- 10:30am Workshops
- 11:45am Lunch
- 12:45pm Workshops (repeated)
- 2:00pm Serving-Learning Projects
- 4:30pm Reflection on Serving - Rest Time
- 5:30pm Dinner
- 7:00pm Concert with Swen and Dean

\$20 per person for adults and youth (13 and older).
Includes Friday snacks, Saturday meals: breakfast snack, lunch (sandwiches, chips, salads) and a hearty dinner...plus all session materials and the Saturday concert.

Friday Night Special for youth leaders & youth groups:

Youth leaders, pastors and church workers who are registered for the conference can bring their youth groups for FREE to the Friday evening session. While the adults are learning from Gary Pecuch, the kids will be eating pizza and hanging out with Swen & Dean.

Bring your kids and come!

Parents and Grandparents: Bring your children!

Saturday's program features all-day childcare for infants through four-year-olds, and a day camp (songs, crafts, stories and playtime) for elementary-age children (5-12).

There is no charge for children to attend, but we do need a registration form for each child. Get it online at holyltrinityakron.org or by calling Holy Trinity at 330-376-5154.

"Growing in Christ" Registration Form

Registration Type:

- Clergy or DCE Youth/Children's Ministry Leader
 Parent/Grandparent Church Volunteer

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

I have dietary restrictions (specify): _____

I will be bringing children for daycare and/or day-camp:

Name _____ Age _____

A children's registration and permission form must be provided for each child. These are available on-line at holyltrinityakron.org or by calling the church office at 330-376-5154.

To help us plan, please indicate which workshops and serving-learning projects you are most interested in:
See more info on workshops & projects at holyltrinityakron.org.

Workshops (select two):

- Sabbath Space Equipping the Family
 On-line Resources Effective Small Groups

Serving-Learning Projects (select one):

- Ronald McDonald House Touring Choir
 Grace Park Clean-up Harvest Home Shelter
 Family Promise Blessing Bags

Cost per Registration

Adults and youth (13 and older) \$20 x (#) _____ = \$ _____
There is no charge for children 12 and younger.

Mail-in registrations and payment are due August 22.
Make checks payable to: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church. Send to the church at 50 N. Prospect St. Akron, OH 44304. Please note "Growing in Christ" on the memo line of your check.

On-line registration is also available until August 25.
www.holyltrinityakron.org. On-site registrations (\$30 per person) may be available the day of the event if space permits.

Due to the low registration cost, we cannot offer refunds.



Matching funds requested from Thrivent Financial. "Connecting faith and finances for good."