

Partners in Education 2013-2014

Select workshops and presentations for adult and youth education

The Universe at Its Limits: Highlights of the 2013 Nobel Conference 49

We live at a remarkable moment in the understanding of the most fundamental questions of science. What is the universe made of? Where did it come from? Where is it going? A Gustavus faculty member will bring a discussion of Nobel Conference 49.

Biblical Perspectives on Children and Childhood: Reflections on Child-Adult Relationships and Ways of Speaking about Children

You likely do not have to look too hard to see that there are children all around you! They are in your family, neighborhood, local schools, congregation, and community. This session will explore six primary and paradoxical ways the Bible and Lutheran theology speaks of children and child-adult relationships and then draw implications of these six perspectives for family relationships, worship, children's ministries, faith formation and child advocacy.

Ten Best Practices for Nurturing the Moral and Spiritual Lives of Children

Our fast-paced, ever-changing world can sometimes leave even the best of parents, grandparents, teachers, and other caring adults wondering if we are doing enough to care for the children in our midst. Highlighting lessons from Luther and the history of Christianity, this session will outline ten "best practices" for nurturing the moral and spiritual lives of children and offer practical ideas for creating more cooperative relationships between homes and congregations.

The Vocations of Children and Parents: Lutheran Perspectives

You are a child. You are a parent. What do these identities mean? Are there particular responsibilities and calling of both children and parents? How do these callings relate to faith and our spiritual lives? This session will reflect upon these questions through a Lutheran understanding of vocation or calling. We will explore the vocations of both children and parents and draw implications for families, congregational life, youth and family ministries, and theological understandings of children and parenting.

Cultivating Wellness

This seminar will introduce the multiple dimensions of wellness, helping participants to gain insight into wellness beyond the physical domain. The emphasis here is how each dimension of wellness impacts the other, particularly the role of spirituality.

On Being a Christian with Integrity

Real faith, according to the apostle Paul, is always active in love. But what does this mean in specific situations, and how does such activity actually arise within us. We will combine an examination of faith (both true and idolatrous) with an exploration of the way ethical decisions are actually made. In what sense is our use of Scripture, Tradition, Reason and Experience related to our convictions? Are we being consistent? What do our decisions and beliefs about ethical choices reveal about our deepest

commitments? And why does it matter? The role of experience in our moral knowing and the concept of self-sacrificial suffering will be examined in particular.

Servant Leadership Series

The presentations below may be done individually or as a series of 2 or 3. They are effective for adult education, for councils, and for staff development.

Cultivating Servant Leaders Series: Skills that are at the Heart of Great Leaders

Have you ever been in the presence of a truly great leader? If you have, it is likely the name of that person immediately came to your mind. What was it about them that made them a great leader in your mind? This session in the Cultivating Servant Leaders Series will examine four specific skills that are at the heart of every great leader.

Cultivating Servant Leaders Series: Skills that Multiply Efforts and Lead to True Greatness

There are only 24 hours in a day, 7 days in a week and only so many resources that we can draw upon to accomplish the goals we have set. How can we best make use of the time and resources we have been given? This session in the Cultivating Servant Leaders Series will take a look at the skill set and mindset servant leaders have as they approach this important question.

Cultivating Servant Leaders Series: Great Leaders have but Seldom Talk About

By definition a leader is one who has others following them and looking to them for guidance. What is it about this person that makes one want to take their lead? What sort of person do smart people look to for direction? This final session the Cultivating Servant Leaders Series will focus on three capacities great leaders have and use every day but seldom talk about.