



Festival

OF WORKSHOPS

Atlantic District - LCMS

Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope!

**Created in Christ Jesus....
to do good works.**

Ephesians 2:10

Saturday March 9, 2019

Check In 8:30AM - 9:30AM

Program 9:30AM to 3:15PM

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

BRONXVILLE, NY

About our Keynote Speaker

Rev. Bill Woolsey



Bill Woolsey is a native Texan who has served as a pastor for 31 years. After growing up in Austin, he started his undergraduate work at Texas A&M in electrical engineering and computer science, but then transferred to Concordia University in Austin to complete a pre-seminary program. He then spent four years in St. Louis, MO at Concordia Seminary, where he received a Masters of Divinity.

Before becoming a pastor, he met his wife of 34 years, Julie. They have 3 children: Timothy, and his wife, Caitlyn; Abigail, and her husband Nick; and Samuel, who is not married. They also have one grandchild, Ezra, who is the best grandchild in the universe.

Bill has a heart for people who don't know Jesus. After serving as evangelism pastor for two congregations in the Midwest, starting a variety of ministries and worship services within those congregations, Bill and his family returned to Texas in 1997 and planted CrossPoint Community Church in Katy, a congregation that led the LCMS in baptisms for most of the 2000s. During that time he also worked with 100's of church planters equipping them to more effectively reach their communities.

In 2009, he started a network called FiveTwo, whose name comes from the five loaves and two fish in the feeding of the five thousand. FiveTwo's core "aha!" is that the resources you need to reach the community are in the community, just like the loaves and fish that fed the community belonged to the little boy, not to the Church. All we need to do is go and see, asking Jesus to multiply.

Bill now leads FiveTwo Network full-time. As the world around our churches is changing, the leaders who know how to reach it often go unnoticed and unappreciated. FiveTwo helps those men and women grow their God-given dreams into ministries and businesses that make an eternal difference. You bring the dream; we bring the how.

THANK YOU

to our many workshop presenters for their time and expertise and to Concordia College—New York for the use of their campus.



SCHEDULE.....

8:30AM	Check In, Registration and Fellowship
9:30AM	Opening remarks by President Derek G. Lecakes Keynote Speaker Rev. Bill Woolsey
10:30AM - 11:40AM	Workshop Session 1
11:45AM - 12:30PM	Lunch
12:40PM - 1:50PM	Workshop Session 2
2:00PM - 3:10PM	Workshop Session 3

- Registration is \$30 per person, this includes lunch and check-in hospitality, if registration form and payment are received by February 28, 2019.
- Late registration is \$35 per person.
- Check-in will be in the Sommer Center Lobby
- Directions to Concordia 171 White Plains Road, Bronxville NY 10708 can be found at www.concordia-ny.edu; Click on "Discover Concordia", then "Campus and Location" and finally "Directions to Campus".

Pastor's Wives Luncheon

If you are a pastors' wife and have the time to come and have lunch and fellowship with those ladies that can relate to the joys, trials, struggles, and blessings of life in the parish, please join us! We will begin our time with a luncheon (with the help of the Atlantic District LWML) at Village Lutheran Church, conveniently located across White Plains Rd. from Concordia-Bronxville. This will be during the regular lunch period after Workshop Session One at 11:45 am. We will close out our time with fellowship and devotional, during the 2nd workshop session, sponsored by Task Force #7: Health and Human Care.

Amy Lecakes, Chairman of Task Force Seven, Health and Human Care

KEY FOR SPECIFIC INTEREST TRACKS.....

Here is a special interest key so that you easily may identify workshops that might correspond to your particular area of interest. We have attempted to have a selection from each area in each of the time slots so that you may follow your own track throughout the day or you can make up a track of your own choosing from any area.

Teen Track = **T**

Youth leaders = **YL**

Children, Education and Schools = **CES**

Evangelism/Outreach/Marketing/Communication = **EOMC**

Music and Worship = **MW**

Buildings and Rentals = **BR**

Caregiving and Health = **CH**

Administration and Leadership = **AL**

Stewardship and Finance = **SF**

WORKSHOP SESSION OVERVIEW.....

SESSION ONE: 10:30 AM

Exploring Conflict Resolution in Churches - **AL**
How to VBS: Integration, Collaboration, Celebration - **CES/YL**
Church Safety and Risk Management - Insurance 101 - **SF/BR**
Be Well, Serve Well: Retire Well - geared to those 50+ - **SF**
Action Steps for Replanting Declining Congregations - **EOMC**
Being Smart with your Smartphone: Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying - **T/YL**
Christian Companionship – A Christian Way of Life - **CH**
Get and Keep New People: A Holistic Method for Parish Growth - **CES**
Where Do I Start? First Steps in Community Engagement - **EOMC**
Is The Lutheran Church Still the Singing Church? - **MW**
Is there Really No Such Thing as a Stupid Question? - **CES**

• • • LUNCH 11:45 AM to 12:30 PM • • •

Lunch will be served to all registrants in Schoenfeld Hall and Sommer Center

SESSION TWO: 12:40 PM

Starting ministries That Don't Flop...And Drain the Budget - **EOMC**
What You Don't Learn in Seminary-Understanding the Law and Regulations - **SF/BR**
Understanding Christianity and Mental Health Issues - **CH**
An Income Tax Guide for Ministers and Called Workers - **SF**
Building From Strength: Asset Mapping for Your Congregation – **EOMC**
Peace Be With You - **T/YL**
Financial Wellness: Juggling Priorities - geared to Early and Mid-Career - **SF**
Ushers in Church - Some Ideas About Hospitality - **MW**
How To Never Lose Track Of Someone Again - **AL/EOMC**
The Alpha Course: Equipping the Local Church for Effective Evangelism - **EOMC**
Teaching Toward Multiple Learning Styles - **CES**

SESSION THREE: 2 PM

Helping Someone Through a Health Crisis - **CH**
Share and Hope - **T**
Connecting a Community to Christ and His Church - **EOMC**
Encouraging Indigenous Musical Expressions - **MW**
Family Life Has Changed. Can We Change Our Approach? - **CES/YL**
Faith-Full Exercise - **CH**
Enhancing Congregational Stewardship—Some Do's and Don'ts - **SF**
What Is This Bread? Symbolically Engaging Worship for the Whole Person - **MW**
Christians That No Longer Attend Church - **EOMC**
Your Legacy: Family, Church and Charity - **SF**

Exploring Conflict Resolution in Churches - AL

Lutheran Counseling Center is a resource when outside conflict intervention is needed in churches. This workshop will explore reasons conflicts occur, ways to help prevent them, tips for resolving them, and how a professional counselor who mediates in conflict intervention can make a difference if the conflict is severe.

Mrs. Elizabeth Geiling, MSED, LMHC, Psychotherapist with Lutheran Counseling Center

How to VBS: Integration, Collaboration, Celebration! - CES/YL

Have you felt that a “big box” Vacation Bible School program does not work for the context and culture of your congregation? Are you unsure how to move forward, even though you are deeply passionate about having a VBS? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could collaborate with other congregations for a solution? If you are thinking “YES!” as the answer to these questions, then come and join this session as we grow together in faith, learning how to better serve our communities and neighborhoods with our VBS programming. Through descriptive language, we hope to encourage any-size congregation to utilize this wonderful outreach opportunity!

Rev. Jake Allstaedt, St. John's Lutheran Church, Williston Park
Rev. Matthew Ryan Gonzalez, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church – The Bronx

Church Safety and Risk Management – Insurance 101 - SF/BR

Your church is a small business and has significant exposure as it relates to people, property and liability. Every year we hear about claims against churches that could have been avoided. Learning what your responsibilities are as church leaders and how you address the same is how you will save money and avoid incidents, which require making claims. During our brief time together, we will review:

- Common claims and how to avoid them
- Making sure your church has proper insurance coverage
- Building maintenance – what is the bare bones minimum that you have to do.

Mike Jakob, Carriage Trade Insurance

Be Well. Serve Well. Retire Well - geared to those 50+ preparing for retirement - SF

Are you feeling anxious, confused or stressed when you think about retirement? Will you have enough money? Plan for retirement with a brief overview of the key areas in planning and saving, retirement income sources and tools and tips to make sense of it all. Take

steps to help you move your retirement plan beyond the money issues and toward the lifestyle you would like to lead.

Karen Kirchner Wilhelms, Financial Wellness Educator, Concordia Plan Services, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Action Steps for Replanting Declining Congregations - EOMC

Many of our congregations struggle with changing communities and declining membership, leading to a spirit of frustration and disillusionment. Before shutting the doors and selling the property, this session by Bill Woolsey of Five Two Network offers action steps congregational leaders can take to ensure their ministry exists for the next generation.

Rev. Bill R. Woolsey, Founder and President, Five Two Network

Being Smart with your Smartphone: Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying - T/YL

Description: 95% of teenagers today have access to a smartphone. It's a big part of our lives, but so often it can cause more stress than it's worth! How can we be safe on the internet? What does it mean to be a Christian on the internet? What does God think about the internet? Do I need to become a hermit, go live in the Catskills and renounce all technology completely?? (Spoiler alert: Probably not.) Join us to talk about these questions and more!

Ryan Howard, Director of Christian Education, St. James Lutheran Church, Long Island

Christian Companionship – A Christian Way of Life - CH

In this session we will spend time addressing the Biblical imperative of caring for the community especially learning theological and practical ways of caring for one another. Emphasis on the sick and individuals that are in need of help.

Rev. Stephen Unger, Messiah Lutheran Church, Setauket Chaplain for Critical Incident Response for Suffolk County Police and Medical Ethicist at Huntington Hospital.

Get and Keep New People: A Holistic Model for Parish Growth - CES, T, YL, CES, EOMC, MW

The Ancient Catechumenate model will be examined in this workshop as a time-honored approach that helps new people become integrated in the Body of Christ and stay members of a parish while connecting existing members of a parish to their formation and growth.

The Rev. Dr. Kent Bureson, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Dcs. Raquel A. Rojas, and The Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor,

Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx

Where Do I Start?

First Steps in Community Engagement - EOMC

Sometimes the first step of the journey is the hardest. It certainly can be as churches begin to look at how they can maximize their community impact. Join Pastor Matthew Schultz as he shares tips and stories from his experience as a Non-profit and Church Community Engagement Specialist with the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis. Participants will walk away with real “first step” ideas that will help open doors in your community.

Pastor Matthew Schultz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Niskayuna

Is the Lutheran Church Still the Singing Church? - MW

Historically, Lutherans have claimed the title of the Singing Church with our rich chorale heritage. At this time in our church history, can we rightfully make that claim? Take a brief historical journey of our Lutheran church music roots. Honestly assess our current situation. Pray together on how God’s spirit will encourage, equip, and embolden

us to musically proclaim the Gospel as the Lutheran church faithfully continues to “Lift every voice and sing!”

Dr. Jean Boehler, Cantor, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bronx Concordia College Organist and Director, Arts in Mission

Is There Really No Such Thing as a Stupid Question? - CES

“Questions are an important tool in a teacher’s ‘bag of tricks.’ A well crafted question can lead the learners to deeper understanding. It can lead to a stronger commitment to an ideal. But a poorly worded question can leave your students confused, bored, or disengaged. This workshop will explore various types of questions and ways that they can be used in a variety of religious education settings to lead the participants into a deeper understanding of God, the world, and themselves

Rev. Robert Boehler, St. Mark’s, Yonkers

SESSION TWO

12:40 PM - 1:50 PM

Starting Ministries That Don’t Flop...

And Don’t Drain The Budget - EOMC

New ministries reach new people. Starting new ministries of all sizes and shapes is a wonderful way to expand a congregation’s reach in its community. Yet with over 50% of startups failing, congregations need to pay special attention to a number of core issues so that finances and credibility are not wasted. This session by Bill Woolsey of FiveTwo Network offers action steps congregational leaders can take to start new ministries that reach new people.

Rev. Bill R. Woolsey, Founder and President, Five Two Network

What You Don’t Learn in Seminary—Understanding the Laws and Regulations that Affect Churches - SF/BR

This workshop will provide an overview of the various rules and regulations that govern religious organizations and how to navigate through these often complex issues. Topics will include proper corporate governance, required state and federal filings, and understanding the effects of leases on tax status both local and federal. Sufficient time will be

allocated to Q&A so that participants can ask specific questions related to their congregation (or a “friend’s” congregation).

Mr. Renato Matos, Partner, Capell Barnett Matalon and Schoenfeld LLP

Understanding Christianity and Mental Health Issues: Truth and Grace in Light of Spiritual Stigmas - CH

According to the National Alliance on Mental Health Illness, one in four Americans suffer from mental health issues of some sort in any given year. This means that many people in our churches are struggling and may feel different or misunderstood in the congregational setting. This workshop will identify myths that increase and perpetuate stigmas for Christians suffering from mental health issues within the Church. It will also highlight Biblical spiritual truths to denounce these stigmas and allow healing to begin.

Mrs. Molly W. Blancke, MPA, Executive Director of Lutheran Counseling Center

An Income Tax Guide for Ministers and Called Workers - SF

Ministers and other church employees are subject to special U.S. tax regulations. Virtually every year, new tax rulings affect the way that you should file your taxes. In our 20 plus years' experience helping Pastors and other called workers all over the country we know that you having a working knowledge of the rules will help you save money – which in turn will help the church you work for save money. We will help you make sure you do not make the errors, which will cost you money. In the hour allotted, we will:

- Review the basics of housing allowance and how it is determined
- Touch on the 2018 tax law changes (significant)
- Review how to make sure you and your church are accurately reporting to Concordia Retirement Plans

[Mike Jakob, Landmark Tax Service](#)

Building from Strength: Asset Mapping for Your Congregation - EOMC

It's a common refrain. We don't have enough...fill in the blank...to do what we want to do. Members and pastors alike often focus on what they don't have while missing the amazing gifts and strengths that God has created within them to impact people and their community. Asset Mapping is a fun and engaging way of discovering and mobilizing the gifts and the people of your congregation. Once the process of Asset Mapping is learned, it can be used with groups of any size and toward any goal, big or small, new or existing. Come and see how you can discover your strengths and be the congregation that God has created you to be!

[Rev. Matthew Schultz, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Niskayuna](#)

Peace Be With You - T/YL

In recent years, we've seen stress rising, anxiety climbing, and depression increasing among teens. Even more alarming, reports of self-harm, cutting, and suicide are growing at a heart-breaking rate. There's no doubt about it – growing up can be rough! Life is hard, and it's tough to be young. Chances are you know someone who is struggling (and that "someone" may even be you), but take heart, have hope. . . there is help to be found in the Lord! Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." We clearly live in a weary world full of worry and conflict, yet Jesus promises to bring comfort to the hurting and healing for the broken. In this session we will see how the peace that Jesus gives us can change the way we see ourselves, treat our friends, seek rest from distress, and discover

meaning – God's purpose for us – amidst the chaos and confusion of adolescence.

[Rev. Steven Williamson-Link, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cairo](#)

Financial Wellness: Juggling Priorities - geared to Early and Mid-Career Workers - SF

As your financial to-do list grows, it can be difficult to weigh your decisions, prioritize, and execute a plan. Life happens. Gain powerful insight into how to save amid the stress and demands of so many financial priorities. Learn how to make your money work for you, build financial capability and gain confidence to achieve your financial goals.

[Karen Kirchner Wilhelms, Financial Wellness Educator, Concordia Plan Services, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod](#)

Ushers in Church—Some Ideas about Hospitality - MW

Ushers: every place has some in some way shape, or form. There are some things that can help these vital front-line servants in their work as it connects to worship services. This workshop will examine some of these tips for congregational ushers and greeters.

[Dcs. Raquel A. Rojas and The Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx](#)

How to Never Lose Track of Someone Again - AL/EOMC

Do some people or families in your congregation "fall through the cracks?" Are you vaguely aware of people you haven't seen recently, but can't quite say who? Learn about a simple, free (or nearly free), and ready to go solution that has increased our attendance around ten percent. Easily log interactions with members, visitors, or guests and know at a glance who you haven't seen in a while. Follow up with those you haven't seen, or get reminders to check in with people who have asked for it. This can be used by pastors, deacons, elders, or anyone else who does spiritual care in your congregation, and is simple enough for anyone with a mouse and keyboard to use.

[Rev. Jason Taber and Lauren Taber, St. John the Evangelist, Williamsburg, Brooklyn](#)

The Alpha Course: Equipping the Local Church for Effective Evangelism in the 21st Century - EOMC

Millions of people have tried Alpha globally. We believe that everyone should have an opportunity to explore the Christian Faith, ask questions and share a point of view. Newly filmed and presented, Alpha is a powerful, effective, economical, community building tool

for this culture. Find out how your church or ministry can use the Alpha Course to reach this generation for Christ.

Nada Pottinger, ALPHA NYC Network Director

Teaching Toward Multiple Learning Styles - CES

Each child of God is unique. People learn by different learning styles. This session will help everyone involved in Christian education to explore ways that we may convey our Christian faith in a variety of formats so that everyone can answer the Spirit's call to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Mrs. Carol Sandblom, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church in The Bronx

SESSION THREE

2:00 PM - 3:10 PM

Helping Someone Through a Health Crisis - CH

Have you had a loved one that has gone through a health crises, and you felt you had more questions than answers as to what to do? Did you feel that every step through caring for your loved one was slow and difficult? Did you feel pain, anger, or resentment towards the one you were caring for because your task was so heavy? Did you really just need someone to step in and care for you? Come have some of these questions answered by someone who knows the process of being a helper through a health crises.

Mrs. Charlena Bolling, RN, MA, Director and Administrator of Patient Services for the United Hebrew Certified Nursing Agency

Share & Hope - T

Sometimes in our world we may feel lost. We may feel it to the point where we have no Hope. Come and learn how You can achieve the Hope that God gave to us. Then once learned You can share it with others also. Get ready for this journey of Hope that has been awaiting for you.

Katie Sauer, Sophomore at Our Saviour Lutheran in the Bronx. She attended the Lutheran Youth Fellowship Leadership Training In 2018.

Connecting a Community to Christ and His Church - EOMC

This will be the story of one church and its efforts to reach out to its community with the words and deeds of Christ. Although every context differs, the local church must strive to connect with people who may never come to Christ and His church, unless the church first comes to them. We will see the plan, implementation and the present results of one such effort.

Rev. Victor Nelson, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cairo

Encouraging Indigenous Musical Expressions and Incorporating Them into the Lutheran Liturgy. - MW

This workshop will discuss the inclusion of indigenous musical expressions and will help congregations think beyond the rhetoric of traditional, contemporary and blended Christian musical offerings. Pastor Johnson is a musician who has released two albums. His recent music album, Guru Volume 2, is about his spiritual journey through singing the Lutheran Hymns in his native language Tamil and in English. He has used various musical genre to sing those Lutheran hymns.

Rev. Johnson Rethinasamy, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone Mission Executive of the Atlantic District.

Family Life Has Changed – Should We Change Our Approach? - CES/YL

How do young families think, feel and act? Carol Mittelstaedt and Steven Williamson-Link will discuss how young parents are living today with a view to figuring out how best to minister to them. Carol will share her ongoing attempts to reach out to them in a new way and Steven will reflect on his recent efforts to reach young school parents. Come ready to share your thoughts on how best to reach a changing parental culture in the ministry context you find yourself in.

Carol Mittelstaedt, Director of Family Ministries, St. James Lutheran Church and Mission Society Coordinator, Atlantic District, LCMS Rev. Steven Williamson-Link, Resurrection, Cairo

Faith-Full Exercise - CH

As our Lord has made us with a body and a soul (Luther's Small Catechism, Apostles' Creed, First Article), caring for our bodies is not only a way to respond in thanksgiving to our Lord for His gifts but to

(Session Three Continued)

connect people for prayer and fellowship. This workshop explores some approaches to integrating exercise into parish life.

[Deaconess Raquel A. Rojas, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx](#)

Enhancing Congregational Stewardship—Some Do's and Don'ts - SF

Many people do not want to talk about stewardship yet money and time remain on people's minds in a congregation. This workshop is designed to help leaders see explore "do's and don'ts" with respect to this conversation in a congregation.

[The Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor, Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Bronx, NY](#)

What Is This Bread? Symbolically Engaging Worship for the Whole Person - MW

This workshop invites attention to the primary symbols of our faith – the stuff that God takes up and uses: bread, wine, water, a book. We tend to take them for granted, but there is a depth of meaning here that we can unpack and put in the service of the Gospel. Join us as we explore these matters that look at the earthly elements of our worship engaging the life of the whole Christian person.

[Rev. Dr. Kent Burreson, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#)

Christians that no longer attend Church - EOMC/CES

This presentation is based on the statistical analysis of this subject documented in the Barna Group book "Churchless". Only 57% of adult Christians go to church. Why are so many absent from church? This is worse in the younger generations. What are the causes for this and what can we do about it? One of the problem areas is related to "doing good works". This presentation will provide some answers and at least one that is being implemented. Data is included from the Pew organization also. I will provide a script of this presentation and redistribute it containing any solutions from those attending.

[Mr. Edgar Allen](#)

Your Legacy: Family, Church and Charity - MW

Are there people and organizations you care about and want to help financially? Learn strategies for sustaining your church's foundation, supplementing an endowment fund, or leaving an inheritance.

[Gena Gilbertson, Community Engagement leader, Thrivent](#)