

G.I.F.T.S. Growing in Faith to Serve

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Western North Dakota Synod – ELCA

TO: WND GIFTS PARTICIPANTS AND PASTORS

FROM: Jan Zook, GIFTS Coordinator

DATE: December 12, 2011

RE: UPCOMING GIFTS EVENTS

**GIFTS #116 – January 27-28, 2012**

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 Osage Avenue, Bismarck**

**“Called for Freedom”: Paul’s Letter to the Galatians**

James L. Boyce, Emeritus Professor of New Testament and Greek, Luther Seminary

*"For freedom Christ has set us free!"*

So Paul wrote to the Galatians. In our baptism God calls us for a purpose— with our neighbors as the beneficiaries. At the center Christian freedom is about vocation.

Revisiting the major argument and themes of Galatians opens us to hear and experience again the promise of the freeing power of the gospel of the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ." Born amid the energy and sometimes heated debates of early Christian mission, Paul's message of the cross of Christ and the promise of justification by grace call us to live out our freedom through faithful love and service of the neighbor.

Cherished phrases like “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me” or "For freedom Christ has set us free" capture the power of the Spirit to fire the church's life and mission through the centuries. The event will cover major themes, overall structure and argument of Galatians. It will include Paul’s message of the Gospel – “The Christian call to freedom in love and service to the neighbor”.

**Recommended Reading Prior to the Course**

*The Letter to the Galatians*

Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty* (This is available either as pamphlet published by Fortress Press in their Facets Books Series or the full text can be accessed online on the web as:: Martin Luther: On the Freedom of a Christian. Trans. by Henry Wace and C. A. Buchheim, *First Principles of the Reformation*, London: John Murray, 1883. In “Modern History Sourcebook” URL address: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/luther-freedomchristian.html>)

James L. Boyce. *Galatians*. (<http://www.enterthebible.org>)

James L. Boyce. "The Poetry of the Spirit: Willing and Doing in Galatians 5 and 6." (Full Text available online at [http://www2.luthersem.edu/word&world/Archives/20-3\\_Galatians/20-3\\_Boyce.pdf](http://www2.luthersem.edu/word&world/Archives/20-3_Galatians/20-3_Boyce.pdf))

Ordained in 1972, Boyce received his M Div. degree from Luther Seminary and holds a Ph.D. in classics from the University of North Carolina. He taught courses in New Testament and Greek in the classroom and online from 1970 until his retirement in 2008 and served as minister of education and co-pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis from 1974-1979. During the 1980s he led students on archeological digs in Israel. In retirement he continues to teach some courses at Luther Seminary; to lead Bible studies and lay workshops in parishes and to write for resources such as "workingpreacher.org."

**Registration is at 6:30pm and the event begins at 7pm Friday at Good**

**Shepherd, Bismarck.** We resume Sat at 9am and concludes by 3pm. Please bring your Bible. Registration is \$10.00 and includes lunch. Please register by January 24. Rooms have been reserved in a block named "WND Synod GIFTS" at the Expressway Inn, Bismarck. Please reserve a room by Jan 20 by calling 1- 800-456-6388.

**GIFTS#117 "Faith Apps--First Century Tools for passing on faith in the twenty-first Century"**  
**Dr. David Anderson, April 14, 2012 in Minot**

As baptized disciples of Jesus, we are not only invited into a "personal" faith in God and God's love for the world through Christ Jesus. We are also called and invited into God's mission of love to those around us. This mission is carried out through words and deeds, through intentional faith practices. These faith practices put us into contact with the presence of God's redeeming and on-going work through the spirit of that same risen Jesus. And not just us but also all those with whom we share life--our family, our friends, our coworkers, and potentially any others to whom the Holy Spirit sends us. These faith practices are as old (or older) than the church itself. The foundation for these practices is laid throughout the Scriptures. Much more, like a carpenter's tools...or the apps on a smart phone...these faith practices are portable. They can be gifted and modeled in the local congregation. But their true proving ground...their full intended application...is in the world, in our daily lives.

At the event, Dr. David Anderson of Vibrant Faith Ministries will not only lay out the framework for this missional model but also help us work the Biblical underpinnings for this model. He will help us practice what the four key faith practices might look like in our daily lives and invite us to imagine how these faith practices might be 'app'ed' when we leave this workshop.

**GIFTS #118 - June 25-28, 2012 School for Lay Ministry - Luther Seminary**

The Spirituality and Theology of the Lord's Prayer

Wine, Water jars, and witness: Getting to know the Gospel of John

Love stories from the Bible

**GIFTS #119 September 22, 2012 The Gospel of Luke -Professor Mary Hinkle Shore, Luther Seminary, Dickinson**

**Welcome to our newest GIFTS members:**

Lisa Plorin, New Hope Lutheran, Upham. Her mentor is Pastor Linda Wimmer, Towner.

Sandra Ostrom, Christ Lutheran, Minot. Her mentor is Pastor Mike Johnson.

John Mogren and Kelly Jones, First Lutheran, Fessenden. Their mentor is Pastor Shirley Teske, Fessenden.

**Reminder:**

Yearly Tuition of \$75.00 for GIFTS members is due for 2012. This tuition supports the GIFTS program and reimburses the speakers for our events. The tuition form is included in this mailing. (Pastors do not pay tuition.)

**WND SYNOD G.I.F.T.S. #116**

Paul's Letter to the Galatians

January 27-28, 2012

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Registration is \$10.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your check and this registration form by January 24, 2012 to:

**WND SYNOD GIFTS, % Jan Zook, PO BOX101, Bowbells, ND 58721**

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**WND Synod GIFTS Annual Tuition**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

\$75.00 enclosed for 2012 annual tuition \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you!

Please make checks payable to WND Synod GIFTS. Mail to:

WND Synod GIFTS, % Jan Zook, PO Box 101, Bowbells, ND 58721