

## PRESIDENT'S CONVOCATION

## Workshops Focus on Ministry Interests

Three workshop sessions offered President's Convocation participants a variety of options to explore topics of interest relevant to various aspects of ministry.

Some workshops were very participant-specific — including "It's A Women Thing, Women in Ministry — A Look at the Opportunities and Responsibilities of Women at Work in the Church" led by Gretchen Jameson, Associate Director-Communications for the Youth Ministry Office of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and "Women, Take Care of Yourself!" led by Kristi Armstrong, RNC.

School office team members were the target for "Lasting Impressions" and "Best Practices in the School Office," both led by Mary Beth Brink, Office Administrator for Trinity Lutheran School-Orlando. Early childhood educators gathered to learn new strategies to make their center and congregation a "Reaching Community for Christ!" at the workshop led by Deb Stroh titled "First Impressions." Teachers gained insight from Nancy Marquardt on reading strategies in sessions tagged "Set the Hook," "What's That Word?" and "I Don't Get It." Ann Eissfeldt led a session on "Helping Special Needs Students Within the Classroom."

Deb Berry's sessions for educators focused on "Investigating God's Word Through Science and Technology" and "Dig In and Explore Science from a Christian Perspective." She also led a workshop on healthy lifestyles.

Ralph Utech offered instruction on "The Lutheran School Portal," a web-based resource for Lutheran educators around the world. In "The Teacher as Pastor," Ann Greinke and Barbara Stoeppelwerth considered "the teacher's call to shepherd the families placed in his/her care."

Jean Prochnow and Deborah Hall took a "practical approach to spiritual and emotional development in children" in "I'd Rather See a Sermon than Hear One!" and "I'm Just a Kid, So What are You Going to Do About It?"

In "Creative Confirmation," Peter LeBorious showed how this youth ministry "cornerstone" can be "used to strengthen faith, connect youth and equip God's people."

Teens and youth ministry were also the focus of Gretchen Jameson's "One: Working on the Relationship that Matters" workshop.

Rev. David Brockhoff's "Restructuring Congregations in Light of the Gospel" illustrated "real church applications of simple yet effective ways to modify existing structure toward action." Rev. Scott Gress "exploded some myths" and "empowered" agents to be agents of change in "Leading Organizational Change."

Rev. Dr. R. Richard Armstrong examined "Transitions" with church workers in their lives and/or ministries. "Boundaries for Church Professionals" and how to set and maintain them in ministry roles were explored by Mary Jacob, Ed.D., ARNP.

Music-themed workshops included "In With the Old, In With the New" and "Red?! . . . I Think It Should Have Been Plaid!" led by James Marriott.

Dr. Cliff Pederson's sessions — "Growing a Congregation in a Culture of Mass Aging" — introduced the Senior Ministry Inventory, a diagnostic research tool whose 174 questions "sample eight life arenas and form the most comprehensive and inclusive ministry inventory available today."

Rev. Christian Airey led a workshop on "Gospel Ministry to Haitian People in Their Homeland and Diaspora with a Focus on the Evangelical Lutheran Church." The workshop included a review of the different ministry models presently at work in the country.

Keynote speakers doubled as workshop leaders. Dr. Joel Lehenbauer explored "Prayer in the Life of the Worker" while Dr. William Willimon took a closer look at "Pastor as Teacher" and

Dr. Marva Dawn focused on "Sexuality: What is Marriage?"

Florida-Georgia District District President Gerhard Michael Jr. led a session exploring "Responsible Eucharistic Hospitality." Concordia House of Studies Executive Director Wayne Wilke led sessions on "Freedom of Religion and Tolerance of Religion: Both, Either or Neither?" and "How Can They Hear Without a Pastor?" Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for Outreach Douglas Kallesen offered insights in "Connecting Your Congregation to Your Community."

Ben Freudenburg, Director of Family Life and Associate Professor of Family Life and Psychology at Concordia University-Ann Arbor, was one of the mega workshop leaders. "Getting Our Children to the Home Their Father in Heaven Has Prepared for Them," offered "practical ways to help the home be the primary agency for faith formation." In "Cultivation of Devotional Life," Freudenburg also directed a "hands-on event" designed to give participants the "opportunity to actually spend time with God" and providing a "model to integrate into daily life," and a workshop on "Children's Messages for Chapel and Church."

Mary Weibel, Kathy Emanuelson and Darlene Kaiser teamed to show participants how to form a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans service team in a workshop titled "Make a Difference in Your Community." □



GRETCHEN JAMESON, Associate Director-Communications for the Youth Ministry Office of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, led several workshops. □

## Church Worker Anniversaries

The following professional workers celebrating milestone anniversaries of service to the church were recognized at the President's Convocation.

**75 Years**

Walter Peiper

**70 Years**

Gerhardt Gerike

**60 Years**

Paul Foust  
Alvin Heumann  
George Loose  
Robert Miller

**55 Years**

Paul Foelber  
Delmar Glock

**50 Years**

John Buchheimer  
Dorothy Ebert  
Richard Roehrs  
Carlton Spatzek  
Karl Thiele

**45 Years**

Rodger Meyer  
Paul Ruff  
William Splitberger  
Paul Wittenberg

**40 Years**

Richard Arndt  
Dennis Glander  
David Mennicke  
Gerhard Michael  
Ronald Mueller  
Jose Puerto  
Norm Springer  
Roger Walker

**35 Years**

Barbara Dorlac  
Richard Drankwalter  
Gary Genzen  
Lynn Kernkamp  
Richard Kiesel  
Bruce Lieske  
Juan Martin-Garcia  
Thomas Moore  
Pat O'Brien  
Elmer Riffel  
Fred Schielke  
Harlan Schoenrock  
Stephen Schroeder  
Carol Seelman  
Robert Steinke  
Art Swett  
John Westol

**30 Years**

Christian Airey  
Gary Bomberger  
Harold Brandel  
Sandy Brayton  
Mark Brink  
Karl Floetke  
Lois Ford  
Kent Fuqua  
Corrine Hoffert  
Jeffrey Krempler  
Earl Steffens  
Barbara Stoeppelwerth

**25 Years**

Linda Aceto  
Richard Carlton  
Jesse Crosmer  
Sue Frank  
Soni Gorwood  
Ann Greinke  
Steven Hess  
Cheryl Honoree  
John Karch J.  
Sara Knight  
Jeff Moore  
Jane Nodar  
Paul Rauscher  
David Schillinger  
William Schmidt  
Edward Scott  
Georgianna Smith  
Sue Steenis

Laurie Tremblay  
Becky Ulch  
Kathy Wilsher

**20 Years**

David Brockhoff  
Ann Clark  
George Earhart  
Stephen Gaulke  
Natalee Hallsted  
David Hansen  
Ann Hinz  
Karri Klemm  
Steve Lehenbauer  
Ellen Lewis  
Kathy Lisi  
Scott McLean  
Jon Peterson  
Nancy Richards  
Martha Rockey  
Alan Seilk  
Sharon Utech  
Bill Vollman  
Jeff Walcheski

**15 Years**

Michele Barbieri  
Charmane Baumer  
Derek Bohlmann  
Julie Burgess  
John Buuck  
Dan Czaplowski  
Marie Harbar

Michael Heidle  
Becky Lehenbauer  
Jack Lustilla  
Pam Mobely  
Terri Ogle  
Mary Sandfort  
Julie Sear  
Warren Thomason  
Carri Wetherell  
Betty Wienrich

**10 Years**

Anita Allwardt  
Ebengo Bongo  
Judith Caruso  
Edward DeWitt  
Hank Drummond  
Gery Geiger  
Donna Hascup  
Joyce Heffernan  
Nancy Hood  
Peggy Janke  
Benito Perez-Lopez  
John Rallison  
Clarence Reinke Jr.  
Shirley Schultz  
Joseph Song  
Julianne Spence  
Debra Talbott  
Jeffrey Thormodson  
Soraya Trujillo  
Ginny Vose  
Robert Wittler