**FEATURED PRESENTERS**

**Craig Van Gelder**, professor of congregational mission at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., combines a practical and academic interest in helping congregations engage in mission. He is deeply committed to bringing a congregational perspective into the theological classroom to better prepare leaders for mission.

As assistant to the bishop and minister for outreach in the ELCA’s Grand Canyon Synod, **Marta Poling-Goldenene** is responsible for coaching church planters, encouraging funding and mission development, and helping train congregations for evangelism. She recently completed her Doctor of Ministry degree in church growth and evangelism.

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

8:30 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
Registration & Coffee

8:45 a.m.-9 a.m.
Welcome & Introductions

9-10 a.m.
The Missionary God: Disruptor & Promiser
Presenter: Dr. Craig Van Gelder

10:15 a.m.-11:15 a.m.
Workshops
Presented by pastors in the D.Min. in Congregational Mission & Leadership program

11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Vital Congregations in a Changing World
Presenters: Rev. Marta Poling-Goldenene & Dr. Craig Van Gelder

12:15 p.m.-1 p.m.
Lunch & Conversation
Lunch will be provided as well as an opportunity to dialogue with one another.

Workshops will be led by 14 pastors from around the country who are currently pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree in Congregational Mission and Leadership from Luther Seminary. As part of their studies, they regularly create missional projects related to their parish and ministry settings. The day’s workshops will provide practical application of missional themes for your ministry setting.

**CRISIS:**

Danger + Opportunity

Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2005
8:30 a.m.—1 p.m.

Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 North Mockingbird Lane
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253

480-948-6050

Featuring:
Dr. Craig Van Gelder,
Rev. Marta Poling-Goldenene,
and pastors in the D.Min. in Congregational Mission & Leadership program.
CRISIS: danger + opportunity

"Strictly speaking, one ought to say that the Church is always in a state of crisis, and that its greatest shortcoming is that it is only occasionally aware of it."

Tambaran Kramer, 1938 International Missionary Council

You've heard the words more than once: "The church is in a 'crisis' situation."

In Isaiah we hear:
"But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you." (Isaiah 43:1-2)

Isaiah does not tell us that we won't have to go through the flood waters or through the fire. There will be times of crisis, but we won't be overwhelmed or consumed by these times.

The Chinese symbol, or pictograph, for the word "crisis" is a composite of two other pictographs: "danger" and "opportunity." A crisis can be a dangerous time, but it can also be a time to look for new opportunities.

To encounter crisis is to encounter the possibility of truly being the Church.
Crisis is not the end of opportunity, but only its beginning—where danger and opportunity meet, where the future is in balance and events can go either way.

How will we respond imaginatively to this crisis?

Join us on Feb. 1.

Hear from two persons with expertise in the field of mission and evangelism, Dr. Craig Van Gelder and Rev. Marta Poling-Goldenene, who have studied what effective congregations do when faced with tough decisions.

Join pastors from across the country who are participating in Luther Seminary's D.Min. in Congregational Mission & Leadership program. They are eager to share their discoveries and to hear your stories.

Dialogue with colleagues about what it takes to be a vital congregation in a changing world.

Dream with one another. How do we journey together through this new territory? What can you do? What can your congregation do? What can synods do? What can seminaries do?

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: ____________________________
Address: _________________________
City/State/ZIP: ____________________
Phone: ____________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________
Church: ___________________________
Title: _____________________________

Have you heard about Luther Seminary's Congregational Mission and Leadership program? Yes No

Will you be staying for lunch? Yes No

Registration fee (includes lunch): $25 ___
Early Bird fee (before Nov. 30): $20 ___

Please return registration form and check made out to Ascension Lutheran Church to:
Tom Mueller, office administrator
Ascension Lutheran Church
7100 North Mockingbird Lane
Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253