

## Syllabus for the Yearly Intensive Series (2022-2023)

### NE Minnesota Synod Lay Leader Network

**Description:** The Yearly Intensive Series is designed to provide adult participants the opportunity to grow in their knowledge of biblical and Lutheran theological skills while enhancing their ability to lead missionally within their context. Participants will have the opportunity to grow deeper in their faith, spirituality, and being in community with one another, through the four Saturday sessions along with readings and exercises/discussions between sessions.

**Instructors:** Rev. Dr. David Mesner, Rev. Dr. Mark Skinner

#### Meeting dates/locations:

<b>Session 1</b>	Oct. 1, 2022	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth (in-person) Duluth <u>or</u>
	Oct. 15, 2022	Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd (in-person)
	Oct. 25, 2022	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
<b>Session 2</b>	Nov. 12, 2022	Meeting through Zoom
	Jan. 10, 2023	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
<b>Session 3</b>	Feb. 4, 2023	Meeting through Zoom
	Feb. 25, 2023	LLN Annual Gathering (optional - location TBD)
	Mar. 14, 2023	<i>In-between discussion session (optional) Zoom meeting from 7:00-8:30 pm</i>
<b>Session 4:</b>	Apr. 15, 2023	Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd (in-person) <u>or</u>
	Apr. 22, 2023	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth (in-person)

#### Format for our sessions together:

9:00 am	Gather/introductions/check-in
9:15 am	Engaging the Gospel of Matthew presentation and discussion (and break)
11:30 am	<i>Life of the Beloved</i> presentation and discussion
12:15 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	<i>The Agile Church</i> presentation and discussion (and break)
2:15 pm	Small group breakouts
3:00 pm	Wrap-up, evaluation, and departure by 3:30 pm

#### Bibliography: required texts for the Yearly Intensive Series

Zscheile, Dwight J. *The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse, 2014.

Nouwen, Henri J. *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*. New York, NY: The Crossroad, 1992.

Bonus read only (not required) Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Cost of Discipleship*. New York, NY: Touchstone- Simon and Schuster, 1959 first ed., 1995.

## Session 1: October 2022

### Engaging the Gospel of Matthew

Preparation	Please do a close reading of Matthew chapters 1-2 and 28 Please map your "God with us" life journey: significant experiences and trajectories
Structure of Matthew	Infancy Narrative: "Emmanuel, God is with us" / Commission: "I, with you, I am"
In-depth Exegesis	Matthew 1-2, 28
Small Group/Sharing (Bridge to Zscheile / Nouwen)	"Emmanuel / God with us" stories and mission

Print out *Tenants for Christian Leadership*, Skinner and be ready for learning/discussion during presentation.

*Life of the Beloved*, Nouwen. Read beginning through chapter one, "Being the Beloved" (pp. 9-39).

*Agile Church*, Zscheile. Read from beginning through chapter two (pp. vii-34).

*Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer (bonus read only, to be discussed during the in-between session). Read part one, "Grace and Discipleship" 1 pp. 11-101.

## Session 2: November 2022

### Engaging the Gospel of Matthew

Preparation	Close reading of the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) Dietrich Bonhoeffer, <i>Discipleship</i> , chapter six, "The Sermon on the Mount" <i>Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification</i>
In-depth Exegesis	Matthew 5-7: Doing Righteousness
Application	Daily Prayer
Small Group/Sharing (Bridge to Zscheile / Nouwen)	Making Disciples

Complete and be ready to discuss: *Spiritual Gifts Inventory: Jonah Group (Journey with God part 4)* and *Spiritual Gifts Explanation Guide*, Skinner.

*Life of the Beloved*, Nouwen. Read chapter two, "Becoming the Beloved, Taken and Blessed" (pp. 43-83).

*Agile Church*, Zscheile. Read chapters three and four (pp. 35-85).

*Discipleship*, Bonhoeffer (bonus read only, to be discussed during the in-between session). Read part two, "Sermon on the Mount" chapters 6-13 (pp. 102-154).

## Session 3: February 2023

### Engaging the Gospel of Matthew

Preparation	Close reading of Matthew chapters 10, 13, and 18
In-depth Exegesis	Matthew 13: Parables of the Kingdom
Small Group/Sharing (Bridge to Zscheile / Nouwen)	"A Beautiful Life:" Hearing, understanding and doing in discipleship and community

Print out *Schein Triangle* diagram and be ready for learning/discussion during presentation.

*Life of the Beloved, Nouwen*. Read chapter two, "Becoming the Beloved, Broken and Given" (pp. 85-125).

*Agile Church, Zscheile*. Read chapter five (pp. 87-111).

*Discipleship, Bonhoeffer* (bonus read only, to be discussed during the in-between session). Read part two, "Sermon on the Mount" chapters 14-20 (pp. 155-198).

#### **Session 4: April 2023**

Engaging the Gospel of Matthew

Preparation                      Close reading of Matthew 24-25

In-depth Exegesis            Matthew 25: Return of the King

Small Group/Sharing        "Doing" / "Not doing" to "the least of these"  
(Bridge to Zscheile / Nouwen)

Read over handout, *Ministry Teams: Bethlehem Lutheran, Brainerd*.

*Life of the Beloved, Nouwen*. Read chapter three and epilogue, "Living as the Beloved and Epilogue" (pp. 129-149).

*Agile Church, Zscheile*. Read chapter six and conclusion (pp. 113-150).

Read *Discipleship, Bonhoeffer* (bonus read only, to be discussed during lunch). Read parts three and four, "The Messengers / The Church of Jesus Christ and the Life of Discipleship" 1 pp. 199-304.