



Department for Mission
Lutheran Church - South Australia / Northern Territory

**Presentations, Seminars
and Workshops**

All use a PowerPoint Presentation

The Department for Mission exists to serve the district. One of the ways we do this is to provide presentations, seminars and workshops for congregations and other groups.

We can also develop new resources to meet your needs.



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Mission
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List of Topics currently available: (See more detailed descriptions below)

Mission Presentations

- ✓ **Let's talk about Mission!** – Getting the Church into the World 1-3 hr
- ✓ **From Mission to Church** – Where are we headed? 1-3 hrs

Teaching Resources

- ✓ **The Bible's Big Story** – An Overview of the Bible in 3-4 contact hours Half day
- ✓ **New and Old Treasure** – A Series of 5 Studies Retreat

Planning Resources

- ✓ **Nehemiah a Model Planner** – A Vision-driven approach to Mission Planning 2-6 hrs

Leadership Resources

- ✓ **From Playing Pool to Herding Cats** – Being Church in the 21st Century 2+ hr

Models and Structure

- ✓ **Alternative Models of Ministry** – New and Old Ways of 'doing' Church 1-2 hr
- ✓ **Congregational Match-Making Options** – Models for Working Together 30-60 min

Congregational Life

- ✓ **Transitions** – Life, Leadership and Mission in Different Size Congregations 3-6 hrs
- ✓ **Growing a Healthy and Healing Congregation** – Building Healthy Practices 4-8 hrs
- ✓ **Small Group Ministry** – A Brief Introduction 30-60 min
- ✓ **ECG** – Encouraging Christian Giving 20-30 min

News and Tales from the Trenches

- ✓ **Presentation at Services** – Brief overview of District News and Stories 5-7 min
- ✓ **Extended Presentation** - For Councils, Rallies and other groups 20-30 min

Introductions to Other Resources

30-60 minute introductions to various resources are available. These include

- ✓ **Crossways materials** – Brief overview and promotion
- ✓ **Natural Church Development** – An explanation of the process and benefits for planning
- ✓ **National Church Life Survey (NCLS)** – Making the most of your return

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These presentations can usually be done as a brief presentation or as a longer workshop with more small group discussions etc. Contact the presenter to negotiate! 😊

Presentations on Mission

Let's talk about Mission!

Steen Olsen

[From a one hour presentation to a 3 hour seminar]

Getting the Church into the World. Encourages congregations to reflect on key issues in regard to being missional in today's world. A good introduction and a place to start. This is the presentation I usually use when invited to 'come and talk to us about mission and what we can do locally'. Who are we trying to reach and how do we build relationships with them that will eventually allow us to share the good news about Jesus? This seminar uses 3 short video clips to stimulate thinking and discussion. It is not about a program but a life-style. When we realise that God is at work it takes the pressure off us and allows us to be relaxed about building relationships through which God can use us as he reaches out to his world in love.

From Mission to Church

Steen Olsen

[1-3 hours]

God is on a mission to his world and he invites us to join him. We reflect on what we mean by 'mission' and 'church'. Is mission a stepping stone to people becoming part of a normal Sunday morning congregation or are there other possibilities? We explore fresh, inherited and diverse expression of church. The importance of shaping a community for mission so that mission is not just a bolt-on extra. When does a mission outreach need to become church and how do we plan for this? Many things are possible under current LCA structures and processes.

Teaching Resources

The Bible's Big Story

Steen Olsen

[Half day Seminar requiring 3-4 contact hours]

One of the Crossways Bible Overview Courses. This course is brilliant at helping people to get an overview of the message of the Bible, "God's Big Story". It uses the Crossways Timeline and other PowerPoint illustrations. Also available: The shorter version ***A Snapshot of the Bible*** [1-2 hrs] and ***See Through The Scriptures*** [6 hrs] Participants need the manual.

New and Old Treasure

Steen Olsen

[Five studies, suitable for one hour sessions at a retreat]

First developed as a series of five one hour interactive studies for a congregational leaders' retreat:

- 1 **Faith and Freedom when Following Jesus: The Joy of Discipleship**
Obedience and Blessing: Are we an *Old* or *New* Covenant People?
- 2 **Being Lutheran: Finding the Essence, not the Minimum**
Firm at the Centre – Flexible at the Edges: *It's the Gospel Stupid!*
- 3 **Being Church and not an Institution: Holding Structure Lightly**
Form Follows Function: Keeping the *Bean-Counters* in their Place
- 4 **The Foolishness of God: When I am Weak then I am Strong**
Living Weak – Remaining Weak – Celebrating our Weakness
- 5 **Our Ambidextrous God: Keeping the Main Thing the Main Thing**
God works in two ways in two spheres: Serving with a Foot in each Camp

Each study looks at Scripture and a passage from our tradition (Lutheran Confessions or Luther) and then seeks to turbo charge that tradition into our present context.

Planning Resources

Nehemiah a Model Planner

Steen Olsen

[2 – 6 hours]

This workshop assists congregations with a vision-driven approach to mission planning. Using Nehemiah's prayerful approach to planning the rebuilding of the wall of Jerusalem as an example, congregations are introduced to four preparatory foundations that need to be laid before developing SMART goals and tactics for new mission initiatives. This workshop is designed to enable congregations to work through the process for themselves and use available tools. It does not take a pedantic approach to planning and focuses on motivating the congregation for mission.

Leadership Resources

From Playing Pool to Herding Cats

Steen Olsen

[2 hour+ interactive Presentation]

Being Church in the 21st Century. An elective at the District Conference in May 2011.

*cats are leaving the building
cats can't be forced into line
cats don't have owners, they have servants
the future is not predictable; our ability to plan is limited
there are no magic bullets; no sure-fire programs
the church lives in a fluid, networked society
the old maps get us lost; trying harder doesn't help
creative imagination – finding new maps in a disjointed world
wrestling with the timeless word in a twittered world*

Models and Structure

Alternative Models of Ministry

Steen Olsen

[1-2 hours]

Introduces nine options for congregations who find that they can no longer sustain the model of ministry they have been using in the past. Often that is because their parish can now not afford a full-time pastor. Various forms of team ministry are canvassed as are realignment, calling a Specific Ministry Pastor, ecumenical cooperation and having a pastor who only visits occasionally. This presentation goes with the pamphlet of the same name.

Congregational Match-Making Options

Steen Olsen

[1 hour]

When two congregations (or parishes) decide to join they need to find the best structure for their circumstances. We suggest five possibilities on a continuum from flirting to marriage. This presentation enables two congregations to discuss the options and begin to make decision about how they will work together. The PowerPoint was developed by Allan Heppner, Pastor for Cong Support in the LCA Vic/Tas District, from a discussion paper that Steen prepared.

Congregational Life

Transitions

Steen Olsen

[3 – 6 hours]

Life, leadership & mission in different-sized congregations. Ever wondered why your congregation functions in different ways to the one down the road. It may be as much about its size as its history. For example, smaller congregations tend to be more democratic, larger ones elect a leadership and then entrust them to make the decisions. In some congregations everything revolves around the pastor, in others the key players are lay gate-keepers.

This seminar looks at how different sized congregations function and grow. Built on the work of Arlin Rothauge in 1983 (and many studies since) we look at four different sized congregations and how they make decisions, grow and assimilate new members. The role of the pastor is also considered. We then look at the critical transitions between different sizes and why congregations often don't grow past a certain point. Many have found this seminar has been an "aha" experience as they have come to understand why their congregation does things in particular ways and why people are sometimes unhappy.

Growing a Healthy and Healing Congregation

Steen Olsen

[4-8 hours]

[First developed as a series of five one hour interactive studies for a congregational leaders' retreat]

This workshop complements the material presented by Peacemakers and the Ambassadors of Reconciliation. It looks at what congregations can do to establish healthy policies and practices in handling conflict. It is not designed to facilitate reconciliation between conflicted parties but to grow the health of a congregation during times when there are no obvious disputes. It asks how we can develop our 'corporate culture' so that it reinforces healthy and healing ways of relating.

Goals for this Workshop:

- To grow in knowledge of what makes a congregation healthy and healing and how to apply our understanding to the life of the congregation.
- To reflect on how we together and as individuals promote or hinder good health in the congregation and to grow in knowledge, attitude and practice.
- To understand how leaders function as an immune system for the body.
- To begin to develop and implement principles and policy to promote health and deal with unhealthy and dysfunctional practices in the congregation.

ECG – Encouraging Christian Giving

Valdis Andersons

[20-30 minutes]



Often church communities struggle with the lack of money on the offering plate, and sometimes there resistance to budget line items presented to Congregational members at a Half-Yearly Meetings or your AGM. "ECG" or "Encouraging Christian Giving" is suitable for Church Councils and/or fellowship groups and looks at how we can encourage people to give to God's work through their church. There is a focus on not being embarrassed to raise the issue of money (in church) but a positive affirmation that as church we can inspire our communities to be more fully involved in God's work through the gifts placed on the offering plate. The presentation involves discussion of the meaning of Stewardship with an Australian focus.

Small Group Ministry

Steen Olsen

[30-60 min]

A brief introductory presentation with discussion questions that invites people to consider forming or joining a small group. This is not a training session for leaders or an extensive overview of how groups might best function. It uses the head, hands, heart model to talk about what makes a balanced healthy small group. Useful to introduce the subject if a congregation is considering establishing a small group network.

News and Tales from the Trenches

District News Presentation at Services

Valdis Andersons

[5-7 minutes]

Power Point Presentation giving a broad overview of the Ministries of the District and usually presented during or immediately after a worship service. The presentation is regularly updated and encourages people to pray for and support the wider ministries of our Church.

Extended Presentation

Valdis Andersons

[20-30 minutes]

An opportunity for fellowship groups, councils, zone rallies and other gatherings to hear District news in greater depth. Includes a DVD – “A Huge Church” and “Good Things Happen When People Get Together”.

Introductions to Other Resources

Steen Olsen

Crossways

Information about the Crossways family of courses by Harry Wendt. It gives an overview of the five biblical narrative course that take between an hour and sixty sessions to teach and of the six topical short courses (Praying like Jesus the Messiah; Road to Coronation; An Apostles’ Creed to the New Millennium; In Heaven’s Name, Why on Earth?; Christmas the Real Story; and The Parables of Jesus), as well as the other Crossways resources. We do not stock Crossways material for sale except that we have ‘inherited’ some stock from the Ridley Bookshop in Melbourne which is now available for very good prices. It includes the previous versions of some of the short courses. Contact the office for details.

Natural Church Development

An information session on the Natural Church Development questionnaire and other materials that invites congregations to use it as part of the planning process. It explains the 8 quality characteristics of a healthy growing church and the theory behind it. It is natural for the Church to grow in every meaning of the term, because it is normal for living things to grow. Where this happens the question of what is hindering growth needs to be asked. NCD works with the approach of dealing with the *minimum factor* and removing blockages to health. NCD congregation leadership surveys can be organised with Steen who is an NCD coach.

National Church Life Survey

As the results of the 2011 survey begin to become available the Department for Mission will seek to assist congregations to unpack their results using the tools that NCLS will provide. We will also analyse trends in the district and LCA as a whole once these reports become available.