

“The Body of Christ Walks and Works Together”: Breakout Leaders

Pastor Samuel Gullixson - *The Divine Service as Pastoral Care*

Rev. Samuel Gullixson graduated from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2010. He served at Our Savior Lutheran in Bishop, CA from 2010 to 2016, when he was called to his current position at Parkland Lutheran Church and School (PLC/S) in Tacoma, WA. He serves as an associate pastor with responsibilities for service planning at PLC and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Yelm, WA. While at PLC/S, he has worked to advance the acolyte program to educate and increase awareness of the blessings we receive in the Divine Service each week among the youth. Pr. Gullixson has been married to Anna for 14 years and they are blessed with 5 boys ranging from 3 to 12 years of age.

Concerning his presentation, Pastor Gullixson shares these thoughts:

“The sheep you serve experience guilt and shame, impatience, anger, lust, envy and the accusations that result from their sins and the sins of others, anxiety and fear, worry, loneliness, illness and much more on a daily basis. This is why the Lord has called you. You are His voice, His minister to deliver to them a clean conscience, applying His forgiveness, healing, and comfort through Jesus Christ. This presentation will encourage you to consider the Divine Service as the regular pastoral care that God provides to His people, delivering Christ to them in Word and Sacrament to support them in their day-to-day lives and to prepare them for the special difficulties and joys that they will face in this life and for a blessed death.”

Kelli Green – *Educational Neuroscience for Teaching and Learning*

Kelli L. Green serves as professor of special education at Martin Luther College. Kelli has a Master's of Arts in Special Education with a K-12 Learning Disabilities and Emotional Behavioral Disorders licensure. She also holds state licenses for Elementary Education K-6 and Communications Language Arts 5-8. Kelli recently completed her licensure in Administration of Special Education and is in Year 3 of Ed.D. Leadership and Learning at University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN. Kelli has twenty-one years of teaching experience as a Lutheran school third grade teacher and public school special education teacher who also served nonpublic schools gaining a wide variety of experiences that included students K-12 with learning disabilities, emotional behavioral disorders, autism spectrum disorder, other health disabilities, trauma, diversity, and more. The Lord has given Kelli a passion for serving educators as they serve these precious students and their families.

Concerning her presentation, Kelli shares these thoughts:

Through educational neuroscience we are learning more and more about how God created the brain to develop through connection. The past two years have forced us to take a closer look at how the stress response affects how the brain is wired and continues to re-wire throughout life. We will take a look at this research from the perspective of the educator and the student. We will use a universal design for learning mindset to establish safe and healing educational environments where God's love clears the path for all learning. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) go together. Whether your school is already fully engaged with these tools or you are a new administrator or educator to SEL and/or PBIS, this workshop can ignite your evidence-based practices as you design for the individual classroom or whole school. Learners need educators to be prepared to meet them where they are socially, emotionally, behaviorally, and spiritually. Among the positive outcomes are higher academic achievement, lower frequency of behavioral outbursts and office referrals, and God's love as the most powerful tool we can use to uplift students, families, and colleagues.