

Preparing for Preaching – A Series of Support Studies On-Line for Lay Leaders Preparing Sermons – Sponsored by the Manitoba Northwest Ontario Synod

Course dates: February 18 – April 19, 2018

Objectives

- To provide instruction and support for lay leaders assigned with preaching responsibilities in their congregations
- Develop a support network of colleagues who will learn from one another and potentially be available for consultation and cooperation following the course
- To orient participants to the nature of preaching, its power and limitations; methods for preparation; interpretation of text and context for assigned periscopes; interpretation of local contexts; application of the scriptural message to the local context; orientation to possible delivery methods
- To orient participants to on-line resources for sermon preparation
- To practice together interpreting the text and context of the lesson; the context of the congregation; discerning the message for a particular people at a particular time; sermon development and preparation using different methods of delivery
- To provide supportive feedback for sermon preparation

Notes:

- Participants will gather on-line for eight sessions. No classes will be held the weeks of March 25 (Holy Week) and April 1 (week after Easter)
- One week will be set aside for orientation to the use of the technological delivery system, Adobe Connect, as well as **orientation to the course process and procedures**.
- One week will conclude the course with evaluation, celebration of accomplishments and learning, and recommendations for future work.
- Participants will be involved in the **study of five periscope texts** from the Revised Common Lectionary and **consideration of their own settings** with each lesson. Texts studied will be the gospel readings for March 11 and 18, April 1 (Easter), 22 and 29. The first texts studied will develop skills in interpreting the lesson, as well as applying the lesson. The first two texts will not require sermon preparation.
- Study guides will assist in preparing for each on-line session. Weekly preparation will require approximately two hours. On-line conversations will be ninety minutes. Sermon preparation will take the time that is required.
- Consideration will also be given for approaches to delivery.
- Each participant will **prepare three sermons**, with all participants preparing for Easter, as well as April 22 and 29. In preparing their sermons, participants will draw upon their individual study of the text, the shared learning of the class, and the understanding of the local context for the sermon.
- Participants will **share in the process of review and feedback for all sermons**.

Classes will be held on-line on Tuesday evenings, 7:30-9:00 pm CST, February 20- April 24 with no classes March 27 and April 3.

Additional Notes:

- Participants are encouraged to give one of their sermons April 1 (Easter), April 22 or April 29. While not required, the experience of delivery is extremely valuable.
- Participation in this course is an investment in lay leadership development for the congregation. Congregations are encouraged to support that investment by contributing all or part of the fees required.

Course Calendar

February 5	Deadline to register
February 7	Confirmation of sufficient registration to proceed
1-February 20	Orientation to Adobe Connect – Orientation to on-line resources – Orientation to course process and procedures - <i>Assign texts for March 11</i>
2-February 27	Discuss texts for March 11, text and context– Examine the context of each participant – Consider possible applications of text to local contexts – Suggest possible delivery styles – <u>No sermon will be required</u> - <i>Assign texts for March 18</i>
3-March 6	Discuss texts for March 18 – Consider text and context of the lesson – Consider local contexts of participants – Consider possible applications of the text to the local context as well as delivery possibilities - <u>No sermon will be required</u> - <i>Assign Easter texts for April 1; a written sermon will be required.</i>
4-March 13	Discuss <i>Texts for April 1</i> , review text and context, local contexts and possible approaches to sermon development. All participants will be challenged to prepare sermons for Easter- Assign all sermons
5-March 20	Discuss all sermons – Emphasis will be on supportive, constructive feedback - <i>Assign texts for April 22; a written sermon will be required.</i>
March 27	Holy Week No Class
April 3	Easter Week No Class
6-April 10	Participants will debrief their Easter experiences – “How was the approach of the sermon that was given different from the approach of their own preparations?” Discuss texts for April 22, text and context of the lesson, context of the sermon, possible applications and delivery methods. Assign sermons for April 22. <i>Assign texts for April 29; a written sermon will be required.</i>
7-April 17	Discuss sermons for April 22. Discuss texts for April 29 - Assign sermons for April 29
8-April 24	Discuss sermons for April 29 -Evaluate and celebrate – Course concludes

Revised Common Lectionary Series B for weeks under consideration

March 11	Lent 4	John 3:14-21
March 18	Lent 5	John 12:20-33
April 1	Easter	Mark 16:1-8
April 22	Easter 4	John 10:11-18
April 29	Easter 5	John 15:1-8

Fees and Registration

Fees: 8 on-line, ninety-minute sessions
Study guides for five lectionary readings
Additional resources available
Sermon review for three sermons
Additional help as required
\$120

Enrollment is limited to ten participants. A minimum of six enrolled is required for the course to begin.

Registration deadline is February 5. Date to confirm sufficient registration is February 7.

Make cheques payable to "MNO Synod" and postdate to February 7. If there is not sufficient registration to proceed, cheques will be returned.

To register, send the following information to the synod office.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail address:

Home Congregation:

Include a cheque in the amount of \$120, payable to "MNO Synod"

Mail to MNO Synod Office, 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB, R3T 1W6