

RE•FORMATION

THEN • NOW • ALWAYS

In the Fall of 2016, Congregations and Conferences of the Rocky Mountain Synod will focus on the honest telling of our Lutheran heritage: the story of the Reformation, the story of the ELCA, and the story of each congregation.

Rather than present dry history lessons, the following resources offer a real engagement with our story – local, synodical, Churchwide, and global – that can be used in intergenerational settings with an eye toward faith formation.



Congregational/Community/Conference Processes

Telling Our Congregation's Story

An exploration of parish history can yield more than a historical record of people, dates, and events. It is also a rich source for reflection that can help any congregation affirm their identity and purpose for a hopeful tomorrow. The RMS *Engaging our Story* Team is designing a fun, interactive, and conversational way for congregations to examine and document their past while casting a vision for the future.

Appreciative Inquiry

“Appreciative Inquiry,” David Cooperrider and Diana Whitney write, “is a narrative-based process of positive change. It is a cycle of activity that starts by engaging all members of an organization or community in a broad set of interviews and deep dialogue about strengths, resources, and capabilities. It then moves people through a series of activities focused on envisioning bold possibilities and lifting up the most lifecentric dreams for the future. From there, it asks people to discuss and craft propositions that will guide their future together.”

Congregations and Conferences can conduct a session of Appreciative Inquiry based from the best of the Lutheran Heritage. Discover together, in story-telling and listening and in *your* context, how our heritage can inform our present and future. The RMS *Engaging our Story* Team will be offering sample interview questions and an easy-to-follow design for a day together.

Spiritual-Practice-Based Activities for Congregations and Conferences

The RMS *Engaging our Story* Team is compiling a host of simple activities for groups in our synod, such as **Knots of the Past**, and **Re-forming Repentance**. These are simple activities that will help people explore the relation between our heritage and our current spiritual practice. Take a look on the RMS website.

Especially for Senior High

The Youth Discipleship Team (YDT) of the Rocky Mountain Synod is leading the way! To celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the YDT is sponsoring a road trip to eight different cities across the five states of the Rocky Mountain Synod in nine days. This trip will take place July 9th through July 16th, 2017. The goal is to network the youth of the RMS through this trip and to grow a greater connection with our Lutheran roots. Cities to be visited are: Cheyenne and Casper, WY, Salt Lake City, UT, Grand Junction, CO, Albuquerque, NM, El Paso, TX, as well as some in southern and northern Colorado. For further information, inquire at rmsyouthdt@gmail.com.

Do You Like to Color?

The North Carolina Synod of the ELCA is sharing a wonderful resource for celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (“Ever-Reforming: A Reformation 500 Cross-Generational Study”) including a great coloring book for all ages, at www.nclutheran.org/events/docs/Ever-Reforming-Coloring-Pages.pdf. People of all ages will love to color in these fun pages!

Access to the entire curriculum is at: www.nclutheran.org/events/docs/2016-Ever-Reforming-Reformation500-Study.pdf

More Resources and More On the Way!

Further resources are available on the RMS website at <http://www.rmselca.org/engaging-our-story>. These include the 2016 Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly Engaging our Story Videos, Lutheran World Federation Resources, ELCA Resources, Augsburg Fortress Resources, Companion Synod Resources, Movies, Books, and other Fun Activities (how about sending a Flat Luther?).

The RMS website has live links to many of these resources. If you have other great ideas for our synod, send an email to Pastor Michael Tassler at pastormichaeltassler@gmail.com and get them included in the RMS celebration of *Re-Formation: Then, Now, Always!*