

Midwinter Power in the Spirit Online: **“Candlemas: A Festival of Illumination!”**

Sunday, January 31, 2021 through Thursday, February 4, 2021

A ministry of the Virginia Synod, *Power in the Spirit* is for everyone and anyone who wants to be part of a community that enjoys worship, learning, and fellowship. Typically held in the summer at Roanoke College, this is our first winter event! We hope you will join us online for some cold winter nights, as we learn about the illuminating light of Jesus Christ!

Every morning, Sunday through Thursday, begins with an E-Devotional. Check your email for readings, brief videos, and guides for at-home arts and crafts. Study, learn, pray, and play on your own time. Join the rest of the group each evening on Zoom, ready to share what you've learned!

Presentations, Each Night!

Sunday, January 31, 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM:

- **Keynote I: “God’s Presentation to Us”**
From the beginning, day and night have both been among God’s many good gifts to creation—signs for us of the passage of time and invitations to stop and reflect on the life of faith.
The Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Virginia Synod

Monday, February 1, 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM (Choose One):

- **“Lesser Known Lesser Feasts”**

Is this the first time you’ve heard the word, “Candlemas”? Well, there are other little known celebrations in our heritage and service book. Come and learn about them!
The Rev. Michael Church, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Warrenton

- **“Lay Preaching Academy”**

An introduction to the soon-to-be-launched Lay Preaching Academy of the Virginia Synod. Learn about this new ministry for all who are interested in learning more about what goes into a sermon, and how lay people may have opportunities to preach in the years ahead. We’ll even get our toes wet with a preaching exercise.
The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod
The Rev. Colleen Montgomery, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Wytheville

- **“Postures of Prayer”**

This class will draw from “Stretch and Pray: a Daily Discipline for Physical and Spiritual Wellness” published by Murray Finck (author) and Augsburg Fortress. We will adapt many of the prayer postures that are yoga positions to work for those who wish to stretch in a chair. Six postures of prayer will be explored to enrich your prayer life and your physical health as well as a look at group movement!
The Rev. Terrie Sternberg, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pulaski

Tuesday, February 2, 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM (Choose One):

- **“Papua New Guinea”**

Papua New Guinea is a stunningly beautiful place with stunningly beautiful people! The VA Synod is blessed to be in a companion synod relationship with the New Guinea Islands District. Come hear about a 2019 trip to PNG and the many ways that we live together as one community of God’s people—spread across our respective areas of the world but always one people of God.
The Rev. Kelly Bayer Derrick, Assistant to the Bishop of the Virginia Synod

- **“The Power of Questions”**

In this workshop, we will explore how the questions you ask can shape the future of your ministry and we will discuss tools for asking more helpful questions.
The Rev. John Wertz, Jr., Director for Evangelical Mission, Virginia Synod

- **“Bible Study”**

Go in depth on our themes this week, studying the illumination that comes only from scripture. More details to come!
The Rev. Dr. Paul Hinlicky, Tise Professor of Lutheran Studies, Roanoke College.

Wednesday, February 3, 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM (Choose One):

- **“Managing Stress in a System Changed by a Pandemic”**

What does a person do in a time of heightened anxiety in so many areas of life—physical, emotional, political, and spiritual? How can Family Systems Theory inform our efforts at self-care in an environment that can often feel so different and much less certain? We know only too well that anxiety and the virus are contagious. Let’s explore how being calm can be contagious, too.
The Rev. David Gunderlach, Peninsula Pastoral Counseling Center

- **“Seasons of Stewardship”**

Pastor Jeniffer Tillman and Pastor John Wertz, Jr. will share Seasons of Stewardship, an approach to teaching year-round stewardship from the imagination of Pastor Tillman. The approach provides a framework for helping a congregation share their ministry across the year and includes an accompanying financial stewardship emphasis built on this theme which can be used in 2021.
The Rev. Jeniffer Tillman, Apostles Lutheran Church, Gloucester
The Rev. John Wertz, Jr., Director for Evangelical Mission, Virginia Synod

- **“Virginia Interfaith Power and Light”**

VAIPL’s mission is “bringing together all faith communities to mobilize a religious response to climate change through energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy.” Come and learn about the work this organization does in our Commonwealth!
Phyllis Cox, Diaconal Intern, Virginia Interfaith Power and Light

Thursday, February 4, 5:45 PM to 6:55 PM:

- **Keynote II: “Our presentation to God”**

As stewards of God’s creation and custodians of the gospel, presenting ourselves to God also means presenting Jesus to the world. *The Rev. Dr. Dave Delaney, Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries of the Virginia Synod*

Every Evening, Sunday, through Thursday, we conclude our time together with Evening Prayer at 7:00 PM. Join us as Congregations from across the synod call us to worship together even as we remain physically apart. See how a variety of churches have adapted to our present situation!

Supporting Households Around the World! There is no fee to attend *Power in the Spirit Online*, but we do suggest donating \$25 to the *Power in the Spirit Fund* on the VA Synod Giving Page. 100% of what we collect will be used to purchase ELCA Good Gifts for neighbors in need around the world!

Registration Opens January 4, 2021! Visit <https://www.vasynod.org/power-in-the-spirit/> to register! Questions? Contact Pastor David Drebes, Power the Spirit Coordinator, at pastordrebes@gmail.com.