

## Organizing a Circuit Convocation

A circuit convocation, which is a one-day gathering for all the congregations of a circuit, can strengthen the circuit by providing an opportunity for the members of the congregations get to know each other and the pastors of the other congregations.

When the topic of the convocation is drawn from the confessions, congregants learn about the confessions in a manner that individual congregations may not be able to provide. And the congregations that have already been studying the confessions are given the chance to demonstrate to congregations that haven't why it is good that every Lutheran should be familiar with them.

The CLCC provides complimentary material for a circuit's convocation, or the circuit's pastors may develop their own material. While the program will vary with the topic to be presented, a general outline could be

- 1) A 45–60 minute plenary session introducing the topic and creating the setting for the breakout sessions. The CLCC has several presentations that could be adapted for this session.
- 2) Multiple breakout sessions. While the CLCC can provide this material, pastors are trained to do presentations like these and may want to develop their own. Suggestions for breakout sessions are available from the CLCC. Consider having the participants register for these beforehand. Offering more presentations than a participant is able to attend gives a wider choice.
- 3) A closing plenary session which reviews the material just covered and presents multiple resources for further study.

One of the strongest features of a CLCC convocation is the circuit team with lay representatives from each congregation. Thus each congregation has a voice in what is presented at the convocation and an incentive to encourage its members to attend the convocation.

CLCC's goal in providing an outline and materials for a circuit convocation is that attendees will come away with:

- A better understanding and appreciation for our Lutheran heritage.
- More confidence in passing on the faith to the next generation.
- Greater comfort in responding to non-Lutherans about our beliefs.