

Would you like to enliven Music and Worship in your Congregation?



Look to **LPM, the Leadership Program for Musicians**

<http://www.lpm-online.org>

On January 16 in Climax, MN, an enthusiastic group of pastors and lay leaders from both Northwestern Minnesota and Eastern Northern Dakota came together with questions. They asked how to best cultivate vitality in multi-point parishes. So often, being small is looked down upon by the larger culture. Instead, this day focused on the benefits of STAR (Small Town And Rural) congregations. The Church makes Christ known, with music being a primary means of proclaiming the gospel.

“I’d like to try this new hymn,” expresses a pastor, but she is not sure if her musician colleague would know how to teach it. “I’d like to play with more confidence,” expresses a musician, but he needs more training and knowledge.

The **Leadership Program for Musicians** (LPM) responds directly to these and similar questions and situations. LPM is a two-year program for church musicians and pastors offered over 10 sessions per year. Saturday sessions are held at churches in the NW Minnesota and Eastern North Dakota region. Musicians or pastors may also elect to take one or two of the offered courses.

LPM offers courses on “Teaching New Music to the Congregation.” This addresses the pastor’s concern above. We’d like to teach new music, but a musician needs to develop practical skills to learn how to teach a new song or musical setting of the liturgy. LPM offers courses in liturgy and hymnody so that musicians and pastors understand why we worship as we do. Participants receive practical instruction in voice, piano, organ or guitar. They learn to develop a philosophy of church music and to find resources that will make their ministry more effective. Qualified faculty who serve as pastors and/or musicians in our region teaches all courses. (For more on the faculty and courses being offered this year, see the LPM NW Minnesota-Dakotas brochure.)

The way we sing together significantly impacts on our worship. There is no replacement for live music led with skill and confidence. Perhaps a multi-point parish can identify one person in the parish with gifts for music, provide a scholarship for attending the program, and then equip that person to share their gifts parish-wide. A high school or college-aged pianist or vocalist would be a great candidate for the program.

A detailed brochure for the 2010/2011 LPM Year will be available later this spring on the synods websites and at synod assemblies.

For more information on LPM NW Minnesota and Dakotas, contact **Jennifer Baker-Trinity, Regional Coordinator** at 218-938-4701 or jbakertrinity@mac.com.

“LPM prepares capable, confident worship leaders who will enable their congregations to sing well and take their part in the liturgy of the church.”