

Featured Story

Regenerative Farming: Regenerating Soil and Lives

Join us on a journey into the world of regenerative farming, as practiced by a unique fruit farm ministry near Hutchinson, MN. This feature story takes you through the integration of ancient worship practices with regenerative agriculture, emphasizing the deep connections between faith, environmental stewardship, community, and the beauty of creation. Gain insights into how these elements weave together to form a rich tapestry of spiritual and ecological understanding, offering pathways for deeper learning about both regenerative agriculture and ministry.



[Watch Now](#)

Rural Ministry Community Spotlight

Grant Woodley and Farm Rescue's Impact

Dive into the intriguing story of Pr. Grant Woodley (a Faith+Lead blog author) and Pr. Nichole Woodley's life changing experience with Farm Rescue. This feature highlights the journey of Grant and his family as they navigated severe health challenges, with Farm Rescue stepping in to provide timely assistance in harvesting 425 acres of soybeans. This act of community support showcases the essence of rural resilience, faith, and the spirit of agricultural communities. Farm Rescue's commitment, founded in 2005, extends across America's heartland, symbolizing the power of unity and support in times of need.



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for a chance to be featured
in a future newsletter.

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Addressing Rural Ministry Needs: Through Special Courses

Whether you're looking to enhance your role as a leader, deepen your faith in daily life, or find innovative ways to engage and support your community, our courses offer practical and relevant tools to foster effective and impactful ministry in a rural context.

1 Embodying Thoughts And Prayers

In rural settings, lay people often become impromptu comforters in their community. This course provides essential skills for these roles, focusing on active listening and empathetic support, making it ideal for those seeking to offer compassionate care in a rural context.

[Learn More](#)

2 Lutheranism: Bound And Free

As rural communities evolve, maintaining strong ties to faith traditions becomes vital. This course offers insights into Lutheranism's rich heritage and its application in contemporary rural settings. It equips leaders to bridge traditional beliefs with modern community needs, fostering a harmonious balance between heritage and progress in rural ministry.

[Learn More](#)

3 Rediscovering Hope In Rural Ministry

Rural ministry often involves addressing the unique challenges of rural communities, including economic pressures and uncertainty. "Rediscovering Hope in Rural Ministry" focuses on instilling hope and resilience. It provides tools for spiritual rejuvenation, helping leaders and congregations navigate and thrive amidst the trials specific to rural life and farming.

[Learn More](#)

News Corner

Upcoming Events



Starting Mondays, January 8th – March 4th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Central - Segment One Basic Coaching Skills with Rev. Dr. Dawn Alitz: Learn new methods and gain the skills needed to empower the people around you.

[Learn More](#)



Lecture Series: The Ethics of Civic Engagement - The Simpson Lectures Trinity in St. Peter MN

Jan. 25	"Political Gospel, Public Church" with Dr. Matt Skinner
Feb. 1	"Multiplicity in Hebrew Bible's Political Discourse" by Dr. Cameron B. R. Howard.
Feb. 8	"Conservative Political Philosophy" with Justice G. Barry Anderson.
Feb. 15	"Progressive Political Values" by Dr. Peg O'Connor.
Feb. 22	"Rural, Urban, and Suburban Interdependency" with Rural Ministry Director Pr. Jon Anderson.

News in the Community

Luther Seminary's Accelerated MDiv Program: Embracing the Future

The Accelerated Master of Divinity (MDiv) program: As highlighted in a [recent article](#), this program represents a forward-thinking approach in theological education, streamlining the process of equipping new pastors.

[Learn More](#)

Save the Date: Rutlen Faith and Creation Care Lecture

Circle the evening of February 27, 2024, at 7 p.m. on your calendar. That's when we enjoy the next Rutlen Faith and Creation Care lecture. Our speaker this time is Professor Rick Lindroth, an environmental scientist from the University of Wisconsin. This series of lectures showcases major voices in science and theology on current issues in environmental justice and ecotheology. Hope to see you there!

[Learn More](#)

Tips For Spiritual Practices

Listening to Your Community's Spiritual Life

In rural ministries, where community bonds are foundational, effective spiritual communication plays a crucial role in nurturing these relationships. The Spiritual Life Listening Tool is specifically designed to enhance these vital interactions, fostering a deeper understanding and stronger connections within your community.

Ideal for use in various settings such as small group discussions, pastoral visits, or community gatherings, this tool equips both clergy and lay leaders with structured approaches to initiate and engage in meaningful spiritual dialogues. Whether you're addressing challenges within your congregation, seeking to understand the needs of a specific group, or guiding your community through deeper spiritual conversations, this tool offers a practical and impactful way to enrich these encounters.

1

Initiate Conversations with Purpose: Start your interactions by clearly stating the goal – to understand and support each other's spiritual journey. For example, ask, "Can you share a recent moment where you felt a deep spiritual connection?" This opens up a space for meaningful dialogue and sets the tone for a purpose-driven conversation.

2

Create a Safe and Confidential Environment: Emphasize the importance of confidentiality to encourage open sharing. Use prompts like, "Feel free to share as much as you're comfortable with, knowing that what you say here stays here." This assurance can make a significant difference in the depth of the conversations.

3

Encourage Reflective Listening: Teach your community the value of reflective listening. For instance, after someone shares, respond with, "What I'm hearing you say is..." This not only validates the speaker but also ensures accurate understanding, fostering a deeper level of connection.

Download the Spiritual Listening tool!

The Spiritual Life Listening Tool is more than a set of questions; it's a pathway to building stronger, more empathetic connections within your rural ministry. By incorporating these tips into your conversations, you can offer a sample of the profound impact this tool can have. We encourage you to download the full resource for a comprehensive guide to enhancing spiritual communication in your community.

[Download Here](#)

Soooo... who is Faith+Lead?

[Learn More](#)

Faith+Lead is an ecosystem of theological resources and training designed to equip Christian disciples and leaders to follow God into a faithful future. Our platform offers courses, coaching, learning communities, and digital tools that help users deepen their relationship with Jesus and discover God's call on their lives. We embrace perspectives from across the rich landscape of Christian traditions and connect clergy, church volunteers, ministry leaders, and ministry innovators to experience transformation in their lives and leadership.