

## Featured Story

### Introducing a Way to Equip You and Your Community to Love and Lead in the Way of Jesus

The collective feedback, engagement, and experiences of over 80,000 ministry peers within our community has guided our team through deep discernment and spiritual listening, meticulously preparing for our next faithful step: the [Faith+Lead Membership](#).

As we've navigated through this period of reflection, we've kept the needs and aspirations of the diverse ministry community we serve at the forefront of our minds.

Understanding the complexities and the changing dynamics of today's ministry, we realized that our next faithful step must reflect a commitment to providing more comprehensive, accessible, and practical resources. This step is not just about expanding our offerings, but about deepening our impact and enhancing our ability to walk alongside you in your ministry journey. Our commitment to empowering ministry leaders, learners, and communities is now taking a tangible form through the Faith+Lead Membership.

Learn more at [faithlead.org/membership](https://faithlead.org/membership)

## Rural Ministry Community Spotlight

### Loving our Neighbors in Rural Settings

Pr. Alan Blankenfeld (at right) has invited many people to imagine serving as a pastor, minister or deepen their ministry skills in the South Dakota Synod of the ELCA. He also works to care for rural people with [mental health challenges](#). Thank you, Alan!

Thanks also to the [Center for Rural Policy and Development for your work on Child Care](#) and other issues affecting small town and rural people. This non-profit think tank names rural challenges and opportunities, and brings people together to imagine and find paths forward.



## Resource Corner

Accessible resources through free blog articles, ebooks, and podcasts.

Explore these 3 curated free resources to enhance leadership, deepen faith, and support your community, fostering continuous growth and faithful ministry.

Explore more resources at [faithlead.org/rural-ministry](https://faithlead.org/rural-ministry)

**1** Enter the Bible Podcast → [enterthebible.org](https://enterthebible.org)  
Discover Enter the Bible: your hub for profound biblical teachings, engaging blog posts. As we welcome the upcoming sixth season premiering this March, share your questions about the Bible or topics from your community that you'd like to hear discussed on the podcast.

**2** Pitfalls and Pivot eBook → [faithlead.org/pitfalls-and-pivots](https://faithlead.org/pitfalls-and-pivots)  
Explore four key pivots for effective ministry in today's evolving church and culture. Discover insights into the cultural transformations, actionable steps for you and your faith community, and crucial pitfalls to sidestep along the way.

**3** Funding Forward Research eBook → [faithlead.org/fundingforward](https://faithlead.org/fundingforward)  
Based on insights from diverse leaders, download our free Ebook "Funding Forward." Learn from 100 congregations expanding income sources beyond offerings, forging community partnerships.

# Upcoming Events

Feb.  
27th

Science, Truth, and Christian Faith in a Time of Eco-Crisis: Rick Lindroth to Deliver 2024 Rutlen Lecture

Join ecologist and lay theologian Rick Lindroth. Professor Lindroth will deliver the 2024 Rutlen Lecture on Faith and Creation, "Science, Truth, and Cristian Faith in a Time of Eco-Crisis." Rick Lindroth's 2024 Rutlen Lecture on Faith and Creation is available for you to watch on [youtube](#).



Mar.  
5th

Dare to Lead for Faith → [faithlead.org/daretolead](https://faithlead.org/daretolead)

Over 6, live meetings a certified Dare to Lead Trainer will empower you with lessons from Brené Brown's Dare to Lead program. You'll develop fresh skills to lead through ministry challenges.

Apr.  
6th

School for Lay Ministry → [faithlead.org/schoolforlay](https://faithlead.org/schoolforlay)

Embark on a transformative year-long journey empowering you to lead faithfully, recognizing the vital role you play in a lay-led, clergy-support ministry model.

Apr.  
6th

Ecofaith Summit

Dr. Larry Rasmussen will keynote on the theme, 'Building Arcs Together for a Livable Planet,' Apr. 6 in Duluth, Minnesota.

**New in Rural Resources** → [faithlead.org/rural-ministry](https://faithlead.org/rural-ministry)

## Regenerative Farming - Regenerating Soil and Lives

Over the months ahead join us on a journey into the world of regenerative farming as we come back to lift up different parts of the mini-documentary about a fruit farm ministry near Hutchinson, Minnesota, called Good Courage Farm. Watch for blog articles and ebooks stemming from the video that go deeper, and imagine how you might use a five-minute clip or resource with an adult small group or find another way to share with others.

## How to Take Your Next Faithful Step → [faithlead.org/faithfulstep](https://faithlead.org/faithfulstep)

Are you navigating the complex and ever-changing landscape of the changing church? Do any of these feelings resonate with you?

- Addressing the issue of empty pews and seeking deeper congregational connections.
- Bridging generational gaps to foster a participatory church culture.
- Managing the often overwhelming responsibilities of leadership.
- Seeking a faithful path forward in changing times.
- Moving beyond traditional programs to more vibrant engagement.
- Balancing aspirations with limited resources.
- Unleashing the potential within your congregation or faith communities.

The struggles you're facing in ministry aren't just passing challenges; they're deep-rooted issues that require thoughtful, discerning actions.

Join Senior Director of Faith+Lead Dr. Alicia Granholm for a powerful four-part video series that will help you follow God into a faithful future and dive into practical wisdom and real-world insights for today's ministry.

1

### Video 1 - Follow God into a faithful future:

Understand the challenges facing the church today so that you can be more hopeful, closer to God, and clearer on your next faithful steps.

2

### Video 2 - Core tasks and spiritual practices:

Deepen your connection with God through the five core tasks and breakthrough spiritual practices so that God can transform you and your community.

3

### Video 3 - Four key pivots for effective ministry in today's evolving culture:

Discover four pivotal shifts that can guide your congregation or faith community toward embracing a faithful future.

4

### Video 4 - Four key pivots for effective ministry in today's evolving culture:

Discover four pivotal shifts that can guide your congregation or faith community toward embracing a faithful future.

Our 'How to Take Your Next Faithful Step' video series is built on the real-world experiences and wisdom of a vast community of church leaders, learners and volunteers who have faced and addressed challenges and opportunities just like these. This is more than a video series; it's an interactive event for growth, discussion, and community building. **Get started at [faithlead.org/faithfulstep](https://faithlead.org/faithfulstep)**

## About Faith+Lead

Faith+Lead is the only non-degree theological learning platform uniquely combining community, coaching, spiritual formation, and practices to meet the 21st-century challenges of the Church.

With our emphasis on theologically sound, accessible, and pedagogically rich learning, we offer a space where you can engage at your own pace, ensuring a journey tailored to your individual needs and schedule. **Learn more at [faithlead.org](https://faithlead.org)**