

inspire
WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Speaker	Description	Bio
CONNECT TRACK		
Rebekah Lyons	You Are Free Freedom is for everyone who wants it - the lost, wounded, weary from striving, angry, hurt, and those burnt by the Christian song and dance. Christ doesn't say you can be or may be or will be free. He says you are free. Dare you believe it? Discover the courage to begin again and use your newfound freedom to set others free.	Rebekah is a mother of three, wife of one and dog walker of two living in Nashville. Through her writing and speaking, Rebekah reveals her own battles to overcome anxiety, depression and consumer impulses - challenging women to discover and boldly pursue the calling God has for them as they thoughtfully engage faith, relationships, and their community.
Brian & Melissa Hofmeister	Intimacy in Marriage It's not always candles and chocolates, right? Sex is a need in marriage. So is affection. God's heart for marriage is to bring both together in a meaningful and intimate way. But How? Laugh with Brian and Melissa as they journey with you toward His plan for intimacy in marriage!	Brian and Melissa Hofmeister planted Lakepoint Church in Muskego in 2012. Brian is the Lead Pastor of Lakepoint. He enjoys oil painting, coaching basketball for his boys, and directing the Muskego Circle Community Center. Melissa works for Thrivent Financial, where she is passionate about helping Christians live generously with a solid financial strategy. Her faith meets everyday life through public speaking, empowering and encouraging women in ministry, and creating adventures with her three boys.
Shanthini Baskaran	Choose Hope Hope is in short commodity in our world today. Discouragement, worry and disappointment seem to drag us down. But God calls us to live a life of Hope. This seminar will walk through what it means to choose hope and live in it.	The daughter of national missionaries in southern India, Shanthini, grew up with a deep love for God and world missions. Shanthini is a clinical psychologist by training. Combining a witty style and seasoned life experience, she is a counselor, speaker and Bible study writer. She loves to encourage others to ground their lives in Jesus Christ. Shanthini is a storyteller and her stories bring a fresh perspective to what discipleship looks like. She serves at Elmbrook Church in the adult discipleship and marriage ministries.
Rachel Inouye	I Know Who I Am! Knowing who we are is vital in the Christian journey. We must dwell on the truth about what God says about us for a secure sense of identity. Is your identity in crisis or in Christ? It can be easy to see ourselves the way others view us...teachers, parents, siblings, husband, children or friends or we easily listen to the voices in our head, but beware, that could be the voice of the accuser. God loves you! His voice is the most important voice of all. He knows everything about you and loves you. So whose view do you have of yourself? Whose voice are you listening to?	Rachel's transparency and authenticity in her relationship with Christ makes an impact on the lives around her. She is a gifted communicator with great ability to articulate and apply God's word in everyday language for everyday situations through humor, stories and scripture. She desires to encourage women in their relationship with God. As a former educator and home school mom, she loves teaching. She is married to Michael and has two sons, one daughter, and one daughter-in-law. Rachel serves, here, at Elmbrook Church. She leads a weekly Bible study and is part of the worship ministry. She is an author, and blogger and can be followed on Facebook, Instagram and twitter. She is energetic, eager and in love with her Lord.
Laura Sandretti	Losing Control Although we profess to trust God with our marriage, parenting, to-do-list and more, the reality is we are burdened by our desire to control everything and everyone. Join Laura as she shares how God has been allowing her to enter the uncomfortable and vulnerable place of surrender and learn practical ways to discover the strength and freedom that comes from letting go.	Laura is a speaker, writer and blogger who uses humor, practical ideas and Biblical challenges to help women realize greater transformation in their faith. Laura has been married to Chris for 25 years and has three teenagers. Laura is a former teacher, ministry director and is pursuing her master's degree in Theological Studies. Laura loves when her kids are home at the same time and believes everything should have a drive-thru window.
Mel Lawrenz	Helping Our Kids Stay Connected to God The most important thing Christian parents can do is help their kids stay connected to God. This involves providing an environment of trust, love, and faith. It means having helpful responses when kids have tough questions or feelings, when they are going through trials of their own, and when parents themselves are facing difficult times. One practical thing we can do is help our kids know what and how to pray. Kids must develop a faith of their own.	Mel Lawrenz is presently Minister at Large and formerly Senior Pastor of Elmbrook Church. His newly released book, <i>A Book of Prayers for Kids</i> , teaches kids what to pray in dozens of different life circumstances. Mel and his wife Ingrid raised a son, Christopher, and a daughter, Eva, and have been grieving the passing of Eva nine months ago.
Sean Keith	Responding to God's Presence Praise and worship is our response to the good news of the gospel. Each one of us has been created for it! In this workshop, Sean will unpack the importance of engaging the presence of God in community.	
Amanda Wise	Worshiping Through The Storm We trust God. We give him praise and worship him when life is going well or call out to him when we need him to fix it! BUT how do we still find joy, hope and trust in him if God choses to not answer our prayer or life isn't going as planned. Can you worship through the storm even when God chooses not to fix it? Join Amanda as she shares how God can use trials, brokenness and flaws to mold your gifts for extraordinary ways. Learn how to worship not because of your faith, but because of the faithfulness of Jesus. Although your situation might not ever change or get better, with Jesus and complete surrender YOU can!	Amanda is a wife, mother and worship leader at Elmbrook Church. Amanda's life took an unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with cancer. Her life and approach to worship would never be the same when the threatening disease affected the one way she loved to serve and worship God. The life Amanda dreamed and tried to create turned into the biggest storm she's ever faced. Hear more about how her story through the storm became a teaching tool to share with others how to find great joy & grow deeper with Jesus through it all.
Heather Webb	Healing From Our Dysfunctional Families Many of us grew up in less than ideal families. How do we overcome the hurt from our upbringing, break dysfunctional patterns in our own lives, and live in freedom? How do we relate as adults when there is ongoing dysfunction in our families of origin? How can God use our past pain for good now? We will explore these questions and more!	Heather is a pastor and the Director of Global Partnerships at Elmbrook Church. She has worked with churches and non-profits in Wisconsin and Africa over the last 15 years. She is married to Jason and has four amazing kids. She is passionate about empowering women leaders in the church. Heather loves books, traveling the world, good conversation, and eating good food.
GROW TRACK		
Nicole Reyes Smithee	Redefining Beauty Every one struggles to see themselves as uniquely and wonderfully made at different seasons and in different ways. This breakout will explore what beauty is and provide practical ways we can live free from insecurity and shame, and celebrate our own unique God-given beauty. Plus, you'll receive tips on self-care, self-talk, making a difference, escaping the comparison trap and more. STUDENT TRACK	Nicole's desire is for people everywhere to experience the radical love of Jesus Christ and passionately pursue his plans. Bold, funny and transparent, Nicole preaches the Word of God in a compelling and relevant way, leaving people encouraged, challenged and inspired.
Jessi Green	Free from Shame The resurrection of Jesus changes everything for you. A living savior can involve himself in the fabric of your life, even the dead dark places, and bring them to LIFE. You can be set free from shame no matter what has happened in your past. You are made to live fully Alive! A Lifestyle of Following Is your Christianity missing something? What would your life look like if you were fully alive? We will discuss what it looks like for you to fulfill the Great Commission and disciple others while transforming the world around you. STUDENT TRACK	Jessi is an international speaker, serial-entrepreneur, and co-founder of Salt Churches. She is passionate about reaching those that don't know Jesus and equipping The Church to make disciples. She believes that everyone is qualified to preach The Gospel and teach others to follow Jesus. In the fall of 2016, Jessi and her husband Parker moved across the country from NYC to Orange County with their two-month-old son to launch Salt Churches. While enjoying the sunny beaches of California, she has the opportunity to travel and speak to others about pursuing their calling and living fully alive.

Greg & Krista Heinen	Recharging your Relationship with the Word Most of us would agree we must regularly spend time in God's Word. But let's face it, many of us have fallen out of love with reading our Bible. We're stuck in a rut when we engage with the Bible. It feels more like box checking than a relationship. In this workshop Greg & Krista will unpack a series of different practices to try, including inductive study, lectio divina and partner reading, any of which can breathe fresh life into the way you read and interact with the Bible. Come join us as we recharge our Scriptural batteries together!	Greg and Krista Heinen are deeply passionate about helping people grow in their relationship with God. They have been married for almost 5 years and love opportunities to speak together to a variety of different groups. By trade Greg is a business lawyer for Foley & Lardner LLP and Krista is a pastor. Together they love to spend time talking about the Bible, watching Bible Project videos and beating each other at board games.
Laura Powell	Truth Under Attack You hear the expressions: "that's my truth", "fake news", "it depends on what IS, is". Today truth is under attack like no time in history—in the media, court system, educational system, by our government, and by those who promise to uphold the law. What is truth? Can we trust it in our culture today? What's our standard for deciding truth? What do the gospels say about it? What did Jesus say about it? How can we become women of truth who lead our families in a culture that is eroding truth? We'll examine what the culture says and what the standard—the Holy Bible—says. We'll look at the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.	Laura is the Event Director at Elmbrook Church for the past six years. With a degree in media from Michigan State University, she's an avid user and observer of media and social media. A former television producer for CBS and Fox, she is well acquainted with the de-evolution of truth in media and how it impacts our culture. She uses the good in social media to reach out to faraway friends and family and research event ideas. If there was a way to make a career out of Pinterest, she'd be the president. She's married to Dave, who plays keys on Elmbrook Worship team and the mother of three musical kids—two adult daughters, a son who's almost an adult and a new son-in-law.
Eda Esilaba	FREE As we embrace truth in this year's Inspire conference, freedom is a powerful byproduct. This workshop will unpack the concept of living in the freedom God designed for us. You will know the truth and the truth will set you free. John 8:31	Eda Esilaba is a passionate follower of Jesus with a deep desire to see God's people influence society and culture. Albo (her husband) and Eda moved to the US from Kenya with their 3 boys in the Fall of 2015 - Albo is a Pastor at Elmbrook Church. She felt a call to ministry as a teenager and God has continued to invite her to an unpredictable journey that she wouldn't trade a day of. She is enjoying this season of her family and is an aspiring Social Entrepreneur.
Andrea Hopgood	Relationship or Religion - What's the Difference? In this workshop, we will dig into the life of Paul and discover how to stay focused on Christ even when our circumstances feel out of control. You will receive valuable tools that will open the door for you to develop a devotional life that will deepen your relationship with Christ.	Andrea has a passion for presenting God's Word in such a way that it becomes a lifestyle, not just religion. Being in ministry over 20 years, she has served as a children's pastor, presented at several conferences, contributed to Children's Ministry magazine, and has led various women's ministry studies and events. She currently serves at the Children's Pastor at Elmbrook Church. Andrea has been married to Bruce for 26 years and they have two daughters.
Melissa Hofmeister	Women and Money: Navigating Finances in Every Season of Life Money is part of every season of life! Are you tackling student debt in your 20s? Balancing family and career in your 30s/40s? Caring for aging parents and planning retirement in your 50s/60s? Or living on a fixed income 60+? Throw in the chaos a new marriage, divorce, medical issues, loss of spouse... Yikes! Laugh together as we learn how to <i>confidently</i> navigate life's crazy transitions financially.	Melissa Hofmeister works for Thrivent Financial and helps Christians make confident financial decisions. She is passionate about helping families and women in transition create a lifelong financial strategy they can stick with. Melissa and her husband Brian started Lakepoint church in Muskego, WI in 2012. Her faith meets everyday life through public speaking, empowering and encouraging women, and creating adventures with her three boys.
Adriana Hayes	Whatever is Lovely Living and working as an artist in the fashion industry Adriana pulls from truth and creativity God has given her during her own journey, while living in a body affected by chronic pain. As women we are constantly bombarded with what it means to be "lovely". Let's look beneath the surface and explore how God defines it and how we can find it in the world today.	Born with Spina Bifida, Adriana has endured 23 surgeries in 32 years. She is a wife, mom, foster mom, artist, professor, speaker and writer who is passionate about sharing the chronic hope that can be found in the midst of chronic pain.
LEAD TRACK		
Rev. Lisa Rodriguez	When Destiny cries out to your Faith It's not always easy to recognize what is of God and what is not, especially in the midst of trials and circumstances. Truth is God is getting the Body of Christ ready for His next powerful move on this earth—are you ready?	Rev. Rodriguez has been working faithfully in the ministry for over 30 years alongside her husband in the arena of conferences and evangelism. Her style is down to earth; using her own experiences to encourage the Body of Christ.
Gabrielle Bennett	Biblical Leadership In our culture today, it is easy to measure success by status and materialism. But what does it look like to be a successful Biblical leader? How can being "broken" be a good thing? Come hear how the LORD continues to teach Gabrielle what it means to be a servant leader.	Gabrielle and her husband, Tim, work on the south side of Milwaukee. Their heart is to see every people group have the opportunity to respond to the Good News that is found in Jesus Christ. One of her favorite things to do is teach sewing to a group of women from all around the world.
Heather Webb	Lead Like a Woman For much of history, women's leadership has been overlooked and even suppressed in the church. Many of us feel confused about if we can lead and how we can lead as women. What does it look like for us as women to lead in all spheres of our lives? How has God uniquely made us for leadership roles? How do we overcome the barriers that women often face in leadership? Can we stay true to our identity and lead well? We'll explore these questions and more so that we can lead with freedom as women.	Heather is a pastor and the Director of Global Partnerships at Elmbrook Church. She has worked with churches and non-profits in Wisconsin and Africa over the last 15 years. She is married to Jason and has four amazing kids. She is passionate about empowering women leaders in the church. Heather loves books, traveling the world, good conversation, and eating good food.
Laurie McIntyre	Words of Wisdom for Emerging Leaders If my 50-something self could have talked to my 20-something self about what I most needed to know as I launched into leadership, would I have listened to her hard-earned wisdom? The things I would say to my younger self are not so much about leadership strategies and principles but about deep spiritual and personal truths necessary for the road ahead. Perhaps a little wisdom from a seasoned leader will spare you a misstep or two in your leadership journey.	Laurie is a trusted and discerning voice in a world full of cluttered thinking. A pastor, teacher, and innovator, she has served at Elmbrook Church for over 25 years and is currently the Executive Pastor of Creative Arts. On a no-strings-attached evening you can find her hitting sale racks, laughing with her daughters, walking her huge dogs, watching an engrossing movie with her husband and indulging in all things peanut butter and chocolate.

NOTES: Workshop Tracks are categorized by subject matter. The schedule will be posted in the program on March 3. A variety of topics will be available during each workshop session.

STUDENT TRACK SESSIONS - Highly recommended for Students and Young Adults - Everyone is welcome.