**Connect Session 2:**

**LESNW Option 1**

**Key question**: How is learning and teaching shaped by Lutheran theology?

**Rationale**:

We could grab any learning framework from other schools/organisations (e.g. IB Learner Profile) and ask, ‘How is this different to Lutheran education?’ The answer would probably be along the lines of, ‘*nothing really*’, apart from, ‘*and what else?’*, which is an entry point for addressing the key question.

Given that the intention of this session is not to fully cover each of the theological aspects of creation theology, this version of Session 2 focuses on:

* God invites people to be co-creators - God works through people in the ongoing creative process. As educators we co-create the minds of children supporting them to wonder, be curious, celebrate their gifts. Our own minds continue to be created as lifelong learners
* God promises to restore the brokenness of creation through Jesus - creation suffers because of sin, Jesus came to be a part of creation and suffered with humanity and the whole of creation. In Jesus, we experience healing and a glimpse of the new creation. However, creation continues to groan.

We are living in a world that reflects both the goodness of God’s creation, as well as the brokenness of creation. For this session, teachers will be asked to focus on the ‘world’ of their classroom.

Hence, in exploring the key question: ‘*How is learning and teaching shaped by Lutheran theology?*’, this version of Session 2 focuses on the concepts that:

* While there is much good in creation, creation is broken
* God promises to restore the brokenness of creation through Jesus
* God invites us to be co-creators in the restoration of creation

Therefore, the over-riding concept is that ***Lutheran education is shaped by the belief that teachers are co-creators with God in the restoration of creation.***

**OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP:**

**Opening devotion**: (seeing with fresh eyes)

*Ideally, it would be good to have a meditative time in an outdoor setting.*

*In this setting, a Powerpoint will be used with meditative music. Pictures will highlight the dot points below. Participants will be asked ahead of time to email a picture of their favourite bit of creation, which will be incorporated into the Powerpoint. Rather than a sermon, discussion is encouraged around the dot points below.*

* A meditative time to reflect on God’s initial and ongoing creation.
* To incorporate the following theological concepts:
  + God created all things from nothing
  + God continues to create
  + God’s creation is good
  + God made people in God’s image
  + God creates people as unique individuals
* Ask participants to email a picture (ahead of time) of their favourite bit of God’s creation to incorporate into a Powerpoint
* Devotion to have times of quiet reflection, as well as individuals sharing their thinking behind their favourite bit of God’s creation.
* Open for reflection
* Introduce the brokenness of creation
* Jesus brings reconciliation.

**The world of the classroom**: (current reality)

*Having talked about the intention, goodness, diversity and beauty of creation, focus is moved to the teacher’s world of their classroom. They identify the goodness of what has been created (exists) there, and also the brokenness (stressors).*

*Connection can be made between the goodness and brokenness of the world of the classroom to the world we live in.*

* Participants reflect on their classroom and on sticky notes write down all those things which are good.
* Participants sort and cluster
* Participants reflect on their classroom and on sticky notes write down all those things which are broken/problematic
* Participants sort and cluster
* As a group reflect on the two capturing’s.

**Investigation:** (Presencing)

*God promises to restore the brokenness of creation (reconciliation) through Jesus. God reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18). We are therefore co-creators with God in the reconciliation of creation.*

*Lutheran education is much more than attaining the highest ATAR or just getting through the required outcomes. It is about having the end in mind of the full reconciliation of creation and moving closer toward it. While we will never see the full reconciliation of creation this side of eternity, Lutheran education is about moving closer to a state where everyone and everything is able to flourish [Shalom].*

*This informs why we value:*

* *the uniqueness and individuality of every student, family and colleague*
* *the best learning environment and pedagogy (e.g. current research)*
* *curriculum content*
* *the wholistic nature of education, including spirituality*
* *relationships*

*Putting it simply, Lutheran education is shaped by the question, ‘How do we make this world a better place through Christ?’*

*Participants have identified the brokenness of the world of their classrooms. They now start to investigate some theology which speaks about God’s promises to restore the brokenness of creation (reconciliation) through Jesus, that we are co-creators of God in that, and how that applies to education.*

* Introduce key question: How is learning and teaching shaped by Lutheran theology?
* Given the realities of our world (i.e. the classroom), how do Lutheran schools approach it?
* Introduce
  + Growing Deep as our foundational document
  + Our foundation, in particular:
    - Lutheran schools and early childhood services are communities that value learning as God’s gift to people for their wonder and growth, and to inspire them to respond to the needs of the world.
    - Lutheran schools and early childhood services are communities which acknowledge God as creator and join in the ongoing creation and care of the world and all people.
  + Readings will be based around these ideas.
* Participants investigate selected readings which focus particularly on:
  + God invites people to be co-creators - God works through people in the ongoing creative process. As educators we co-create the minds of children supporting them to wonder, be curious, celebrate their gifts. Our own minds continue to be created as lifelong learners
  + God promises to restore the brokenness of creation through Jesus - creation suffers because of sin, Jesus came to be a part of creation and suffered with humanity and the whole of creation. In Jesus, we experience healing and a glimpse of the new creation. However, creation continues to groan.
* Depending on the size of group and number of readings, participants can respond by
  + Dialogue
  + Jigsaw
  + Sticky notes, sort and cluster
* A Vision for Learners and Learning: A Framework for Lutheran Education
  + How does it reflect what we have been learning?
  + If the document was up for review, what alterations would you suggest?
* Video - Rob Bell: Trees
* Discuss the following quotes from the video;
  + *(disciples of Jesus) are working with God to overcome evil with good*
  + *Followers of Jesus are people who are committed to partnering with God to make this world, the world we all live in, the kind of place that God originally* *intended it to be*
  + *May you believe that death has been taken care of and that you can be a partner with God in redeeming and restoring this fallen, broken, hurting world. That you can literally be a partner with God in making this the kind of place that God originally intended it to be.*
* Introduce *A Framework for Lutheran schools* (A vision for learners and learning) and explore how it reflects our recent learning

**Application:** (enacting/prototyping)

*Participants put learning into action. They select a particular aspect of brokenness in their world of the classroom and apply their learning from the session to design a way forward where their world becomes a better place through Christ – allowing everyone and everything to flourish.*

* (Depending on the group – do this individually, in pairs or teams) Refer back to the clusters of brokenness in the classroom
  + Which one of these resonate with you?
  + Which one do you think you can affect?
  + Using the learning, design a way forward to bring the situation/context to a way that reflects the way that God intended it to be / a better way forward / a preferred future.
* Participants share their ideas / learning / concepts.

**Sharing concepts:**

* In pairs, go for a 20 minute dialogue walk
* Each person has 10 minutes to share about the brokenness of their world, and their plan to bring about restoration - to a way that reflects the way that God intended it to be / a better way forward / a preferred future.
* The person listening is not aloud to speak until the sharer has finished
* After that, the listener asks clarifying questions:
  + - Tell me more about what you meant by…
    - NOT: you should try this… when I had that problem…
* Group discussion on the process, and on the content of discussion.

**Conclusion:**

* Acknowledge
  + everyone’s involvement and contribution
  + there are sometimes no clear way forwards
  + but we do have an over-riding theology about creation that shapes learning and teaching in Lutheran schools
* Any other questions???
* Prayer / devotion – as appropriate.