



## 2019 Pastors Conference

# The Joyful Word

These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.  
John 15:11

---

### 2019 Pastors Conference Schedule

---

#### Monday, October 7

- 1:00 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. Opening Devotion and announcements (start time was changed 8/9/19)  
1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Keynote 1 – Introducing John’s Gospel: Basic Perspectives and Themes**  
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Break  
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Session A  
4:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Break  
4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pastors Business Meeting  
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own  
7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Reception with families

#### Tuesday, October 8

- ..... Breakfast on your own at the hotel before conference begins  
8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. Morning Devotions and announcements  
9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. **Keynote 2 – The Prologue of John’s Gospel (John 1:1-18): How do we read it?**  
10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Session B  
11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Lunch  
12:45 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Break  
1:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. Devotion  
1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. **Keynote 3 – The Gospel of Freedom: John 8:31-36**  
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Break  
2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Session C  
3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Break  
3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. Session D

#### Wednesday, October 9

- ..... Breakfast on your own at the hotel before conference begins  
8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Morning Devotions and announcements  
8:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. **Keynote 4 – The Confession of Thomas as Climax of John’s Gospel (John 20:19-31)**  
(wrap-up and Q & A from cards)  
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. Worship (joint with educators)  
12:00 p.m. Joint lunch with educators and recognition of workers

---

### Worship Offering Designation

---

A joint worship service for the Pastors Conference and Educators Conference will be held Wednesday, October 9, at 10:30 at the conference site. The offering has been designated for the Kansas District Church Worker Care Fund.

The Kansas District Church Worker Care Fund, established in 2018, was created to provide financial assistance for crisis care of rostered workers and their families. Workers experiencing serious medical, vocational, emotional or mental challenges can apply for financial aid to help with recovery resources.

---

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

---

This conference is for all active and retired church workers and their spouses. **Online registration begins August 1 at <http://www.cvent.com/d/y6qyps>.**

### Through September 30

\$120– Pastors

\$60 – Spouses; Vicars

*No registration fee for emeritus workers and committee members; attendees responsible for cost of lodging.*

### After September 30

\$145 – Pastors

\$75 – Spouses; Vicars

*No registration fee for emeritus workers and committee members; attendees responsible for cost of lodging.*

◆ **This is a required conference for all ordained pastors.**

**Cancellations or substitutions** – Substitute when possible as cancellations after Sept. 30, 2019 may be subject to a \$50.00 per person cancellation fee to cover meal costs. Contact the district office to make registration changes.

Up-to-the-minute conference registration details regarding schedule, speakers, online registration and hotel registration can be accessed on the Kansas District website: <https://kslcms.org/>.

**Questions?** Contact Tami at the District Office at 785-357-4441 or 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org).

---

## LODGING INFORMATION

---

Hampton Inn  
10591 Metcalf Frontage Road  
Overland Park, KS 66212  
913-341-1551

### Lodging Reservations

To make reservations, you can go online to the hotel website at [Hampton Inn weblink](#) or call the hotel at 913-341-1551 and ask for the group rate by Kansas District Lutheran. All reservations should be made by **Monday, September 16, 2019**. After this date, we will release the remainder of our room block. Additional reservation requests will be honored on a space and rate available basis. **Please make sure your dates are correct before completing your transaction. This block is for both the Pastors and Educators conferences.**

### Hotel Information

\$109/night plus tax – King Bed Room

\$109/night plus tax – Double/Double Bed Room

### Amenities

Free daily hot breakfast, free Wi-Fi, free parking, outdoor pool, lounge area, fitness center, business center

---

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**  
**Rev. Dr. William Weinrich**

---



Dr. William C. Weinrich joined the Concordia Theological Seminary faculty in 1975, first at the Springfield, Illinois campus, then in Fort Wayne when the seminary relocated there in 1976. He is Professor of Historical Theology specializing in early church history and patristic studies.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma (B.A., 1967) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (M.Div. 1972). He received his Doctor of Theology degree from the University of Basel, Switzerland (1977).

Weinrich served as academic dean of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) from 1996-2006, then as rector of the Luther Academy in Riga, Latvia (2007-2010), where he taught extensively and oversaw the Pastoral Ministry Program. He returned to the classroom at CTSFW in 2011.

He is the author of *John 1:1—7:1* for the Concordia Commentary Series, published by Concordia Publishing House in 2015.

He served on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (1992-2001) and Doctrinal Review Commission (1992-1998) and as third vice-president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (1998-2001) and fifth vice-president of the LCMS (2001-2004). He also served 30 years in the Indiana Air National Guard, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2002.

**Keynote 1-- Introducing John's Gospel: Basic Perspectives and Themes**

This session will be an introduction to those fundamental and basic perspectives and themes that govern the presentation of Jesus and his work in John's Gospel. Among these will be the significance of Jewish festivals, the death of Jesus as exaltation, and Jesus as the Word who does the will of his Father.

**Keynote 2 -- The Prologue of John's Gospel (John 1:1-18): How do we read it?**

This session will discuss the Prologue of John's Gospel as an *Ouverture* to the entire Gospel. What is the structure of the Prologue? What themes pervasive to the whole Gospel are introduced in the Prologue? What Old Testament background contributes to the Prologue?

**Keynote 3 -- The Gospel of Freedom: John 8:31-36**

This session will discuss John 8:31-36 (the Gospel text for the Reformation) in view of its context within the Gospel of John. Important here is the contribution this text makes to the theme of the Festival of Tabernacles in John's Gospel.

**Keynote 4 -- The Confession of Thomas as Climax of John's Gospel (John 20:19-31)**

This session will discuss the confession of Thomas as the climactic intent of the Gospel for all readers. We will argue that Thomas has been falsely characterized as a "doubter," when, in fact, his demand to "see" the marks of the Crucified is the demand which the Gospel itself makes upon all those who believe.

---

## SECTIONAL LIST

---

Presenter	Sectional #	Sectional Titles
Rev. Jason Boetcher	D3	The Lord's Prayer - Living in God's Gifts/Not Praying Like a Moron
Rev. Geoff Boyle	C2	Fulfillment and Completion - Summing up the Scriptures in John's Gospel
Rev. Neil Buono	D4	Addressing Mental Health in a Religious Context
Rev. Phil Cook	A3, B2	Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes; Gender Dysphoria and Christ's Compassion
Rev. Heath Curtis	A4, B4	Stewardship Under the Cross; Understanding and Responding to Demographic Change
Rev. Matthew Durance	A5	The Joyful Word of Proclaiming Life: A Lutheran Approach to Life Ministry
Rev. Edward Kettner	C3	Contemporary Issues Regarding the Atonement
Rev. Sean Kilgo	B3	Eyes of Faith and Eyes of the World: Luther's Insight into John
Rev. Mark Lovett	A2, D1	Whom Are You Seeking - Jesus' Opening Question on Making Disciples; 1 Corinthians 11: The Greatest of These is Love
Rev. Max Phillips	C5, D5	The Problem with Church Workers; The Lutheran Family Service Ministry
Rev. Dennis Mason	B5	p. 362, Muhammad, YOU
Rev. Rocky Mease	C4	What Is Intentional Interim Ministry?
Rev. Michael Schmidt	D2	How Many First Article Gifts Do I Need?
Rev. Dr. Brent Smith	A1	Mission Central, LCMS – A session on mission practice now!
Rev. Dr. Mark Wood	B1, C1	<i>re:Vitality</i> – Resources for Strengthening Lutheran Congregations; <i>Every One His Witness</i> – A Twofold Approach to Equipping Lutherans for Evangelism

---

## PRESENTER BIOS

---

### Rev. Jason Boetcher

Pastor Jason Boetcher, married to Audrey (May 1993) at DCE internship congregation (Christ, Lincoln, NE). Served for seven years as a campus missionary at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln doing discipleship, small groups, evangelism, music ministry, and missions trips. In 2000 we answered God's call to become mission planters and went through the seminary's mission formation program. In 2003 we moved to Merritt Island, Florida to serve as mission planters. While planting Grace Lutheran Church our family grew through adoption. Emily Grace (14) and Samuel Jason (11) were added to our family through adoption from China. Called to serve as pastor of Trinity Family of Faith Lutheran Church in November of 2015. We recently moved to Basehor, Kansas, and are excited about where God is leading us as congregation sharing the love of God in Jesus Christ.

### Rev. Dr. Geoff Boyle

Pr. Boyle has served Grace and Trinity Lutheran Churches since 2010. He recently received his PhD from the University of Toronto with a dissertation on the Real Presence of Christ in the Old Testament. He has taught adjunct for Concordia Theological Seminary—Fort Wayne since 2011, as well as through Seminario Concordia in Buenos Aires, Argentina and Seminario Concordia in the

Dominican Republic. He has presented papers at numerous theological, scholarly, and pastoral conferences since 2009. He is undeservedly blessed by his wife, Nicole, and his five children.

**Rev. Dr. Neil Buono, Pastoral Counselor, Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist**

Rev. Dr. Neil Buono joined Heritage Mental Health Clinic in 2018. He brings with him another perspective on the treatment of mental illness through his practice of pastoral counseling. As a pastoral counselor he specializes in providing healing and hope to individuals, couples and families through the professional integration of psychotherapy and Christian spirituality. As a clinical marriage and family therapist he specializes in working with couples across a range of issues. He served as the pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas, from June 1999 to June 2018. As part of his ministry, he maintained a pastoral counseling practice of 15 hours per week, providing intensive psychotherapy with individuals, couples and families.

**Rev. Phil Cook**

Pastor Phil is an associate pastor at Trinity and the lead pastor at the Shawnee campus. His greatest passions in ministry are seeing people find help, hope, and freedom in Jesus from the pain in their life caused by sin, and to help people know and follow Jesus more closely in their lives. Pastor Phil joined Trinity's staff in 2015 after serving nine years in the Dallas area. He enjoys being outdoors and enjoying God's creation, and playing with tools. He and his wife Rebeka have three rapidly growing children.

**Rev. Heath Curtis**

After graduating from Concordia Seminary (M.Div.) and Washington University (MA, Classics), Rev. Heath R. Curtis served as an assistant pastor at a suburban congregation and an adjunct professor of theology at Concordia University Chicago. He currently serves two rural parishes in southern Illinois where he lives with his wife and seven children. Since 2013 he has also served the Synod as Coordinator for Stewardship. In his spare time he is an assistant editor for the works of Johann Gerhard, a sometime translator for the new series of Luther's Works, and a teacher of Latin and Greek (Wittenberg Academy). His recent books include *Five Things You Can Do to Live a Jesus-Centered Life* (CPH) and *Stewardship Under the Cross: Stewardship for Confessional Lutheran Parishes* (lcms.org/stewardship).

**Rev. Matthew Durance, SSP**

The Rev. Matthew Durance has served as the pastor of Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church in Greenleaf, Kansas, since October 2017, and also serves as the vacancy pastor of St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church in Barnes, Kansas. Pr. Durance also served as the secretary for the Kansas Lutherans for Life State Federation since 2015 and has served as the Life Coordinator for the Kansas District since February 2018. In that time he has helped introduce a yearly District Life Conference as well as facilitate activities to coordinate with the annual March for Life, which takes place every January in Topeka. He has spoken to congregations about Life Ministry within the Kansas District, and how churches and pastors can get involved with life ministry within the district, LCMS Life Ministry, and Lutherans for Life. Pr. Durance has been married to his wife Janessa since May 2011, and they have three children: Hudson, Tatum, and Ezra.

**Rev. Dr. Edward Kettner, Professor Emeritus, Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB Canada**

I am a graduate of University of Kansas (B.A. 1969), Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL (M.Div. 1974); Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, IL (Th.M. 1976), and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO (Th.D. 1984). I have served as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Okawville, IL (1975-1979), Assistant Professor of Religious Studies at Concordia College, Edmonton, AB Canada (1985-1987), and Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, AB Canada (1987-2014). I served several terms on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations of Lutheran Church – Canada and have taught as guest lecturer at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Adelaide, Australia (1992); Westfield House, Cambridge, UK (2002), Concordia Seminary, Odessa, Ukraine (1998-2018), Luther Institute of Southeast Asia (2008, 2010, 2013) and Lutheran Theological Seminary, Pretoria, South Africa (2015).

**Rev. Sean Kilgo**

Rev. Sean Kilgo received his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He is currently working on his STM from the same institution. He was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry in August 2016 at the Northeast Kansas Partnership, where he continues to serve. He has been married to his lovely wife Michelle for 13 years, and they have been blessed with two children, Isaiah and Phoebe.

**Rev. Fr. Mark D. Lovett, SSP**

Pr. Lovett has served in the Kansas District for over twelve years and has presented numerous times at conferences and workshops. He lives in Herington with his wife, Kristi, and their three children, Joshua, Sarah, and Kristopher.

### **Lutheran Family Services (Rev. Max Phillips)**

Lutheran Family Service is a ministry of the LCMS working for both Iowa Districts of the church since 1901. They focus on providing adoption services, pregnancy counseling, church worker mental health services, healthy marriage work, mental health counseling, and congregational services, offer workshops that support member and community outreach with the good news of Jesus and the skills and tools we bring.

### **Rev. Dennis Mason (Emeritus)**

MDiv, CFW, 1983. Called to serve LCMS/Board of Mission Services, assigned to Liberia (1984-1989). War interrupts service. Sierra Leone (1991-1994). Warfare interrupts service; Sierra Leone field closed. Nigeria (Johnathan Ekong Memorial Seminary (1995-1996). Health issues return stateside. Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Ulysses, KS (98-2011). Two trips to participate in Kansas District/ Guinea mission (1994, 1995). Retired. Pulpit Supply (2012 to present). Married, 1965 – present, four children; seven grandchildren.

### **Rev. Rocky Mease**

Rev. Rocky Mease was born in Nashville, Kansas. He was baptized, confirmed and ordained at St. John Lutheran in Nashville. He attended Lutheran high schools and Concordia Senior College before he attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. His first call was to Waverly, Iowa. He also served a congregation in Dubuque, Iowa. He then came to Wesley Hospital in Wichita to study chaplaincy in Wesley's Clinical Pastoral Education program. He served as staff chaplain at Via Christi before being called by the District as Executive Chaplain. He served the District for 18 years in that capacity before becoming trained as an Intentional Interim Ministry pastor. He has provided Interim services to congregations in Overland Park, Meade and now Winfield, Kansas.

### **Rev. Max Phillips, Executive Director, Lutheran Family Service**

Max Phillips is pastor of a new multi-congregational parish formed from the ministry partnership of Christ Lutheran Church in Bouton, Iowa, and Zion Lutheran Church in Ogden, Iowa, both congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition, he serves as leader for two LCMS Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs); CEO of Perry Lutheran Homes, an elder care community specializing in dementia and intergenerational care; and executive director of Lutheran Family Service, a counseling, adoption, and life advocacy ministry serving a growing number of LCMS districts. In addition, Pastor Phillips serves as chairman of the board of the LCMS Lutheran Church Extension Fund. Pastor Phillips has served as a bi-vocational minister for most of his career, spending 33 years in the telecommunication field, where he served as a senior executive for Qwest Communications. Pastor Phillips has served his church in congregation, district, and synod positions. Today, he and his various ministry partners travel to make others aware of the mission possibilities of bringing Jesus Christ into the Alzheimer's disease equation, along with clinical information about the disease and the need to support caregivers. They also position mental health professionals to serve communities, the church and especially church workers. Pastor Phillips and his wife Sherrill live in rural Iowa and have three adult children and five young grandchildren.

### **Rev. Michael Schmidt**

Rev. Michael Schmidt is pastor of Peace Lutheran, Natoma and First Lutheran, Plainville. He is a 2003 graduate of Concordia College, Bronxville and a 2007 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has been published in various outlets including Higher Things and Life Date. He is the author of "Three Inches and Two Ounces", available from Concordia Publishing House, and is the co-author of "These Things Are Written", available from Creative Communications. Pastor Schmidt and his wife Lindsey are the parents of Theo and live in Natoma.

### **Rev. Dr. Brent Smith**

The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith started serving Nov. 1, 2016, as mission development counselor at Mission Central ([www.missioncentral.us](http://www.missioncentral.us)). Mission Central was launched in 1994 to help support missionaries and mission projects around the world. As mission development counselor, Smith works to inform congregations about LCMS national and international mission work while also connecting people with opportunities to support missionaries and projects with prayer, encouragement and voluntary giving. In addition, he advocates for regional mission opportunities spearheaded or coordinated by LCMS districts. Smith has served in various positions in the church since 1995, when he was sent to work as business manager in Central Asia (1995-97). He then spent six years as an evangelistic missionary in Russia before being called as executive staff in the role of regional director for the Eurasia region. His doctoral work focused on strategies for working as Christians in Muslim-majority contexts. Just prior to joining Mission Central, he served three years in the LCMS Southeastern District as executive director for mission development (2013–2016). He and his wife, Jennie, have three children.

### **Rev. Dr. Mark Wood**

The Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood serves as the director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and the LCMS Revitalization Initiative. He is the creator of the *Every One His Witness* evangelism program and the *re:Vitality* revitalization program. Prior to joining the LCMS Office of National Mission in June 2014, he served as the founding pastor of Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Lithia, FL, a daughter congregation of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Brandon, FL, where he served as the evangelism pastor from 2000 to 2008. A second-

career pastor, he served for six years on active duty service in the U.S. Air Force and then worked 14 years in the aerospace-defense industry, primarily in project management systems. A 2000 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, he also holds an associate's degree in computer programming, a bachelor's degree in business administration, and Doctor of Ministry degree with an emphasis in church planting and renewal from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando, FL. He is married to Mary Ellen, who works as a recruiter for a hospice and home health care personnel services agency. They have five adult children, seven grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

---

## SESSION A

Monday, October 7, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

---

### **Session: A1**

**Title:** Mission Central, LCMS – A session on mission practice now!

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Brent Smith

**Description:** This session will 1) provide the latest updates from missionaries in Africa, Eurasia, Latin America, and Asia, 2) report on how many active individual donors are in Kansas and where those dollars are going, and 3) provide ideas for furthering the personal connection between the sending church and her missionaries around the world.

### **Session: A2**

**Title:** Whom Are you Seeking - Jesus' Opening Question on Making Disciples?

**Presenter:** Rev. Fr. Mark D. Lovett, SSP

**Description:** After Adam's fall into sin the Lord called out, "Adam, where are you?" The Lord was seeking Adam. To find him, the Lord became man, the second Adam. Now man is with the Lord and the Lord with man in the person of Christ Jesus. So now the Lord no longer asks man, "Where are you?," but rather, "Whom do you seek?." This is the question that forms all Christian catechesis.

This sectional will devote itself to exploring how this question gives life and purpose to all new member catechesis and programs, as well as trains a congregation in the way it should go so that when it is old it will not depart from it.

If there is time, we will also look at what sort of skeletal form faithful catechesis might look like if is not divorced from but rather mired in the Sunday feast of the Eucharist.

### **Session: A3**

**Title:** Misreading Scripture with Western Eyes

**Presenter:** Rev. Phil Cook

**Description:** What was clear to the original readers of Scripture is not always clear to us. Because of the cultural distance between the biblical world and our contemporary setting, we often bring modern Western biases to the text. Based on a review of the book by the same name, and drawing on personal experiences in cross-cultural, global missions, the presentation will help participants move beyond their own cultural assumptions to see the Bible in fresh and unexpected ways.

### **Session: A4**

**Title:** Stewardship Under the Cross

**Presenter:** Rev. Heath Curtis

**Description:** Rev. Heath Curtis is a parish pastor who found himself navigating a parish through a financial crisis soon after he was installed. The experience led him to write *Stewardship Under the Cross: Stewardship for Confessional Lutheran Parishes*. In addition to his parish work, Rev. Curtis now serves the Synod as Coordinator for Stewardship. This workshop will explore the pastor's role in leading a parish toward faithful, generous stewardship.

### **Session: A5**

**Title:** The Joyful Word of Proclaiming Life: A Lutheran Approach to Life Ministry

**Presenter:** Rev. Matthew Durance

**Description:** Scripture affirms the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death, and when we confess the truth of Scripture to the world we affirm this in our Christian witness, which is that Christ Jesus became our brother in the flesh to deliver us from sin, death, and the devil, and to bring abundant life to all who believe. Looking at John 15:11-19 as well as Luther's Small Catechism, this presentation will focus on how to proclaim both Law and Gospel regarding life issues, as well as introduce pastors to the District Life Coordinator and how they along with their congregations can make use of the Life Ministry resources in their proclamation of Christ and Him crucified for the forgiveness of sins.

---

## SESSION B

Tuesday – October 8, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

---

### **Session: B1**

**Title:** *re:Vitality* – Resources for Strengthening Lutheran Congregations

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Mark Wood

**Description:** *re:Vitality* resources focus on improving a congregation's health and well-being. Learn how the low-cost resources available to LCMS congregations can help you improve the effectiveness of your outreach efforts (Connect To Disciple), guide you through developing a practical strategic ministry plan (Serving in God's Mission), and help you restore inactive members to the congregation (Shepherding Our Strays). And don't forget about *re:Vitality's* free self-assessment tool.

### **Session: B2**

**Title:** Gender Dysphoria and Christ's Compassion

**Presenters:** Rev. Phil Cook

**Description:** Confused by gender identity confusion? Gender Dysphoria? Transgender? Pan-gender? Join us for a discussion of this complicated topic that is becoming more and more prominent in our society today. We will spend most of our time thinking through the CTCR document "Gender Identity Disorder or Gender Dysphoria in Christian Perspective" and examining the Scriptures that lie behind it, as well as drawing on a few other resources and personal experiences with the topic. A good chance to learn together with other brothers in Christ.

### **Session: B3**

**Title:** Eyes of Faith and Eyes of the World: Luther's Insight into John

**Presenter:** Rev. Sean Kilgo

**Description:** This presentation will consider Luther's insight into the distinction between the Mortal Eye (what is seen physically) and the Eye of Faith (what the Christian sees by faith), particularly in his commentaries and sermons on the Gospel of John. This distinction is incredibly important as we learn to look, not at what is seen, but what is unseen, and teach our people to do the same, for it is through such eyes that we can look joyfully at the world around us, in spite of physical appearances.

### **Session: B4**

**Title:** Understanding and Responding to Demographic Change

**Presenter:** Rev. Heath Curtis

**Description:** The facts are stark – Christians make up a smaller and smaller proportion of the American population every year. Every district of the LCMS has experienced numerical decline in the past decade. Catholics, Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians are in the same boat. This workshop will explore this demographic change in American religion and provide concrete advice and encouragement for pastors and congregations facing these challenges.

### **Session: B5**

**Title:** p. 362, Muhammad, YOU

**Presenter:** Rev. Dennis Mason

**Description:** This presentation will consider the "Salvation Outline" on page 362 of Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation (CPH, 2017), with some attention given to conflicts encountered when one gives Gospel witness to a Muslim, if using the outline. Consideration given to the Sirat Ibn Hisham: Biography of the Prophet (abridged by Abdus-Salam M. Harun 2nd edition, 2005). The work is derived from the "first witness" about Muhammad written (by Ibn Ishaq) over a century after Muhammad's death. The work provides material about Muhammad – accepted by Muslims - which may assist the Christian defending the Christian message. It certainly provides information about Muhammad which contrasts to that of Christ Jesus as one discusses the prophethood of both. Prepare your witness.

---

## SESSION C

Tuesday, October 8, 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

---

### **Session: C1**

**Title:** *Every One His Witness* – A Twofold Approach to Equipping Lutherans for Evangelism

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Mark Wood

**Description:** "You will be my witnesses ..." (Acts 1:8) is a statement, not a question. But it does raise some important questions about witnessing, including "What is a witness?", "Where do I witness?", "To whom do I witness?", and, especially, "How do I witness?" This overview of *Every One His Witness* highlights how the basic workshop available in a kit from Concordia Publishing

House and the Synod's *Every One His Witness* website work together to equip Lutherans to be active and effective witnesses of Jesus in their everyday lives.

**Session: C2**

**Title:** Fulfillment and Completion - Summing up the Scriptures in John's Gospel

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Geoff Boyle

**Description:** "It is finished" (John 19:30). What is? This presentation will take a look at John's presentation of the Old Testament as the Word fulfilled and finished in Christ the Crucified. We'll wrestle a bit with how to enter the OT Scripture as well as what it means for it to be fulfilled. What we'll find is a richness to the OT witness that's far more than just background history. "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote of Me" (John 5:45).

**Session: C3**

**Title:** Contemporary Issues Regarding the Atonement

**Presenters:** Rev. Edward Kettner

**Description:** The Scriptures are clear: The Blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7). Such is the scandal of the cross. Yet in recent times attempts have been made to abandon what has traditionally been called Vicarious Satisfaction or Substitutionary Atonement, calling such an idea "divine child abuse," and attempting to take the idea of atonement seriously while denying the idea that the atonement propitiates the wrath of God, replacing it with such things as "non-violent" atonement and Christus Victor. This paper examines modern and post-modern ideas of atonement to see why some find the traditional view wanting and looks at what is at stake if these views are accepted.

**Session: C4**

**Title:** What Is Intentional Interim Ministry

**Presenter:** Rev. Rocky Mease

**Description:** This presentation will provide a brief overview of Intentional Interim Ministry (IIM) and why it may be helpful for a congregation to consider calling an IIM pastor when their pastor leaves. Certain situations (long pastorates, conflict, etc.) are certainly times to work through the interim process before calling your next permanent pastor. But each time period between pastors, even if a congregation is served by a vacancy pastor, can benefit from working through issues IIM pastors do in each Interim they serve. This presentation will help circuit visitors become better acquainted with the benefits provided by Intentional Interim Ministry. It will also provide tools that any pastor serving a vacant congregation might utilize to better provide ministry to the congregation during this time of transition and change.

**Session: C5**

**Title:** The Problem with Church Workers

**Presenters:** Rev. Max Phillips

**Description:** A presentation dealing with how the devil uses ministry zeal against us, wishes us mental harm, and how Christ answers! An exploration of mental health issues affecting church workers and the need for a different view of mental wellness, worker support, and congregational help.

---

**SESSION D**

**Tuesday, October 8, 3:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.**

---

**Session: D1**

**Title:** 1 Corinthians 11: The Greatest of These is Love

**Presenter:** Rev. Fr. Mark D. Lovett, SSP

**Description:** No doubt at some point you've been introduced to this question: When St. Paul says "discern the body," is he referring to the body of Christ in the Eucharist, the Real Presence, or is he referring to the Body of Christ, the Church? No doubt it was an interesting little sideline before it was quickly shelved under the heading, "Ain't nobody got time for that!" And, no doubt, if you were dragged into a debate about it you probably asked your own question: Why does this matter!?

It matters because of our Lord's word, "Love one another; by this all men will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). There is a reason the Lord's Supper was called the Agape Meal, the Love Feast of the Christians. The Lord's Supper is about love as much as forgiveness (which born of love). The Lord's Supper is the Lord's love for us and our love for the Lord as well as for one another. It is my contention that 1 Corinthians shows this explicitly in the apostle's words, "Discern the body".

There is no need to pit the one against the other, and it would be shameful to do so; however, there is great need to recover the role that love plays in the Church. After all, the Rock wrote to the church to "keep loving one another earnestly, for love covers a multitude of sins" (1 Peter 4:8).

**Session: D2**

**Title:** How Many First Article Gifts Do I Need?

**Presenter:** Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Description:** In a nation of hoarders, the latest craze is minimalism. This presentation will examine both hoarding and minimalism in light of the First Article, where we confess that God has given us all that we need to support this body and life, and we will strive to answer the questions: Why are people not content with their stuff? And what does the First Article have to say about the way we live today?

**Session: D3**

**Title:** The Lord's Prayer - Living in God's Gifts/Not Praying Like a Moron

**Presenter:** Rev. Jason Boetcher

**Description:** Prayer is meant to be a foundational part of the Christian life but is often an area of great confusion and frustration for many believers. In this presentation we will consider the Lord's prayer as a foundational gospel-oriented tool for spiritual formation of disciples of Jesus. Our Heavenly Father knows everything we need before we ask (Matt. 6:8) .... so let's ask! What are the gifts that we need? Holiness by His Name, His Kingdom, His will, provision, forgiveness, leadership and deliverance.

**Session: D4**

**Title:** Addressing Mental Health in a Religious Context

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Neil Buono

**Description:** The focus of this presentation is to provide those in pastoral ministry the foundation for a clinically effective and theologically sound approach to their own mental health needs and the needs of the people they serve. Attendees will gain an awareness of the balance of the clinical and the theological in identifying and caring for themselves and others. Attendees will also gain awareness on the place of the "community" as a source of healing. A primary focus of the workshop will be to address the stigma and silence around mental illness, especially of professional church workers.

**Session: D5**

**Title:** The Lutheran Family Service Ministry

**Presenter:** Rev. Max Phillips

**Description:** Serving as a ministry to our own LCMS members and church workers, and as a mission outreach to the lost as an extension of the church's ministry, see how God is using Lutheran Family Service from the delivery room to the halls of government, from the therapist's couch to the congregation's pulpit and a lot more.