



**"LET THERE BE LIGHT"**  
***JOHN 1:4-5***

**October 8-10**  
**Wichita, Kansas**

**John 1:4-5**

<sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

[Conference Webpage](#)

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## SCHEDULE

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### **Sunday, October 8**

3:00-6:00 p.m.	Local Hotel(s) - Check-In <i>Conference Registration at Holy Cross</i>
6:30 p.m.	Conference Worship
8:00 p.m.	Conference Reception (with heavy appetizers) Vendors Fellowship – BINGO (optional)

### **Monday, October 9**

	Breakfast (at hotels)
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Matins, LSB page 219 - Announcements
8:30-9:45 a.m.	Keynote I – Dr. Thomas Egger
9:45-10:00 a.m.	Break
10:00-11:00 a.m.	Session A
11:00-11:15 a.m.	Break
11:15-12:15 p.m.	Session B
12:15-1:30 p.m.	Luncheon: Seminary Update/Set Apart to Serve
1:30-2:45 p.m.	Keynote II – Dr. Thomas Egger
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-4:00 p.m.	Session C
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Break
4:15-5:00 p.m.	Business Meetings with Ministry Service Awards <i>Free evening</i>

### **Tuesday, October 10**

	Breakfast (at hotels)
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer, LSB page 235 - Announcements
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Keynote III – Dr. Thomas Egger
9:15-9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30-10:30 a.m.	Session D Adjournment

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### **CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE OFFERING DESIGNATION: Church Worker Care Fund**

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The 2023 Church Workers Conference offering has been designated for the District Church Worker Care Fund. Your congregation and/or school is highly encouraged to designate September's chapel/Sunday school offerings for the continued funding of the Districtwide Church Worker Care support fund. This District discretionary fund has historically assisted pastors, educators, and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. Schools/congregations are invited to raise a minimum of \$50 each. Visit the [Donate webpage](#) and choose "Church Worker Care" from the donate drop-down menu.

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## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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This conference is for all active and retired church workers and their spouses. **Online registration begins August 1, 2023, at <https://lcmkskansasdistrct.regfox.com/2023-kansas-district-church-worker-conference>.**

- ◆ **This is a required conference for all rostered church workers.**
- ◆ **4 clock-hour points will be available for Early Childhood Educators** – Sessions A1, B1, C1, D1

### Conference Fee

\$124 – Pastors, Vicars, Educators, DCEs

\$100 – Emeritus, Spouse (Meal cost only)

\$0 – Committee Members

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

**Late registration \$149; begins October 2, 2023.**

**Cancellations or substitutions** – Substitute when possible as cancellations after October 2, 2023, may be subject to a \$100.00 per person cancellation fee to cover meal costs. Contact the District Office to make registration changes. Contact Tami at the District Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 5001 or [tami@kslcms.org](mailto:tami@kslcms.org).

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## LODGING INFORMATION

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### Lodging Reservations

Room rates using our booking links will be \$109.00 for 1 King or 2 Queen rooms on October 8 and October 9, 2023. To make reservations, go to the hotel website using the link provided for the hotel of your choosing. If needed the group code for each hotel is below, bolded next to the hotel name. All reservations should be made by **Friday, September 8, 2023**. After this date, the hotel will release the remainder of our room block. Additional reservation requests can only be honored on a space and rate-available basis. Please make sure your dates are correct before completing your transaction.

#### Hilton Garden Inn **(PSED)**

2041 N Bradley Fair Pkwy

Wichita, KS 67206

316-219-4444

[Available Rooms - Hilton Garden Inn Wichita](#)

#### Hampton Inn & Suites **(PSE)**

2433 N Greenwich Rd.

Wichita, KS 67226

316-636-5594

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=ICTNOHX&groupCode=CHHPSE&arrivaldate=2023-10-08&departuredate=2023-10-10&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

#### Springhill Suites **(Pastors and Educators)**

1220 N Greenwich Rd.

Wichita, KS 67206

316-681-1800

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1689190370823&key=GRP>

#### Residence Inn **(Pastors and Educators)**

1212 N Greenwich Rd.

Wichita, KS 67206

316-682-7300

<https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1689190370823&key=GRP>

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

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Dr. Thomas J. Egger is president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is a professor of Exegetical Theology.

Egger, a faculty member since 2005, was inaugurated as the 11th president of Concordia Seminary in 2021. He previously served as the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology, associate professor of Exegetical Theology and the academic adviser for first-year students.

Egger served as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, from 2000–05. He previously served as a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1999.

Egger earned his Master of Divinity at Concordia Seminary (1997), and received his Bachelor of Arts in English and German from Central College in Pella, Iowa (1993). He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at Concordia Seminary in 2019. His dissertation focused on the phrase “visiting iniquity of fathers upon sons” from the book of Exodus.

His areas of interest and expertise include biblical Hebrew, the books of Genesis and Exodus, Old Testament theology, Old Testament Christ-typology, divine justice, narrative and rhetorical analysis, the nature and authority of Scripture, and “objectionable” texts in the Bible (those often raising criticisms of divine violence and accusations of divine immorality).

He has made contributions in the area of American Lutheran history, especially the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its first president, Dr. C.F.W. Walther. Another area of special interest is the theology of Luther’s catechisms and the intersection of the catechism and the Bible in Lutheran teaching and piety.

He has written pieces for a number of publications, including *Concordia Journal*, *Modern Reformation*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources* and *The Lutheran Witness*, and for the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR).

Egger currently serves on the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) Awards Committee. He previously served on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. He served three terms on the CTCR and was part of the seven-member LCMS Catechism Revision Committee, which prepared the 2017 revision of the Synod’s explanation of Luther’s Small Catechism. For 10 years, he served on the Board of Directors of Providence Classical Christian Academy, a K–12 school in St. Louis, Mo.

His favorite pastimes are running, Cardinals baseball, birdwatching, hiking, golf, reading stories and poetry to his children, and singing hymns with his family. He and his wife, Victoria, have been blessed with six children: Andrew, Stacey, Abram, Bonnie, Ellen and Mary.

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**CONFERENCE PRESENTERS**

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<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Sessions</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Session Titles</b>
Dr. Mark Blanke	A5, B5	DCE/General	The Dream Team - Growing great teams...and, laity are a part of your team; The Dream Team - Growing great teams...and, laity are a part of your team
David Beikmann	D4	Principals/School Leaders	Principal Round Table
Cindy Deutsch	A1	Early Childhood	Taking Care of God's Earth
Rev. Aaron Fenker	B6	Pastors	Revise!—A Post-Publication Doctrinal Review Grade for the Confession and Absolution of LSB Divine Service: Setting One
Rev. Phil Hoppe	B8	Pastors	The Will of Man in Eden, the Heavenly City, and in Christ on Earth
Rev. Tom Johnson	A9, D8	Pastors	Lutheran Piety in Lutheran Education: A Pastor's Perspective!
Rev. Sean Kilgo	A6, D6	Pastors	Don't Let the Devil Steal Your Joy – Reclaiming and Maintaining the Joy of the Lord as our Strength; “And all who believed were together” – Why the Church MUST be face-to-face
Rev. Ian Kinney	A7, D7	Pastors	The Apocrypha is Canon; Blessed are those who hunger
Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies	A10, B10, C9, D10	General/All	Evangelism in Occupation: How to reach out in a Secular Age; How NOT to Let Issues Prevent Relationships; The Spiritual Conversation Curve: A Practical Tool for Reluctant Witnesses; Building a Spiritually Vibrant Home
Rod Lenz	B1, C1	Early Childhood	Overview of Successful Schools including the implementation of Accommodations and Modifications <i>Part 1 and Part 2</i>
Tina M. Lenz	D1	Early Childhood	JOY in Learning!
Rev. Mark Lovett	A8	Pastors	The Specter of Evangelism
Rev. Rocky Mease	B9	Pastors	Transitional Ministry Training - Is it for me?
Rev. Michael Schmidt	B7	Pastors	Preaching 1 Thessalonians
Jim Scriven	A3, B3, C3, D3	Educators	Navigating Gender Identity Issues; Reach the Student by Serving the Family; Dealing with the “Problem Child”; Dealing with the “Problem Child”
Tonya Smedley	A4, B4, C4	Educators	PDP Toolbox - Overview for Teachers; We have Completed the 5 Year Accreditation Process...Now What? What Will The Year 1 Accreditation Process Look Like?
Paul Snyder	C5, D5	General/All	CPS Worker Retirement Information
Dyane Smokorowski	A2, B2, C2, D2	Educators	Get Moving, Get Learning: Active Strategies for Engaging Minds and Bodies; Jet-Set Learning: Exploring the World from Your Classroom; Unleash Your Students' Creativity: Choice Boards for Demonstrating Understanding; Google Like a Pro: A Search Tour
Heather Williams and Jeff Maltz	C8, D9	General/All	Lifetime Plan for Giving
TBD	C6, C7	Pastors	Pastor Panel Discussions

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## PRESENTER BIOS

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### **Dr. Mark Blanke**

Mark Blanke has been a faculty member at Concordia University, Nebraska since 1995. He serves as the director of the DCE Program and served for 15 years as the Director of University Strategic Planning. He has been blessed to have been involved in preparing over 400 DCEs for service to the church.

### **David Beikmann**

David Beikmann is a teacher and principal with over 25 years of experience in schools in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. He currently teaches 7th and 8th graders at Linn Lutheran School and resides in rural Palmer, KS with his wife, Diane, and three beautiful daughters.

### **Cindy Deutsch**

Cindy is a retired teacher who taught kindergarten in Wichita Public Schools for 37 years. Now, she enjoys substituting at Holy Cross Lutheran in Wichita and tutors children PreK-7th grade in her home. She attended K-8th grade in a rural Lutheran School in Nebraska. She is married to Steve and they have 2 adult daughters and one son-in-law.

### **Rev. Aaron Fenker**

Aaron and his wife, Sarah, live near Bremen, KS, and have five children. Aaron was ordained in June 2013, serving as Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, LA until 2015. Since 2015, he has served as Pastor for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Immanuel Lutheran Church, both near Bremen, KS. He also teaches 7th and 8th Grade Religion at Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Marysville, KS.

Aaron studied Theological Languages and Theology at Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, IL (BA, 2007). He studied at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (M. Div., 2012) and also received his Masters of Sacred Theology in Systematics (STM, 2020) from CTSFW, as well.

### **Rev. Tom Johnson**

I have served as a pastor at Faith Lutheran Church and School in Derby since November of 2001. I am closing in on 35 years total in pastoral ministry. Continuing education has been a way of life for me since my seminary days in St. Louis, 1984-88. I was awarded an S.T.M degree in theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 2015. I am presently working on the final draft of my D Min dissertation for Ft. Wayne seminary. My successful defense was held in March of 2023.

### **Rev. Sean Kilgo**

Rev. Sean Kilgo serves as the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence, KS. He and his wife, Michelle, have been married for 17 years and have been blessed with two children, Isaiah and Phoebe.

### **Rev. Ian Kinney**

Pastor Kinney is the Pastor at First Lutheran in Sabetha Kansas. He is a 2021 CTSFW graduate and has 3 children.

### **Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies**

Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies is the Regional Director for North America at Lutheran Hour Ministries. His work with LHM centers around helping the church become more outreach focused by empowering it to share the Gospel at more personal levels. His former life as a non-believer provides relevant experience concerning how to engage with our friends and neighbors outside the Kingdom of God. Lakies previously served as department chair and associate professor of religion at Concordia University, Portland.

### **Rodney Lenz**

Rod Lenz has BA in Elementary Education, Masters of Education in K-12 Leadership, and Masters of Arts in K-12 Special Education. Rod is a former K-8 general and special education educator, educational consultant and principal/superintendent. Rod's 42 plus years of experience in Lutheran and public schools have provided countless experiences where student growth and learning occurred. These experiences were utilized with parents, educators, social services, therapists, and other professionals.

### **Tina Lenz**

I grew up in Shawnee, KS and have been retired for 3 years, but once a teacher...always a teacher! I spent the majority of my 35 year teaching career in Lutheran Schools both in Iowa and South Dakota. Also, my husband and I purchased a small, family owned, chocolate manufacturing business for 6 years. In 1979 I received my BA from Concordia College, St. Paul. Then in 2011 I completed my Master's of Early Childhood from Concordia University-Seward, NE.

**Rev. Mark Lovett**

Pastor Mark Lovett has served the Kansas District for seventeen years as parish pastor, circuit visitor, and on various committees. He lives in Wichita, serving Immanuel Lutheran Church as pastor, with his wife, Kristi, and three children, Joshua, Sarah, and Kristopher.

**Rev. Rocky Mease**

Rocky graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and served parishes in Waverly and Dubuque, Iowa. Rocky served as a staff hospital chaplain for 7 years in Wichita and for 18 years as the Executive Chaplain for the Kansas District. He has served as Intentional Interim Pastors at Bethany Overland Park; St. John, Meade; Trinity, Winfield; Prince of Peace, Topeka; St. Paul's, Coffeyville; Fairmount Ministries, Wichita; Zion, Vassar and Trinity, Hanover (as of September 1, 2023).

**Rev. Michael Schmidt**

Rev. Michael Schmidt is a 2003 graduate of Concordia College, Bronxville and a 2007 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He currently serves as pastor of Peace Lutheran, Natoma and First Lutheran, Plainville. He is also a Circuit Visitor. Rev. Schmidt has had articles published in Higher Things and Life Date; and co-authored These Things Are Written. Rev. Schmidt and his wife Lindsey live in Natoma, with their children Theodore and Paul.

**Jim Scriven**

Jim has served in Lutheran School ministry since 1990, in Louisiana, Minnesota, California, and Alaska. He holds a B.A. in Elementary Ed and an M.Ed. in Educational Administration. He has served since 2015 as Education Executive for the Northwest District. Jim has presented locally and nationally on topics related to leadership, drama, technology, school sustainability, and innovation in education. He and his wife Judy are enjoying their 35th year of marriage, blessed with two grown children.

**Tonya Smedley**

Throughout my 29 years in education, I have had the privilege of being part of PreK-Adult Education. My education career consists of elementary teacher, curriculum director, virtual school director, elementary principal and now currently serving as an Assistant Director of School Improvement Services and PDP Toolbox Coordinator. My "Why" is helping to make a difference in the lives of people that I come into contact with. I'm a wife, mom, and grandmother who loves going to Chiefs games.

**Dyane Smokorowski**

Dyane Smokorowski, 2019 National Teacher Hall of Fame inductee and 2013 Kansas Teacher of the Year, fosters student-centered learning and inspires innovation as Coordinator of Digital Literacy in Wichita Public Schools. Her professional development opportunities and focus on communication, planning, research, and project implementation skills help students and educators thrive globally.

**Paul Snyder**

Paul began serving Concordia Plans in 1982. In 1998 he became focused on benefit education, helping workers with pre-retirement planning and financial education. Coming from a family of church workers, Paul wants those serving the church to be financially well so they can focus on their ministries. Paul received his bachelor's degree from Concordia College—River Forest (now Concordia University Chicago). He is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Olivette, Missouri, where he serves as the Director of Worship. Paul loves to travel, ski, visit with family and cheer for the St. Louis Cardinals!

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**SESSION A****Monday, October 9 | 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**

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**Session: A1****Title:** Taking Care of God's Earth**Target:** **Early Childhood****Presenter:** Cindy Deutsch**Description:** Learn fun, engaging, and impactful ways to Take Care of the Earth. Reading and writing activities will be integrated into this presentation.**Session: A2****Title:** Get Moving, Get Learning: Active Strategies for Engaging Minds and Bodies**Target:** Educators**Presenter:** Dyane Smokorowski**Description:** "Get Moving, Get Learning" is an active learning workshop that shows you practical techniques for engaging your students' minds and bodies. Discover the power of screen-free and tech-based strategies, from brain

breaks to interactive games, and create a dynamic learning environment that's both fun and effective. Join us to energize your teaching and take your students on a journey they'll never forget!

**Session: A3**

**Title:** Navigating Gender Identity Issues

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Jim Scriven

**Description:** We now live in a culture where the understanding of gender has changed. Male and female. That's so 1980's! How do we hold to God's design as shared in Scripture while ministering to students and families who have come to accept "gender fluidity?" Jim will discuss gender identity issues before us today, what we need to be aware of, and what educators and schools can do to serve people who are often very confused about identity but think we are the ones who just don't get it.

**Session: A4**

**Title:** PDP Toolbox - Overview for Teachers

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Tonya Smedley, Greenbush

**Description:** Have a hard time remembering to put in your PD points in the toolbox? Can you refresh my memory on what knowledge, application, and impact mean? How do I enter my points in the toolbox? What do I need to do as I prepare for relicensure? During this session, we will go over the features in the toolbox and answer those questions and provide you with resources.

**Session: A5**

**Title:** The Dream Team - Growing great teams...and, laity are a part of your team

**Target:** DCE/General

**Presenter:** Dr. Mark Blanke

**Description:** All church professionals are serving on at least one team. We may work with another person in public ministry, other church staff, and all of us work with the people of God who are gifted and called for service. Effective teammates are grown, not born - how do we grow more effective teams?

**Session: A6**

**Title:** Don't Let the Devil Steal Your Joy - Reclaiming and Maintaining the Joy of the Lord as our Strength

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Sean Kilgo

**Description:** One of the most beautiful gifts which the Lord gives us is the gift of Joy. And one of the most dangerous things which can happen to a church, pastor, or Christian is to lose our Joy. But what is Joy? How does the devil attack it? And how can we maintain and strengthen our joy as we serve the Lord? Join Pastor Kilgo to delve into these questions involving the great gift of Joy.

**Session: A7**

**Title:** The Apocrypha is Canon

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Ian Kinney

**Description:** Why do Jesus, His Apostles, the Church Fathers, the Lutheran Fathers, Gerhard, Chemnitz, Luther, our hymns, and our liturgy all quote a compendium of books that, at best, no one care about and, at worst, men look at with animosity? Throughout the history of the Church, the Apocrypha has been used as Canon by pastors and theologians. Even when the first listing of the New Testament books are recorded, the Apocrypha is among them. Lutherans have never stopped using the Apocrypha, we have just forgotten about it.

**Session: A8**

**Title:** The Specter of Evangelism

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Mark Lovett

**Description:** If you're anything like me you are often overwhelmed by the amount of evangelism programs, data, books, surveys, and the plethora of other evangelism-related materials and meetings that are ever present in our daily life of the Church. Not to mention the pressure we are often under to get new members and revitalize older members, all seemingly connected directly to evangelism. It seems if we don't have an active, vibrant evangelism board (and so



few are!) and ideas and interactions that our parishes will die off and it will all be because we couldn't get new members or retain older members. But is all of this biblical? Is evangelism as we have come to know it really a product of the so-called "Great Commission", or is it born of another commission? How did the Lord Jesus get new members for His band of disciples (and there were certainly new members as they did not all simply show up the day of His baptism). Does the goal of why we have or do evangelism match that of the actors in Holy Scripture? Do the concerns of our approach to evangelism reflect the Scriptures and the analogy of faith given by the history of the Church or are we operating under the specter of evangelism? In addition to some discussion of practical means, this session will explore the topic of evangelism attempting to rightly order this "-ism" under the banner of Christ who is the true Evangel, the bringer of good news.

**Session: A9**

**Title:** Lutheran Piety in Lutheran Education: A Pastor's Perspective!

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Tom Johnson

**Description:** Recent national conventions of Synod have addressed the issue of Lutheran education, to be more precise, how to foster a Lutheran identity and ethos in our schools from Pre-K all the way through the university system and then graduate studies at the seminaries. Some historical context is helpful.

**Session: A10**

**Title:** Evangelism in Occupation: How to reach out in a Secular Age

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

**Description:** We live in a secular age. The culture is hostile. We weren't trained for this and we feel unprepared. We're frustrated and exhausted in trying to figure out how to offer a winsome and effective witness. What if there's a better way? What if we can understand the culture better? What if there are helpful strategies for better sharing our faith? This presentation will help you better tap into the openness to the Gospel that's all around us and teach you an effective strategy for outreach.

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**SESSION B**

**Monday, October 9 | 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.**

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**Session: B1**

**Title:** Overview of Successful Schools including the implementation of Accommodations and Modifications, Part 1

**Target:** **Early Childhood**

**Presenter:** Rod Lenz

**Description:** This session supports teachers with a review of characteristics and strategies for being successful in their classrooms and schools. Strategies for the successful implementation of modifications and accommodations will be discussed and shared. Student behavior and trauma informed education will be embedded throughout the presentation.

**Session: B2**

**Title:** Jet-Set Learning: Exploring the World from Your Classroom

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Dyane Smokorowski

**Description:** Join our workshop to learn how to take your students on a global journey from your classroom! Discover how to use virtual field trips and guest speakers to create engaging and unforgettable learning experiences. We'll explore practical tips for integrating these experiences into your curriculum and maximizing their educational impact. Don't miss this chance to inspire your students and expand their horizons with jet-set learning!

**Session: B3**

**Title:** Reach the Student by Serving the Family

**Target:** Educators

**Presenters:** Jim Scriven

**Description:** We know that students learn best when their basic needs are met. They have a home, they aren't hungry, they feel safe. Parents are the ones who impact them most. So how do we help? We serve the parents! Jim will explore practical ways educators can and should connect with school parents to strengthen relationships and open doors for big ministry impacts, thus supporting students the best we can.

**Session: B4**

**Title:** We have Completed the 5 Year Accreditation Process...Now What? What Will The Year 1 Accreditation Process Look Like?

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Tonya Smedley, Greenbush

**Description:** This session will provide staff with up-to-date KSDE Accreditation Information and requirements as you go through Year 1.

**Session: B5**

**Title:** The Dream Team - Growing great teams...and, laity are a part of your team

**Target:** DCE/General

**Presenter:** Dr. Mark Blanke

**Description:** All church professionals are serving on at least one team. We may work with another person in public ministry, other church staff, and all of us work with the people of God who are gifted and called for service. Effective teammates are grown, not born - how do we grow more effective teams?

**Session: B6**

**Title:** Revise!—A Post-Publication Doctrinal Review Grade for the Confession and Absolution of LSB Divine Service: Setting One

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Aaron Fenker

**Description:** “Divine Service: Setting One” in Lutheran Service Book (2006) has arguably become the de facto Hauptgottesdienst for many congregations within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The text of that service, first officially nascent within the Synod in Lutheran Worship (1982), replaces the text of the Common Service of 1888, which was used in The Lutheran Hymnal (1941) and also preserved within “Divine Service: Setting Three” in Lutheran Service Book (2006). The text used in “Divine Service: Setting One” is not without its problems in toto, but this is especially the case in regard to its “Confession and Absolution.” More specifically, the problem arises with the translation of 1 John 1:8–9. This paper will investigate that biblical text by uncovering the history of its liturgical use and inclusion, elucidate how to translate the text correctly, and argue that the inclusion of a novel and erroneous translation is problematic, should have been revised before it was again included in Lutheran Service Book (2006), or avoided John 1:8–9 altogether, as was proposed by some members of the Lutheran Hymnal Project, Liturgy Committee.

**Session: B7**

**Title:** Preaching 1 Thessalonians

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Michael Schmidt

**Description:** The Sundays falling between October 22 and November 19 feature a continuous reading of 1 Thessalonians. 1 Thessalonians is perhaps a lesser known, and lesser understood epistle of Paul, ergo this would be the perfect opportunity to preach on these rich texts that not only encourage and buildup the faithful for life here on earth, but also provides some exciting opportunities to preach about the End Times. This breakout will look at the texts and discuss possible preaching avenues.

**Session: B8**

**Title:** The Will of Man in Eden, the Heavenly City, and in Christ on Earth

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Phil Hoppe

**Description:** In the Formula of Concord, Epitome Article two says “The will of man may be discussed in four different states: (1) before the Fall, (2) after the Fall, (3) after regeneration, (4) after the resurrection of the flesh. In this controversy the primary question revolves exclusively about man’s will and ability in the second state. The question is, ‘What powers does man possess in spiritual matters after the fall of our first parents and before his regeneration? Can man by his own powers, before he is reborn through the Holy Spirit, dispose and prepare himself for the grace of God? Can he or can he not accept the grace of God offered in the Word and the holy sacraments?’” This presentation will discuss how we in the church speak, teach, and preach often about this second state of man, after the fall and before regeneration. It will argue that it is essential to make sure we also know what to say regarding the other three states. We will look into the Scriptures and Confessions in order that we might speak rightly of all four states.

**Session: B9**

**Title:** Transitional Ministry Training - Is it for me?

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Rocky Mease

**Description:** Recent years have revealed that all Ministries are in some kind of transition. Lutheran Transitional Ministry Training offers insights to church workers in various ministries and at different times in those ministries. Most Intentional Interim's are Pastors who serve in their post-retirement years. More and more Pastors (and other church workers) are taking the training to understand transitions in their current ministry setting or to make Interim a calling before retirement years begin.

**Session: B10**

**Title:** How NOT to Let Issues Prevent Relationships

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

**Description:** Race, Sex, Guns, Climate, Politics, Gender, Religion, Ethnicity, Vaccines, Poverty, and more. Are we letting issues prevent relationships? Data shows marriages are breaking because of disagreements. Family members are disowning their own kin for similar reasons. Why do we feel as if we MUST disassociate from people with whom we disagree? How can we model and foster relating to others in our fractured, pluralistic culture that bridges relationships, even if we can't bridge ideologies?

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**SESSION C**

**Monday, October 9 | 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

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**Session: C1**

**Title:** Overview of Successful Schools including the implementation of Accommodations and Modifications, Part 2

**Target:** **Early Childhood**

**Presenter:** Rod Lenz

**Description:** This session supports teachers with a review of characteristics and strategies for being successful in their classrooms and schools. Strategies for the successful implementation of modifications and accommodations will be discussed and shared. Student behavior and trauma informed education will be embedded throughout the presentation.

**Session: C2**

**Title:** Unleash Your Students' Creativity: Choice Boards for Demonstrating Understanding

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Dyane Smokorowski

**Description:** In this workshop to discover how to empower your students with the agency to showcase their understanding of content through choice boards. We'll dive into how to create a structured and creative environment for primary students, and learn how to scaffold student thinking for older grades as you promote critical thinking and creativity. This is a great opportunity to spark your students' imagination and unleash their full potential.

**Session: C3**

**Title:** Dealing with the "Problem Child"

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Jim Scriven

**Description:** If there's something Lutheran schools do poorly, it's handling behavior situations with too much grace. We try, and try, and TRY to make things work. How do we get through to a parent in denial? What can help a challenging student make real growth? How do we discern when the best option is guiding a student to a setting other than ours? In this session, Jim will share some guidance and templates you can use for more productive parent meetings when teaming up to redirect a child's choices.

**Session: C4**

**Title:** PDP Toolbox - Overview for Teachers

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Tonya Smedley, Greenbush

**Description:** Have a hard time remembering to put in your PD points in the toolbox? Can you refresh my memory on what knowledge, application, and impact mean? How do I enter my points in the toolbox? What do I need to do as I

prepare for relicensure? During this session, we will go over the features in the toolbox and answer those questions and provide you with resources.

**Session: C5**

**Title:** CPS Worker Retirement Information

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Paul Snyder

**Description:** Retirement can be exciting, but a little scary. The Concordia Plans Retirement Team assists and supports members from their first estimate of their retirement benefits to the final details of how to implement their retirement, including choosing medical coverage, information about social security and lifestyle considerations. Join us for an informative session on retiring well with Concordia Plans.

**Session: C6**

**Title:** Pastor Panel Discussion

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** TBD

**Description:** Globalism/Localism

**Session: C7**

**Title:** Pastor Panel Discussion

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** TBD

**Description:** Masoretic Text

**Session: C8**

**Title:** Lifetime Plan for Giving

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Heather Williams and Jeff Maltz

**Description:** The goal of this presentation is to provide education on Christian estate planning, letting LCMS members know about a resource available to them through the LCMS Foundation called the "Lifetime Plan for Giving." KSLCMS members will learn about the LCMS Foundation, and how the Kansas District has partnered with them for the benefit of Kansas District congregations, schools and registered service organizations. Learn about opportunities for your congregation members to hear from the District about how Planned Giving can benefit your church or school. We'll talk about Planned Giving from a Lutheran stewardship perspective, with details on how to engage in LCMS Foundation's "Lifetime Plan for Giving." The session will wrap up with a discussion of the fruits of Planned Giving in the Kansas District, with an opportunity for questions and answers.

**Session: C9**

**Title:** The Spiritual Conversation Curve: A Practical Tool for Reluctant Witnesses

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

**Description:** St. Paul encouraged all Christians to discern wisely "how to answer" each non-Christian in their life (Colossians 4). But how exactly do we do that in an age where many non-Christians have experienced "church hurt" and don't show any interest in Jesus at all? Learn the simple but revolutionary tool developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries that can help you and your congregation discern how to talk with the non-Christians in their lives.

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**SESSION D**

**Tuesday, October 10 | 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

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**Session: D1**

**Title:** JOY in Learning!

**Target:** **Early Childhood**

**Presenter:** Tina Lenz

**Description:** Let's discuss how J (Jesus), O (Other's), Y (You) in learning is beneficial both for the child & the teacher. We will talk about, "hands on learning," for Early Childhood which encompasses infants through 2nd grade students and beyond. Please join me as we have JOY in discussing age appropriate activities and best practices which have brought me so much JOY in my career and why I'm having such a hard time totally giving up that JOY!

**Session: D2**

**Title:** Google Like a Pro: A Search Tour

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Dyane Smokorowski

**Description:** Join us on a virtual tour to uncover the hidden gems of Google search! In this hands-on workshop, you'll learn the best tips and tricks to navigate Google Search and Images quickly and accurately. Discover how to find kid-friendly websites and reliable sources for your students. Get ready to level up your search skills and become a Google pro!

**Session: D3**

**Title:** Dealing with the "Problem Child"

**Target:** Educators

**Presenter:** Jim Scriven

**Description:** If there's something Lutheran schools do poorly, it's handling behavior situations with too much grace. We try, and try, and TRY to make things work. How do we get through to a parent in denial? What can help a challenging student make real growth? How do we discern when the best option is guiding a student to a setting other than ours? In this session, Jim will share some guidance and templates you can use for more productive parent meetings when teaming up to redirect a child's choices.

**Session: D4**

**Title:** Principals Round Table Discussion

**Target:** Principals/School Leaders

**Presenter:** David Beikmann

**Description:** Principals and school leaders are invited to come together to discuss the joys and challenges of leading in a Lutheran school. Discussion topics will be generated by the attendees to address current needs. We will try to focus the discussion on having our Lutheran schools be active not only in their congregations, but be contributing members of the community

**Session: D5**

**Title:** CPS Worker Retirement Information

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Paul Snyder

**Description:** Retirement can be exciting, but a little scary. The Concordia Plans Retirement Team assists and supports members from their first estimate of their retirement benefits to the final details of how to implement their retirement, including choosing medical coverage, information about social security and lifestyle considerations. Join us for an informative session on retiring well with Concordia Plans.

**Session: D6**

**Title:** "And all who believed were together" – Why the Church MUST be Face-To-Face

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Sean Kilgo

**Description:** Over the last few years the discussion of the online church has exploded. But does the Lord's word uphold the idea of the church gathering online? Does our doctrine of the Church change because of new technological advancements or societal shifts? Join Pastor Kilgo to examine what the Scriptures and Confessions have to say about the substance of the Church and whether or not that is compatible with the current digital trends.

**Session: D7**

**Title:** Blessed are those who hunger

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Ian Kinney

**Description:** Fasting - how did something so central to our Lord's Scriptures become completely forgotten in our Lord's Church? How did something so important to our fathers in the faith become completely irrelevant to the majority of Christians? Fasting was a practice that was commanded by our Lord and practiced by apostles and prophets. It was so important that it was a source of such unity in the church of Christ as well as the basis for the greatest schism the Church has seen.

**Session: D8**

**Title:** Lutheran Piety in Lutheran Education: A Pastor's Perspective!

**Target:** Pastors

**Presenter:** Rev. Tom Johnson

**Description:** Recent national conventions of Synod have addressed the issue of Lutheran education, to be more precise, how to foster a Lutheran identity and ethos in our schools from Pre-K all the way through the university system and then graduate studies at the seminaries. Some historical context is helpful.

**Session: D9**

**Title:** Lifetime Plan for Giving

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Heather Williams and Jeff Maltz

**Description:** The goal of this presentation is to provide education on Christian estate planning, letting LCMS members know about a resource available to them through the LCMS Foundation called the "Lifetime Plan for Giving." KSLCMS members will learn about the LCMS Foundation, and how the Kansas District has partnered with them for the benefit of Kansas District congregations, schools and registered service organizations. Learn about opportunities for your congregation members to hear from the District about how Planned Giving can benefit your church or school. We'll talk about Planned Giving from a Lutheran stewardship perspective, with details on how to engage in LCMS Foundation's "Lifetime Plan for Giving." The session will wrap up with a discussion of the fruits of Planned Giving in the Kansas District, with an opportunity for questions and answers.

**Session: D10**

**Title:** Building a Spiritually Vibrant Home

**Target:** General/All

**Presenter:** Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies

**Description:** Transmitting and embodying the Christian faith is a primary responsibility for all of us. But how do we do that when we've come to imagine that the primary ways we grow in our faith is as individuals or when we're in church? This presentation will help you center the household as a primary location for God's work of forming faith in ways that are sticky and last for one's whole life with research from Barna and Lutheran Hour Ministries.