



2024 Pastors Conference

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Topeka, Kansas

October 7 - 8, 2024

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Monday, October 7

8:00 – 8:10 a.m.Announcements
8:10 – 9:10 a.m.Divine Service
9:15 – 10:15 a.m.**Keynote I – Pride and Humility**
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.Break
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.**Keynote 2 – Envy and Kindness**
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.Session A
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.Lunch/Awards
1:45 – 2:30 p.m.**Keynote 3 – Greed and Generosity**
2:30 – 2:45 p.m.Snack Break
2:45 – 3:30 p.m.**Keynote 4 – Anger and Patience**
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.Session B (*panel discussion – all participants*)
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.Business Meeting/Litany
5:00 p.m.Dinner on your own/Free evening

Tuesday, October 8

8:00 – 8:15 a.m.Announcements
8:15 – 8:45 a.m.Matins
8:45 – 9:45 a.m.Session C
9:45 – 10:00 a.m.Snack Break
10:00 – 10:45 a.m.**Keynote 5 – Gluttony/Lust and Temperance/Chastity**
10:45 – 11:00 a.m.Break
11:00 – 11:45 a.m.**Keynote 6 – Sloth and Diligence**
11:45 a.m.Responsive Prayer 2
12:15 p.m.Dismiss/lunch on your own

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

This conference is for all active and retired church workers and their spouses. **Online registration begins August 1 at <https://lcmskansasdistrict.regfox.com/2024-pastor-conference>.**

Conference Fee

\$108 – Pastors

\$78 – Emeritus Pastors; Spouses; Vicars

\$0 – Committee Members

Late registrations \$138 and after September 12, 2024.

This is a required conference for all ordained pastors.

Cancellations or substitutions – Substitute when possible as cancellations after September 12, 2024, may be subject to a \$78.00 per person cancellation fee to cover meal costs. Contact the District Office to make registration changes.

Up-to-the-minute conference registration details can be accessed on the Kansas District website:

<https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/pastors-conference/>

LODGING INFORMATION

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Hotel Topeka
1717 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612
800-579-7937

Hotel Information: 60 rooms available until **September 22** at \$89 for "Pastors Conference".

Room block link: <http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4425362&hotelID=13576>

PASTORS CONFERENCE OFFERING DESIGNATION: Church Worker Care Fund

The 2024 Pastors 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.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Rev. Dr. Michael Fieberkorn



Rev. Dr. Michael T. Fieberkorn, author of *Battle of the Soul: Luther Reforms Vice and Virtue*, is a pastor, currently serving a congregation in St. Charles, Missouri. Before entering ministry, he graduated from the Air Force Academy and served in the active-duty Air Force for six years. He continues to serve in the Reserves. He earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, with emphasis in doctrinal theology. He and his wife, Angela, are the parents of Jacob, Kayla, and Logan.

Keynote Description

Martin Luther and the Seven Deadly Sins: The battle is real because sin is real. Likewise, the victory is real because victory has been won and given in Christ. With a pastoral mindset, Dr. Fieberkorn shows Luther's reworked use of vice and virtue and their usefulness in our daily lives as the baptized [in his six-session keynote]. Presenting a distinctive Lutheran voice in the virtue ethics discussion, he shows this move from philosophical virtue ethics in the Aristotelian understanding to distinctive Christian virtues informed by the Ten Commandments and the fruit of the Spirit. These flow from faith and are lived in love toward the neighbor in very practical ways in the daily life of a Christian. (Description provided by Rev. Andy Wright, STM, senior pastor, St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Topeka)

PRESENTER BIOS

Hayes, Rev. Joshua

Rev. Joshua Hayes is pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Palmer, KS. He has an M.A. (2010) from Washington University in St. Louis in Greek and Latin Classics. He is a contributing translator to the American Edition of Luther's Works and the editor for Johann Gerhard's Theological Commonplaces (CPH).

Kinney, Rev. Ian

Pastor Ian Kinney is the pastor of First Lutheran Church in Sabetha, KS.

Koch, Rev. Tim

Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Linn, KS.

Lovett, Fr. Mark D

Pastor Mark Lovett has served The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Kansas District, nearly 18 years as a parish pastor. He is published in several journals, has served on several committees, and currently serves as circuit visitor.

Schmidt, Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael Schmidt is pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma and First Lutheran Church, Plainville; he also serves as Circuit 15 Visitor. He is a 2003 graduate of Concordia College, Bronxville and a 2007 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has written for LifeDate and Higher Things, and co-authored the Bible study *These Things are Written*. He and his wife Lindsey have 2 children: Theo and Paul.

Wright, Rev. Andy

Pastor Andy Wright serves as senior pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas, and previously served St. John Lutheran Church in Keystone, Iowa. He holds a B.A. in Biblical Languages from Concordia University in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He also holds an M.Div. and an S.T.M. in systematic theology from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is currently working on his dissertation pertaining to the Lutheran Confessions for a Ph.D. in doctrinal theology from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. His areas of focus and interests in theology are: The Lutheran Confessions, Luther studies, pastoral theology, and the liturgy and worship of the church. While serving in Iowa, he served on the worship committee of Iowa District East and has written papers, given presentations, and taught classes on topics relating to worship, the subjects of his S.T.M. thesis, and Ph.D. work. He has been on various podcasts such as Issues, Etc. and written for a variety of sources. He also is the author of the book, *Faithfully Formed: The Lutheran Confessions in Daily Life*, published by Concordia Publishing House (2024).

Pastor Wright and his wife, Rebekah, have been blessed by God with four daughters, a son, and children who went to be with the Lord from the womb. Outside of theology, he enjoys spending time with his family, playing tennis, and anything pertaining to aviation and the space program.

Woelmer, Rev. James

Rev James Woelmer is the pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas. He served St. John Lutheran Church in Madison, Nebraska from 1990-2002 and Faith Lutheran Church in Plano, Texas from 2002-2023. He has a Masters' degree in Family Life from Concordia University in Nebraska. He and his wife, Rachel, have five grown children and 14 grandchildren.

Woelmer, Rev. Joshua

Rev. Joshua Woelmer is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Paola, Kansas and also Secretary of the Kansas District. He served previously at Zion, Vassar for seven years. He graduated from CTSFW in 2015 and CUW in 2010. He spent one year abroad on student exchange to the Lutherische Theologische Hochschule in Oberursel, Germany. He is married to Brianna Woelmer, and they have three daughters.

SESSION A

Monday, October 7 | 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Session: A1

Title: Get Your Greek Back: how to move beyond parsing to actually reading the Greek NT

Presenter: Rev. Joshua Hayes

Description: Have you neglected your Greek? Do you feel like Ezekiel looking out over a valley of dry bones, asking: "Can this Greek live?" It can! Or is your Greek fine, but it still feels more like a parsing chore than actual reading? Whatever your status, this session will provide encouragement, strategies, and plans both for recovering lost Greek and for achieving reading fluency of the Greek NT.

Session: A2

Title: The Pentateuch as an Apologetic Text against Egyptian Deities

Presenter: Rev. Joshua Woelmer

Description: Scholars have noted similarities between the Creation narrative of Genesis and the Babylonian creation myth, Enuma Elish. Some suggest that Genesis drew from these sources; this is in part due to a late dating of the Pentateuch and an assumption that the author(s) of the Pentateuch would have been interacting with Assyrian and Babylonian cultures. However, this paper will argue that the Pentateuch serves as a defense of divine truth against Egyptian deities, who would have been a more immediate threat to Israelite religion, given its claimed authorship during the Exodus. Genesis 1 and 2 in particular respond to the primary Egyptian deities, such as the chthonic Ogdoad, monotheistic Ptah, and the pantheon of the Ennead. Other such apologetics of the Pentateuch include the Ten Plagues, the Golden Calf, and perhaps even the Ark of the Covenant and the Tabernacle.

Session: A3

Title: ¿Cómo oírán - A call to prepare for Spanish ministry in Kansas

Presenter: Rev. Ian Kinney and Rev. Tim Koch

Description: The United States is currently the second largest Spanish speaking country in the world. In 10 years it will become the largest. Are we prepared to minister to people with whom we cannot communicate? Pastor Koch and Pastor Kinney will present and open dialogue about Spanish ministry to help prepare any pastors who might need to start one.

Session: A4

Title: Beauty: Faith toward God and Love toward the Neighbor

Presenter: Rev. Andy Wright

Description: Theology and aesthetics have a relationship that goes far beyond the sensory. While this is a primary thing, it is aesthetics after all, the connections and implications are found in other areas such as revelation, the sacred, and the Christian life to name three examples. These three connections will be explored as they relate to the aesthetic transcendental of beauty. In this way there will be seen how a theological aesthetic of beauty is lived out in faith toward God and love toward the neighbor as Luther's Post Communion Collect so aptly summarizes the Christian's life in this world.

SESSION B

Monday, October 7 | 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Session: B1

Title: Panel Discussion

Presenters: Rev Benjamin Ockree, Rev. Dr. Michael Fieberkorn, Rev. Sean Kilgo, Rev. Andy Wright

Description: All participants. Discussion is around the keynote presentation and Rev. Dr. Fieberkorn's book.

SESSION C

Tuesday, October 8 | 8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Session: C1

Title: Ruth - An Advent Series

Presenter: Rev. Michael Schmidt

Description: This presentation will provide an overview of an Advent series based on the book of Ruth. Ruth is a familiar story that is crucial in telling the immediate story of David and the larger story of Christ. Those attending will receive access to resources that can be used during Advent.

Session: C2

Title: Cultivating Virtue within Marriage and Family

Presenter: Rev. James Woelmer

Description: Marriage is the union of two sinners who forgive each other because of forgiveness in Christ. They put off all sinful desires and they put on the virtues of love and sacrifice, as a reflection of Christ and the Church. In the home, parents model faith. They teach God's Word, and they cultivate godliness in their children. The family reflects the family of God: children adopted by grace and restored to the righteousness of Christ.

Session: C3

Title: Descendit ad Inferos - An historic look at the descent into hell

Presenter: Rev. Ian Kinney

Description: We confess it every day in the Apostles Creed, but then when approached on the subject, do we know what to say? "I believe in Jesus Christ... Who descended into hell" What does this mean? This paper will seek to delve into article IX of formula of Concord and draw out some of the historic, medieval, and modern considerations about the descent into hell.

Session: C4

Title: Synod, Pastors, and Fourth Commandment Obedience

Presenter: Fr. Mark D Lovett

Description: In the Large Catechism Luther spills more ink on the Fourth Commandment than on any other, save the First. In the Fourth Commandment, Dr. Luther extols the virtues of fathers and mothers and the honor and love they deserve from their children and even from society as they are "the most precious thing on earth" (LC, Part 1, 109). In his expounding on the Commandment, Dr. Luther teaches that "all authority flows and is born from the authority of parents" (141). From this comes his three-fold use of the title father: fathers of families; civil fathers, or government; and, spiritual fathers, or pastors. To these three fathers we owe honor, love, and obedience. This paper will look explicitly on how and to what degree this informs our relationship to our Synod and parish pastors. Do we have a "Fourth Commandment duty" toward either of these, and if so, in what way and to what extent?