



2024 Educators Conference

October 13-15
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church,
Olathe, Kansas

Hebrews 12:1-3

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

SCHEDULE

Sunday, October 13

- 3:00-5:00 pm Registration at Beautiful Savior
5:00-6:30 pm Keynote I
6:30-7:45 pm Awards Banquet/Jim Bradshaw Retirement Celebration/Handbell Choir
7:45-??? Board Games/ Bingo/ Karaoke/ Fellowship

Monday, October 14

- 9:00-10:15 am Keynote II
10:30-11:00 am Business Meeting
11:15 am-12:15 pm Vendors/Lunch
12:15 -1:45 pm Session A
A1 - Children of Today- Children of Tomorrow: Ensuring Best Practices for Student Success (Dr. Drew Gerdes)
A2 - These are a Few of My Favorite Things (Lori Leonardi)
A3 - Classical Grammar Schools; what they are, what is good about them, and how to pursue their best practices in your Lutheran Grade School (Dan Snyder)
A4 - CPH Early Childhood Resources (Lisa Krenz)
A5 - Working with Young Handbell Ringers (Lauran Delancy)
A6 - Conference Worker-Care Oasis Part 1 (Rev. Lee Hovel)
2:15-3:30 pm Session B
B1 - The Foreign Languages of Parent Communication (Dr. Drew Gerdes)
B2 - These are a Few of My Favorite Things (Lori Leonardi)
B3 - CPH Enduring Faith Religion Curriculum overview for Elementary Schools (Lisa Krenz)
B4 - Working with Young Handbell Ringers (Lauran Delancy)
B5 - Conference Worker-Care Oasis Part 2 (Rev. Lee Hovel)
3:45-5:00 pm Session C
C1 - Different Children - Different Instruction (Dr. Drew Gerdes)
C2 - Principals Round Table Discussion (David Beikmann)
C3 - Laugh & Learn - A Commonsense Approach to a Safe & Engaging Classroom (Mindy Miller)
C4 - Art (TBD)
C5- Multisensory Instruction - Engaging All Students (Susan Grams)
C6 - Conference Worker-Care Oasis Part 3 (Rev. Lee Hovel)

Tuesday, October 15

- 9:00-10:15 am Session D
D1 - Hide it Under a Bushel, NO! I'm Gonna Let HIM Shine! (Amy Schultz)
D2 - The Science of Reading - What is it? How do I update my instructional patterns? (Mindy Miller)
D3 - Strategic Planning for Lutheran Schools & Churches? Yes! (DCE Brent Howard)
D4 - Discovering and Developing Each Person's Unique, God-Given Potential (Ann Morris)
D5 - DCE Best Practices/Round Table (Beth Stephens & Tiffany Danley)
10:30-11:45 am Worship

EDUCATORS CONFERENCE OFFERING DESIGNATION: Church Worker Care Fund

The 2024 Educators Conference offering has been designated for the District Church Worker Care Fund. All congregations and/or schools are highly encouraged to designate September's Sunday School/chapel offerings for additional funding of this fund. This District discretionary fund has historically assisted pastors and educators, spouses, and their families in addressing a variety of unforeseen emergency worker needs. The goal for this special appeal is to invite each District school/congregation to raise a minimum of \$50. Please set aside the month of September for this challenge! NOTE: Designated offerings should be made payable to the LCMS Kansas District with "District Church Worker Care Fund" in the memo line and mailed to the District Office at 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604. You can also donate your offerings online on the District website at <https://kslcms.org/business-office/donate/>. Please choose "Church Worker Care" from the donate fund drop-down menu.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

This conference is for all active and retired church workers and their spouses. **Online registration begins August 15, 2024, at <https://lcmskansasdistrct.regfox.com/2024-educators-conference>**

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

Conference Fee

\$139 – Educators, DCEs

\$75 – Emeritus, Spouse (Meal cost only)

\$0 – Committee Members

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

Late registration \$159; begins September 5, 2024.

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

Cancellations or substitutions – Substitute when possible as cancellations after September 20, 2024, may be subject to a \$75.00 per person cancellation fee to cover meal costs. Contact the District Office to make registration changes.

Questions? Contact Tami at the District Office at 785-357-4441, ext. 5001 or tami@kslcms.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION

Holiday Inn Express (20 rooms here) \$134/night (Room Block Cutoff: September 13, 2024)

12070 S. Strang Line Rd.

Olathe, KS 66062

1-913-397-0100 - "Lutheran Educators"

<https://www.hiexpress.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=EX&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=MKCSR&PMID=99801505&GPC=LUT&cn=no&viewfullsite=true>

Hampton Inn (25 rooms here) \$139/night King, \$149/night Double Queen

Room Block Cutoff: October 4, 2024

12081 S. Strang Line Rd.

Olathe, KS 66062

1-913-393-1111 - "Lutheran Educators"

(No link provided: to book you must call the number above)

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



President Dr. Bernard Bull Concordia University, Nebraska

Dr. Bernard D. Bull was installed as Concordia University, Nebraska's 11th president on August 22, 2021. A leader in Christian Lutheran higher education, Bull comes to Concordia after serving as president of Goddard College in Plainfield, Vermont, and in various leadership roles at Concordia University Wisconsin.

Bull is actively involved in the higher education landscape regarding educational innovation, futures in education, nurturing learner agency and ownership, and the intersection of education and digital culture. He is a regularly featured presenter at national education conferences and has authored and edited several books and publications, many of which are used by Concordia faculty.

Bull earned his bachelor's in education, theology and history from Concordia University Wisconsin in 1994, before earning his master's in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University Chicago in 1997, a master of liberal studies from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2005 and a doctor of education in instructional technology from Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Bull and Joyanna, his wife, have two children, Bethany and Nathaniel. In her career, Dr. Joyanna Bull has served as a university adjunct faculty member and a K-12 teacher in both Lutheran and public schools.

Keynote I

Where Have We Been? Where Are We Now?

In this session, Dr. Bull draws from two decades of research to offer a glimpse into the joys, challenges, pivotal moments, and inspiring lessons from those who came before us in Lutheran education. Stepping out of Lutheran schools, Dr. Bull offers a snapshot of our current cultural landscape, highlighting ten critical cultural trends that have significant implications on the faith and lives of our young people, including the startling statistics that as many as 70% of Christian youth leave the church by the time they graduate college.

Keynote II

Where Do We Go From Here?

Drawn from the lessons of those who came before us, an understanding of the current cultural challenges and opportunities, along with three decades of research on high-impact learning communities, Dr. Bull offers a roadmap and vision for the future of faithful and flourishing Lutheran education.

CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

Presenter	Sessions	Target	Session Titles
David Beikmann	C2	Principals/Leaders	Principal's Round Table
Lauren Delancy	A5, B4	Educators	Working with Young Handbell Ringers
Dr. Drew Gerdes	A1, B1, C1	Early Childhood	Children of Today- Children of Tomorrow: Ensuring Best Practices for Student Success; The Foreign Languages of Parent Communication; Different Children = Different Instruction
Susan Grams	C5	Educators	Multisensory Instruction - Engaging All Students
Rev. Lee Hovel	A6, B,5, C6	DCEs	Hollis Renewal Retreat Center Conference Worker Care Oasis
Brent Howard	D3	Educators	Strategic Planning for Lutheran Schools & Churches? Yes!
Lisa Krenz	A4, B3	Educators	CPH Early Childhood Resources; CPH Enduring Faith Religion Curriculum overview for Elementary Schools
Lori Leonardi	A2, B2	Educators	These are a Few of My Favorite Things
Mindy Miller	C3, D2	Educators	Laugh & Learn - A Commonsense Approach to a Safe & Engaging Classroom; The Science of Reading - What is it? How do I update my instructional patterns?
Ann Morris	D4	Educators	Discovering and Developing Each Person's Unique, God-Given Potential
Amy Schultz	D1	Early Childhood	Hide it Under a Bushel, NO! I'm Gonna Let HIM Shine!
Dan Snyder	A3	Educators	Classical Grammar Schools; what they are, what is good about them, and how to pursue their best practices in your Lutheran Grade School.
Beth Stephens & Tiffany Danely	D5	DCE's	DCE Best Practices/Round Table

PRESENTER BIOS

David Beikmann

I have been teaching middle schoolers for 25 years in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas. I have been a teacher/principal for 18 of those years.

Tiffany Danley

Tiffany Danley serves as the Director of Discipleship and Outreach at Christ Lutheran Church in Overland Park. She and her husband, Korey, have three children. Korey also works for Christ Lutheran as the Director of NextGen Ministries. Her passion is helping others develop their Christ-like character and discover their Spirit-given! She and her family love to watch competition-style reality TV shows and going camping. Her favorite self-care is working out with her gym family at BLUSH Boot Camp!

Lauran Delancy

Lauran Delancy holds a BA in Parish Music and a BA in Humanities as well as a Master of Church Music degree with an emphasis in Handbells from Concordia University Wisconsin. She is the Director of Parish Music at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe, Kansas. In addition to playing the organ, Lauran works with multiple vocal, handbell, and instrumental ensembles from ages 3 through retirement. Lauran and her husband Patrick have 4 children who also love to participate in music ensembles.

Dr. Drew Gerdes

Dr. Drew Gerdes serves as Assistant Professor of Education at Concordia University, Nebraska. He has a passion for early childhood education, Lutheran school ministry, and school leadership. With nearing 30 years of experience in leading LCMS schools in Missouri and China, Dr. Gerdes now uses his gifts to prepare future educators for service in the church and community.

Susan Grams

Susan Grams was a first-grade teacher for over 10 years in Detroit, Michigan. She is a '97 graduate of Concordia Ann Arbor. While teaching in Michigan, she taught at a school where multisensory instruction was a "best practice". She is happy to share the information with other schools who are interested. Susan and her family are new to the Kansas City area, and she is happy to learn about fun places to explore and eat.

Rev. Lee Hovel

No bio provided

Brent Howard

Brent serves as Director of Administration, COO/CFO at Christ Lutheran Church & Education Center in Overland Park. He has served as a DCE in three congregations for 28 years, 24 of which were in children's and youth ministries. In 2020, he began serving in his current role, supporting the entire ministry of Christ Lutheran in the areas of finance, facility, HR, IT, strategic planning, and capital campaigns. Brent is married to Michelle and they have two children, Nathan and Emily.

Lisa Krenz

Lisa Krenz is a curriculum editor at Concordia Publishing House. She graduated with a BA in Elementary Education from Concordia University Chicago back when it was still called "RF". She also holds a master's degree in special education from Webster University in St. Louis. Lisa has taught all ages from little ones up through college. She is the mother of two grown and flown children, Joel and Anna. She and her husband Pastor Stephen Krenz live in Columbia, Illinois.

Lori Leonardi

Lori Leonardi has been a teacher at Trinity Lutheran in Atchison for the past 28 years. She is a graduate of Kansas State University, and also earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from the University of St. Mary. She taught third grade for her first 19 years at Trinity, and then moved into the 7/8th grade combined classroom. She is the Kansas District Facilitator for TEC21. In her free time, Lori enjoys reading, her flower gardens, and spending time with her family.

Mindy Miller

Mrs. Mindy Miller is celebrating her 21st year in education! She has served as a teacher in the K-8 setting for 8 years and as a K-6 principal for 13 years. Mrs. Miller currently serves as the K/1 teacher at St. John Lutheran School in Alma, KS. Mrs. Miller uses her extensive background and experience to create a classroom that is fun, engaging, and safe for all participants. Join Mrs. Miller and learn how you can create a classroom full of laughter!

Ann Morris

No bio provided.

Amy Schultz

Amy Schultz is the Preschool Director at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Preschool and also serves as the Early Childhood Consultant for the Kansas District. Amy received a B.A. in Education and an M.A. in Human Services from Concordia University Chicago and has been serving in Lutheran schools and preschools since the early 90's. Amy has a passion for Lutheran schools and for sharing the faith with the little ones entrusted to her care and the schools throughout the district.

Dan Snyder

Dan Snyder, having taught classical high school rhetoric since 2013, is headmaster of Concordia Academy - Wichita, a classical Lutheran high school in operation since 2022, and recently accredited in the CCLE. His background is in military instructional design (USMC, USA,) and as a training technology manager with the American Redcross. His schooling includes Mannes Conservatory in New York, the New School in New York, and graduate studies in Classical Education at New Saint Andrews.

SESSION A
Monday, October 14 | 12:15 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Session: A1

Title: Children of Today - Children of Tomorrow: Ensuring Best Practices for Student Success

Target: **Early Childhood**

Presenter: Dr. Drew Gerdes

Description: Teaching is more different today than it was just a few years ago. The dynamics of children and families play a role in how teachers teach, structure their classroom, and prepare the environment. What are some new and challenging behaviors that are emerging in the young years? Why are they emerging, and what can teachers do? Join us as we take a deeper look at equipping teachers to meet the growing needs of students in classrooms today.

Session: A2

Title: These are a Few of My Favorite Things

Target: K-8

Presenter: Lori Leonardi

Description: You know just sang that title! However, this time, throw in the word "Digital" after "Favorite" and that is what you'll learn in this session! I'll introduce you, or maybe refresh your memory, to several websites, digital tools, and fun ways to incorporate technology into your classroom! No need to be a technology "expert" to enjoy this session! All learning levels are welcome!

Session: A3

Title: Classical Grammar Schools; what they are, what is good about them, and how to pursue their best practices in your Lutheran Grade School.

Target: K-8

Presenter: Dan Snyder

The history, practices and goals of Classical Education will be explored. Their measures of success, opportunities and liabilities will be examined. Particulars of Latin, Logic, and Historical approaches, and other pedagogical particulars are described. A discussion of accreditation under the Consortium for Classical Lutheran Education and practical approaches to dual accreditation for traditional Lutheran schools will follow.

Session: A4

Title: CPH Early Childhood Resources

Target: Educators

Presenter: Lisa Krenz - CPH

Description: Sharing the love of Jesus in your early childhood classroom takes many forms. CPH has resources to help! This session will showcase the newest early childhood level of Enduring Faith religion curriculum as well as a variety of other resources from CPH.

Session: A5

Title: Working with Young Handbell Ringers

Target: Educators

Presenter: Lauran Delancy

Description: This class will focus on making the art of handbell ringing more accessible to young children. When we encourage their natural enthusiasm and desire to learn and couple it with the beginnings of handbell technique and rhythm instruction, we involve them in the music of the church and plant the seeds of love for music that will grow with them.

Session: A6

Title: Conference Worker-Care Oasis, Part 1

Target: DCE/Other

Presenter: Rev. Lee Hovel

Description: This three-session block provides an afternoon, off-site retreat style opportunity that is 80% hands-on and FUN. This will be not as much about learning self-care, but practicing it. Self-care is not a privilege but a necessity in ministry. Through stations, we will have time to self-reflect/pray, build community with others, share a meal (optional addition), and participate in friendly competition. We were human beings, before human doings and hope that this opportunity honors that and you!

SESSION B
Monday, October 14 | 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Session: B1

Title: The Foreign Languages of Parent Communication

Target: **Early Childhood**

Presenter: Dr. Drew Gerdes

Description: Early childhood teachers face many challenges when it comes to parent communication. How can you think differently in order to communicate more effectively? What can be done to build reciprocal communication and relationships between teachers and families? Join us as we brainstorm new ways to help parents engage in the school community...all for the benefit of their child.

Session: B2

Title: These are a Few of My Favorite Things

Target: K-8

Presenter: Lori Leonardi

Description: You know just sang that title! However, this time, throw in the word "Digital" after "Favorite" and that is what you'll learn in this session! I'll introduce you, or maybe refresh your memory, to several websites, digital tools, and fun ways to incorporate technology into your classroom! No need to be a technology "expert" to enjoy this session! All learning levels are welcome!

Session: B3

Title: CPH Enduring Faith Religion Curriculum overview for Elementary Schools

Target: Educators

Presenters: Lisa Krenz - CPH

Description: Come take a look at and hear all about the new Enduring Faith religion curriculum from Concordia Publishing House for K-8. We'll talk about Scope and Sequence, Unit and Lesson design, Lutheran Religion Standards, and digital tools for teachers, students and families. We'll discuss the flexibility of this curriculum and how it can be used in schools of all shapes and sizes. We'll also take a look a variety of other CPH resources to help support your classroom.

Session: B4

Title: Working with Young Handbell Ringers

Target: Educators

Presenter: Lauran Delancy

Description: This class will focus on making the art of handbell ringing more accessible to young children. When we encourage their natural enthusiasm and desire to learn and couple it with the beginnings of handbell technique and rhythm instruction, we involve them in the music of the church and plant the seeds of love for music that will grow with them.

Session: B5

Title: Conference Worker-Care Oasis, Part 2

Target: **DCE/Other**

Presenter: Rev. Lee Hovel

Description: This three-session block provides an afternoon, off-site retreat style opportunity that is 80% hands-on and FUN. This will be not as much about learning self-care but practicing it. Self-care is not a privilege but a necessity in ministry. Through stations, we will have time to self-reflect/pray, build community with others, share a meal (optional addition), and participate in friendly competition. We were human beings, before human doings and hope that this opportunity honors that and you!

SESSION C
Monday, October 14 | 3:45 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Session: C1

Title: Different Children - Different Instruction

Target: **Early Childhood**

Presenter: Dr. Drew Gerdes

Description: Every early childhood classroom should feature a "buffet of learning" where each child has voice and choice that allows learning at the highest level possible. What does it mean to differentiate teaching for young learners? Join in the conversation and gain tips and strategies that could help enhance the learning and level of FUN in your classroom - for your students and YOU!

Session: C2

Title: Principals Round Table

Target: Principals/ School Leaders

Presenter: David Beikmann

Description: Principals will use this session to review the KESA 2.0 process and other current topics as we look for more ways to work together as a district.

Session: C3

Title: Laugh & Learn - A Commonsense Approach to a Safe & Engaging Classroom

Target: K-8

Presenter: Mindy Miller

Description: Join Mrs. Miller as she helps participants create a classroom that is fun, engaging, and safe for all participants. Session highlights include, but are not limited to, connecting with families beyond the classroom, teaching students to tell and not tattle, and creating independent learners. This session is best for teachers of students in K-6.

Session: C4

Title: TBD (Art)

Target: Educators

Presenter: TBD

Description: TBD

Session: C5

Title: Multisensory Instruction - Engaging All Students

Target: K-8

Presenter: Susan Grams

Description: Why Multisensory Instruction? Increases connections in neurons in the brain, leads to improved cognition and memory, uses a larger part of our brain which leads to better memory and more connections between new knowledge and prior knowledge. Connect with your student's learning styles - visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile, to create instruction that is more engaging and leads to better retention.

Session: C6

Title: Conference Worker-Care Oasis, Part 3

Target: DCE/Other

Presenter: Rev. Lee Hovel

Description: This three-session block provides an afternoon, off-site retreat style opportunity that is 80% hands-on and FUN. This will be not as much about learning self-care, but practicing it. Self-care is not a privilege but a necessity in ministry. Through stations, we will have time to self-reflect/pray, build community with others, share a meal (optional addition), and participate in friendly competition. We were human beings, before human doings and hope that this opportunity honors that and you!

SESSION D
Tuesday, October 15 | 9:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m.

Session: D1

Title: Hide it Under a Bushel, NO! I'm Gonna Let HIM Shine!

Target: **Early Childhood**

Presenter: Amy Schultz

Description: As Lutheran educators and directors, we have the distinct privilege and opportunity to shine the light of Jesus in all that we say and do. What does that look like with your staff? How can others see that light in your school? How do teachers shine Jesus brightly in their classrooms? We'll explore practical ways to be HIS light-shiners for our children and families in our schools.

Session: D2

Title: The Science of Reading - What is it? How do I update my instructional patterns?

Target: K-8

Presenter: Mindy Miller

Description: This is a beginner level look at the Science of Reading. Participants will learn about the current research and how to incorporate the information into their practice.

Session: D3

Title: Strategic Planning for Lutheran Schools & Churches? Yes!

Target: Educators

Presenter: DCE Brent Howard

Description: Strategic Planning is vital to ministry. What is it? How do we develop a strategic plan for our school or church? Who is involved in the process? This presentation will provide answers to these and many more questions about strategically planning for the future of your school or church.

Session: D4

Title: Discovering and Developing Each Person's Unique, God-Given Potential

Target: Educators

Presenter: Ann Morris

Description: This presentation focuses on using the Gallup Clifton Strengths assessments for middle-school students and adults to determine one's natural talents, and then taking that information and developing oneself to experience greater ease, energy and excellence. This combines self-growth and faith to live out the joyful life Jesus talked about in John 10:10.

Session: D5

Title: DCE Best Practices/Roundtable

Target: DCEs

Presenter: Beth Stephens and Tiffany Danley

Description: Spend some time in guided discussions about intentional wellness goals with other educational leaders. Spend time encouraging each other as we seek to grow in the gifts God has give to us. This session acts as a culmination of the DCE track sessions for the whole conference. Don't let the impact of the conference end in Olathe, develop intentional goals to take with you back to your community.