

SWD PASSIONATE BELIEVERS CONFERENCE

“21st Century Lutheranism: *What does this mean?*”

Saturday, February 4, 2017

-Presenter Presentation Descriptions-

Matthew Bergholt: Mr. Matthew Bergholt is the Manager of Online Support and Services in the LCMS Office of National Mission, School Ministry Office in Saint Louis, MO. In this role he directs the online presence of the School Ministry Office, manages the online and print publications such as *Chapel Talks* and *NLSW* materials, and also travels around the country assisting Lutheran schools and Districts with technology-focused training and development sessions. Previously he was the Classroom Technology Instructor at St. Luke's Lutheran School in Oviedo, FL and the 6th grade homeroom teacher and Director of Technology at Trinity Lutheran School in Orlando, FL. He resides with his wife Melissa and son Christopher in Saint Louis, MO.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Social Media for Ministry – Introduction/Beginner Level**

Description: Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram. There are an innumerable number of social media venues of which you can be a part in today's society. It is important to have a social media presence in your ministry and outreach, and this **entry level** session takes a look at the basics behind Social Media and how and why it can be effective in reaching beyond your four walls.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Social Media for Ministry – Intermediate/Advanced Level**

Description: Are you already using social media in your ministry and want to do more with it to expand your reach? If so, then this **advanced level** session is for you as we will take a look at strategies, skills, and best practices which can enhance what you are already doing to further your ministry's impact through social media.

Dr. Christopher Cody: Dr. Cody serves the South Wisconsin District as the Education Executive. Dr. Cody was born and raised in West Allis, WI and was blessed to receive a Lutheran education in the South Wisconsin District. He attended St. Paul's Lutheran School in West Allis, Martin Luther High School in Greendale, and Concordia University in Mequon (2001-2005). After graduating from CUW, Dr. Cody taught middle school social studies at St. Peter-Immanuel Lutheran School on the northwest side of Milwaukee until 2007. He accepted the Call to be Principal of Mt. Olive Lutheran School in 2007 where he served until July 2015. Chris is married to Megan, and they have two small children, James and June.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Lutheran Education: Past, Present, and Future**

President Harrison has called the schools of the LCMS our “crown jewels.” This breakout will explore the roots of the Lutheran education system in the United States. Further, we will examine the present state of our Lutheran school system. Finally, we will discuss the future of Lutheran schools in the SWD and the LCMS.

Rev. Dr. Daniel P. Czaplewski: “Pastor Dan” is the pastor at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. He has served parishes in Florida, Oregon, and Wisconsin, but he began his ministry as a Lutheran school teacher at Mount Calvary in Milwaukee. He has taught or served as principal at schools in Wisconsin, Missouri, Oregon and Florida.

“Dr. C.” was an associate professor of education at Concordia University – Portland and has done adjunct work for Concordia University – Wisconsin, Concordia Theological Seminary – Fort Wayne, and Nova Southeastern University. He earned his B.A. at Concordia College – River Forest, a M.A. (History) from Marquette University, a M. Div from Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, and a Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University. Dan is married to Sarah (nee Meyer) and has two sons, Seth and Luke. They live in Milwaukee where Sarah (a graduate of Concordia – River Forest) teaches in Milwaukee Public Schools.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Half Full – How Assets Transform Ministry in the City**

Do you see a glass half full or half empty? This presentation will help you see the “full half” of the glass in urban settings. We’ll briefly survey the unique challenges and opportunities of congregations in the city as they strive to be “grace places” and avoid toxic charity. The focus will be on Asset Based Community Development for the urban congregation.

Debra and Johnnie Fields: Debra began her career at Sojourner Truth House as a volunteer in 1996. Debra is the Community Education and Prevention Coordinator for Sojourner Family Peace Center, an emergency shelter and service provider for women in crisis because of domestic abuse and violence. She presents education and training to various organizations like health care systems, faith-based institutions, law enforcement, schools, and businesses. She is also a certified Batterers Intervention Program facilitator for men and women seeking an alternative to abusive behavior. Debra is a graduate of Alverno College with a degree in Professional Communications and Business Management.

Johnnie is a Senior Performance Support Specialist for We Energies, where he has been employed for 40 years. He is also a graduate of Concordia University with a degree in Business Management and participated in DELTO courses as part of a Lay Ministry certification program. Johnnie is an active volunteer with Sojourner Family Peace Center.

Johnnie and Debra have been married for 42 years and have two adult sons. They have facilitated marriage enrichment exercises as part of couples’ retreats and Family Wellness workshops. With all their many commitments, they cite enjoying and loving each other every day, with the help of God, at the top of their “to-do” list!

Johnnie and Debra have been members of Mission of Christ since 2012, where Johnnie serves as an Elder. Prior to its closing they were long time members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

- **Breakout Session 1: Understanding Intimate Partner violence in the 21st Century: Not in Our Pews**
What is Domestic Violence? We define domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

One of the current best practices in domestic violence intervention and prevention is the Family Justice Center model, which co-locates service providers to improve access for victims of family violence. Sojourner Family Peace Center, in downtown Milwaukee, is the largest facility in the United States operating under the family justice model, and opened in 2015. The key to its success is the co-location of safe shelter along with multi-disciplinary professionals focused on advocating for victims' safety and quality of life, surrounding the victim with support and resources they need at a critical time. This workshop will discuss current practices in domestic violence prevention and intervention and how congregations and individual church members can support families living with abuse and violence.

Johnnie Fields / Darry Winston: DELTO Men: *Disciples Engaging the Lost Through Outreach*

- **Breakout Session 2: A New Collaborative Paradigm**
Benjamin Franklin once said, "We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately."

Many of us have done things on our own for many years. However, in the twenty-first century, we must learn to collaborate to become stronger and more effective energizing church members to reach the lost and share the Gospel with urgency.

Come, hear the collaborative story of how the SOS Center was reborn through the efforts to many partners in the South Wisconsin District and how that collaborative is growing and inspiring others to do the same. Use these details to jumpstart your own collaborative initiative using collaboration fundamentals as experienced by the DELTO Men Leadership group.
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Rev. Mark Frith: Rev. Frith is the Vice President, Ministry Support, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Before joining LCEF in December of 2016, Rev. Frith previously served as Senior Pastor of a congregation in Florida, followed by a stint on the staff of the Kansas District, where he was engaged in what we used to call stewardship and evangelism. He then took a position with Lutheran Hour Ministries, and was Director of the two year evangelism pilot in the FLGA District.

- **Breakout Session 2: VisionPath**
Ministry in *motion* is at the heart of what we do. We believe God is inviting us all to join Him on the path to experience clarity, alignment, and action for the glory of His name and the advancement of His Kingdom. LCEF's VisionPath helps you discover your ministry's unique place in God's mission. The VisionPath Experience provides clarity in ministry passion, alignment in ministry purpose, and action in ministry processes that make known the love of Christ within church and community.

Rev. Amos Gray: Amos was called into the Ministry of Jesus Christ in 1999. Since then he has served as Youth Pastor for churches in Nebraska and Arkansas. He has served at Community of Grace, Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas, and First Lutheran Church Hot Springs where he is currently the Associate Pastor and Youth Pastor. He was ordained as a Pastor in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod in January 2014.

Amos is actively involved in community outreach. He has partnered with Hot Springs School District in Hot Springs, Arkansas. This includes working with students, implementing and teaching a character education program at the junior and senior high schools, and working closely with teachers to support and train them to work with students on every level.

Amos started an after school program at the church which involves over 70 students each week and another program in the low income neighborhood of Hot Springs ministering to about 15 students and their families. He began a "Boys to Men" series during the summer with several young men in the city and continues to mentor them throughout the year.

Amos is the father of five children, Ashley, Alexis, Amos V, Joshua, and Joel. He has one granddaughter, Ariana. He and his wife, Carol, live in Hot Springs, Arkansas where they enjoy raising their family and seeking to impact the next generation for a lifetime.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Go to Them – Reaching Teens, Partnering with Public Schools**

For the years the church has been separated from school. Effective, missional student ministry sees its ministry as to the whole community, not just to the students attending their church. That mindset places the public school in a vital place for ministry. In this presentation Pastor Gray will share with you best practices on ministering at public schools.

David Hertel: Partner, Husch Blackwell LLP: Throughout his career, David has represented management in all aspects of labor and employment law. A significant part of his practice is representing management in labor contract negotiations, unfair labor practice proceedings, labor grievances and arbitrations, and responses to union organizing efforts. David also regularly defends employers in employment litigation involving discrimination and wrongful discharge, including sex, age, race and disability discrimination actions. In addition, he has extensive experience in representing employers in complex occupational safety and health proceedings, wage and hour proceedings and covenants not to compete litigation. David also advises clients on compliance with employment and labor laws, including their Fair Labor Standards Act. David and his wife, Mary, of 37 years reside in Mequon, WI. They have two children.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Understanding the FLSA's Overtime Pay Rules**

This session will address the overtime pay regulations under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of congregations, schools and other religious organizations. There has been much uncertainty surrounding the overtime pay rules since a federal judge in November of 2016 issued a temporary injunction blocking implementation of the government's new FLSA rules and a new Administration will be in the White House. What should congregations, schools, and other religious organizations be doing? What is likely to happen in the future? Are you in compliance with the regulations now? This session will address these questions and more by providing an overview of the current status of the FLSA over time regulations and what your organization should be doing to be in compliance.

Rev. Ken Krueger: Rev. Krueger is the CEO of Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU). Before joining LFCU in November of 2016, Ken served as pastor of Grace Celebration Lutheran Church in Cordova, Tennessee. He also has served as the vice chair of the LFCU board of directors, where he chaired the governance committee. Prior to earning his M.Div. and being ordained, Ken earned advanced degrees in law (JD) and business (MBA) from the University of Virginia, as well in public health (MPH) from Boston University. Among other roles, Ken served in executive positions at the universities of Wisconsin and Arizona State, as well as serving as CEO of the American Red Cross Grand Canyon Chapter, in Phoenix, Arizona—at the time the sixth largest Red Cross chapter. His leadership was instrumental in helping the chapter to receive the 2008 Nonprofit Team of the Year Award sponsored by Arizona Business magazine. Reflecting on his appointment, Ken said: “I am honored and excited to have been selected to lead this wonderful organization. I thank everyone who has helped to make LFCU what it already is, and am determined to build upon LFCU’s momentum by letting every LCMS Lutheran know they have their own credit union—one that stands ready to serve them and the church!”

➤ **Breakout Session 1: The Lutheran Federal Credit Union: A Blessing for You and the LCMS**

Did you know that the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod started a credit union specifically to benefit you, your church and other LCMS entities? Rev. Ken Krueger, CEO of the Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU), will discuss the history and progress of the organization, the benefits of the credit union, and the specific products and services available through LFCU. Importantly, Rev. Krueger also will discuss LFCU within the context of stewardship.

Karen Lippert: Karen Lippert is a graduate of Concordia College Chicago. Her degree is in Elementary Education with concentrations in psychology and music. She came to Divine Redeemer in 1988 as the 2nd and 3rd grade teacher. She met her best friend, Jeff Lippert here and they married in 1990. Once her girls arrived, she left full-time teaching and taught music for 10 years. In 2002, she felt the calling to become the Director of Women’s Ministry. Since then, she has loved the opportunity to lead women in God’s Word.

Karen is also involved with contemporary worship leading and she enjoys speaking at women’s conferences and retreats.

Karen & Jeff have two grown daughters, Rachel and Sarah. She and Jeff enjoy leading worship and couples’ events together. In their free-time, you’ll find them in their boat trying to land a lunger!

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Women’s Ministry 101 & Beyond**

What is happening for women at your church? Is it working? What else could you try/do? Karen Lippert has been doing women’s ministry officially at Divine Redeemer in Hartland, WI for the past 14 years. She has seen (and done) the good, the bad, and the ugly. How are your women involved? What could you try doing to enhance your current ministry? Come ready to share and learn from each other!

Rev. Dr. Peter A Meier, D Min: Peter is the Executive Director of the center for United States Missions. Prior to joining the Center for US Missions on July 1, 2013, he served in the Minnesota South District, LCMS, as Executive Assistant to the President (2005-2006), and Assistant to the President for Missions (2005-2013). Dr. Meier served as Senior Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Mayer, MN from 1982-2005.

Peter was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Fred and Helen Meier, both Lutheran Educators. He attended Mt. Calvary Lutheran School, Milwaukee High School, and Marquette University. Following graduation from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL, he received his Theological Degree and Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1982.

His Doctor of Ministry degree was granted in 2011 by Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana upon completion and successful defense of his dissertation, "Missional Leadership in Lutheran Schools: A Key Component in Lutheran Schools as Mission Outposts."

Peter is married to Kathy, a Special Education teacher and Mathematics teacher at Mayer Lutheran HS. They are blessed with three married children, and four grandchildren. Peter and Kathy enjoy spending time with their family, reading, biking, camping, kayaking and the outdoors. Peter's life verse describes his greatest joy and passion, "Living and sharing the Life that is truly Life," (1 Timothy 6:19).

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Five Missional Habits that BLESS**

Learn five simple habits that open doors to spiritual conversations and faith sharing with family, friends, and neighbors.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Multiplication Models for Any Size Church**

You don't have to be BIG to multiply! Every church can have a role in church multiplication. Explore what might work for you.

Dr. James Pingel, Ph. D.: Dr. James Pingel currently serves as Director of Graduate Education and Adjunct Professor of History Concordia University Wisconsin. He recently published two articles, "Christian School Leaders and the MIT (Most Important Thing)" and "Tip of the Spear: Turning the Mission On for Off-Campus Employees" in *The Pedagogy of Faith: Essays on Lutheran Education* (2016). In 2014, he published his first book entitled *Confidence and Character: The Religious Life of George Washington*.

Pingel previously served as Executive Director at Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School, Sheboygan, WI (2004-2013) and as a teacher, coach, Dean of Students, and Executive Director at Mayer Lutheran High School, Mayer, MN (1994-2004).

Pingel earned his PhD in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee (2008), a MS in Educational Administration from Concordia University Wisconsin (2001), and a MA in Early American History from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI (1994).

He and his wife, Michelle, are blessed with two children, Joshua and Josie. In his leisure time, Pingel enjoys reading, traveling, and watching his kids participate in high school athletics, theatre, and band.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Indispensable Christian Leadership Lessons Learned from the Life of George Washington**

Surely our country needs more leadership from Washington these days – George Washington that is. Ecclesiastes 1:9 reminds us that "there is nothing new under the sun." By examining the life and legacy of our nations' most important Founding Father and God's Word, let us explore, unpack, and be inspired by timeless Christian leadership lessons.

Rev. Richard Raabe / Joan Butz: Rev. Richard Raabe, Jr. was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was baptized and confirmed at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, where he also went to school. He attended Northwestern Lutheran Prep School in Watertown. After high school graduation he continued at Northwestern Lutheran College and then made his commitment to enter the ministry and moved on to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon.

Rev. Raabe and his wife Peg were married the summer before his vicar year. After completing his M.Div., they made their home in Champagne-Urbana, Ill. where he was ordained at Bethlehem Lutheran Church as the first pastor of a new mission on July 15, 1973.

Later, Rev. Raabe served Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wyoming, Mich., and St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Franklin, Wis. More recently he was the Associate Executive Director for Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service of Milwaukee, Wis. In addition to his M.Div., Rev. Raabe also earned an MBA from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee.

Rev. Raabe was called to Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and installed on April 6, 2008. Rev. Raabe and Peg have four children and 12 grandchildren. Peg serves as Administrative Assistant to Missions, Human Care & Older Adult ministries of the LCMS—South Wisconsin District Office.

- **Breakout Session 1 & 2: Concrete Examples of “Witness, Mercy & Life Together” for the Congregation**
 - Witness** – Outreach through food giveaways
 - Mercy** – Helping others in need, building relationships with “First Friday”
 - Life Together** – Getting members into God’s Word with “Our Appointment with Jesus” for a firm foundation to reach out further into our surrounding communities.
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Rev. Randy Raasch: Randy Raasch has served as pastor of First Immanuel Lutheran Church of Cedarburg, Wisconsin for 27 years. He has been an adjunct professor of theology at Concordia University Wisconsin since 1990. His personal mission statement is, *I serve God by serving others.*

- **Breakout Session 2: Small Group Bible Study Resources**

Acts 2:46 tells us that early Christians met together, not only in the Temple, but also in their homes. It is important that Christians engage in both of these God-pleasing activities. Hear how your church can develop a small group ministry that strengthens members’ faith, as well as the congregation’s mission.
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Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr. - President: The Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr. serves as the sixteenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism. Dr. Rast joined the Department of Historical Theology in the fall of 1996 after serving as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tennessee (1992-1996).

He received his B.A. in Theological Languages with a minor in Theology from Concordia College (now University), River Forest, Illinois (1986), and his M. Div. (1990) and S.T.M. (1995), both with a major in Historical Theology and a minor in Systematic Theology, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. In 2000 he received the M.A. degree and in 2003, he successfully defended his dissertation, “Joseph A. Seiss and

the Lutheran Church in America,” and earned his Ph.D. in American Church History from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Rast is a member of the Board of Directors for the journal *Lutheran Quarterly*. He is the chairman of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS) Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) on which he has served since 2006. The CTCR provides guidance and leadership in the areas of theology and church relations. This includes doctrinal issues as well as social concerns such as divorce, gender identity and immigration.

He has authored numerous articles on a wide range of topics with special interest in the growth and expansion of Lutheranism in the United States in the mid to late 19th century. He is also working on an ongoing oral history project dealing with African-American ministry in both the LCMS and the old Synodical Conference. In addition to serving at the Seminary, Dr. Rast regularly presents at workshops, retreats and conferences around the United States. He has represented the Seminary and Synod at numerous international conferences and by teaching in Argentina, Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana, Russia, Germany, Sweden, the Czech Republic and elsewhere throughout the world.

His professional associations include: Editorial Committee, *Concordia Historical Quarterly* (2000-2010), President, Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO (2001-2007), Board of Governors, Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, MO (1995-2009), Commission on Doctrinal Review (1998-2001), American Society of Church History, Concordia Historical Institute, American Academy of Religion.

In addition to serving at the Seminary, Dr. Rast still enjoys the delving into history, especially from the Civil War era. He is a music enthusiast, and his favorite pastime is all things pertaining to railroads. The greatest joy of his life, however, comes from the time he spends with his family. He and his wife, Amy, have three children: Lawrence III, Karl and Joanna.

➤ **Plenary Session: “Be Ready in Season and Out of Season” (2 Timothy 4:2): Confessing the Faith in Good and Bad Times**

In 2017 we mark the 500th anniversary of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses. In the half millennium since then, confessing the faith has not gotten any easier – in fact, it may be even more difficult for us to speak and to live as Christians now and into the foreseeable future. Yet God is faithful and has promised that His church will survive all the challenges that the devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh can throw at us.

Building on God’s promises, we know that this is our time to be distinctly Lutheran. How can we leverage our role as confessing Lutherans in our rapidly changing world and in our increasingly hostile culture for the sake of proclaiming the Gospel? This presentation will explore what we’ve learned over the past 500 years and encourage us to faithful and bold witness now and into the future.

➤ **Breakout Session I: Strategic Planning for the Lutheran Congregation**

This sectional will explore how strategic planning can help revitalize a local congregation. It will explore what strategic planning is and identify the steps toward developing a congregational culture for cultivating a strategic plan.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: The Book of Colossians**

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God unto salvation and its nature is to bear fruit and increase. This study of Paul's epistle to the Colossians will encourage participants boldly and confidently to share the faith once delivered to the saints within the context of their vocation.

Ross Stroh: Executive director of LCMS Accounting and Financial Services since December 2013. He oversees the Accounting department that prepares and maintains (on behalf of the LCMS chief financial officer) all budgetary, accounting and financial records for the corporate Synod. Stroh has been with the Synod staff since 1992, overseeing budgeting and related financial matters for the LCMS mission department and some 64 foreign-mission fields. In the years 1990-92, he was a business officer in Panama City, Panama. Also prior to joining the Synod staff, Stroh worked in corporate accounting in the automotive and transportation industries.

He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., and a master's degree in international business from Webster University, Webster Groves, Mo.

➤ **Breakout Session I: Explaining the Financial Picture**

We will discuss financial reports that are accurate, yet understandable...how does the treasurer get across the financial picture to church leadership in a meaningful way. We will also go over any updates on the congregational treasurer's manual.

