

PRESENTERS



Brad Alles is an Assistant Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin. He was awarded the Heartland Funds Teacher of Merit at Milwaukee Lutheran High School in 2000, the South Wisconsin District (Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod) Teacher of the Year in 2007, the State of Wisconsin Finalist for the Kohl Teacher Fellowship in 2008 & 2009, and the Concordia University Wisconsin James Juergensen Master Educator Award in 2012. Brad is a frequent Bible study teacher at Milwaukee area churches and has been a featured speaker in over twenty different states, talking at youth gatherings and church worker conferences. Brad's first book, *Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers*, available from Concordia Publishing House, was written to help Christians defend the faith. His second book, *Starting at the End*, also from CPH, focuses on the future according to various worldviews and what the Bible says about the end. Brad also has a DVD called *Big Questions, Biblical Answers* that deals with questions regarding the Bible, creation, ethics, and purpose in life.

Wendy Betts, Cara Lee, Susan Cour - As Lutheran educators Susan, Wendy, and Cara have a combined total of (number) years teaching. Their roles at Immanuel Lutheran School include: (number) grade teacher & (adjective) counselor, (noun) teacher & math and reading (noun), (noun) interventionist & (noun) coordinator. Amongst them they have 9 (noun). Their hobbies include being a United States (noun ending in -er), vinyl (verb ending in -ing), and picking out the perfect (noun) for any situation.

Benjamin Boche is an assistant professor of education in the department of Literacy and Language at University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. Ben is a former Lutheran middle school teacher, and his interests include Literacy and technology, children's literature, and supporting Lutheran education.

Sara Correnti joined Concordia Plan Services in early 2017. She is a registered, licensed dietitian that comes to Concordia Plan Services with backgrounds in clinical and specialty areas of nutrition and wellness. Sara earned her bachelor's degree in Dietetics from Southeast Missouri State University and her master's degree in Human Nutrition from the University of Alabama. Sara, her husband Nick and their son are members of The Lutheran Church of Webster Gardens in Webster Groves, Missouri.

Susan Cour – See Wendy Betts

Deb Erdmann is in her 20th year working in education. A proud graduate of Greendale Martin Luther High School, she went to college at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh and earned a Bachelor's in Education with a double major in Learning Disabilities and Emotional Disturbance. She then worked in middle schools with special education students. She was then hired to be a special education instructional coach. That district asked her to return to school for her administration license. Deb attended Cardinal Stritch and has a Principal, Director of Instruction, and Director of Special Education and Pupil Services license. She has served as a Principal, Director of Instruction, Director of Special Education, and Director of RtI before becoming the Principal of Grace Lutheran School. She was honored to be a Kohl Fellowship Award winner her first year as the Principal of Grace. She has presented at various conferences and has been on state-wide committees on RtI, UDL, and Gifted/Talented education. When not working, Deb enjoys time with her husband and two sons. They love to travel and see the beautiful world that God made.

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Stephenie Hovland devotes herself to reading, writing, and learning. Having lead three schools through NaNoWriMo, Stephenie enjoys seeing students blossom into avid writers who obsess over word count, characters, and story for one month every year. To stay in touch, visit her website at Faith-filled.com or connect on Twitter (@StephHovland).

Glory Jansen is in her 16th year as a Lutheran educator. Her experience ranges from working with students from third through eighth grades in a variety of subject areas. Currently she teaches middle school English/Language Arts at Grace Lutheran School in Menomonee Falls and enjoys finding new ways to help her students grow. When not at school, Glory enjoys camping, biking, and skiing with her husband and three children.

Sarah Jones has been the Director of Children and Family Ministry at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Weston, WI since 2012. She is passionate about connecting children and families to Jesus. Sarah has 9 years of experience teaching in the classroom where she became excited about the importance of ministering to the whole family. Sarah has been married to her husband Ryan for 15 years and has two children, Layla (10) and Tozer (8). Her hobbies include reading, cooking and biking.

Kole Knueppel, Director of the Center for Transformational Educational Leadership, University of Notre Dame. Kole has been the Director of the Center for Transformational Educational Leadership since 2015. Prior to joining the faculty at Notre Dame, Kole was Co-Founder of Schools That Can Milwaukee, a non-profit aimed at dramatically increasing the number of high-quality urban Milwaukee schools through onsite executive leadership coaching, professional development, and cross-sector peer-to-peer sharing of best practices. Kole helped drive the growth of STCM from three founding schools to a network serving over 30 schools and nearly 15,000 students. From 2008-2010, Kole was the Director for Wisconsin Lutheran's Center for Urban Teaching, training future teachers and school leaders to be successful in Milwaukee's urban schools. Before joining the Center for Urban Teaching in July 2008, Kole served as superintendent from 2004 to 2008 at HOPE Christian Schools, where he led the expansion of HOPE from one campus with 50 students in 2004 to three campuses and more than 500 students in 2008. From 2001 to 2004, Kole led the revitalization of St. Marcus School from a low-performing urban school into a high-performing nationally-recognized model for faith-based urban education. Kole has a B.S. in English with a Secondary Education Certificate from Wisconsin Lutheran, a M.S. in Educational Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and is completing his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Kole lives in the Harambee neighborhood of Milwaukee with his wife, Anna, and two kids. In his spare time, Kole works as a Big Ten football official.

Jim Kroll teaches at St. Paul's Lutheran School in Janesville, Wisconsin and has a master's degree in Education Administration. He is a Google Certified Educator (Level 2). He uses Mystery Skype to connect with other schools around the world. His students have been able to go on virtual field trips and meet professionals who share their experiences with them without leaving the classroom. He uses Twitter (@jim_kroll) to develop his Professional Learning Network and is always looking for new ways to incorporate technology in his classroom.

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Cara Lee – See Wendy Betts

Shaun Luehring has spent nearly two decades serving Lutheran schools in the Midwest and California with a focus on leading change and building an aligned team. Currently Shaun serves as the Executive Vice President of LUMIN Schools, a school network which serves low-income children in Milwaukee, Racine and Gary, IN through state voucher programs. Shaun lives in Milwaukee, WI with his wife Jessica and three children ages 18, 15, and 12.

Dr. Adam Paape has been on the faculty of Concordia University Wisconsin for eight years. He is Associate Professor of Education and Chair of the Secondary Education department at Concordia. Dr. Paape's instructional focus is in the area of mathematics education, mentoring future teachers of mathematics. His research interests focus on student-centered mathematics instruction, with an emphasis on implementing rich, conceptual mathematical tasks to engage all learners.

Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson grew up in the great state of Wisconsin, attending St. John's Lutheran School in West Bend, Milwaukee Lutheran High School, and Concordia University Wisconsin. He completed his Masters of Divinity at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and then served as a Teaching Pastor and Director of Next Generation Ministries at St. John Lutheran Church in Ellisville, Missouri. In 2013, the Lord called Peterson to Concordia University Ann Arbor to serve as Campus Pastor/Assistant Professor of Theology. He completed his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2017 from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. Ryan and his wife Kristy (also from Wisconsin) have four energetic kids and love living as committed cheeseheads in #PureMichigan.

Dr. James Pingel

What happens when you lose enough games at a Lutheran school? They move you into administration--that's what. At least that's what happened to Dr. Jim Pingel, who currently serves as the Dean for the School of Education at Concordia University (Mequon and Ann Arbor). Pingel has coached volleyball, basketball, football, and baseball at all levels. He recently published *One Team One Spirit: Inspiration for the Christian Coach* (2017). Previous publications include "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). Pingel served as Executive Director at Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School (Sheboygan, WI, 2004-2013) and as teacher, coach, Dean of Students, and Executive Director at Mayer Lutheran High School (Mayer, MN, 1994-2004). He and his wife, Michelle, are blessed with two children, Joshua and Josie. In his leisure time, Pingel enjoys reading, traveling, and cheering on the Green Bay Packers.

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Michael Schmidt is in his 17th year of teaching within Lutheran Schools. He is currently the life sciences teacher at Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Green Bay, WI. His areas of focus include Biology, Health, and Anatomy/Physiology. Prior to N.E.W. Lutheran, Mike taught science at St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School in Bonduel, WI and oversaw the K-8 curriculum. In addition to teaching sciences, Mike also enjoys working with technology and is a TEC21 Facilitator. He also coaches Varsity volleyball for N.E.W. Lutheran and Wisconsin PoWer Volleyball Club. In his spare time, he enjoys coaching his kids in sports, weightlifting, cycling, playing online games, and 3D printing just about anything that will fit on his print's print bed.

Dr. Candyce Seider is a Professor Emeritus, Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. She graduated from Concordia University, Seward, NE with a BS.ed, from Concordia University Wisconsin with a master's degree in EC and from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee with a PhD in Urban Education/Child Health Psychology. Dr. Seider served at Trinity Lutheran School (3rd grade) in Jefferson City, MO; Bethlehem Lutheran School, Milwaukee (1st and 2nd grades) and Hales Corners Lutheran School (4K). Dr. Seider was the founding Director of Blessed Savior Lutheran Preschool (3K-4K) New Berlin, WI.; Director of EC Programs (graduate and undergraduate) for 21 years at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon and Director of the Early Childhood Literacy Festival for 15 years. Dr. Seider is currently serving as the EC Consultant of the SWD District - LCMS.

Katelyn Shields is the middle school social studies/history teacher at First Immanuel Lutheran School in Cedarburg, Wisconsin. She currently leads the sixth- eighth grade classes in World, European, and United States History along with Leadership activities for the 8th grade and planning the 7th and 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip. She graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 2014 with a double major in Lutheran Secondary Education and History and is currently working on a dual master's degree: MEd in Curriculum and Instruction with a History cognate and MA in United States History. Katelyn was named SWD Elementary Educator of the year in 2016.

Jenny Zirbel has been blessed to be a teacher within the LCMS for her entire 13-year career. She taught fifth grade, middle school language arts, and middle school social studies. She is serving as the fifth grade teacher at Grace Lutheran School in Menomonee Falls. In addition to being a teacher, she has also been a coach, Student Council advisor, and served on a variety of committees designed to better the school and church. Outside of school, Jenny enjoys spending time with her husband, two daughters and dog.