

# SWD PASSIONATE BELIEVERS CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 26, 2019

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## *-Presenter Presentation Descriptions-*

**Rev. Daniel Anderson:** Pastor at Mt. Olive, Madison called to serve at Calvary Chapel at the UW-Madison. Daniel has been a part of Calvary's congregation for 16 years first serving as music director and now as pastor. He has been involved in college campus ministry for 26 years – all at the UW Madison.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: College Campus Ministry - 911**

Our college students make some of the most important decisions of their lives while attending college – especially decisions about their faith! Whether in the classroom, through professors, or in the dorm room with their friends, they are confronted daily by a collegiate culture that seeks to deny the existence of our loving Creator demonstrated in the works done for us through His Son, Jesus. As college campus Pastor, I have seen many students wrestle with their faith. I invite you to consider why it is so important for our college students to connect with a Campus Ministry!

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Young Adults – The Forgotten?**

Connecting with young adults is definitely a challenge for our congregations. This group has a unique “make-up” considering of young professionals who vary in ages from 22-30 and vary in relationship status from single, married, and married with children. In this workshop we will discuss ways in which we can connect this vital group in to our congregation and to each other that they may grow in faith and service to Jesus.

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**Rev. Jonah Burakowski:** Rev. Jonah P. Burakowski, a native of Sterling Heights, MI, currently serves the South Wisconsin District as the Executive Assistant to the President for Mission and Human Care. Ordained into the Office of Holy Ministry in 2008, he has served as a church planter, campus chaplain at South West Minnesota State University and in Parishes in the South Wisconsin District and the South Eastern District – Virginia. He is married to Liz, who serves as the Director of Children's Ministry at Divine Savior, Hartford, and they have three daughters; Theresa, Kaijala, and Olivia.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: New SWD Church Plants: Want to Partner**

Planting a church consumes time and energy, so appropriate partnerships are a good use of God's gifts. With partners, we are able to impact everyday lives as we respond to God's call in the Great Commission. Did you know that our District is engaged in developing three new church plants? During this session we will share where, the mission plan, and how you can partner.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: SWD Disaster Response**

Rev. Burakowski will discuss the new SWD Disaster Response approach and introduce ways your parish can engage in this important mercy work. Resources and training dates will be shared as well as an update on what has been happening since September 2018.

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**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 1 and 2: A Non-Profit and Your Church**

Mt. Calvary, Milwaukee started a separate non-profit organization in 2017. A year later, we have learned some valuable lessons and gained some insights that might help you consider this opportunity for ministry. We are in a diverse, urban neighborhood and we are doing urban farming with young interns. It’s a blast!

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**Thomas Freeman:** Thomas has twenty-five years’ experience in managing IT Departments. He is the leader in web development and security management with international cybersecurity certifications. Thomas also has taught extensively in Bible college classrooms and churches throughout the Mid-West.

➤ **Breakout Session 1 and 2: Framework for A Robust Cybersecurity Plan**

Not sure where to start? Get a Framework of business executive processes to begin moving towards a mature cybersecurity position. You will walk away with clear action steps. Experience level required: beginner.

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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, a congregation in Olathe Kansas, 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 1: Ministry Clarity**

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Ministry Support has a platform of processes that helps ministry leaders achieve clarity: VisionPath, Ministry Mapping, Ministry Messaging and StewardPath. Following His path, as together, we discover God’s will for our ministries.

Rev. Mark Frith will present a sectional on Ministry Clarity. Mark is our LCEF Vice President for Ministry Support. Mark and his team support LCMS ministries in the LCEF Central Region which includes South Wisconsin District and nine other districts in the Midwest.

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**Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison:** The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, the 13<sup>th</sup> man to serve as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since its founding in 1847, is the church’s chief ecclesiastical officer, supervising the doctrine taught and practiced by its nearly 9,000 ordained ministers; representing the LCMS with its partner church bodies throughout the world; and overseeing all officers, executives and agencies of the LCMS. He was first elected to the office of LCMS president in 2010 and was re-elected in 2013 and 2016.

Harrison joined the staff at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis in 2001 as the executive director of the church’s former World Relief and Human Care ministry. During that time, he oversaw the church’s multimillion-dollar responses to epic disasters, including Hurricane Katrina, the Asia tsunami and the Haiti earthquake; managed relationships with some 120 LCMS Recognized Service Organizations and other inter-Lutheran social ministry organizations; worked in consultation with LCMS partner/sister churches to build capacity during mercy outreach efforts; and managed the church’s global pro-life efforts.

Previously, Harrison served as a pastor at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church in Westgate, Iowa (1991-1995), and Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. (1995-2001). During his pastorate at Zion in Fort Wayne, his parish embarked on the St. Peter/Zion Project for Neighborhood Renewal, a now nationally recognized neighborhood revitalization effort. Owing to the success of this effort, Harrison later founded Lutheran Housing Support Corporation, a faith-based housing organization headquartered at the LCMS International Center that helps revitalize communities and renew neighborhoods across the country.

Harrison graduated with a bachelor’s degree in religious studies from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1984. Following his graduation, he and his wife, Kathy, spent a year as missionaries in a remote Canadian Cree Indian village with the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots. Harrison went on to earn a Master of Divinity in 1989 and a Master of Sacred Theology in 1991, both from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. He has pursued additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. In 2011, he received two honorary doctorates: a Doctor of Laws from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and a Doctor of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

Before being elected president, Harrison served on a number of boards for church and community organizations. He is a prolific writer whose books include [\*A Little Book on Joy\*](#), a devotional-style book about finding delight in living a Christ-centered life in today’s society, and [\*Christ Have Mercy: How to Put Your Faith in Action\*](#), a book urging Christians to consider the innumerable opportunities they have to show mercy to fellow Christians and to anyone God places in their path. He compiled and translated [\*At Home in the House of My Fathers\*](#), a collection of works by several of the church’s founders, and edited [\*The Lonely Way: Selected Essays and Letters\*](#) by Hermann Sasse, a prominent confessional Lutheran theologian in the German ecumenical movement of the early 20th century. Most recently, Harrison revised and edited a new edition of C.F.W. Walther’s [\*The Church and the Office of the Ministry\*](#) a seminal writing by the first president of the LCMS, and translated [\*Letters to Lutheran Pastors, Volumes 1, 2 and 3\*](#) an edition of Sasse’s correspondence with Lutheran pastors around the world.

Harrison and his wife live in Ballwin, Mo., and are members of Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo., where Harrison also serves as assistant pastor. They have two sons. Harrison is an avid banjo player and instrumentalist who makes guitars, banjos and mandolins.

➤ **Keynote Presentation: Why am I Joy:fully Lutheran?**

The Bible is brimming with joy! Despite the myriad challenges of life, the Word of God gives an extensive and fulsome cause for joy, and by grace actually renders the Christian joyous. As a faithful confession of God's Word, Luther's Small Catechism is also full of consolation and a tremendous cause for joy. The simple and sure clarity of the Bible, and especially the catechism's clear confession of the Bible's basic teachings, is the remedy for hurting and joyless souls.

➤ **Breakout Session 1 & 2: Q&A with President Harrison.** Attend these sessions for great discussion with President Harrison.

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**Stephenie Hovland:** Stephenie Hovland is a Lutheran educator who loves to learn and stretch herself. She has served on the board of directors for Lutherans For Life for the past eight years. Stephenie is also a professional writer and speaker who focuses on educational and inspirational topics. She currently teaches in Portage, Wisconsin and gladly supports her husband, Pastor Greg Hovland.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: Life Ministry is about More than Abortion**

How does Life Ministry look in your church? Is it about helping people with disabilities, human trafficking, and infertility? Do you know what your members' specific needs and interests are? Life Ministry is more than just an anti-abortion talk. How can we focus on a caring, understanding, Gospel-oriented approach?

➤ **Breakout session 2: Encouraging Faith Building Activities Outside the Church**

What happens when people leave worship? Rather than Sunday being their only "God time," we can find ways to encourage families and individuals to tend to their faith. We'll discuss unique ways they can find to connect with God when they aren't at church.

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**Louis S. Johnson:** Louis Johnson is currently the Director of Account Management with Concordia Plan Services (CPS) and has been with the organization for 7 years. Prior to joining CPS, he worked in the insurance and financial services industry for approximately 12 years; 4+ years as a Fee-Based Planner with Prudential Financial (Twin Cities) and 6+ years as V.P. Wealth Management Consultant with U.S. Bank Private Client Group/Personal Trust (HQ-Minneapolis); Securities licensed: Series 7, 6, 63 and 65, Insurance licensed: Life/Health/Disability and P&C. Growing up in Chicago and raised LCMS, he attended LCMS schools from elementary through college, graduating from Concordia University-St. Paul in 1986 (BA-Business Administration, minor in Marketing/Advertising), where he served on the Board of Regents from 2007-2013; chairing the Finance Committee. He is now serving on the Board of Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. Louis and his wife, Jennifer are members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Eureka, MO., where they are both involved in the Music and Worship ministry.

➤ **Breakout Session 1 & 2: I Have What Again?**

This presentation will help you understand the many benefits workers have available through Concordia Plan Services such as: health insurance; disability and survivor insurance and income sources in retirement. We will also address some of the myths about Concordia Plan Services.

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**Rev. Mark R. Kiessling:** Rev. Mark Kiessling serves as director of LCMS Youth Ministry. In that role, he supports the leadership, service, resourcing, and networking functions of LCMS Youth Ministry. Kiessling graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2006) and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Concordia University, Portland (1998). Kiessling is married to Beth (Timm), who teaches Preschool at Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, MO.

➤ **Breakout Session 1: The Search for Young People – LCMS Young Adult Research**

In 2017, LCMS Youth Ministry partnered with LCMS Research to conduct a study of young adult retention in the LCMS and the larger Christian church. This two-part study sought to learn about Millennials, now young adults, and to help prepare for working with Generation Z who currently in our senior high youth ministries. The session gives an overview of the findings, first looking at numerical trends over the past decades, and then specific findings of the research.

➤ **Breakout session 2: Healthy Youth Ministry**

Young people in LCMS congregations are treasures we value and in whom we invest much prayer and energy. They are not only the future of our church, but are currently engaged leaders ready to grow, serve, and share their faith with their peers and the world. Come explore important facets of youth ministry based on strong families, Christian education, and congregational connections. These foundations lead to LCMS young adults who value sound doctrine, a caring and compassionate community, and congregations engaged in serving those in need. The encouragement and suggestions gathered in the 2017 LCMS Young Adult Research and other sources will be explored.

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**Cathy Melan:** Cathy is the Director of Grants in the Advancement Department at Concordia University Wisconsin. Prior to her role at Concordia, Cathy helped to start an urban school in Milwaukee and served as Director of Development where fundraising, including grant writing, was a main responsibility. In addition, Cathy has done some freelance grant writing for nonprofit organizations.

**Dan McCollum:** Dan is the Assistant Director of Research & Sponsored Programs (Post-award) at Concordia University Wisconsin. Prior to his role at Concordia, Dan worked for the UW System for over 30 years with his final position being Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dan had responsibility for the Grants and Research department, institutional budget development and management, as well as project management. Additionally, Dan is the instructor for the graduate level organizational leadership program

**Julie Dresen:** Julie has sixteen years of leadership experience in grants administration, which includes grant proposal writing and development, creation of policies and procedures, faculty and staff training programs, federal grants compliance, contract development and negotiation, and partnership development. Julie has served as the Director of the Office of Sponsored Programs at Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin and Ann Arbor, Michigan since 2014.

Julie has previously employed by Carthage College as the Director of Grants and Foundation Relations, the University of Wisconsin-Parkside as the Directory of Research Administration and Grants, and Gateway Technical College as the Grants Development Specialist.

Julie received her BA from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, a MS in Career and Technical Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, a MS in technical and Professional Communication also from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and an Ed. D. from Edgewood College. Her research focuses on the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on postsecondary educational attainment.

Julie has served as a reviewer for the United States Department of Labor and UW System. She is a member of the National Council of University Research Administrators, the Council for Undergraduate Research, the Association of University Technology Managers, and the American Educational Research Association.

➤ **Breakout Session 1 & 2: Introduction to Grant Writing**

This presentation provides an overview of the components of grant writing: (1) How to prospect and approach a potential funder; (2) How to complete a grant application, plus brief descriptions of grant application terminology; (3) How to submit a grant and a description of the list of typically required attachments (i.e., project budget, list of board of directors, 501 (c) (3) determination letter, etc.); (4) Post-award – you have received a grant, now what?

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**Paul Reske:** Paul Reske is a graduate of Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee. He worked at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI for twelve years as the Church Administrator before joining the SWD Staff in October of 2018 as the Business Manager.

Paul and his wife Melissa live in Milwaukee, and they are blessed with three children, Ethan (14), Lauren (11) and Benjamin (9).

➤ **Breakout Session 1 & 2: Treasurer's Manual, 2019 Tax Implications, and a Best Practices Round Table.**

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**Sharon Schmeling:** Sharon is the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools (WCRIS) and has more than 20 years of experience working on public policy in Wisconsin as a journalist, lobbyist, elected official and communications director.

She earned a master's degree from Villanova University and her bachelor's degree from Marquette University, and is a graduate of Messmer High School, the first private religious school in the U.S. to participate in a voucher program.

Sharon started her career as an education reporter for The Milwaukee Journal, The Madison Capital Times, and the Morning Call in Allentown, Pa. That experience led to work as a lobbyist on education issues for the Wisconsin Catholic Conference and then as a project manager for Dr. Howard Fuller at Marquette University's Institute for the Transformation of Learning and the American Education Reform Council, where she worked with the White House on education policy issues.

Before becoming WCRIS Executive Director in 2015, Sharon served as the Communications Director of the nonpartisan, nonprofit Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance think tank, which specializes in education finance and state budget issues.

While raising her children and sending them to Lutheran and Catholic schools, Sharon worked as a substitute teacher, served on school accreditation and hiring committees, and co-chaired a home and school association. Thanks to a very supportive husband, Sharon was the first woman elected to serve as Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors. As the chief elected official of the county, which had 750 employees and a \$95 million budget, she led local government in successfully navigating a 500-year flood, a 100-year snow fall and the Great Recession.

➤ **Breakout Session 1 & 2: Tidal Wave or Ripple?**

A look at Madison & Washington, D.C. elections & policy debates effecting our schools. As the impact of the fall elections settles over the Capitols in Madison and D.C., what impact will this have on Lutheran schools? Every LCMS school is a member of the Wisconsin Council of Religious & Independent Schools (WCRIS), which monitors state and federal legislation to ensure freedom from government intervention, and equity in funding for parents so they can choose the best school for their children. Come learn how you can protect and defend Lutheran K-12 education in the secular arena.

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**Rev. Dr. John C. Wille:** Rev. John C. Wille has served as the president of the South Wisconsin District LCMS since 2006. As a member of the LCMS Council of Presidents, Rev. Wille serves as chairman of “Clergy Call and Roster Committee” which is responsible for the COP Manual, as well as the policies and guidelines of the COP. He also serves on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Wisconsin as well as Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Rev. Dr. Wille has served congregations in Ohio, Central Illinois and South Wisconsin. Immediately prior to being elected President of the South Wisconsin District, he served as the church planter and founding pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Tomah, Wisconsin, where he served for 16 years. He has served the church as a parish pastor, circuit counselor, District Vice-President, trained synod reconciler, as a church planter, and as a part of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team from South Wisconsin that was deployed to Alabama and Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina.

As the president of the South Wisconsin District he is responsible for ecclesiastical oversight of 207 congregations, multiple schools, high schools, Concordia University Wisconsin, along with the ordained and commissioned church workers that reside in South Wisconsin. As SWD president, Rev. Wille is also part of a unique partnership that is working to establish a new Lutheran Church body in the Dominican Republic.

In regards to continuing education, President Wille has completed Pastoral Leadership Institute plus two additional years of governance training, and he has participated in DOXOLOGY. He has also been trained in various methods of conflict resolution; those include LCMS training for reconcilers, Peter Steinke’s “Bridge Builders”, as well as Ambassadors of Reconciliation.

Rev. Wille has been married to his wife, Lynette, since 1978. They are blessed with three daughters; all of whom are married, one in Minnesota and one in California; the youngest now working in Washington D.C. They are blessed with six grandchildren. Rev. Wille’s hobbies include: reading Lutheran theology, golf, canoeing, fishing, and yard work.

➤ **Breakout Session 2: Confessing Christ...Honoring Our Vocation, Being Distinctly Lutheran**

What is our identity to be in this politically correct world? Can we proclaim the Law in all of its force, condemning sins which the culture accepts, or do we sacrifice our identity for the sake of “being nice”? What does it mean to confess? What does it mean that we are “distinctly Lutheran”? How does our confession affect who we are in church, and how we relate to people outside of church?