

2021 SWD Pastors' Conference – Chula Vista

Monday, April 19th – Wednesday, April 21st, 2021

“Taking It Up with the Creator”

“Because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.” Romans 1:25

Monday, April 19th

- 1:00pm **Opening Worship** @ Trinity Lutheran (728 Church St. Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin 53965)
- 2:00-3:00pm **Registration & Check in**
- 3:00-3:30pm **District Update, Conference Business, Resolution Proposals**
- 3:30-5:00pm **Session #1 - Dr. Joel Biermann, Part A** *“Beginning of the Story: God’s ordered work of creation has much to teach us about humans: (1) identity that is grounded in the givenness of one’s sex, (2) purpose which must be integrally bound to the facts of creation, and (3) relationships—especially the relationships between men and women.”*
- 5:00-5:30pm **Evening Prayer**
- 5:30-6:00pm **Social Hour and Cash Bar**
- 6:00-7:00pm **Banquet**
- 8:30-9:00pm **Compline**

Tuesday, April 20th

- 7:00-8:00am **Breakfast**
- 8:00-8:30am **Matins**
- 8:30-10:00am **Session #2 - Dr. Joel Biermann, Part B** *“God’s Order and Human Flourishing: As contingent creatures, humans are not free to choose: their own reality, preferred paths toward happiness, or personal lifestyles. Instead, they conform as creatures to God’s will and learn to live-into God’s good plan—a plan that consummates in eschatological Sabbath rest.”*
- 10:00-10:10am **Break**
- 10:10-11:30am **SWD Business, Pres. Wille, Executive Staff, CUW**
- 11:45-1:00pm **Lunch**
Optional working lunch for members of the SWD PALS group with the Rev. John Berg
- 1:15-3:00pm **Session #3 - Dr. Joel Biermann, Part C** *“The Beauty of Submission: God’s order, hard-wired into all of creation and into every creature must be: (1) the essential part of any discussion about the “order of creation,” (2) context for all questions about what a woman can or cannot do in the church or world, and (3) a vital aspect of faithful congregational life supported by authentic, consistent lives that embrace God’s plan.”*

3:00-3:30pm **Vespers**

Afternoon/Evening free for golf/activities (dinner on your own)

8:30-9:00pm **Compline**

Wednesday, April 21st

7:00-8:00am **Breakfast**

8:00-8:30am **Morning Prayer**

8:30-10:00am **Session #4 - *Dr. Angus Menuge*** “*God: The True Foundation of Human Rights* - Human rights are inherent, equal, and inalienable entitlements shared by all human beings. In this presentation, I argue that human rights are justified only if God exists. Naturalism, the view that there is no God, and that the natural world is all that exists, fails to adequately explain how human rights could either exist or be known. By contrast, Christian theism explains why human beings have special dignity and value, and how we can know this. Those seeking a secure foundation for human rights are well-advised to return to the Christian teaching that man is specially made in the image of God.”

10:00-10:10am **Break**

10:10-11:45am **Session #5 – *Dr. Angus Menuge*** “*The New Dignity Jurisprudence: A Critique* - Clarence Thomas contrasts the “old dignity” (enshrined in the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution) and the “new dignity” at work in the Obergefell v. Hodges (2015) ruling. According to the old concept, human dignity is an inherent, natural right, one which the state is required to recognize and protect. But according to the new concept, dignity is constructed by the state: it can be conferred or removed, injured or healed, by the law.

In this presentation, I first present the key premises of the new dignity jurisprudence, and trace them back to their major philosophical precursors in Rousseau, Nietzsche, Sartre and postmodern thought. I then argue that the resulting account is an unacceptable basis for jurisprudence because it promotes legal decisions that are unintelligible, arbitrary, inconsistent, unstable, and untrustworthy.”

11:45am **Closing Motion, Conference Business (designate offering), Closing Responsive Prayer**