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Higher Things® offers an incredible, multi-day experience to registrants who attend one of the many events each summer. These conferences are typically held on college or university campuses around the country, giving registrants a taste and feel for what going off to school will be like.

Why Higher Things®

Hey, group leaders and pastors. . . remember dorm beds and cafeteria food? We've been doing this since 2000. In fact, Higher Things has hosted between one and five Lutheran youth conferences each summer! Conferences during any given summer are planned around the same basic structure, but each has its own distinctive "personality" and dynamics, making for a singular, unique experience.

Rather than treating youth as an adolescent subculture and confusing them with once-in-a-lifetime "mountaintop" experiences that cannot be replicated outside of the conference events, Higher Things believes in challenging youth to learn the pure doctrine of the Christian faith. By teaching them the same message that they are already hear at home and church, youth grow in the fullness of the Christian faith as they come to appreciate historic liturgical practice and its unique focus on God's Gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation for us, delivered in Word and Sacrament. We're so glad you're joining us!

Doubt. We confess to being poor miserable sinners every week but it can be hard to confess to wondering if there's even a God who exists to listen at all. Doubt crept into the apostles' hearts but we're afraid of what it means if we find it in our own. The devil sets a trap to leave you feeling alone, cut off from the Christians around you who don't seem to struggle like you. What if it's not real?

What does the conference theme mean?

Jesus isn't just some guy. He died and then didn't stay dead. That's our hope. You can even prove it. God gives us verifiable Scripture that can be traced and upheld through history. You just can't by your own reason or strength believe it. So He speaks to us, doubting hearts and minds that can't quite help but question.

And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.

(1 Corinthians 15:14)

The same thing is the core of our hope and our worldview: the resurrection. Because it's real. The gospel proclaimed by the Spirit to our hearts is something God dares us to question with our minds. If Christ has not been raised from the dead, we are, above all, to be pitied. So test it. There is evidence. This is the defense of the faith that defends you. It's called "apologetics." Your hope is rooted in a historic event, not in your own reason and strength.

O Ye of little faith, why did you doubt? It isn't a challenge. It's a call to be the one Jesus pulls from sinking waters. Like Peter. This is where you start to find your identity and belonging. You're not cut off from Christ in this doubt...If you must doubt, doubt boldly.

At this conference we'll tackle a faith that isn't a fairytale, and we'll prove it. Beyond Reasonable Doubt.



**What should
I expect at
a Higher
Things®
conference?**

Higher Things is not the church. We can't be. We don't try to be. We exist to point you to the church, to encourage you in receiving the Gifts that God has for you at your home altar and hearing your pastor preach the Word from your home pulpit. But we do know that gathering with other young people is not only a great way to spend a week of your summer, it's also a picture of the Body of Christ. So at a Higher Things conference individuals from all over the country, even the world, come together for four incredible days dripping with all of the goodness that God has prepared for His people.

First and foremost, we receive as He's promised to give, through the Word and the Sacrament in worship services peppered throughout each day, opening and closing with the Divine Service and Communion. The readings and hymns will all point back to the theme of the conference, that your faith is true and for you, Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

Having then heard the forgiveness of our sins, we have a chance to really dig into the teaching of the faith, both in large sessions (plenaries) that approach the conference theme and smaller breakaway sessions that allow you to be taught on specific topics that are important to you. With this year's theme, that means arming you with the tools it'll take to defend your faith in an increasingly faithless world while also giving you assurance and comfort in the fact that while you may have questions and doubts, you're never forsaken in them.

Don't worry, it's not all work and no play. Throughout the day, you'll have chances to rest from the hard stuff, move your body in crazy and fun ways, and really enjoy some fellowship with the other youth who are attending this conference with you.

Make this conference your own. If every worship service, plenary session, breakaway, panel, free time activity and meal are what makes you feel like you've had an incredible experience and gotten every last drop out of the conference, great! We can't wait to see you at all of them. If three worship services a day (don't forget Compline at night!), all the solid teaching, and the insane amount of free time activities are just a bit too much and seem overwhelming, rest. You're free, and you won't hear any judgment coming from us if you just need a breather. We can't wait to see you when you're feeling ready for people again! We're just so glad you're here.

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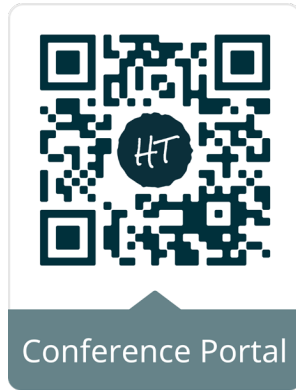
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Welcome

Up to date schedule, live Tetramorph leaderboard, and links to evals so you can tell us how we're doing. Use it!

Information Hub

The home base for all things Higher Things can be found at the Information Table. You'll find someone who can answer just about any question you have, alternative means for breakaway evals, info on where and when the Leaders' Meetings are, and our Lost and Found. T-shirt size exchange will happen here **Tuesday night after dinner**. The Information Table is open from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm daily, except during chapel services.

In Case of Emergencies - 319-455-6737

Housing - 1-888-482-6630 ext 710

Have a question? Look for someone in an orange Beyond Reasonable Doubt shirt! Our staff and College Conference Volunteers (CCVs) are well-trained to help you out with whatever you may need!

Come sing with us, all are welcome! Choir rehearsals are at 8:00 am in the chapel. You can pick up your music at rehearsal - no need to pay or sign up in advance.

HT is for you and we love sharing your creativity! Did you take some great pictures or videos this week? Did you make your youth leader or pastor do a TikTok challenge? Catch something awesome at entertainment or in your free time? Want to share your tetramorph spirit? Share any of your #higherthings moments and they could end up on our socials.

Higher Things will thankfully accept any Divine Service offerings, Tetramorph Penny War funds, or other financial gifts via Venmo. Make sure to indicate in the transaction notes what it's for, especially if you want points for your Tetramorph for the penny war!

@higherthings

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Safety & Emergencies

Please use common sense as you walk around campus this week. Good rules to follow are: always travel with someone, tell your group leader where you are at all times, and watch for Higher Things identification (lanyards or T-shirts). Neither Higher Things, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, or Trinity University is responsible for the theft or loss of any money or personal belongings.

Keep your lanyards, keys, and meal cards on you at all times! You don't want to have to pay that lost key fee... but it also helps us and the rest of the university community know who is associated with the HT conference.

In case of emergency, call 9-1-1 and notify your group leader as soon as possible. Group leaders: make sure you're carrying your group's medical history and release forms with you if you need to seek medical attention. Please also call 319-455-6737 to notify Higher Things staff of the situation. We will do everything we can to be of assistance.

HT Retreats

Higher Things will help your church host a youth retreat in your area! HT retreats give junior youth a chance for worship, work, and fun during the rest of the year, too! Retreats can be held over long weekends, overnight, or even just as a single-day event. For more information about planning a Higher Things retreat, email retreats@higherthings.org or stop at the information table and visit with Tana.

HT VBS Curriculum

This year's VBS, Digging Into the Apostles' Creed, focuses on the Apostles' Creed. Take your students on an archeological dig to really examine how the Trinity is shown in the Baptism of Jesus and further teach about each person of the Trinity. The program is packed with opening and closing worship, Bible and catechism breakaways, snack and craft ideas and instructions, games, and hymns. All the materials are available for congregations to use for just \$120. Check out this wonderful resource in the Higher Things webstore.



HT Content

The mission of Higher Things is to make the gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. Twenty years ago that began with a week-long conference. Today, Higher Things doesn't have to end on Friday. The same great teaching is available to you 365 days a year online! We offer Christ-centered content that points to the Gospel and lets you know where to find it. Check out daily Reflections, videos, articles, podcasts, and more.

Follow Instagram (@higherthings), YouTube (@HTgospel4all) and TikTok (@higherthings). Go to higherthings.org to see the latest great content that is available for you as youth, parents, and pastors!

Evaluation Links

Conference Evaluation

Help us make our conferences better!



Doctrine & Practice Evaluation

Youth only please!

What's your identity? Are your parents still together? What do you think of the climate of today's politics? Tell us. We want to know.



| Worship

Worship at Higher Things flows from God Himself. We gather with the fellow redeemed to receive from Him all that we need for the onslaught we face each and every day from the world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. At Higher Things, that looks like a Divine Service at the opening and closing of the conference to receive the sacrament, and then peppering our days with opportunities to hear the Word through prayer offices (or, short services centered around liturgical reception of the Word, sometimes preaching, and praying back that which God has already given us). Also, you have the opportunity to unburden yourself through the Gift of Individual Confession and Absolution toward the end of each day. This is nothing more than a time for you to speak aloud that which you need help with to someone who has been given to you to proclaim the forgiveness of your sins, directly to you, for your comfort. Never done it before? No problem. If your pastor is here, he can absolve you. If not, our pastors will help you to feel comfortable.

You are free in the Gospel to attend every service on the schedule, or take time to reset and recharge for further learning and activities!

| Teaching

The more you learn about the faith, the more you realize there is to learn. At the conference this week, you'll have opportunities to be taught apologetics and receive forgiveness and comfort with your questions and in your doubts in sessions with hundreds of other youth (we call these plenary sessions). We also have other opportunities to learn about topics that interest you in smaller groups (or breakaways that run 45 minutes each). We also have a panel session you might find interesting, and a fireside chat to have more vulnerable conversations with pastors and other lay leaders about questions and struggles you might have. At Higher Things, our goal is always the same: make the Gifts of Christ Jesus known to youth and young adults. We don't want you to leave any session without the clear understanding that you have been forgiven in Christ, made new to live in loving service back to Him and to your neighbor!



What is a Tetramorph?

Tetramorph is a symbolic arrangement of four differing elements, or the combination of four disparate elements in one unit. The term is from the Greek tetra, meaning “four,” and morph, for “shape.”

The prophet Ezekiel first reveals to us the vision of the four angelic beings. In a vision, Ezekiel describes their coming from amidst the flames, saying, “As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle” (Ezekiel 1:10 KJV). This image of the Tetramorph is also seen by John in the book of Revelation, where the four creatures surround the throne of Christ: “And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle” (Revelation 4:7).

The Christian Church has historically identified these four creatures with symbols for the four evangelists and has used the images in Christian art throughout the ages. Different designations of the creatures have been used, but St. Jerome's is the most commonly accepted.

VIR | man Matthew

The first face of the man signifies Matthew, who began to write as of a man, “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” Matthew is represented as the winged man, because his Gospel begins with the human genealogy of Jesus.



The second is Mark, who is represented as the winged lion, as his Gospel begins with John the Baptist and his “voice crying out in the wilderness.” The lion is an animal of the Middle East’s wilderness.

LEO |
lion
Mark



The third is that of the ox, prefiguring the evangelist Luke, whose Gospel begins in the temple with Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. The ox is a sacrificial animal.

BOS |
ox
Luke



The fourth is the evangelist John, who is represented as an eagle, because John’s Gospel begins with a soaring overview of the Incarnation: “In the beginning was the Word. . .” John takes the wings of an eagle, and hastens to higher matters—the Word of God.

AQUILA |
eagle
John



Tuesday |

Genesis 32:24

And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day.

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

God started the fight. It's important to remember. Jacob didn't decide he needed something from God and sought it out. God saw Jacob alone, afraid for his life, and desperate. He chose that moment to drag him around a field. Because Jesus loves you.

Which is harder; to stay straight faced or the simpler devotion in just holding on? Wrestle with God during the hard times. Pray. Hold on. Tell yourself it's ok even if it doesn't look like it and you know full well God could stop this any time He wanted. Go ahead and ignore the times you just can't hold on anymore. Ignore that God seems more like an enemy to be conquered or at least more like something to be endured than a Heavenly Father.

Jacob is already in over his head. But the God man showed up to wrestle. See why. It finally stopped being about Jacob's will, which coveted his brother's blessings every bit as much as it faltered in the face of His wrath. It's not about Jacob's character at all. Which is good, because he's a sinner. It's about who God is. He shows up, grabs hold of Jacob, and won't let go, and something happens. Faith is made. A bond between us and God that will not let go. No more tricks. No more power. It's an abandonment of character. A focus outside of self and solely on Christ.

Jacob will not be known by his wit or his strength or anything that he's going through. Not by what he's done. Not by what he's suffered. Not by what he's called. Not by what he sees in himself. He will only be called blessed. That's faith. He becomes Israel because God grabbed hold of him. He struggles with God and prevails. Because who God is changes who we are.

Remember it the next time our Father in Heaven decides to smack you around some. There He will also preach to you through your pastor. There, the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps. In mercy, God starts fights with people who suffer beyond their ability. It's to yield His blessing to you. His blessings prevail. They endure in hope, because the God who starts the fight is the God who won't let go.

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

O gracious Lord, with love draw near To these, Your children gathered here; The Spirit's gift in them renew: The gift of faith that clings to You. (O Gracious Lord, with Love Draw Near, LSB 599:1)

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

Abram just watched fire float between two halves of a cow while God spoke to him. The voice promised to provide a son to him and his wife in a way that defied how reality works, every bit as much as floating torches. The next chapter is about how he got the maid pregnant. Apparently seeing isn't believing.

Abram got the maid pregnant to force God's hand and provide an heir. It doesn't seem to coexist with "he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness". It's probably something worth considering when you go looking for your miracles to prove there's a God out there. Doubt coexists with faith. Still, it was enough faith to be counted by the LORD as righteousness. Because we don't measure faith. God just gives it. Enough isn't in your vocabulary when it comes to faith, because God doesn't give insufficiently. This is a measurement of Him and His gifts, not of what you do with them.

Which is good, because there was also enough doubt to struggle with the promise and look to Hagar to fulfill it instead of God. The floating fire and literal promise from on high wasn't enough to snuff doubt out. You're probably going to have some too. Because doubt isn't the opposite of faith. It's the struggle that sinners have with it. We do not fear, love, and trust in God above all things. So He sends His Son to us to redeem us. Measure the cross, not how you feel about it. Did Jesus die? Did He rise from the dead? When you struggle with faith, with sin, and with everything that comes from it, Christ is risen. And the same merciful Lord sends preachers to deliver the gifts of His passion to you over and over, so that as you struggle with doubt, it can always be met by promise.

Abram didn't fulfill anything in the covenant. If anything, he tried to force it into something else. But God is faithful, and over and over again, preached to Abram every day until he fell asleep, only to rest in the arms of the Savior who would not abandon him to doubt. It is by that same promise that today we remember Abraham, the patriarch by faith counted as righteousness. Why would it be any different for you?

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

Lord, I believe what You have said; Help me when doubts assail me. Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me. Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears And is my priceless treasure. (Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared, LSB 662:6)

Wednesday

Genesis 15:17

*When the sun
had gone down
and it was
dark, behold, a
smoking fire pot
and a flaming
torch passed
between these
pieces.*



Jonah 1:17

*And the LORD
appointed a
great fish to
swallow up
Jonah. And
Jonah was in the
belly of the fish
three days and
three nights.*

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

The Lord told Jonah to go preach Law and Gospel to the nation that butchers his people and offers child sacrifice. Either they kill Jonah, which is a bummer, or they believe God forgives them all their atrocities. Which, somehow, was worse. You know the story. Tarshish would be better. Storm. Big fish. God tends to get His way.

And in all of it we imagine it's just that God has a plan for your life. If you're on the right track, things go well. If you're not, He pulls you towards the right track. Sometimes painfully. Sometimes with fish. We treat religion like the trick to figuring out the plan with as few fish as possible. As if we'd listen. Be honest. You know the 10 commandments. How's it going? Why do you think you'd listen elsewhere? Sinner.

In all the shortsightedness about what we do to find and fulfill God's plan, we lose sight of the words God actually speaks. The first word of the Lord to Jonah is "arise". It's an empty tomb word. Resurrect. Then after that, preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins so that, in faith, others can arise too. The chapter ends with the sign of Jonah that Jesus quotes about His own death and resurrection. Jonah was in the belly of the fish for three days and three nights.

What if it isn't figurative language to paint a picture of Jonah learning to make better choices? What if he wasn't kidding when he said he went down to Sheol? What if Jesus didn't quote this as symbolism, but the sign people saw and still didn't believe in before? What if Jonah actually died and rose? It's actually a comfort.

If your faith is shaken by not knowing God's plan, if your faith is shaken by big storms and bigger fish, God's plan still comes by the Word. God's plan for your life is that Jesus dies and 3 days later rises, and that in Him, you would too. Rest your faith on that. Then know that in your Baptism, you already died and rose with Him. You have already drowned in the font. You are already united to Jesus' Resurrection. Arise. The rest is just details.

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

"I called out to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice. For you cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood surrounded me; all your waves and your billows passed over me. Then I said, 'I am driven away from your sight; yet I shall again look upon your holy temple.'"

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

I think John made sure to get this statement in the story so as not to leave us with a bad impression of Martha marked on one of the hardest days of her life. I think it's to give us the words to speak on our own. Its bitterness and genuine anger rolled up in a confession of the resurrection of the body and everlasting life. It isn't just an accusation. It's a recognition. It doesn't ignore the problem because of Jesus. But it doesn't dismiss it either.

Something wrong happened. God could have stopped it. There will be a resurrection someday. But today, hope feels far off. Because we tend to root hope in the answer to prayers, not the God answering them. Hope is a Lazarus who didn't die. Hope is a Lazarus who will rise on the last day. But that leaves hope very far away when he's 4 days in the tomb and rotting.

It might be worth noting that throughout this entire story, every time the followers of Jesus presume to know His plans, they're wrong. Every time they put their hope in something He can control, but not in Him, it falls apart. Because hope is not found in God answering prayers. Hope is found in God.

Where God is, there is hope. And Jesus draws near to dead Lazarus. He could have stopped it. He could have chosen not to go into Jerusalem to die. He could have chosen to punish sinners for insolence and impoliteness...and you know...sin. Instead, His will is done as absolutely done, confounding the imaginations of everyone. So maybe hope in Jesus, not what you think He'll do.

Hope is not measured in anything other than the presence of Jesus. Everything else is turned upside down. The body should never have died. The dead body should stink. And in all of it, hope is measured in something else. Jesus is near.

Which may be why He gives us His Body and Blood in church. So that hope can be measured in more than "Did I get what I wanted?" or "Did I die and go to heaven and on the last day rise?". It's measured in "Is Jesus here for me?" and the answer is Yes. Amen.

In the Name ✠ of Jesus. Amen.

Almighty God, by Your great goodness mercifully look upon Your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Friday

John 11:21

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."



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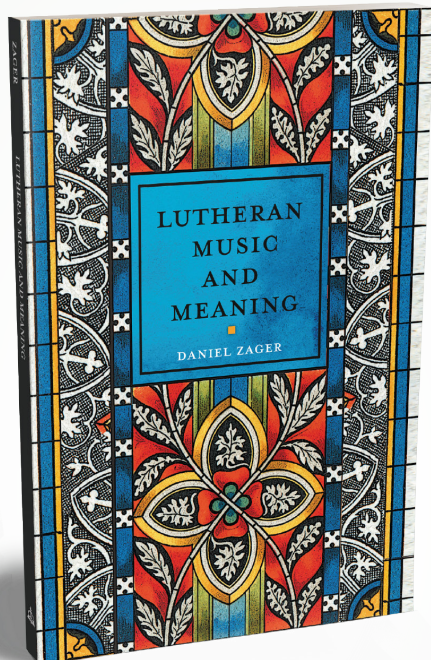
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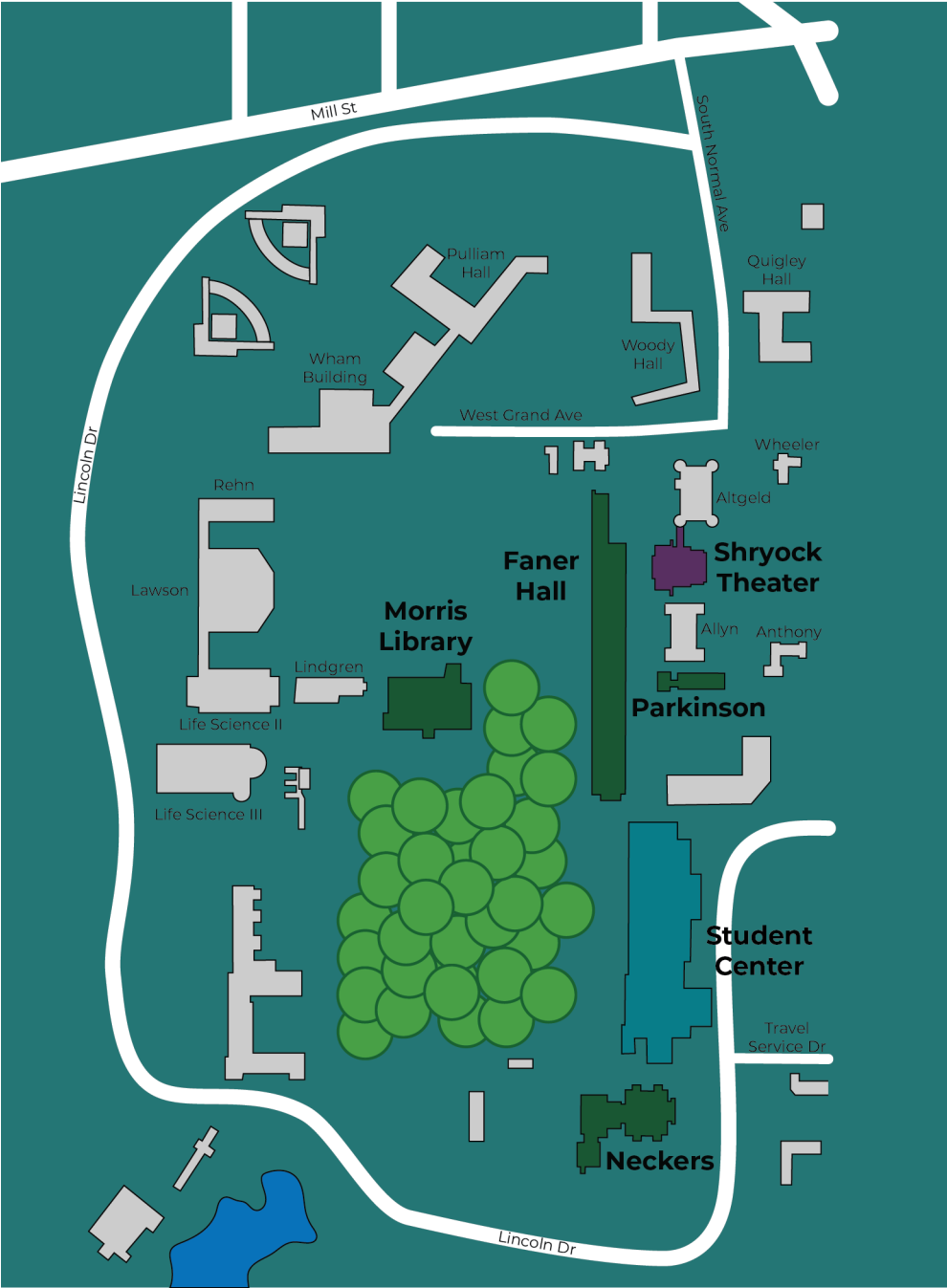
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**TUESDAY
JULY 18, 2023**

9:00 AM	Registration/Check-In	John Corker Lounge
1:00 PM	Leaders' Meeting	Old Main Room
1:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Shryock Auditorium
2:00 PM	Opening Divine Service	Shryock Auditorium
3:45 PM	Breakaway A	See Chart (Page 30)
5:00 PM	Group A: Plenary 1 - Faith Founded on Fact	Ballroom
	Group B: Dinner	Dining
6:15 pm	Group A: Dinner	Dining
	Group B: Plenary 1- Faith Founded on Fact	Ballroom
7:30 PM	Evening Prayer	Shryock Auditorium
8:00 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Shryock Auditorium
8:00 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 19, 2023**

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining
8:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Shryock Auditorium
9:00 AM	Matins	Shryock Auditorium
9:45 AM	Breakaway B	See Chart (Page 30)
10:45 AM	Leaders' Meeting	Old Main Room
11:15 AM	Group A: Plenary 2 - God, Science, and Philosophy	Ballroom
	Group B: Lunch	Dining
12:30 PM	Group A: Lunch	Dining
	Group B: Plenary 2 - God, Science, and Philosophy	Ballroom
1:45 PM	Vespers	Shryock Auditorium
2:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
3:00 PM	Panel Session	Ballroom
4:15 PM	Breakaway C	See Chart (Page 30)
5:30 PM	Dinner	Dining
8:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Shryock Auditorium
8:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Shryock Auditorium
8:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

THURSDAY
JULY 20, 2023

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining
8:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Shryock Auditorium
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Shryock Auditorium
9:45 AM	Breakaway D	See Chart (Page 30)
10:45 AM	Leaders' Meeting	Old Main Room
11:15 AM	Group A: Plenary 3 - Those doubts we have	Ballroom
	Group B: Lunch	Dining
12:30 PM	Group A: Lunch	Dining
	Group B: Plenary 3 - Those doubts we have	Ballroom
1:45 PM	Vespers	Shryock Auditorium
2:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
3:00 PM	HT4U Reception	International Lounge
4:15 PM	Breakaway E	See Chart (Page 30)
5:30 PM	Dinner	Dining
8:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Shryock Auditorium
8:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Shryock Auditorium
8:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

FRIDAY
JULY 21, 2023

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Dining
9:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Shryock Auditorium
10:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Shryock Auditorium
11:00 AM	Group A: Plenary 4 - Those things by which we doubt	Ballroom
	Group B: Lunch	Dining
12:15 PM	Group A: Lunch	Dining
	Group B: Plenary 4 - Those things by which we doubt	Ballroom
1:30 PM	Closing Divine Service	Shryock Auditorium



HT4U Thank You Reception

There will be a reception to thank the adult leaders from each group on Thursday afternoon at 3:00 pm in the International Lounge of the Student Center. Come eat some delicious food, drink some refreshing drinks, and let us thank you for the work that you've done to bring your groups to the conference!

Lost Keys

There is a \$110 charge for lost keys and \$25 charge for lost fobs. Keep those keys on you in a safe place! Sites will also charge for any room damages, lost linens, or other issues associated with dorm room assignments. Any charges will be passed on to the group for payment directly following the conference and those charges must be paid within 30 days by the group.

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DR. ADAM FRANCISCO

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Adam Francisco is executive editor of 1517 Publishing and scholar in residence at 1517. He earned his DPhil from the University of Oxford in 2005 and has taught—and continues to teach—history at Concordia University (Irvine, CA) and Concordia College (Bronxville, New York). His publications include the books, "Martin Luther and Islam," "Making the Case for Christianity," and "The Resurrection Fact." Adam and his wife, Rachel, have four children and live with the swallows in San Juan Capistrano.


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Chief of sinners. Child of God. Pastor Harrison Goodman preaches Christ crucified as a light that shines in darkness and a hope for the hopeless. As content executive, he helps to make these same gifts known online by employing the many voices and talents of our brothers and sisters in Christ. He believes that while the internet cannot replace Word and Sacrament ministry, it doesn't need to try. He shapes HT content to point youth and young adults toward the gifts given in your sanctuary.

Last Name	Breakaway Title	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E
Andrews Jr	The Apocalypse of John				SC Old Main	SC Old Main
Bauman	Why Beginnings Matter	Neckers 240		Neckers 240		
Berry	The Resurrection Day "Prepper"				Morris Library Guyon	Morris Library Guyon
Chester	A Healthy Dose of Lament				Parkinson 202	Parkinson 202
Doellinger	Non-binary He/Him Created They/Them?	SC Auditorium	SC Auditorium			
Durance	"God's Good and Gracious Will"				SC Activity Room CD	SC Activity Room CD
Eddy	Is our Bible the Bible?	SC Illinois	SC Illinois			
Goodman	Babbling About Pronouns	SC Ballroom D				
Goodman & Sorensen	Trauma, Triggers, and Faith		SC Ballroom D			
Goodman & Sorensen	Why Bodies Matter				SC Ballroom D	
Gramzow	Hymnody: The Sung Apologetic		SC Delta	Parkinson 202		
Gray	The Heavens Declare	SC Activity Room CD	SC Activity Room CD			
Haller	What Do I Do Now?	SC Cambria	SC Cambria			
Hansen	Symbols, Stories, and Your Salvation					
Haselbring	Your An Intentional International Friend!	SC Activity Room AB	SC Activity Room AB	Morris Library Guyon		
Heinecke	A Fellowship in Higher Things				SC Illinois	SC Illinois
Heinz Deac.	You're Depressed, Now What?				Neckers 240	Neckers 240
Heinz Rev	The Journey Is Too Great				SC Delta	SC Delta
Heinz Vicar	Jesus: In Full Color	Parkinson 202	Parkinson 202			
Heller	Christ's Love Through Mercy Care			SC Illinois		
Hokana	Lutheran thrives in the military			SC Old Main		
Hofensperger	That's My Favorite Bible Versel	SC Ohio		SC Mississippi		
Hull	Why Date Within the Faith			SC Ballroom D		SC Ballroom D
Ill	Beyond Reasonable Doubt Every Week				SC Kaskaskia/Missouri	SC Kaskaskia/Missouri
Jerabek	Angels - An Introduction		Neckers 240	Neckers 440		
Klenschmidt	The World of Duty			SC Delta		SC Cambria



Last Name	Breakaway Title	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E
Lange	Jesus vs. the Jehovah's Witnesses	SC Int'l West	SC Int'l West			
Longmire	What is a Deaconess, anyway?			SC Thebes		
Maas	Is Scripture Really Sufficient?	SC Thebes	SC Thebes			
Manley	Answers in Eschaton (Last Things)	SC Mississippi	SC Mississippi			
Mayes	Deceptions of our War				SC Mississippi	SC Mississippi
McCalley	Only Believers Have Doubts					
Mohr	Did God Really Say?		SC Ohio	SC Ohio		
Mohr	Ars Moriendi - The Art of Dying	SC Delta				
Peperkorn & Soulek	Hymnody: The Rest of the Story			SC Auditorium		SC Auditorium
Peperkorn & Soulek	Cantology 101			Shryock Theater		Shryock Theater
Rebber	Confession and the Conscience		Shryock Theater		Shryock Theater	
Rollins	To Be or not to Be				SC Ohio	SC Ohio
Sanchez	Youth Ministry 101			SC Activity Room CD SC Activity Room AB		
Simek	How God Works Evil					
Simek	How To Make A Catholic Lutheran	Neckers 440	Neckers 440		Neckers 440	Neckers 440
Slayton	Diakonal Ministry: Learning and Serving					
Solum	Beyond Doubt in the Small Catechism				SC Thebes	SC Thebes
Stearns	Faith and Reason: A Scientist's Perspective	Morris Library Guyon	Morris Library Guyon		SC Activity Room AB	SC Activity Room AB
Sturzenbecher	Dr. Strange and the Multiverse of Gladness	SC Old Main	SC Old Main			
Truwe	Making Sense of My Calling(s)!			SC Cambria	SC Cambria	
Voth	When Cultures Clash					
Ware	The Resurrection X-Files				SC Int'l West	SC Int'l West
Zimmerman	Does God exist?	SC Kaskaskia/Missouri	SC Kaskaskia/Missouri	SC Kaskaskia/Missouri		

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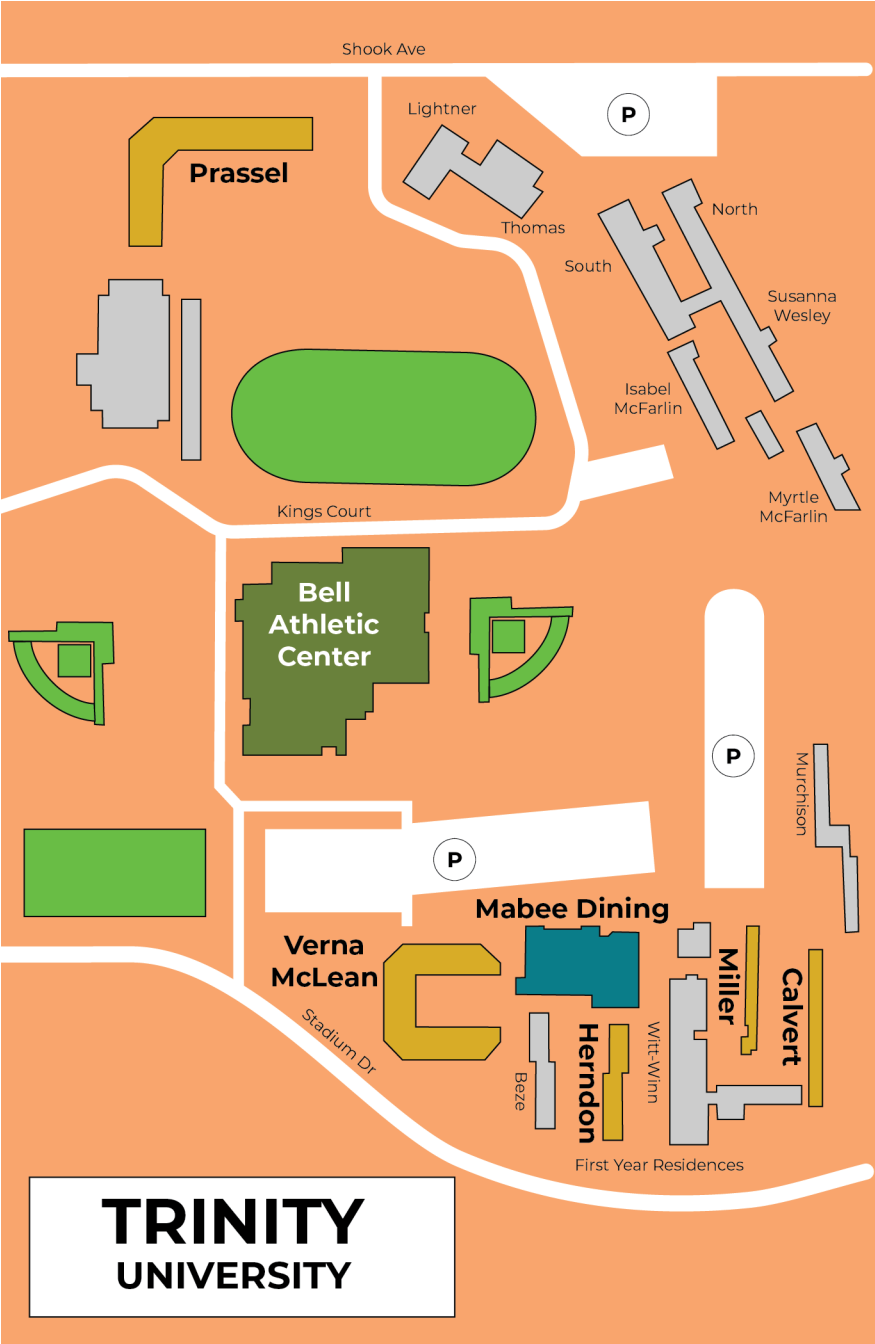
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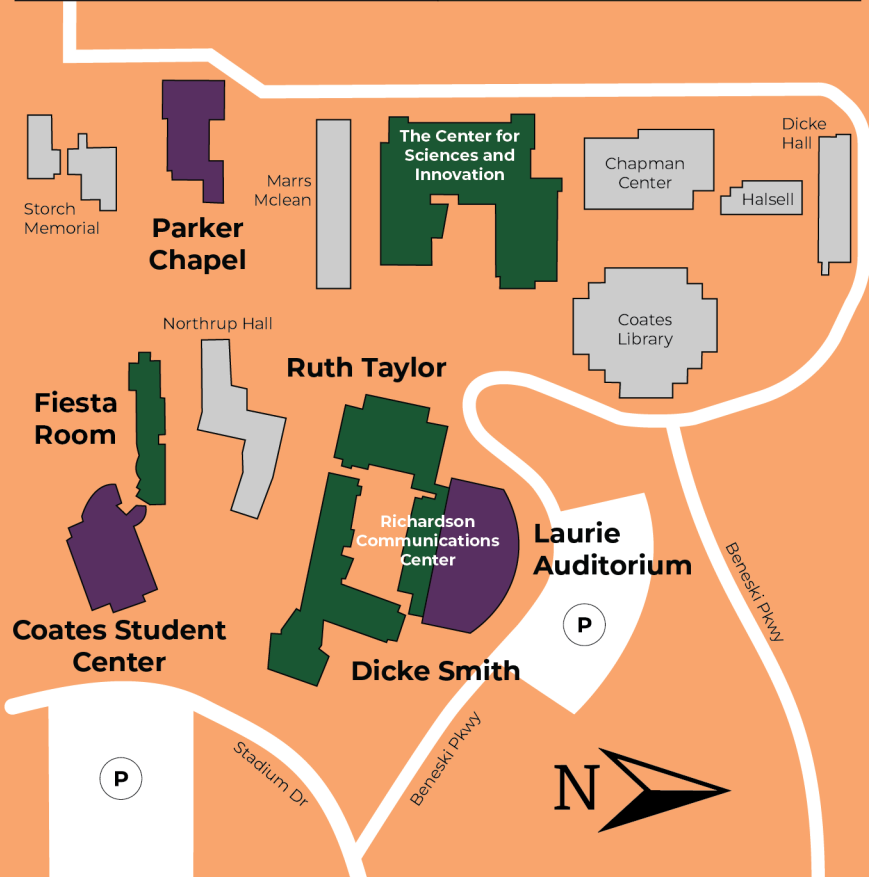

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**TUESDAY
JULY 25, 2023**

9:00 AM	Registration/Check-In	Bell Athletic Center
1:00 PM	Leaders' Meeting	Laurie 319
1:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Parker Chapel
2:00 PM	Opening Divine Service	Parker Chapel
3:45 PM	Plenary 1 - Proof We Can Trust the Gospels as Eyewitness Accounts	Laurie Auditorium
5:00 PM	Dinner	Mabee Dining Hall
7:00 PM	Breakaway A	See Chart (Page 46)
8:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Parker Chapel
8:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Parker Chapel
8:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

**WEDNESDAY
JULY 26, 2023**

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Mabee Dining Hall
8:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Parker Chapel
9:00 AM	Matins	Parker Chapel
9:45 AM	Plenary 2 - The Case for the Bodily Resurrection of Jesus	Laurie Auditorium
11:00 AM	Leaders' Meeting	Laurie 319
11:00 AM	Lunch	Mabee Dining Hall
1:00 PM	Vespers	Parker Chapel
1:45 PM	Free Time	Campus
2:45 PM	Panel Session	Laurie Auditorium
4:00 PM	Breakaway B	See Chart (Page 46)
5:00 PM	Dinner	Mabee Dining Hall
7:00 PM	Breakaway C	See Chart (Page 46)
8:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Parker Chapel
8:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Parker Chapel
8:30 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

**THURSDAY
JULY 27, 2023**

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Mabee Dining Hall
8:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Parker Chapel
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Parker Chapel
9:45 AM	Plenary 3- The Four Competing Chapters of Every Worldview Story	Laurie Auditorium
11:00 AM	Leaders' Meeting	Laurie 319
11:00 AM	Lunch	Mabee Dining Hall
1:00 PM	Vespers	Parker Chapel
1:45 PM	Breakaway D	See Chart (Page 46)
2:45 PM	Free Time	Campus
2:45 PM	HT4U Thank You Reception	230 Skyline - Coates Student Center
4:00 PM	Breakaway E	See Chart (Page 46)
5:00 PM	Dinner	Mabee Dining Hall
7:00 PM	Evening Prayer	Parker Chapel
7:30 PM	Individual Confession & Absolution	Parker Chapel
8:00 PM	Free Time	Campus
11:00 PM	Compline	Dorms
12:00 AM	Lights Out	Dorms

**FRIDAY
JULY 28, 2023**

7:00 AM	Breakfast	Mabee Dining Hall
8:00 AM	Choir Rehearsal	Parker Chapel
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	Parker Chapel
10:00 AM	Plenary 4 - Apologetics and the Conscience	Laurie Auditorium
11:00 AM	Lunch	Mabee Dining Hall
1:00 PM	Closing Divine Service	Parker Chapel



HT4U Thank You Reception

There will be a reception to thank the adult leaders from each group on Thursday afternoon at 2:45 pm in 230 Skyline - Coates Student Center. Come eat some delicious food, drink some refreshing drinks, and let us thank you for the work that you've done to bring your groups to the conference!

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REV. CHRIS ROSEBROUGH

Pastor, Kongsvinger Lutheran Church
Oslo, MN

Pastor Chris Rosebrough is a bi-vocational theologian and is a recognized voice in Confessional Lutheranism. Pastor Rosebrough is the Captain of Pirate Christian Radio and the host of Fighting for the Faith. Fighting for the Faith is a Christ-Centered and Cross-Focused daily apologetics internet-radio program with a global audience. Rev. Chris Rosebrough also serves as pastor of Kongsvinger Lutheran Church in Oslo, Minnesota.


REV. BRYAN WOLFMUELLER

Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church
Pastor, Jesus Deaf Lutheran Church
Austin, TX

Pastor Bryan Wolfmueller is pastor of St. Paul and Jesus Deaf Lutheran Churches in Austin, TX. He is the author of Take They Our Life: Martin Luther's Theology of Martyrdom (2019), A Martyr's Faith for a Faithless World (CPH, 2019), Has American Christianity Failed? (CPH, 2016) and Final Victory: Contemplating the Death and Funeral of a Christian (CPH, 2010). He is host of What-Not, The Podcast, posts videos on YouTube at [wolfmueller1](https://www.youtube.com/user/wolfmueller1), and has a number of other theological projects that all end up on his blog, www.wolfmueller.co. Bryan is a member of the Doxology Collegium. He and his wife Keri live with their four children in Round Rock, TX.

Last Name	Breakaway Title	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E
Barnsch	Crazy Zeke's Visions and Promises			110 Parker	110 Parker	
Bauman	Why Beginnings Matter	114 RTRH	114 RTRH			
Benson	The Greatest is Love			Stieren Theater RTMB		
Bogs	Why Are You Lutheran?	CSI 437				
Branich	Defend Your Baptism			CSI 448		
Chester	A Healthy Dose of Lament			CSI 437	237 Waxahachie - CSC	
Cholak	Darwinian Deluge: Defending Creation	CSI 448	CSI 448			
Douthwaite	Worship Beyond Reasonable Doubt			110 Lauri		237 Waxahachie - CSC
Fritsche	Dusting off Deuteronomy			111 Fiesta - CSC		110 Parker
Goodman	Babbling About Pronouns	Stieren Theater RTMB	Stieren Theater RTMB			
Goodman & Sorensen	Trauma, Triggers, and Faith					114 RTRH
Goodman & Sorensen	Why Bodies Matter				114 RTRH	
Gramzow	Hymnody: The Sung Apologetic		CSI 437		CSI 437	
Grannis	The Great Litany: A Great Prayer!					CSI 437
Heinz Deac.	You're Depressed, Now What?				CSI 448	Richardson 320
Heinz Vicar	Jesus: In Full Color	Richardson 320	Richardson 320			
Jasa	Fireside Chat					Chapel Garden

Last Name	Breakaway Title	Session A	Session B	Session C	Session D	Session E
Lietzau & Sturdivant	Basketball Jesus	110 Lauri	110 Lauri			
Peperkorn & Soulek	Hymnody: The Rest of the Story	Richardson 319	Richardson 319			
Peperkorn & Soulek	Cantorology 101			Parker Chapel		
Pless	The Large Catechism as an Apologetic Tool	237 Waxahachie - CSC	237 Waxahachie - CSC			
Rebber	Confession and the Conscience			237 Waxahachie - CSC		CSI 448
Sanchez	Youth Ministry 101			Richardson 319		
Schian	People Not Problems				110 Lauri	110 Lauri
Shaltanis	Can I trust the Bible since it's "full of errors"?			Richardson 320		
Slayton	Diaconal Ministry: Learning and Serving				Richardson 319	Richardson 319
Sorensen	Coffee with Skeptics: Sharing your Faith with Those Who Doubt				Richardson 320	111 Fiesta - CSC
Sturzenbecher	Professor Strange in the Multiverse of Gladness	111 Fiesta - CSC	111 Fiesta - CSC			
Ware	The Resurrection X-Files	110 Parker	110 Parker			
Wolffmueller	How to Read the Psalms in Six Easy Steps				Stieren Theater RTMB	Stieren Theater RTMB
Zilz	Miracles, the Mind, and Meaning			114 RTRH	111 Fiesta - CSC	

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The Apocalypse of John

Rev. Steve Andrews Jr.

Jesus Christ promised that He is coming soon. Even though the beautiful book of Revelation is lost to most of the Church today because it has been taught falsely as a hidden book of codes and terrifying destruction, the Spirit inspired John to write this letter to give His suffering Church comfort and hope in the midst of persecution and death. This is a Bible study on Revelation 12, "The Dragon, the Woman, and the Child" as an example of how to read Revelation, with a brief overview of the book, its common symbols, and its overall message of hope.

Rev. Andrews is the pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, MO. You can reach him at andrews@gracefaithlove.org.

D SC Old Main
E SC Old Main

Crazy Zeke's Visions and Promises

Rev. Duane Bamsch

The prophet Ezekiel had some outlandish and disturbing visions during Israel's exile in Babylon. His hearers often thought he was crazy, but there was a method to the madness. The Lord God wanted to reassure his children that he was still with them, and would return them home even though they felt that they had been left alone. Today, it may seem like God's people are again in exile, as the world around them gets more and more hostile to the faith. Come and hear how these strange visions from the past can reassure Christians today of God's love for you.

Rev. Bamsch is the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Grass Valley, CA. He's also the president of Higher Things. You can reach him at rev.bamsch@higherthings.org.

C Parker 110
D Parker 110

Why Beginnings Matter

Mrs. Michelle Bauman

There are only two options: either you were an accident, or you were planned. And the answer to that question makes your life insignificant or full of meaning. You can't have it both ways; it's all or nothing. This sectional is going to take a closer look at beginnings, a closer look at both the formation of the world and of you. We'll answer the question about significance, and we'll conclude, beyond reasonable doubt, that you are valuable. You were made for LIFE.

Michelle Bauman is the executive director of Y4Life, the youth arm of Lutherans for Life. You can reach her at michelle@y4life.org.

A Neckers 240
C Neckers 240

A Ruth Taylor Recital Hall 114
B Ruth Taylor Recital Hall 114

The Greatest is Love

Mrs. Jocelyn Benson

Justice? Prudence? Temperance? Fortitude? Faith? Hope? Charity? You have neighbors all around you, some Christian and some pagan. How should you interact with them as a Christian? Can we expect the same from those around us? The cardinal and theological virtues have helped people consider their interactions with others for millennia, and they can give you timeless guidance for interacting with the neighbors God has given you in this world that is not your home.

Jocelyn Benson is the headmaster of Wittenberg Academy. She is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Chatfield, MN. You can reach her at mrsbenson@wittenbergacademy.org.

C Stieren Theater - Ruth Taylor Music Building

The Resurrection Day "Prepper"

Rev. Matthew Berry

Perhaps you know of those "preppers" who await the world's destruction. With bunkers full of blankets, black coffee, and bountiful provisions, these "preppers" are ready for the end. Are you prepared? Well, not for that doom scenario. Are you prepared for your resurrection day? Are you prepared for those who attempt to debunk your faith? Are you a resurrection day "prepper"? St. Peter writes, "always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks of you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect." (1 Pt. 3:15). Come learn from "Prepper" Peter some doom-proof preparations on how to defend your faith.

Rev. Berry is the pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Sikeston, MO. You can reach him at pastormatthewberry@gmail.com

D Morris Library - Guyon

E Morris Library - Guyon

Why Are You Lutheran?

Rev. Dr. Ron Bogs

"What do you tell your friends when they ask, 'Why are you Lutheran?' Do you know what you would say? Do you know why you are Lutheran? Because you were born Lutheran? Not only is it important to be able to give an answer for your faith, so also is knowing why you believe as you do. Come and learn how to give an answer to 'Why are you Lutheran?' and be able to ask, 'Why are you . . . ?'"

Rev. Dr. Bogs is the pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield in Houston, TX. You can reach him at pastorbogs@stmatthewlcms.com.

A Parker Chapel - Meditation Chapel 228



Defend Your Baptism

Rev. Chris Bramich

Do you ever feel attacked for being baptized as an infant? Has anyone encouraged you to get re-baptized? Yikes! Don't do it! Come join us today as we discuss all things infant baptism. You'll learn how to defend the beliefs you were confirmed in and more deeply appreciate how you are buried and resurrected in your baptism with Christ!

Rev. Chris Bramich is the pastor of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church in Haslet, TX. You can reach him at cb2890@att.net

C Skyline - Coates Student Center 230

A Healthy Dose of Lament

Vicar Justin Chester

Lamenting? Crying out in all doubt, pain, and suffering? Is that Christian? The Psalms of Lament are the tools of prayer given to us Christians to pray and meditate on. A healthy dose of lament is good for the Christian; it keeps us grounded, so to speak. Our world once knew and approached death and suffering with much more seriousness than our culture does today. Join me in seeing how doubt, suffering, and lament are essential parts of the Christian life leading to true thanks and praise. Lamenting and praising before God as dear children going to their dear father.

Vicar Chester is one of the Higher Things summer vicars. He's receiving his training from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. You can reach him at justin.chester@ctsfw.edu

D Parkinson 202
E Parkinson 202

C Center for Sciences and Innovation 437
D Waxahachie - Coates Student Center 237

Darwinian Deluge: Defending Creation

Rev. Steven Cholak

The world wants us to just believe that the universe happened through chance and natural selection. The Bible teaches that the Lord created the heavens and the earth in six days. Join Pastor Steven Cholak as he discusses the apologetics of being a Young Earth Creationist.

Rev. Cholak is the pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School in Houston, TX. You can reach him at scholak@osl.cc

A Center for Sciences and Innovation 448
B Center for Sciences and Innovation 448

Non-binary He/Him Created They/Them?

Rev. Paul Doellinger

"The science is settled: gender is a social construct, a fluid and dynamic label that we can adjust to our liking. Masculinity is toxic. Femininity is old hat." Are you finding it difficult to defend and articulate the simple truth of male and female in a confused, androgynous world? Do you ever doubt what the Bible says about these things? In this session, we'll see what God's Word tells about what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman and how this is actually true and beneficial for us.

Rev. Doellinger is the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cassopolis, MI. You can reach him at paul.doellinger@gmail.com

A SC - Auditorium

B SC - Auditorium

Worship Beyond Reasonable Doubt

Rev. James Douthwaite

How do we worship Beyond Reasonable Doubt? Can we? Does it matter how we worship? Why do we worship the way we do? What is praise? What is worship? What is liturgy? What is the basis of our worship - its structure or bones? What is our confidence when we gather together? What if I don't feel like I get anything out of worship? Come think about how Jesus is the reason we worship Beyond Reasonable Doubt.

Rev. Douthwaite is the pastor of Saint Athanasius Lutheran Church in Vienna, VA. You can reach him at revjdoc@gmail.com.

C Laurie 110

E Waxahachie - Coates Student Center 237

God's Good and Gracious Will

Rev. Dr. Matthew Durance

How do we remain steadfast when the world seems to have all the answers? What do we do when God's Law appears as un-loving and bad? How do we know God's will is good? Because we know God is good, and His faithfulness to us equips us to be faithful to Him and show His love to our neighbor. Come learn about who God is for you, and how His will for your life - and your neighbors - is truly good.

Rev. Dr. Durance is the pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Harbor Beach, MI. You can reach him at pr.matthew.durance@gmail.com

D SC - Activity Room CD

E SC - Activity Room CD



Is our Bible the Bible?

Rev. Mark Eddy

Textual criticism is a field of investigation which tries to determine with the original Bible said. Over the centuries the Bible has been copied by hand, translated into various languages, and finally printed in thousands of forms. Some of the results of this process end up saying widely different things. How do we know if our Bible tells us what the original, divinely-inspired Bible said? We'll literally look at some ancient biblical texts and modern re-creations to see how fallible human beings have muddled but by no means obliterated the inspired, inerrant Word of God and the Gospel of Christ.

Rev. Eddy is the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Taylor Ridge, IL. You can reach him at markeddy@att.net

A SC - Illinois

B SC - Illinois

Dusting off Deuteronomy

Rev. Joel Fritsche

Deuteronomy is a series of sermons from Moses to a new generation of Israelites on the brink of entering the Promised Land. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other OT book. Why do some insist that it was written much later in Israel's history? What did it mean for the Israelites? What does it mean for you? Why does Moses tell the Israelites that someday they will eat their children? Getting hungry? Come dig into Deuteronomy and be strengthened in Jesus beyond reasonable doubt!

Rev. Fritsche is the Director of Vicarages and Deaconess Internships and Assistant Professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. You can reach him at fritschej@csledu

C Coates Student Center III Fiesta

E Parker 110

Babbling About Pronouns

Rev. Harrison Goodman

Transgender issues have devolved into a war over pronouns. Language matters. So calling it a war means something. It overlooks the fear, sin, shame. And in doing so, it overlooks any place to offer help and peace to sinners who need Jesus. It will change how we read the bible if we're not careful. Enter the Tower of Babel. In a war over language, we have assumed that sin muddled the language. Nope. God did that. The sin was what made Him do it. And He did it for their good. Language matters. So the Word is made flesh to dwell among and for sinners with confused language. He sends the Spirit on Pentecost to preach to them. And there is forgiveness and life.

Rev. Goodman is the content executive for Higher Things and a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, IA. You can reach Pastor Goodman at rev.goodman@higherthings.org.

A SC - Ballroom D

A Stieren Theater - Ruth Taylor Music Building

B Stieren Theater - Ruth Taylor Music Building

Hymnody: The Sung Apologetic

Vicar James Gramzow

It is easy to sing hymns on Sunday morning and, by the time the hymn is over, completely forget what we just sang. The language of our Lutheran Hymnody teaches our faith in nuanced and varied ways that give us words that both defend and express what it is we believe. Taking a careful look at the texts of some of our church's hymns, we will see how, by learning and singing our church's hymns, we constantly sharpen our language and understanding for defending the faith.

Vicar Gramzow is one of the Higher Things summer vicars. He's receiving his training from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. You can reach him at james.gramzow@ctsfw.edu

B SC - Delta
C Parkinson 202

B Center for Sciences and Innovation 437
D Center for Sciences and Innovation 437

The Great Litany. A Great Prayer!

Rev. Michael Grannis

Have you ever discussed someone's passing on Social Media or been talking to a friend AND HEARD, "WELL, HEAVEN HAS ANOTHER ANGEL" OR "NANA IS LOOKING DOWN ON US now." Due to paintings, stories, and the invention of TV, many of our ideas about Heaven, the Resurrection of the Dead, and Eternity have become confused. What questions do you have? What does the bible say about these things? What about our Creeds and Confessions? Join us as we search for answers about heaven and eternity.

Rev. Grannis is the pastor of Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lincoln Park, MI. You can reach him at revgrannis@gmail.com.

E Center for Sciences and Innovation 437

The Heavens Declare

Rev. Andrew Gray

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. You've heard these words from Psalm 19; how do they do this? The Scriptures and our hymnody often talk about this wonderful aspect of God's creation. What can we learn about creation from observing the heavens above? Are there aliens out there, and we just haven't found them yet? Are all these beautiful images we see from space just our imagination run amok? Let us discover together what the heavens can teach us about the creation and our place within it.

Rev. Gray is the pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Marengo, IA. You can reach him at pastorggray4@gmail.com

A SC - Activity Room CD
B SC - Activity Room CD



What Do I Do Now?

Rev. Joshua Haller

You've probably been asked this all your life: "What do you want to do when you grow up?" And now that you're almost all grown up, the question is getting more real. Often times, we answer this with a career choice, but perhaps, we should step back and first understand the God-given vocations that are set before us, as Luther teaches in the Table of Duties. In this breakaway, we will discover that a job won't define you, but rather, you are called by God to do so much more in this life.

Rev. Haller is the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Fairgrove, MI. You can reach him at pastorhaller19@gmail.com

A SC - Cambria

B SC - Cambria

Symbols, Stories, and Your Salvation

Rev. Sean Hansen

Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, and Atheists from around the world study at US universities. Through the power that raised Christ from the dead and equipped by the Holy Spirit, you can be a friend to an international student. Learn how to develop a friendship and deepen that friendship so that spiritual conversations can flow, while staying rooted in Christ. Of the 1 million international students in the US, about 600,000 come from countries which discourage or forbid gospel witness. While students are on US campuses, we have an open door to be their friend and share Christ's love. Will you, through intentional friendship, invite one of them to join you in having faith in Christ beyond reasonable doubt?

Rev. Hansen is the pastor of St Paul Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, IA. You can reach him at pastor@splcmv.org

A SC - Activity Room AB

B SC - Activity Room AB

You! An Intentional International Friend!

Dr. Sue Hasselbring

Deuteronomy is a series of sermons from Moses to a new generation of Israelites on the brink of entering the Promised Land. Jesus quotes Deuteronomy more than any other OT book. Why do some insist that it was written much later in Israel's history? What did it mean for the Israelites? What does it mean for you? Why does Moses tell the Israelites that someday they will eat their children? Getting hungry? Come dig into Deuteronomy and be strengthened in Jesus beyond reasonable doubt!

Dr. Hasselbring is a Ministry Catalyst for International Student Ministry and a member of St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO. You can reach her at sue@isminc.org

C Morris Library - Guyon

A Fellowship in Higher Things

Rev. Gerald Heinecke

I only need the church on Sunday! I'll put in my hour, maybe two, if I show up for Bible Study. That should be good, right? Well, maybe that's not been so helpful. We fill our lives with all sorts of activities and hobbies, but maybe something is missing. What is the apologetic of the purpose of the Church? Come and see the value of living life in the higher things.

Rev. Heinecke is the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Batesville, AR. You can reach him at pastor.heinecke@gmail.com

D SC - Illinois

E SC - Illinois

Jesus: In Full Color

Vicar Benjamin Heinz

White Jesus, Brown Jesus... what does it matter what Jesus looked like? And why do Christians depict Him so differently in art? What is a "graven image" anyway? Join as we take a look at depictions of Christ throughout the history of Christian art, learning what the heck we're supposed to do with our eyes in a religion that says: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

Vicar Heinz is one of the Higher Things summer vicars. He's receiving his training from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

A Parkinson 202

B Parkinson 202

A Richardson 320

B Richardson 320

You're Depressed, Now What?

Deac. Emma Heinz

Congratulations! You have depression! You are now faced with a million contradictory ideas about how you got depression, why you have it, and how to deal with it. Some people will say that medication will fix all your problems. Some people will say that just praying more will make it all better. How does a baptized child of God deal with depression? How should we view those who struggle with depression when their disorder leads to doubt or despair? How can a Christian faithfully suffer with depression? The short answer is through the work of the Holy Spirit, but if you would like a slightly longer answer, come on over.

Deac. Heinz is the registrar for Higher Things, and a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowell, IN. You can reach her at e.brauckman@gmail.com

D Neckers 240

E Neckers 240

D Center for Sciences and Innovation 448

E Richardson 320



The Journey Is Too Great

Rev. Rich Heinz

Ever feel like Elijah? Leaders, teachers, even friends all against you and the True God? You might not have a miraculous visit from an angel, but the Lord is sustaining you with His Word, and Bread from Heaven. Join Pastor Heinz as we discuss how Christ tells you, "Arise and eat," as He nourishes you with His Word, strengthens you with His Sacraments, and exercises that faith in prayer; and as we hear ways to increase the receiving of these Gifts, which give a foundation for faithful witnesses to "apologize."

Rev. Heinz is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lowell, IN. You can reach him at revfrhein@gmail.com

D SC - Delta

E SC - Delta

Christ's Love Through Mercy Care

Rev. Brian Heller

Christ's love is needed more than ever today. The LCMS Office of National Mission Human Care and Ministerial Support serves by bringing the love of Christ to others through mercy care. We educate and provide resources and opportunities for young people to serve the Church and their neighbors as they live out their baptismal identities in Christ. Join us as Rev. Brian Heller (Specialized Spiritual Care) and Deaconess Intern Kristin Freeman (Life Ministry) share opportunities for young people to serve in their homes, congregations, schools, and the community and be the light of Christ to others.

Rev. Heller is the Director of Specialized Pastoral Ministry, LCMS. You can reach him at brian.heller@lcms.org

C SC - Illinois

Lutheran Thrives in the Military

Rev. Dr. Steven Hokana

Scripture honors those who serve. We know of Centurions, Abraham and David. Martin Luther wrote on the vocation of military service with Romans 13 as the backbone of his work. If you are interested in the military this is for you. The session offers tips and ideas to assist you in the military. Service to God and Country will challenge you while it brings out the best in your physical strength and character. By grasping tight to the cross of Christ and relying on Him, the military is a place you can grow, serve, and thrive as a Lutheran Christian.

Rev. Dr. Hokana is the director of the Ministry to the Armed Forces through the LCMS in St. Louis. You can reach him at steven.hokana@lcms.org.

C SC - Old Main

That's My Favorite Bible Verse!

Rev. Bryan Hopfensperger

Do you have a favorite Bible verse? Great! Are you sure it's in the Bible though? There ARE a lot of favorite "Bible" verses floating around out there that aren't even in the Bible. Would you be surprised to know some of them are teaching things that directly contradict what Jesus says? Let's find out if your favorite Bible verse is in the Bible or not. If it isn't, let's discover what makes it so appealing. Then let's learn what God's Word does say!

Rev. Hopfensperger is the pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Sandusky, MI. You can reach him at revhopfensperger@gmail.com

A SC - Ohio

C SC - Mississippi

Why Date Within the Faith

Rev. Chris Hull

When you look at dating someone, what should be the most important thing? Should it be their looks? Should it be if they are an Astros fan, or suffer as a Cardinals fan? Should you consider their favorite food, or their least favorite movie? Or, should you consider first and foremost what they believe and practice? In this breakaway, Pastor Hull will walk through why it is important to date a Christian, and maybe even someone LCMS, because dating should lead to that guy or girl you desire to marry.

Rev. Hull is the pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX. You can reach him at luther1546@gmail.com.

C SC - Ballroom D

E SC - Ballroom D

Beyond Reasonable Doubt Every Week

Rev. Peter Ill

Doubts, fears, and concerns are packed around you all the time. But every week, your Lord comes to you with words of comfort and peace. Your doubts are driven away every week in the Divine Service. Every week is the time when your doubts are driven away, because the words of Scripture that are used in the liturgy of the Church drive away your fear. Through these words in the Church's liturgy, you live beyond a reasonable doubt. Come hear how exactly these Scriptural words work for you.

Rev. Ill is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt, IL. You can reach him at pastorpeterill@gmail.com.

D SC - Kaskaskia/Missouri

E SC - Kaskaskia/Missouri



Fireside Chat

Rev. Mark Jasa

Mark Jasa spends his days talking with people who don't believe in Jesus. Bring him your doubts. Your questions. Your fears. This fireside is a small group gathering where you'll have a safe, judgmental free place to ask questions you've wrestled with about your faith. Or, questions about anything. Come on. Let's chat.

Rev. Jasa is the pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Pasadena, CA. He also works to share the Gospel with students at UCLA by having meaningful, individual conversations with students as they walk around campus. You can reach him at markjasa@gmail.com.

E West Patio

E Chapel Garden

Angels - An Introduction

Rev. Todd Jerabek

Angels are pretty popular these days, but much of what is commonly believed isn't true. Luther urged us to pray in the morning and evening, "Let Your Holy Angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me." We'll give an overview of the big questions about angels: Who are they? What do they do? When were they created? Are all angels good? Do people become angels when they die? Does the ringing of a bell earn an angel his wings? Who is "the Angel of the Lord?" We'll also work to answer the questions you may have about angels.

Rev. Jerabek is the pastor of Zion, St. Peter, and St. John Lutheran Churches in Embarrass, WI. You can reach him at tjerabek@frontiernet.net.

B Neckers 240

C Neckers 440

The World of Duty

Rev. Travis Kleinschmidt

The Lord has placed you into this world in the context of your congregation, society, and your household. What duties do you have in each of these three? How does God's Word inform how you interact with people, how you treat them, and what you owe them? We'll look at the Table of Duties from the Small Catechism to see how you walk the path of righteousness in a world of duty.

Rev. Kleinschmidt is the pastor of St. Jakobi Lutheran Church in Shawano, WI. You can reach him at trkleinschmidt@gmail.com

C SC - Delta

E SC - Cambria

Jesus vs. the Jehovah's Witnesses

Rev. Eric Lange

What do Jehovah's Witnesses believe about Jesus and God? Why in the world isn't it obvious to Jehovah's Witnesses that Jesus is God? Why would anyone want to deny this basic biblical truth? Is there anything in how the Bible presents Jesus that might lead to confusion? What really is the Jehovah's Witnesses' ultimate authority? How does what they believe about the person of Jesus influence how they think about His work? Learn why it's important for you to know that Jesus is Jehovah, the ways that Jehovah's Witnesses respond to traditional proofs that Jesus is God, and how to talk to them about the true Jesus when they come knocking.

Rev. Lange is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gresham, OR. You can reach him at rdmr-lcms@juno.com

A SC - International West

B SC - International West

Basketball Jesus

Rev. Eli Lietzau & Mr. Patrick Sturdivant

Jesus and Michael Jordan meet on a basketball court for a little 1-on-1; first to 11, winner keeps ball. You're sitting on the sidelines for this once in a lifetime opportunity: the greatest basketball player in the history of the world vs. the Lord of all creation. Who is going to win? Will it even be close? ... Come join us as we talk about the Person of Christ, His divinity and His humanity, and what that has to say about and for you in the midst of your average, run-of-the-mill, spaghetti dinner life.

Patrick Sturdivant is the development executive of Higher Things and Rev. Lietzau is the pastor of Wheat Ridge Evangelical Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, CO. Patrick's a member at Zion Lutheran Church in Tomball, TX. You can reach Patrick at patrick@higherthings.org and Pastor Lietzau at pastorwrlutheran@gmail.com

A Laurie 110

B Laurie 110

What is a Deaconess, anyway?

Deac. Sarah Longmire

Are deaconesses 'wanna-be female pastors?' Are they current-day nuns? Do they live at church? What do deaconesses do anyway? In this breakaway, the gift of vocational roles, an understanding of mercy work, and a picture of the Office of Public Ministry, in connection to other church offices, will be explained and discussed. A clear explanation of the Office of Deaconess will be shared. But, most importantly, the grace and mercy given to all sinners, through Jesus and in Baptism, will be communicated, even as we look at gifts, vocational roles, and serving our neighbors.

Deac. Longmire serves St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lees Summit, MO. You can reach her at sarah.longmire@gmail.com

C SC - Thebes



Is Scripture Really Sufficient?

Rev. Dr. Korey Maas

Protestants proclaim together, "Scripture alone!" But the sad reality of thousands of Protestant denominations disagreeing with each other about what the Bible actually teaches can raise doubts about whether Scripture alone is really sufficient. Moreover, these doubts are often encouraged and exploited, e.g., by Roman Catholics hoping to win converts from Protestant churches. With reference to several common Roman Catholic arguments and objections, then, this presentation aims both to explain and to defend the particular Lutheran confession of Scripture's sole sufficiency.

Rev. Maas is the pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hillsdale, MI. You can reach him at kmaas@hillsdale.edu

A SC - Thebes

B SC - Thebes

Answers in Eschaton (Last Things)

Rev. Marcus Manley

What does the resurrection of the body mean? Will I be able to see Jesus' nail-marked hands in the resurrection like Thomas? What will my body be like in the resurrection if I am scarred, burned, have trans-surgery, have any surgery, die old/young, broke something, am fat/skinny, or have moles? Hear how God uses Martin Luther, Phillip Nicolai, and Johann Gerhard to prove the resurrection of the body (eyes, ears, and all your members) and why you can confess that the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting are most certainly true.

Rev. Manley is the pastor of Bethlehem and Zion Lutheran Churches in Altamont, IL. You can reach him at bzaltamontpastor@gmail.com

A SC - Mississippi

B SC - Mississippi

Deceptions of our War

Rev. Robert Mayes

Christians are at war - a spiritual war against the devil, the world, and our flesh. Doubt is one of the devil's greatest weapons. But there is a great help Christians have in Holy Baptism in this war, though you may not be aware of it. In this breakaway, we will look even deeper at the 4th chief part of the Small Catechism on Holy Baptism and how it teaches us to see through the enemies' lies. Much more than what you got in catechesis, you will be AMAZED (A-"Mayes"-ed?) how well this 4th chief part addresses your doubts.

Rev. Mayes is the pastor of Immanuel and Zion St. John Lutheran Churches in Beemer & Wisner, NE. You can reach him at revmayes@hotmail.com

D SC - Mississippi

E SC - Mississippi

Only Believers Have Doubts

Rev. Joseph McCalley

"I believe that I cannot believe" is actually great news! The world increasingly says, "I don't believe in God, but I miss Him." Why are believers haunted by doubt? Why are unbelievers haunted by faith? We've all heard someone say, "I'm spiritual but not religious." The Christian confesses, "Believing is impossible; I cannot do it by my own reason or strength." Both concede the desire to be certain about, well, something because we're all skeptics. Yet only the Christian be certain of unbelief and God's certain answer to doubt in Christ for you.

Rev. McCalley is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO. You can reach him at joseph.mccalley@gmail.com

B SC - Ohio

C SC - Ohio

Ars Moriendi - The Art of Dying

Rev. Michael Mohr

What lies in store for us after we die? What can we expect? Is there more? The resurrection of Christ answers these doubts and makes us all the stronger as we face the torments of each day. For millennia, the Church has woven this art of dying (Ars Moriendi) throughout her entire life – in her song, in the cycle of the year, in the way she gathers. Come - have your eyes opened to see this hidden art in plain sight by which the Church teaches her children, beyond all reasonable doubt, to rest in the peace of life eternal.

Rev. Mohr is the president of the Central Illinois District in Springfield, IL. You can reach him at mmohr@cidlcms.org

C SC - Auditorium

E SC - Auditorium

Did God Really Say?

Rev. Michael Mohr

With these words, the Serpent led Eve to sin. With these words, Satan continues to attack the Church and her foundation, the very Word of God. We address several of the most common objections people bring against the reliability of the text: a translation of a translation cannot be accurate, there are too many errors, there was too much time between the events described and the Bible's writing, and words were changed or added recently. Hear how you can respond to these continued lies of Satan and know beyond reasonable doubt the Biblical text is accurate.

Rev. Mohr is the president of the Central Illinois District in Springfield, IL. You can reach him at mmohr@cidlcms.org

A SC - Delta



The Large Catechism as an Apologetic Tool

Rev. Dr. John Pless

Luther's Small Catechism is well-known as it is used to instruct both children and adults prior to their admission to the Lord's Supper. Most Lutherans are less familiar with Luther's Large Catechism. Derived from Luther's sermons on the chief parts of Christian doctrine, the Large Catechism is a valuable tool to help Christians respond faithfully to any number of apologetic issues that they are likely to encounter. This session examines several of "the handles" that the Large Catechism gives us for this challenge.

Rev. Dr. Pless is the assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. He also serves on the board of directors for Higher Things and is a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, IN.

A Coates Student Center - 237 Waxahachie

B Coates Student Center - 237 Waxahachie

Confession and the Conscience

Ms. Paige Rebber

Why is it important to confess our sins? When we leave our sin unconfessed, it weighs on the conscience, burdening our hearts and souls with the Law. It makes us feel lost and alone, completely outside of the Grace of God. In this breakaway session, confession (both corporate and private) will be discussed in light of Law and Gospel. Confession is always followed by absolution, which gives us assurance that our sins are forgiven. This will be discussed in conjunction with the Lutheran Service Book and the Scriptures and how we are assured Beyond Reasonable Doubt that we are forgiven.

Paige is one of the Higher Things summer deaconess interns. She's receiving her training from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. You can reach her at paige.rebber@ctsfw.edu.

D SC - Ohio

E SC - Ohio

C Coates Student Center - 237 Waxahachie

E Center for Sciences and Innovation 448

To Be or Not to Be

Mr. Glenn Rollins

Have you thought about what career you want to pursue after high school? What line of work would give you purpose and meaning? Do you occasionally ponder serving the Lord in a full-time church work vocation? Have you considered how your gifts, talents, and abilities will impact the way that you can make a positive impact in this world? If you're a bit curious, come and explore the many ways you could serve as a full-time church worker in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Come and hear about your journey to making change in today's world.

Glenn is serving the synod in the Set Apart to Serve LCMS Church Worker Recruitment initiative. You can reach him at glenn.rollins@lcms.org

C SC - Activity Room CD

Youth Ministry 101

Mrs. Crysten Sanchez

Thinking about putting together a youth program can seem daunting. Let's be honest, if you were asked to build something from scratch with immediate success, it **WOULD** be daunting! There are a lot of building blocks that go into a healthy, sustainable, safe youth program. Crysten Sanchez, former youth coordinator at a church in Iowa, will walk you through the many pieces of the puzzle to do just that!

Crysten Sanchez is the events executive for Higher Things and is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, IA. You can reach her at csanchez@higherthings.org.

C SC - Activity Room AB

C Richardson 319

People Not Problems

Rev. Aaron Schian

In a world that is filled with words, words, and more words, we're daily bombarded with ideas and behaviors that conflict with (and maybe make us question) what we believe, teach, and confess. Often, our knee-jerk reaction is to get defensive with these folks and see them as problems that need fixing NOW. What if we saw these folks not as problems but as people? Not just any people, but those for whom Christ loved so much that He bled and died for them? How would that impact our reaction? How would that shape our goals in tough conversations?

Rev. Schian is the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, MI. You can reach him at aaronschian@yahoo.com

D Laurie 110

E Laurie 110

Can I trust the Bible since it's "full of errors"?

Rev. Joel Shaltanis

"The Bible is full of errors and hopelessly distorted." "The Bible is a collection of myths and stories." "Lost books of the Bible reveal new information about Jesus." These and other claims await you at your secular university. How will you respond? Will you keep quiet? Will you be embarrassed and think your faith is unintelligent and indefensible? How about firing back and helping people see that such claims against the Bible are just old clichés and anything but true? "Full of errors?" Hardly! Learn the facts and see for yourself.

Rev. Shaltanis is the pastor of Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Plano, TX. You can reach him at pastor-shaltanis@yahoo.com

C Richardson 320



How To Make A Catholic Lutheran

Rev. Brett Simek

Ever wish you knew more about what your Roman Catholic friends believed? Is there still a difference between being Roman Catholic and being Lutheran, or was that just a Reformation thing? Ever wish you knew a way to talk to them to get them to consider being Lutheran? Come and learn how to answer these questions as we consider what makes us distinctly Lutheran and how we can talk with our Roman Catholic friends about being Lutheran.

Rev. Simek is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Rantoul in Hilbert, WI. He is also the catechesis coordinator for Higher Things. You can reach him at brettsimek@higherthings.org

- A Neckers 440
- B Neckers 440

How God Works Evil

Rev. Brett Simek

Have you ever wondered why bad things happen? Isn't God in control of everything? If He is in control, does that mean the bad stuff that happens is His fault? Is it possible that God could be said to work evil? Or is it my fault somehow? The problem of evil has been a source of struggle and doubt for Christians even before the days of Christ. How can we keep the faith even in the face of evil? If you are looking for an answer, look no further than the cross. Come and see how God can be said to work evil, yet even in His most evil works, He brings the greatest comfort.

Rev. Simek is the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Rantoul in Hilbert, WI. He is also the catechesis coordinator for Higher Things. You can reach him at brettsimek@higherthings.org

- D Neckers 440
- E Neckers 440

Diaconal Ministry: Learning and Serving

Ms. Anika Slayton

Deaconess student intern Anika Slayton and Deaconess Sarah Longmire will talk about the similarities and differences between studying to become a deaconess and full-time service in the deaconess ministry. They will present the gift of this office by discussing vocational opportunities for women in the Church. They will explore this in light of student intern Anika's current education and Deaconess Sarah's current call. Through this discussion, the Gospel is the source of the love and mercy that deaconesses and students alike get to share through service to their neighbor.

Anika is one of the Higher Things summer deaconess interns. She's receiving her training from Concordia University Chicago in River Forest, IL

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| D SC - Thebes | D Richardson 319 |
| E SC - Thebes | E Richardson 319 |

Beyond Doubt in the Small Catechism

Rev. David Solum

Satan can attack Christians with doubt in a variety of different forms, but they usually boil down to two kinds: some doubt that they need God's grace, while others doubt that God is gracious. The Small Catechism is more than just a textbook to be used for a couple of years until Confirmation. It is a prayer book to combat spiritual doubt throughout one's lifetime. What does the Catechism say about doubt? How can it be used as a weapon against the devil and help us find true and lasting peace?

Rev. Solum is the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Michigan City, IN. You can reach him at solumdr@gmail.com

D SC - Activity Room AB

E SC - Activity Room AB

Trauma, Triggers, and Faith

Mrs. Erica Sorensen & Rev. Harrison Goodman

What is trauma and what does it mean when someone is triggered? What does either have to do with someone's faith? Come to this session with our executive director, Erica Sorensen and our content executive, Pastor Harrison Goodman to learn about the effects of violence and abuse on the mental and spiritual wellbeing of young people. According to the US Department of Health, more than two thirds of the nation's children report having experienced at least one traumatic event by age 16. Let's talk about where hope can be found, even in such dark places.

Erica Sorensen is the executive director and Rev. Goodman is the content executive for Higher Things. She's a member of First Lutheran Church in Fontana, CA and he's a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, IA. You can reach Erica at erica@higherthings.org and Pastor Goodman at rev.goodman@higherthings.org.

B SC - Ballroom D

E Ruth Taylor Recital Hall 114

Why Bodies Matter

Mrs. Erica Sorensen & Rev. Harrison Goodman

The devil will tell you that your body doesn't matter. It's not a new lie. Same lie, new generation. We spend hours each a day pretending not to feel alone while staring at a screen that "connect" us to 8 billion people. With online church, internet pornography, playing video games, "figuring out" your gender identity, AI doing your homework, and food devoid of nutrition, we have learned to live in a world that is disconnected and without meaningful touch. It changes us, how we see each other, and see life and death. We are disembodied and disconnected. Join Erica Sorensen and Harrison Goodman as they explore the disconnect and most importantly, the way Jesus unites Himself to us and each other through His incarnation.

Erica Sorensen is the executive director and Rev. Goodman is the content executive for Higher Things. She's a member of First Lutheran Church in Fontana, CA and he's a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mt. Vernon, IA. You can reach Erica at erica@higherthings.org and Pastor Goodman at rev.goodman@higherthings.org

D SC - Ballroom D

D Ruth Taylor Recital Hall 114



Coffee with Skeptics: Sharing your Faith with Those Who Doubt

Mr. Erick Sorensen

Learn how to begin conversations with skeptics and unbelievers, what tactics we can use to share our faith, and ultimately how to comfort those who are lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Erick Sorensen is host of the Law & Gospel Devotional, co-host of the 30 Minutes in the New Testament and Field Guide to the Bible podcasts and is co-author of Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on the Parables.

Erick Sorensen is in charge of Church Partnerships in the Development Department at 1517 and a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Fontana, CA. You can reach him at erick@1517.org

D Richardson 320
E Coates Student Center 111 Fiesta

Cantorology 101

Mr. Paul Soulek & Ms. Renata Peperkorn

Hear from Cantor Soulek and Cantoral Intern Renata Peperkorn about the what, why, AND how of church music. What do church musicians do? Why do we sing the things we sing? How do we equip God's people to do this? Participants will join in choral warmups, hymn selection exercises, and will also dive into the basics of the pipe organ and its role in supporting the congregation's song.

Paul Soulek is the cantor of St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, NE. He also serves as the cantor for Higher Things. Renata is Higher Things Summer Cantoral Intern. You can reach Paul at paul.soulek@stjohnseward.org and Renata at renatapeperkorn@me.com

B Shryock Theater
D Shryock Theater

C Parker Chapel

Hymnody: The Rest of the Story

Mr. Paul Soulek & Ms. Renata Peperkorn

Join Cantor Paul Soulek and Cantoral Intern Renata Peperkorn on a journey through the hymns used in this year's Higher Things conference. We'll examine the backgrounds of composers and authors, the Biblical texts that inspired their words, and the ways in which these hymns address our present-day doubt with the promises of God.

Paul Soulek is the cantor of St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, NE. He also serves as the cantor for Higher Things. Renata is Higher Things Summer Cantoral Intern. You can reach Paul at paul.soulek@stjohnseward.org and Renata at renatapeperkorn@me.com

C Shryock Theater
E Shryock Theater

A Richardson 319
B Richardson 319

Faith and Reason: A Scientist's Perspective

Dr. Bryan Stearns

Do faith and reason contradict? Absolutely not! God is the author of reason, and He's a lot smarter than you or me. We have to go to school to learn how to reason! When people try to use reason to argue against God, their logic is bound to fail. The best source of truth is the Author Himself. Come hear a scientist use reason as "a servant of the text" to illumine the fallacies of three common arguments against the truth of God's Word: the Problem of Evil, the Age of the Universe, and the Blindness of Faith.

Dr. Stearns is a member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Overland, MO. You can reach him at stearns@umich.edu

A Morris Library - Guyon

B Morris Library - Guyon

Dr. Strange and the Multiverse of Gladness

Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

We are all doctors of gladness, hope, and peace in this broken world full of despairing souls. The apology (defense) of the Gospel is strange to those who have no hope or hope in their own good works. So, it is important to have a strong understanding from Scripture and a bold confession of the hope that is within you to share at work. Join Tracey Dann, Chair of a Language Arts Department; Scot Dobbs, Lutheran Elementary Teacher; Kurt Rouser, Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, and Lorien Petersen, DCE, as we talk about how we share this strange but wonderful message of hope and peace in Christ with people at work.

Rev. Sturzenbecher is the pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. He also serves as the vice president of the Higher Things board of directors. You can reach him at dslcpsturz@divineshep.org

A SC - Old Main

B SC - Old Main

Professor Strange in the Multiverse of Gladness

Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher

We are all professors of gladness, hope, and peace in this broken world full of despairing souls. The apology (defense) of the Gospel is strange to those who have no hope or hope in their own good works. So, it is important to have a strong understanding from Scripture and a bold confession of the hope that is within you to share at work, with your friends, and even with your family. Join Becky Clausen, strength instructor; Mollie Hemmingway, editor-in-chief of The Federalist; Devin Jackson, EMT firefighter, and David Zilz, research engineer, as we talk about how we share this strange but wonderful message of hope and peace in Christ with people at work and the world.

Rev. Sturzenbecher is the pastor of Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church. He also serves as the vice president of the Higher Things board of directors. You can reach him at dslcpsturz@divineshep.org

A Coates Student Center 111 Fiesta

B Coates Student Center 111 Fiesta



Making Sense of My Calling(s)!

Rev. Dr. Gregory Truwe

With so many demands on your time and energy, it can become confusing to know exactly what it is that the LORD has given you to do. You're a son or a daughter and a student. You might have a job, or have teammates. You most definitely have friends and neighbors. Through the lens of the Three Estates, Pastor Truwe will help you discover the biblical clarity provided when you know your office(s) and the duties the LORD has attached to it. How about that! Did you know that you have an office?! Or even a few of them?!

Rev. Truwe is the Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp, MO. You can reach him at pastortruwe@gmail.com

C SC - Cambria
D SC - Cambria

When Cultures Clash

Rev. Daniel Voth

Two parties. One filled with doubt, fear of losing power, regret, and death. One filled with steadfastness, peace, tranquility, and life. There is a culture clash that comes through so strong in only 30 verses of Mark 6:14-42. And what does it have to say for you, dear Christian, as you face clashes with the culture around you? How can examining this clash strengthen faith the trusts Christ beyond all reasonable doubt in the face of opposition and hostility. Come join me as we investigate from the Scriptures what happens When Cultures Clash.

Rev. Voth is the pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Grand Forks, ND. You can reach him at voth@immanuelgf.org

D SC - International West
E SC - International West

The Resurrection X-Files

Rev. Jeffrey Ware

Were the disciples haunted by Jesus' ghost? Did Jesus secretly have an identical twin brother? Was the empty tomb the greatest hoax ever pulled off in history? Was it all a governmental conspiracy? Was Jesus an alien from outer space? We'll dig deep into the resurrection x-files to examine these alternative theories to the bodily resurrection of Jesus and more. Some are strange. Some are spooky. Some are serious challenges to the Christian faith in the resurrected Lord Jesus. The truth is out there, it can be known, and it makes all the difference in the world.

Rev. Ware is the pastor of All Saints Lutheran Church in Charlotte, NC. He also serves on the board of directors for Higher Things. You can reach him at rev.ware@higherthings.org.

A SC - Kaskaskia/Missouri
C SC - International West

A Parker 110
B Parker 110

How to Read the Psalms in Six Easy Steps

Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller

The Psalms are a treasure, but the poetry is often difficult to understand. Everyone likes a list, right? We will talk about six questions to ask each Psalm, and we'll practice reading a few.

Rev. Wolfmueller is the pastor of St Paul & Jesus Deaf Lutheran Churches in Austin, TX. He is one of the plenary speakers for the Beyond Reasonable Doubt Conference in San Antonio, TX. You can reach him at bwolfmueller@gmail.com

D Stieren Theater - Ruth Taylor Music Building

E Stieren Theater - Ruth Taylor Music Building

Miracles, the Mind, and Meaning

Dr. David Zilz

Skepticism toward the Bible often centers on the miracle stories, which sound more like fairy tales than reality. How can a Christian come to terms with miracle accounts such as the resurrection in a skeptical culture? Based on years of research and his own journey with doubt, Dr. David Zilz will discuss how miracles, ancient and modern, satisfy both the mind's quest for certainty and the soul's hunger for meaning, encouraging the audience to have a holistic view of the Gospel that speaks to both the heart and the mind.

Dr. Zilz is a member of Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Fairborn, OH. You can reach him at davidpzilz@hotmail.com

C Ruth Taylor Recital Hall 114

D Coates Student Center - 111 Fiesta

Does God Exist?

Rev. Aaron Zimmerman

Does God exist? Have you ever had a conversation or a debate with someone who didn't believe in the existence of God? Bring your Bibles to this session as we look at four arguments for the existence of God from creation, the existence of the soul, morals and the historical account of Christ's life, death, and resurrection. We will look at the Biblical foundations for these arguments, how they help us "make a defense to anyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that is in you" (1 Peter 3:16) and how they all point to Jesus Christ the Savior of the world!

Rev. Zimmerman is the pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Farnhamville, IA. You can reach him at pastorzimmerman2019@gmail.com

B SC - Kaskaskia/Missouri

C SC - Kaskaskia/Missouri





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“I first learned about Valpo’s unique combination of engineering and music at Higher Things at Valpo in 2017. Since coming here for mechanical engineering, I love having philosophical discussions through Christ College — The Honors College, leading robotic football, singing in the Chorale, playing the organ, composing music, and much more. I can not think of another place that can combine engineering and the arts as well as Valpo.”

— **Johnathan Clayton '23**

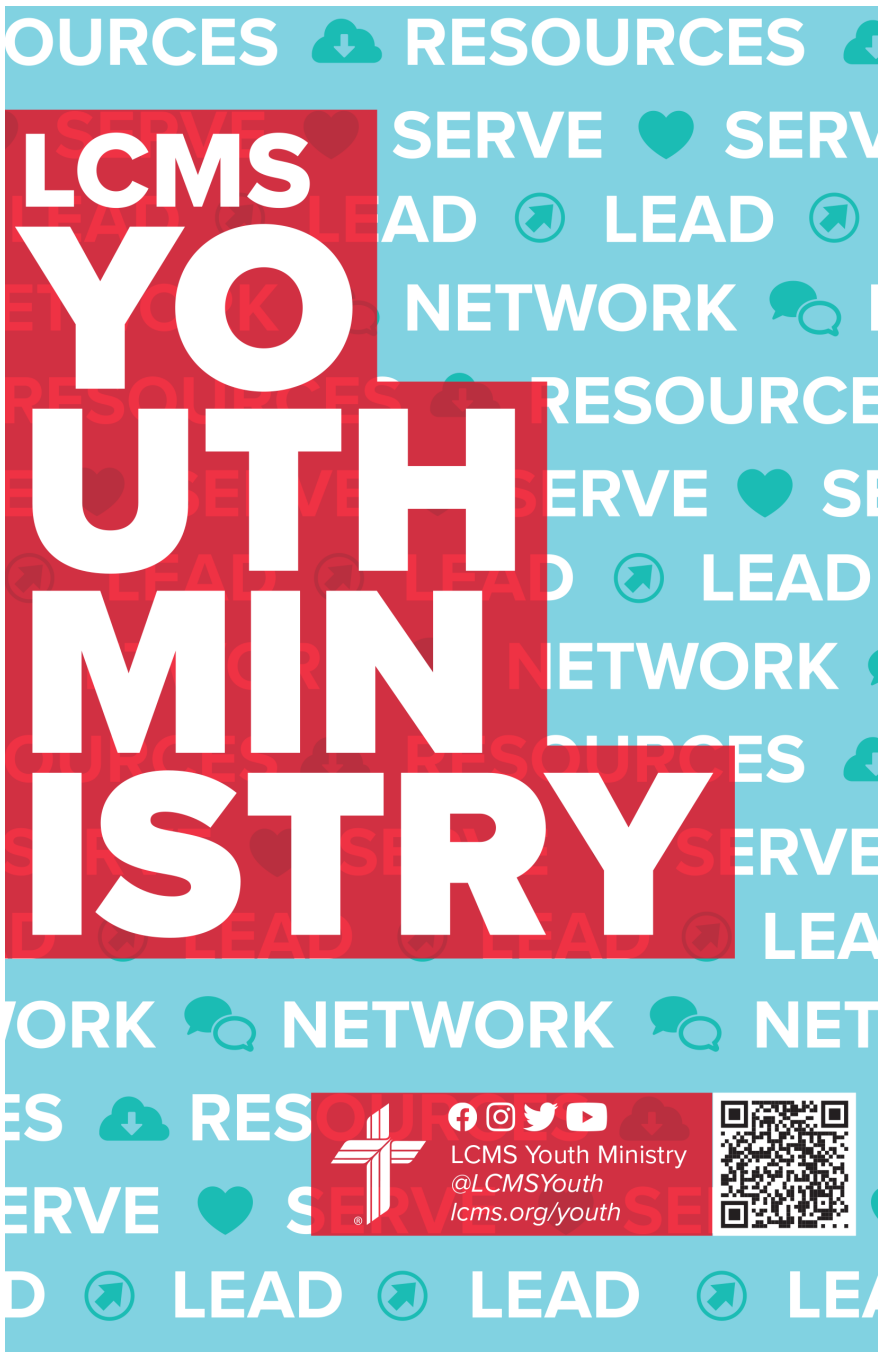
Major: Mechanical engineering

Hometown: Mascoutah, Ill.



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Lutheran Church** - Fairview Heights, IL -- **Bethany Lutheran Church** - Naperville, IL -- **Bethel Lutheran Church** - Du Quoin, IL // Howard City, MI -- **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** - Sylvan Grove, KS // Morristown, MN // Bremen, MS -- **Bethlehem/Zion Lutheran Church** - Altamont, IL -- **Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church** - Lincoln Park, MI -- **Calvary Lutheran Church** - Topeka, KS // Elgin, IL // Wray, CO // Rio Rancho, NM -- **Christ Lutheran Church** - Normal, IL // Platte Woods, MO // O'Neill, NE // Anderson, IN // Stevenesville, MI // Nebraska City, NE // Avon Park, FL -- **Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church** - Freeburg, IL -- **Concordia Lutheran Church** - Sikeston, MO // Geneseo, IL // Williston, ND // Fonthill, ON, CAN -- **Divine Shepherd Lutheran Church** - Black Hawk, SD -- **Ebenezer Lutheran Church** - Greensboro, NC -- **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** - Colombo, Sri Lanka -- **Faith Ev. Lutheran Church** - Churubusco, IN -- **Faith In Christ Lutheran Church** - Portales, NM -- **Faith Lutheran Church** - Plano, TX // Green Bay, WI // Pierre, SD // Sequim, WA // Kitchener, ON, CAN // Moorpark, CA // Sullivan, IL // Owasso, OK -- **First Lutheran Church** - Tahlequah, OK -- **First Trinity Lutheran Church** - Beatrice, NE -- **Glory of Christ Lutheran Church** - Plymouth, MN -- **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** - Collinsville, IL // Boise, ID // Florence, KY // Salem, VA // Mt. Pleasant, TX // Cass City, MI -- **Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church** - Fairgrove, MI // Tulsa, OK -- **Grace Lutheran Church** - Rialto, CA // Midland, TX // Neligh, NE // Elgin, TX // San Marcos, TX // Albuquerque, NM // Clarksville, TN // Columbus, IN // Auburn, MI // Knoxville, TN -- **Holy Cross Lutheran Church** - Warda, TX // Vandalia, IL // O'Fallon, MO // White, IA // Carlisle, IA // Moline, IL -- **Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church** - Haslet, TX -- **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church** - Watertown, CT // Farnhamville, IA // Hacienda Heights, CA -- **Hope Lutheran Church** - High Ridge, MO // Jerseyville, IL // St. Louis, MO // Montrose, CO -- **Immanuel & St. Paul's Lutheran Churches** - Atkinson, NE -- **Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church** - Terre Haute, IN // Alexandria, VA -- **Immanuel Lutheran Church** - Columbus, NE // Broken Arrow, OK // Eagle, NE // Michigan City, IN // Simsonville, SC // Grand Forks, ND // Altamont, IL // Fairview, TX // Beemer, NE // Salisbury, MO // Rock Island, IL // Wichita, KS // Hankinson, ND // Wheeler, MI -- **Kongsvinger Lutheran Church** - Oslo, MN -- **Lamb of God Lutheran Church** - Papillion, NE -- **Lord of Life Lutheran Church** - Plano, TX // **Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer** - Kokomo, IN -- **Lutheran Church of Our Savior** - Santa Maria, CA -- **Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word** - Florence, SC -- **Memorial Lutheran Church** - Houston, TX -- **Messiah Lutheran Church** - Danville, CA // Mandan, ND -- **Mount Calvary Lutheran Church** - Excelsior Springs, MO // La Grange, TX // San Antonio, TX -- **Mt. Hulda Lutheran Church** - Cole Camp, MT -- **Mt. Olive Lutheran Church** - Metairie, LA // Corpus Christi, TX // Billings, MT // Loveland, CO // Pasadena, CA -- **Northeast Kansas Partnership** - Hiawatha, KS -- **Oak Road Lutheran Church** - Lilburn, GA -- **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church** - Dallas, TX // Custer, SD // Cedar Falls, IA // Overland, MO // Dubuque, IA -- **Our Savior Lutheran Church** - Cavalier, ND // Houston, TX // Milford, IL // Grand Rapids, MI // Caruthers, CA -- **Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, U.A.C.** - Chehalis, WA -- **Peace Lutheran Church** - Sandusky, MI // Windsor, MI // Finlayson, MN -- **Peace with Christ Lutheran Church** - Fort Collins, CO -- **Pilgrim Lutheran Church** - Decatur, IL -- **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church** - Batesville, AR -- **Redeemer Lutheran Church** - Gresham, OR // Catawba, NC // Bartlesville, OK // Highland, IN // New Ulm, MN // Gresham, OR -- **Risen Savior Lutheran Church** - Basehor, KS -- **St. Athanasius Lutheran Church** - Fairfax, VA -- **Salem Lutheran Church** - Taylorsville, NC -- **Shepherd of Peace Lutheran Church** - Maumelle, AR -- **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church** - Snohomish, WA // Centennia, CO // Sycamore, IL -- **St. Jakobi Lutheran Church** - Shawano, WI -- **St. James Lutheran Church** - Lexington, TX -- **St. John Lutheran Church** - Chester, IL // Lake Charles, LA // Westphalia, KS // Clinton, IA // Denver, IA -- **St. John's Lutheran Church** - Vernon Center, MN // Hastings, IA // Marengo, IA // Corcoran, MN // Galva, IA -- **St. Lucas Lutheran Church** - Saint Louis, MO -- **St. Luke Lutheran Church** - Brazoria, TX -- **St. Mark Lutheran Church** - Conroe, TX // Waco, TX -- **St. Matthew Lutheran Church** - Lee's Summit, MO // Conway, AR // Almena, WI -- **St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield** - Houston, TX -- **St. Paul Ev. Lutheran Church** - Austin, TX // Council Bluffs, IA // Preston, KS -- **St. Paul Lutheran Church** - Gatesville, TX // Parkersburg, OH // Spearfish, SD // Austin, TX // Mount Vernon, IA // Cassopolis, MI // Decatur, IN // Rockford, IL // Wellston, OK // Austin, TX // Phoenix, AZ // Hillsdale, MI // Columbia, IL // Haven, KS // Grants Pass, OR -- **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** - Truman, MN -- **St Peter Lutheran Church** - Huntington, IN -- **St. Peter's Lutheran Church** - Saint Peter, IL -- **Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Glen Savage** - Fairhope, PA -- **Trinity Lutheran Church** - Dime Box, TX // Lebanon, MO // Coon Rapids, IA // Murdock, NE // Lowell, IN // Wichita, KS // Tyler, TX // Norman, OK // Springfield, MO // El Paso, IL // Wautoma, WI // Columbia, MO // Waterville, MN // Sheldon, WI // Sheboygan, WI // Reese, MI // Norborne, MO // Garden City, KS // Cole Camp, MO // Stewardson, IL // Waterville, MN // Clinton, IA // Salina, KS // Saint Charles, MO // Fairfield, TX // Millstadt, IL // Austin, TX -- **Village Lutheran Church** - Ladue, MO -- **Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church** - Tomball, TX // Garrett, IN // Tacoma, WA // Taylor Ridge, IL -- **Zion Lutheran Church** - Omaha, NE // Kearney, NE // Embarrass, WI // Rapid City, SD // Grant Park, IL // Harbor Beach, MI // Mascoutah, IL // Naperville, IL // Marshall, MI // Accident, MA --