

Tell the Next Generation: A Family Ministry Conference

March 9, 2019 | Zion Lutheran Church | St. Charles, MO



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

“He established written instructions for Jacob’s people. He gave his teachings to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to make them known to their children so that the next generation would know them. Children yet to be born would learn them. They will grow up and tell their children to trust God, to remember what he has done, and to obey his commands.”

—Psalm 78:5-7

SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m.	Welcome and Introductions
9:15 a.m.	Bible Study: Rev. Dr. W. Mart Thompson
9:45 a.m.	Plenary I: Dr. Kim Marxhausen "Teach Them to Your Children" Part 1
10:30 a.m.	Break
10:45 a.m.	Sectional One
11:30 a.m.	Break
11:45 a.m.	Sectional Two
12:30 p.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	Plenary II: Dr. Kim Marxhausen "Teach Them to Your Children" Part 2
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:15 p.m.	Sectional Three
3:00 p.m.	Closing in Sanctuary

"Once we accept that the task of teaching the faith to children belongs to parents, our understanding of the responsibility of the Church radically changes. Everything we do for parents must model active practice, while supporting them in this task."
—Dr. Kim Marxhausen

"TEACH THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN" PARTS I & II

Children's parents are their first and best teachers, especially when it comes to sharing the faith. God designed our brains and hearts to learn best within a family setting, and the church can do much to support parents. In our plenary sessions, we will explore how faith teaching is essential to a child's spiritual and emotional well-being. We will learn how God cultivates resilience through the teaching of His Word. The goal of these sessions is to give you much to think and pray about as you build family and child ministry in your church.

DR. KIM MARXHAUSEN, KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Marxhausen is a Lutheran educator of more than 30 years. While teaching early childhood, she earned a Masters in Literacy Instruction and then a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology. She currently teaches and designs classes for graduate programs and presents for teachers all over the country. Kim has published two books through Concordia Publishing House. She writes Parent Pages for LCMS School Ministry and her third book, Weary Joy: God's Blessings for Caregivers should be available later this year. You are welcome to check out her parenting blog, devotional blog, and ministry resources at kim.marxhausen.net.

Follow her on Twitter
[@KimMarxhausen](https://twitter.com/KimMarxhausen)



SECTIONAL ONE

10:45 A.M.

Early Childhood Education: Friend or Foe? Cheryl Haun & Lee Wagner

School, church and early childhood programs: are we friends or foes? Join us for an opportunity to learn about quality early childhood partnerships from your colleagues. We will use our time together to exchange questions and answers regarding the challenges and joys of ministering to our young learners and their families.

Milestone Ministry: Equipping Families to Grow in Faith Bethany Andrews, DCE

Milestone Ministry focuses on different faith milestones children meet throughout their lives. As a church family, we have the opportunity to come alongside children as they learn and to celebrate these moments. This session will give you an overview of a couple different ways to approach Milestone Ministry in your church. We will share one congregation's story of implementing Milestone Ministry, with the goal of equipping parents and families to teach their children and continue growing together in faith at home with some simple, hands-on ways to connect.

The Character Formation Project Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner

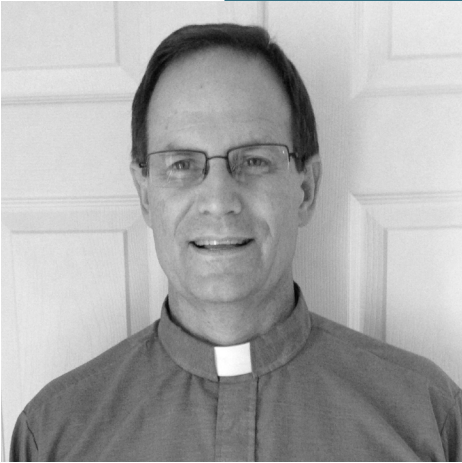
Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner shares insights from the Character Formation Project, a Christian program that serves children across the nation and world to grow in their character in Christ.

Family Life in the Trenches Rachel Brandon

How does a momma with a Family Life Ministry degree use her training in day-to-day parenting? Rachel Brandon, a momma of three young boys presents some practical, everyday ways to share Jesus at home.

REV. DR. W. MART THOMPSON, BIBLE STUDY LEADER

Rev. Dr. W. Mart Thompson is a Theology professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and the Director of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program. He encourages a family-centered and church-supported paradigm for raising children as disciples of Jesus Christ. Prior to this, he served as a parish pastor for 28 years, where he learned and applied this approach to family ministry. He is the past administrator of the Gateway Family Friendly Partners Network and is currently an Ambassador for the Concordia Center for the Family. He is husband to Cheryl, and together they have been blessed to raise Marie, Adam, and Will in the Christian faith.



Models and Tools for Passing Down the Faith to our Children Rev. Steve Andrews

In His Word, God is clear that it's the parents' responsibility to teach their children about who God is and what He's done for them. But what does passing down the faith to our children actually look like? Sit in as Rev. Steve Andrews shares what tools are available to you, how to incorporate God into every day conversations and some ideas for ways to start creating habits around the family devotion. You're not in this alone!

Generation to Generation: Equipping Families in Small Town Congregations Tessa Brasher

Equipping rural and small town families to teach the faith to the next generation in their homes has a ripple effect that brings ministry to communities. Join this interactive session as we explore family ministry in small town areas, how to bring awareness to parents, creative ways to engage families (and the community) and outside resources to help begin intentional family ministry. Attendees will receive five principles and four keys of information, along with examples of implementation in small town settings, as well as resources to take home.

SECTIONAL TWO

11:45 A.M.

Faith Development
Dr. Kim Marxhausen

We all watch faith develop in children and recognize the work of the Spirit. In this sectional, we will talk about how God developed our brains and the tools He has given us to learn and teach the faith. Use these principles to design programs that equip parents to teach their children about God and the importance of a living faith.

Shaping the Faith Through Song: Music as a Tool for Teaching
Rev. Elden Kohn

After considering some general observations and developmental points regarding children and music, this sectional will explore a selection of what musical resources are available and how they might be utilized within the congregational and home setting to shape young saints as they grow in Christ.

Collaboration vs. Competition
Rev. Todd Kollbaum and Angela Kollbaum
Are you experiencing declining Sunday school attendance? Is it harder to get teachers? Join us as we discuss options and possibilities for family ministry in your congregation.

Children’s Ministry Outside the Box
Larry Yochum

What do you do when traditional Sunday morning children’s ministry is not an option anymore or possible? We will discuss how to view children’s ministry in your setting and dream of possibilities of where to start.

Kids in Worship?
Andrew Nelson and Jolene Siebarth

Let’s be honest...sitting with (or near) kids in worship can be a real struggle, but it’s part of God’s call for us as parents, congregations, and caregivers to make sure they hear the Word of God regularly. Join the discussion as we share research, tools, and resources related to children in worship so we can answer God’s call to **Tell the Next Generation** of His grace, love, and forgiveness.

Equipping Parents to Lead the Faith at Home
Rev. Pete Jurchen

Most church leaders acknowledge that the primary responsibility for ongoing teaching of the faith to children belongs to parents. At the same time, these church leaders also admit this is a pain point in congregations. Many parents do not see the gravity of their responsibility, and even if they do, parents often don’t feel educated, equipped, or empowered to lead the faith at home. This session will not provide all the answers to this issue. Instead, we’re offering a discussion on equipping the heads of households to instruct their children, using research on adult education and Lutheran theology.



SECTIONAL THREE

2:15 P.M.

Family Ministry: Getting Started
Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan

This sectional will be an introduction to family ministry basics. It will cover how congregations of any size equip families to teach the faith in the home. It will also include an overview of how the Missouri District can assist your congregation in getting started in family ministry.

The Character Formation Project
Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner

Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner shares insights from the Character Formation Project, a Christian program that serves children across the nation and world to grow in their character in Christ.

Early Childhood—Baptism and Sunday School
Rev. Andy Becker and Haley Link

We can all acknowledge the importance of children being baptized, but is there a best practice to keep kids in the church post baptism? Pastor Becker and DCE Haley Link think so! They will outline baptism strategies and early childhood Sunday School. Come learn some practical ways to get young families in your doors and keep them!

Family Ministry On a Tight Budget
Andrea Roettger

Are you from a small church, a rural church, an urban church or a church with limited resources? Learn and discuss how to creatively stretch a buck to help fund family ministry in your congregation.

Small Church, Big Impact—Creating Opportunities to Connect
Tessa Brasher

Small town churches sometimes feel limited in their ability to do children’s ministry, youth ministry, family ministry and community outreach. However, small town churches have unique opportunities to build relationships to further further God’s Kingdom. We will walk together through traditions, summer programs and community outreach, see examples of small church ministry successes in these areas and find ways to implement ideas into ministry back home.

Family Ministry as Outreach
Brandon Metcalf

Want to reach out to your community? Want to reconnect with your inactive or marginally active members? Family ministry is one of the best ways to do that, because people, both inside and outside the church, want help with their families. This session will focus on creative, simple, and practical ways that you can use family ministry to reach out to people of all engagement levels in your congregation.



SECTIONAL SPEAKERS

Bethany Andrews, DCE

Bethany currently serves as the Children's Ministry Director at Zion Lutheran Church and School in St. Charles, MO. She primarily works with children, Jr. High aged and under, and families through Sunday School, Milestone Ministry, Vacation Bible School, Family Events, Confirmation and Jr. High Youth Group. In her time at Zion, she's been a part of developing and establishing the Milestone Ministry. It is a joy to serve the Lord through this ministry!

Rev. Steve Andrews, Jr.

Steve serves as the Associate Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, MO. He oversees Christian Education, including youth and families. One of his accomplishments is the Faith Legacy series of milestones, which equips parents to teach the faith to their children, using God's Word, the Small Catechism and a hymnal. The Lord has blessed him with a wonderful wife, Hannah, and entrusted them to raise their three daughters to know Christ, trusting in Him above all things.

Rev. Andy Becker

Andy serves as Family Life Pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Arnold, MO and has a Masters in Family Life Ministry. Andy is also the husband of Nikki and dad to their boys Nathan and Micah. He loves music, playing games and sports of all kinds.

Rachel Brandon

Rachel was trained as a Director of Family Life Ministry at CUAA. She served as a Director of Family Life Ministry at St. Paul's Concordia in 2008-2009. She has volunteered at congregations in several states since her husband began seminary. She is passionate about equipping and encouraging parents to **Tell the Next Generation**. Family Life Ministry took on a whole new meaning in 2013 with their son Kent, his brother Alex in 2014 and then Joel in 2016. Most nights she goes to bed exhausted and sometimes sticky but so very blessed to know "my boys are known and loved by Jesus and they know and love Him too."

Tessa Brasher, DCE

Tessa is the DCE of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lafe, AK, working with children's and youth ministry. She has also served as the Mid-South District Board of Directors and as the Family Ministry Advisory Committee Chair. She has also served as the Mid-South District Network Administrator for Generation to Generation and a Mid-South District Pilot Initiative in partnership with Concordia Center for the Family-Family Friendly Partners Network (CCF-FFPN).

Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan

Lee was elected as the fifth president of the Missouri District-LCMS in 2015. He is a 1992 graduate of Concordia College (now University), Seward, Nebraska. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis with a Master of Divinity in 1996 and Doctor of Ministry in 2011. He served as associate pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Evansville, Indiana from 1996-2002. In 2002, he was called to serve as senior pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia where he served until his election as district president. He also served as the Interim Director of LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission from 2011-2012. He has written articles for Lutheran Witness, Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly, Concordia Pulpit Resources and Missio Apostolica and developed the forthcoming, "Shepherding the Strays" module as part of the LCMS Re:Vitality training courses. Dr. Hagan is married to Jill (nee Johnson), who works as a speech-language pathologist. They have two children, Caroline and Jack.

Rev. Dr. Matthew Hoehner

Matthew serves as the Regional Executive Director of Open Sky Education, leading the development of a region of EAGLE Charter Schools and Compass Christian Educational Programs in St. Louis, establishing four programs since 2019. Matt also develops content for the Character Formation Project. He received a Master of Divinity, a Master of Sacred Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry in Missional Leadership from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Rev. Pete Jurchen

Pete is an editor of curriculum resources at Concordia Publishing House. In addition to his MDiv, he has an MS Ed in Curriculum Leadership and enjoys the pursuit of lifelong learning. Currently, he is working on completion of an EdD degree, focusing on the art and science of teaching adults. He is honored to serve the congregations of the LCMS by equipping and partnering with its households in engaging their God-given vocations. He lives in Imperial, Missouri, with his wife, Deb, and their four children.

Rev. Elden Kohn

Husband to Molly since July 11, 2008, father of four (Matthias 7, Eleanor 6, Nehemiah 3, and Micah 1), and a pastor at Zion Lutheran in Macon since July 2013. As a child of God, Elden daily shares and expresses his faith in Christ through song and has found an effective and joyous way of nurturing his family and congregation, as well.

Angela Kollbaum

Angela is the Congregational Life Facilitator at Bethlehem Lutheran in Warrensburg and the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran-Concordia.

Rev. Todd Kollbaum

Tood is the Director of LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission.

Haley Link, DCE

Haley is the Director of Children's Ministry (DCE) at St. John's Lutheran in Arnold, MO. Haley works with children from birth to fourth grade, as well as their families. She loves donuts and Netflix.

Brandon Metcalf

Brandon served as a Director of Christian Education from 2013-18 in Lake Ozark, MO, where he worked to build a new ministry to families, leading family Bible class, creating devotional resources, and equipping families to make disciples in their homes. He wrote the chapter on "Teaching the Faith to Young People" in CPH's upcoming book, Youth Ministry 101. He is currently in his first year at Concordia Seminary studying to become a pastor. His best ministry partners are his wife, Dana, and their two-year-old son Benjamin.

Andrew Nelson, DCE

Andrew serves as the Youth and Family Life Director at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church (St. Peters). He is a graduate of Concordia University (Seward, NE) and earning a Master of Arts in Theology from Concordia University (Irvine, CA). He has been married for nine years and has two daughters, ages four and two and a half.

Andrea Roettger, DCE

Andrea coordinates Family Ministry at Trinity in St Louis. Throughout her career she has served congregations on the beach, in the suburbs and, now, inner city.

Jolene Siebarth, DCE

DCE Jolene Siebarth has served in DCE ministry since 1999. She spent 15 years as a DCE to Children, Youth and Families at Glendale Lutheran Church and currently serves as the Director of Youth Ministries at Immanuel Lutheran Church (St. Charles). She is a graduate of Concordia University Chicago, where she received her DCE certification and Master of Arts in Religion.

Cheryl Haun and Lee Wagner

Cheryl is the Early Childhood Education Director at Zion Lutheran and Lee Wagner is the Early Childhood Education Director at Immanuel in St. Charles. Cheryl and Lee serve as co-consultants for the Missouri District and serve at their schools as full-time Early Childhood Directors. Together they have 53 years of experience in teaching and leading ECE programs in Lutheran ministry. They look forward to sharing and discussing different approaches to quality, faith-based programming for ECE families and their children.

Larry Yochum, DCE

Larry has been a DCE for 16 years, serving in a smaller Michigan congregation, a congregation in Iowa and currently at St. John's-Arnold focused in youth ministry. As a DCE he has served as a generalist supporting children's ministry, youth ministry, adult ministry and more! He has a passion for the next generation, families, and church workers. Larry is a father of three children and has been married for almost 15 years.



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

WHY IS TEACHING THE FAITH IN THE HOME SO IMPORTANT?

BY REV. DR. LEE HAGAN

There are three compelling reasons why the Church should devote energy and resources to equipping families to teach the faith in the home.

First, God's Word establishes the paradigm of parents teaching the faith to their children in Deuteronomy 6. What is described in those verses is not a naïve description of families that are completely unfamiliar to us today, but rather families that are on the move. God's design for families is that His Word is to be regularly taught by those whom God has given charge of His children.

Another reason why the Church should equip families to teach the faith in the home flows from Martin Luther's charge in his Small Catechism. When Luther witnessed the deplorable conditions of the churches in Germany in his day, he set out to develop a tool for families to use in teaching children within the home. His vision, rooted in the Scriptures, was for parents to teach their children to pray and the basics of the Christian faith. From the early days of the Reformation, Lutherans have sought to equip families to teach and pray the faith in the home.

Lastly, research continues to bear out that families are the primary influences on children and youth. The Search Institute 2008 study "With Their Own Voices," states, "Because of the pivotal role of family in child and adolescent development, it is not surprising that family rose to the top as a primary resource for spiritual development from young people's perspective."

Our hope is that Tell the Next Generation will have a ripple effect across the congregations in the Missouri District, one that today's children can carry forward in their own future families. Long after this event has concluded, I pray that you will take the wisdom and ideas home to your ministries, to encourage and equip families as they raise their children in the faith.



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