



Missouri District 2020
Professional Church Workers' Virtual Conference
"The Intersection of Church and State"

Sectional Guide

Plenary I: Wednesday, October 21st 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

Plenary II: Wednesday, October 21st 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz

Rev. Dr. Seltz serves as the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. Previous to Seltz's work in Washington D.C., he served as the Speaker of The Lutheran Hour® radio program. Before joining Lutheran Hour Ministries, Seltz served as the Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center, as well as professor of Theology at Concordia University in Irvine, California.

Plenary III: Thursday, October 22nd 10:00 - 10:45 a.m.

"Your Legal Questions & Concerns"

New rulings bring new opportunities to our ministries.

Rusty Huseman, Esquire

Lutheran Legal League

Plenary IV: Thursday, October 22nd 3:00 - 3:45 p.m.

Presentation and Discussion with Principals on Title Funds, CARES Funding, DESE Reporting, and more!

Nicolette Gibson, Executive Director of the Missouri Council of American Private Education

Sectional A: Wednesday, October 21st 11:00 - 11:45 a.m.

A1: Advent Series: Jesus, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham

The genealogy of Jesus, found in St. Matthew's Gospel, provides a great history of God's plan of salvation through our Lord's own ancestry. From patriarchs and kings to liars and prostitutes, the Son of David and Abraham came to save all. This session will provide themes, outlines and more for sermons for an Advent midweek series, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan 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. Dr. Hagan 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. Additionally, he 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, a junior at Concordia University Wisconsin, and Jack, a junior at Lutheran High School, St. Charles.

A2: Witnessing...For Such a Time as This!

COVID-19 closed doors in businesses and churches, but God opened doors of personal relationships. Explore ways to equip members NOW. See practical ways to pivot materials like "Everyone His Witness" and "Spiritual Conversations" to inspire a new season in the homes of your church. Includes opportunity to connect members to District sponsored learning community.

Rev. Bill Geis has over 30 years experience cultivating shared ministries relationships ranging from rural to urban to suburban settings. For nearly half of those years, he also served in leadership in Lutheran elementary and early childhood education. He has shared his work with the Church in publications, as a guest teacher in seven colleges and seminaries, by mentoring over 75 church workers with a year or more of field service, and in facilitating shared ministry conversations impacting hundreds of congregations. Since 2017 he has served the Missouri District as the president's assistant for congregational services and missions.

A3: Race Matters: Talking with Your Youth About Diversity, Inclusion, and Equality

This presentation seeks to give ministers and educators a way to create space in order to discuss race, diversity, inclusion, and equality with their youth and those in their leadership spaces.

Rev. Gerard Bolling was born and raised in the heart of Brooklyn, NY. From an early age, he always desired to serve God's people in a greater capacity. One visit to Concordia Seminary, and he was "sold out" on serving Jesus! Gerard attended Concordia Chicago from 2008 to 2012, earning a BA in Theatre with a minor in Languages. Gerard graduated from Concordia Seminary in 2016 with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and received a call to serve at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the inner city of St. Louis. He had lead the Deaf Ministry at Bethlehem two years prior to receiving the call.

He currently serves as pastor and co-executive director of the Lutheran Hope Center. In this role, he leads the Deaf Ministry team at Bethlehem while reaching out to youth and families in the Ferguson, MO, area in the aftermath of the Mike Brown incident. He also co-leads the dynamic weekly Bethlehem Church ministries (preaching, teaching, and leading outreach programs and community engagement) with the amazingly talented Pastor John R. Schmidtke. Their ministry is an innovation to The Lutheran Church—

Missouri Synod and a blessing to those whom they serve, who are often overlooked because of socioeconomic situations.

Gerard is also an educator. He currently serves as an Online Adjunct Leadership Professor at Concordia University Texas, and an Online Adjunct Theology Professor at Concordia University Texas and Concordia University, St. Paul, and an Online Adjunct Professor in the Nonprofit/Business department at Concordia University Wisconsin. He has spoken at numerous conferences, events, and venues within the LCMS, reflecting the love of Christ and promoting deeper conversations about deaf, urban, and cross-cultural inclusive ministry. In addition to serving as a full-time pastor and part-time professor, he is also a doctoral candidate in his research stage at Concordia University Wisconsin in the Leadership, Innovation, and Continuous Improvement (LICI) program. His research topic is Human Resource Development in Urban Ministry Structures of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as it Relates to Mentorship. He is set to complete his research by September 2020 and become “Dr. Bolling” officially.

Gerard has been married to his beautiful wife, Lorenda, for six years. Lorenda serves as a preschool teacher at Word of Life Lutheran School. Together they have a four-year-old son named Lincoln, and a two-year-old daughter named Monroe. Both kids were born on October 5 (in different years, of course). They currently reside on the south side of St. Louis, MO.

A4: Speaking with One Voice: Catechesis for the Home, Congregation, and School

We've all been hearing for years about the importance of the home in the process of handing down the faith. The catechism certainly assumes this reality. In this breakout Pastor Truwe will share a method of catechesis which takes this serious, and synthesizes what is taught in the home, the congregation, and the school (if applicable). Parents, pastors, teachers, and more: participants will be given a plan so that all our children's God-given authorities are speaking with one voice.

Rev. Gregory R. Truwe, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Cole Camp, MO

Gregory lives in Cole Camp with his wife, Jamie, and their six children. He is Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, is a Doctor of Ministry Candidate at CTSFW with an emphasis on preaching and teaching, plays the trombone in the Sedalia Symphony Orchestra, and enjoys attending his children's many activities. Along with his pastoral duties at Trinity, he founded and continues to oversee The Marriage & Family Conference (www.marriagefamilyconference.org), is the Executive Director for The Trinity School of Music, is on the Board of Directors for David's Harp (A Center for Musical Development), and has written for Concordia Pulpit Resources, Logia: A Journal of Lutheran Theology, and The Lutheran Witness.

A5: How to Keep Your Retirement on Track

Investing with the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan 403(b) is easy but juggling a multitude of financial responsibilities is hard. How to prioritize your financial goals depends on you, your time horizon and where you are in your career. Learn how to get on track and stay on track for the long haul based on your age and life stage. Appropriate for early to mid-career workers.

Karen Kirchner Wilhelms is a Financial Educator with Concordia Plans. She cultivates her wealth of knowledge from her previous role as a licensed financial advisor and currently holds the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM designation. She is passionate about guiding members through the financial stages of life and helping them find a realistic path to a more secure financial future.

A6: 4 Tips for the Church to Help the Unemployed

Unemployment is a huge issue in our country today and it is impacting every congregation. Many of the 30 + million who are unemployed are in your congregation, but you may not know it. Often people want to help, but do nothing because they don't know what to do. Don't let that be your congregation. If you care and want to help, this session will help you know how to help, by providing valuable and practical tips that will help you support your members and those in your community (outreach opportunity) who are unemployed. Those who are unemployed will never forget that you cared and helped in their time of need.

Dale Kreienkamp is the President of Thriving Through Transitions, a consultancy focused on helping organizations successfully navigate difficult, personal and professional, transitions and become better through the process. His professional background includes over 40+ years as a Human Resources Executive and Consultant, coaching and guiding leaders. He is a speaker, and the author of "How Long, O Lord, How Long? Devotions for the Unemployed and Those Who Love Them", written after he personally experienced a journey of unemployment twice when his positions were eliminated in organizational restructuring. Dale's book is unique, it's not about how to find a job, but how to navigate the emotional journey and through scripture, reminds the reader of God's presence on their journey. Every congregation should have a supply on hand.

A7: Keeping Our Voice in the Public Square for the Sake of the Lost

The United States of America was founded by immigrants and immigrants continue to be a part of everyday life in America (~4% of those living in Missouri are foreign-born). Regardless of what we personally think of U.S. policy, the fact of the matter is that God has placed this huge mission field in our midst – including immigrants in our Lutheran churches, schools, and communities. "Keeping our voice in the public square" means keeping our opportunity to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the immigrant population in our communities. This session will focus on the importance of reaching out to immigrants who don't know Jesus Christ, the importance of keeping a voice in the public square for their salvation, and making and encouraging connections with the immigrant population through our churches and schools.

Rev. Rod Benkendorf is Called to serve with the mission organization Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF). LHF translates, publishes, distributes and introduces books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven. He serves to raise awareness of the need for people worldwide to have our wonderful Lutheran books in their own languages and to raise support for the work of LHF. He is a 1991 graduate of Concordia, Seward (B.S. Ed.) and spent seven years teaching full-time at Lutheran High North. He is a 2002 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and served in parish ministry for over 10 years. He has been with LHF for just over 2 years.

A8: Let's Talk

From Scripture to Icebreakers to hot topics, this sectional shares ideas and resources for engaging adults and youth in dialogue.

Rev. Elden D. Kohn: Child of God since March 8, 1981; husband to Molly since July 11, 2008; father of four (Matthias-9, Eleanor-7, Nehemiah-5, and Micah-3); and pastor to the saints of Zion Lutheran in Macon, MO, since July 2013. Elden is also a former elementary school teacher who enjoys reading about the Early Church, learning languages, playing stringed instruments, and running.

Sectional B: Wednesday, October 21st 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.

B1: It's About Time (and God): A Lutheran Perspective of the Clock

A lot of attention is given to time. A different perspective can be helpful. Some of what the philosopher Seneca has written regarding time will, studied, as well as what Luther, wrote, particularly regarding Matthew 6:34 ('Do not be anxious about tomorrow...').

Rev. Paul David Landgraf graduated from Concordia University Wisconsin in 1985, Concordia Seminary in 1990, and he received two STM's from that institution in later years. His first call was to Iowa East District as an urban missionary in the Quad Cities, his second was to a suburban congregation in Coventry, England (with the ELCE), and he currently serves St. John, Drake, and Pilgrim, Freedom, two rural parishes in the Washington Circuit (although he lives in Eureka, with his wife serving as a teacher at St. Mark's Lutheran School). He is currently writing a book about biblical theology.

B2: Seven Models for shared Ministry

Lead proactive growth rather than fear loss! Explore "Shared Ministry" as a mission-focused approach to any ministry. Churches and schools of every size, setting and means have gifts to share. Seven Models offers a series of key shifts, stewardship opportunities and mission templates to design collaborative ministry relationships.

Rev. Bill Geis has over 30 years experience cultivating shared ministries relationships ranging from rural to urban to suburban settings. For nearly half of those years, he also served in leadership in Lutheran elementary and early childhood education. He has shared his work with the Church in publications, as a guest teacher in seven colleges and seminaries, by mentoring over 75 church workers with a year or more of field service, and in facilitating shared ministry conversations impacting hundreds of congregations. Since 2017 he has served the Missouri District as the president's assistant for congregational services and missions.

B3: Military Service - Military Ministry: The Cross Road of Luther's Two Kingdoms

Luther expressed military service in, "Whether a Soldier Too Can Be Saved". This class demonstrates military service is Biblical, inherently Lutheran, honorable, and patriotic. We will explore the constitutional right of religious freedom in the military, its challenges, and the role of the LCMS through MAF protecting the rights of personnel. We will provide a model the congregation can use to help the military member and ideas for serving non-Christian.

Chaplain Craig Muehler, retired U.S. Navy Captain, serves as the director of The Lutheran Church---Missouri Synod Ministry to the Armed Forces. He has held that position since August 2014, after retiring as deputy chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps. He was commissioned in 1986 as a Chaplain Candidate and moved on to serve as a Navy Chaplain from 1988 to 2014.

Muehler received his MDiv from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1988, and his Master of Theology from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., in 2001.

Rev. Dr. Steven Hokana Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel, USA (Ret.) is the Assistant Director of Ministry of the Armed Forces, for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. His driving passion is a deep love for those who struggle through difficult life events. Steve has written and spoken extensively on the topic of Christ's power through painful issues of life. He is a clinically trained chaplain with a specialty in spirituality and post-traumatic stress disorder. Hokana is a member of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education and a Diplomat, American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress as well as a Board-Certified Chaplain. Hokana is a retired active-duty U.S. Army chaplain with 31 years of service to our nation. His assignments

vary from Airborne Infantry, Armor, Combat Service Support, to major medical centers and military academic institutions. He is the recipient of the Legion of Merit medal, Order of Medical Military Merit medallion, the St. Martin of Tours Medal for meritorious service as an LCMS Chaplain in the military, and the "Four Chaplains Medal" by the United States Army Chaplain Corps.

B4: Managing Anxiety During a Pandemic

LCMS Church/School Workers are facing every aspect of life plus the anxiety of having to rethink, reimagine and rework each application of our Christian Vocations. During this sectional we will discuss and enact short-term & long-term servant-strengthening processes to support LCMS church/school workers to get them through the pandemic.

Rev. Marty Hasz, PLPC

Missouri District-LCMS Assistant to the President for Church Worker & Congregational Health
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Marty served as a DCE (Director of Christian Education) and as a Church Revitalization Pastor. He currently serves the Missouri District in church worker & congregational health. His recent training, experience and current ministry includes being a Reconciler with Ambassadors of Reconciliation in Coaching, Mediating, Teaching Reconciliation Workshop, Group Reconciliation; Professional Counselor specializing in EFT (Emotionally Focused Therapy for individuals & couples (State of Missouri counseling supervisor: Carol Dippold, LPC).

B5: Support your Wellness – Be Well...Serve Well

Taking care of yourself is an essential part of your physical and emotional wellness. Take time to reflect on your own health and learn more about actions, programs and services that can support you to Be Well so you can continue to Serve Well.

Megan Sherman joined Concordia Plans in late 2019 as a Health and Wellness Educator. She holds a bachelor of science degree with Health Management major, emphasis in Health Promotion and Nutrition minor from Southeast Missouri State University. Megan has over 15 years of experience, encouraging healthy living and implementing well-being programs within communities and corporations. She was inspired to pursue a career in health and fitness after observing her own family's health challenges and has a passion for encouraging others to care for their own health. Megan currently resides in St. Louis, Missouri with her family including two children ages 6 and 3.

B6: The Dangers of Over-Functioning and Under-Functioning in Times of Stress

The twin dangers of Over-Functioning ("If I work harder and longer I can fix this!") and Under-Functioning ("I don't know what to do or where to start!") can destroy our passion for ministry. We all want to give our best in these challenging times. Learning how to get started, and also how to slow down, are essential skills for vocational wellness. Discover how grace and baptismal identity are the keys to functioning well in stressful times.

The Rev. Dr. Darrell Zimmerman served thirty years as a parish pastor in St. Louis, MO and Saginaw, MI, and now serves as President and Program Director for Grace Place Wellness Ministries. He is a 1982 graduate of Concordia, St. Louis and earned his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2006. He enjoys golf, woodworking, his five young grandchildren and golf. (He really likes golf!)

Sectional C: Thursday, October 22nd 1:00-1:45 p.m.

C1: How to Stop Young Leaders in Your Church

Many LCMS congregations are struggling with the transfer of leadership from older to younger generations. In big and small ways, we keep young leaders from success and sometime even push them out of our congregations. Discuss strategies to raise up effective young leaders in congregations and for the church at large.

Julianna Shults is a DCE serving a Program Manager for LCMS Youth Ministry. With a BA in Psychology and a Masters in Community Development, Julianna served congregations in Florida and Chicago. She writes for the Youth E-Source, co-authored Relationships Count from CPH and co-hosts the podcast End Goals. Julianna is a self-proclaimed nerd, coffee snob and obsessive aunt.

C2: Understanding and Leading Our Little Ones Through Challenging Times and Challenging Behaviors

As early childhood educators, we are a fundamental part of God's plan to bring healing and hope to our youngest students as they struggle, fail, grow, and flourish. Especially in light of our current circumstances, this session will help in understanding a child's unique history and the deep impact it has on these precious souls. Discover tools and insights for working with your little ones in order to build and restore them, successfully leading them into all that God created them to be!

Angela Shirley currently serves as the Director of Early Childhood Education at Christ Community Lutheran School. The multi-site program serves 300 students, infants through pre-kindergarten, across four campuses in the St. Louis area. Previously, she served in a school ministry for 18 years in Tennessee, as an elementary educator and eventually, as the Director of the early childhood program. She received both her Bachelor's degree (Elementary Education) and Masters degree (Administration) from Concordia University Chicago. She has been a presenter at multiple conferences, and she enjoys consulting with schools around the country.

C3: Crash Course on Teaching Youth Adolescence...and Loving Them

What do you do with SEVENTH GRADERS?! You thought you'd be teaching high school...or elementary school...What on earth do you do now that you have to work with these middle schoolers!? Come learn (or get a refresher) on the developmental norms for middle school kids (just what's going on in that brain of theirs!), and how you can make them your favorite kids in school...or at least tolerate them!

Dr. Beth Pester, Associate Professor of Education, at Concordia University Nebraska since 2005, after spending 10 years in Lutheran and public schools as a middle school science teacher. And more importantly the Mom of two young adolescents! Currently serves as the Director of Middle Level Education and the Director of Student Teaching at Concordia University.

C4: Self-Control – Maintaining Peace in Your Conversations

Whether talking with a student's parent about the lack of progress in math, or with a member who disagrees with something you said in Bible study a month ago, conversations can go from peaceful to tense in an instant. When this happens, how can we be 100% respectful and 100% honest at the same time? In this session, we will discuss three tools to make this possible.

Tina Kassebaum

Graduating as a director of Christian education from Concordia College St. Paul, MN in 1996, Tina immediately demonstrated her ability to step into any situation and create a peace-filled learning environment.

Since that time, she earned a Master's degree in Theology from Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO in 2006 and has been using these competencies serving in congregations, LCMS National Mission, Lutheran Hour Ministries and various Lutheran and Christian schools.

Today, Tina owns a small business, Ziemnick Kassebaum Presents LLC, also known as TMKTrains. She enjoys equipping others, who serve God's children, with the tools and strategies she uses to create a peace-filled environment.

C5: Leadership Lessons Learned (Becoming and Growing as a Leader)

This presentation will share helpful leadership skills and techniques I have learned for principals to help them grow as a leader.

Dr. William Cochran is the retired (June 30, 2013) Director of School Ministry, LCMS. A native of Wichita, Kansas, Bill attended St. John's Academy and Junior College in Winfield, Kansas. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree upon graduation from Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska, in 1968. He received a Master's Degree and Administrative Certificate from Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, Illinois. He received an Honorary Doctorate from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI. He was the Director for Lutheran School Consulting Services, a program of LCMS School Ministry.

Bill began his teaching career at Zion Lutheran School in Hemlock, Michigan, teaching Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades. In 1970 he received a call to teach at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Collinsville, Illinois. In 1984 became the founding principal of Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville, a school that grew in five years to be the largest Lutheran School in Southern Illinois. In 1992 he received a call to be the Superintendent of Lutheran Schools in the Eastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In 1998 God called Bill to be the principal of Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, Missouri. In 2002 God called Bill to be the Director of Schools for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. In 2016-17 he was the Interim President of the Lutheran High School Association of St. Louis. He continues to serve as an NLSA Consultant and Team Captain.

Bill has served the LCMS in various capacities. From 1981 to 1992 he was the elected teacher representative to the LCMS Board for Youth Services. He was the program manager for "Whole Language, Whole Child," and "The Family Ministry of Lutheran Schools," He was one of the authors of "SLAM" and two of the "Administrative Handbooks." He was one of the developers for School Leadership and Development (SLeD).

C6: Image of the Child

Early childhood educators have inside each of them an image of the child. This image is reflected in our relationships with children, how we engage children in learning, and develop appropriate assessment practices.

Dr. Annette (Oliver) Anschutz has served as Associate Professor of Education and Early Childhood Program Director for the undergraduate and graduate early childhood programs at Concordia University, Nebraska. Prior to beginning service to Concordia in 2009, she taught and directed in early childhood programs for 24 years, 17 of which were as founding director of St. John Child Development Center, Seward, NE. Dr. Anschutz holds a BA in Social Work, an MA in Family Life Science, a MEd in Early Childhood Education (all from Concordia University, Nebraska) and an EdD in Early Childhood Education from Northcentral University. She has traveled around the US and Central America as a trainer, presenter, and consultant.

C7: Top Tips for Effectively and Compassionately Managing Challenging Behavior in the Classroom

Ali Thomas, Ed. M.

Ali is the head of strategy for Autism in Motion Clinics and oversees community outreach for the organization. She completed her studies at Vanderbilt University and went on to earn her masters in education from Harvard University. She may look familiar to you! After completing her studies at Harvard, she served at the Lutheran High School Association in St. Louis, Missouri and directed international programs. A former teacher and school counselor, she has been blessed to offer international student consulting to a variety of Missouri Lutheran schools.

Jana Sarno, MA, BCBA

Jana has a passion for helping children and teens with behavioral challenges. For her, it is not just a career but a calling. She serves as the Chief Clinical Officer for AIM Clinics where she focuses her passion for Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy on how we can improve outcomes for children and teens on the autism spectrum. Jana has a variety of experiences in education settings, from working with children in Head Start to university students. She has amassed years of experience in the areas of school consultation, including conducting a variety of behavioral, adaptive and social assessments, and intervention design and implementation. Additionally, she is an adjunct faculty member at Ouachita Baptist University. She has committed her career to helping all students fully access the curriculum while reaching their highest potential.

Candous McGuire, MA, BCBA

Candous works as a Board Certified Behavior Analyst for AIM Clinics in Fayetteville, Arkansas. She has experience with Applied Behavioral Analysis in clinic settings, public and private schools, homes and community environments. Her background is as an educator, and she has a mission to serve other educators to help them best reach their students with behavioral and special needs. She is an international and respite care provider with 99 Balloons as well as serving in children's ministry at her home church.

C8: It is Well with My Soul...or Is It? (Part I)

DCE's will examine their spiritual journey, identify challenges that impact their faith walk, and address a plan of Cultivating Faith as a Christ-Like Servant Leader!

James (Jim) Bradshaw has served as the Assistant to the President for Education and Youth for the LCMS Kansas District since March 2005. Jim provides support for the Commissioned workers, Lutheran schools, and early childhood centers across the District. Additionally, he serves as a resource for children's & family ministry, adult education, and youth ministry for the congregations. Jim also interfaces with disaster response and caring ministry teams the Kansas District. Jim is based out of Topeka, Kansas.

Jim is a 1982 certified Director of Christian Education and received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska. He earned a Master of Science - Family Life from Concordia University - Nebraska in 2001. Jim served as a Director of Christian Education for 23 1/2 years in three Districts: Texas, Minnesota South and Kansas. Jim was conferred the title of 'Master DCE' by the Lutheran Education Association in 2003. Jim completed 'Classic KINDLE' in 2004 and KINDLE Finishing Well in 2018. He currently serves on KINDLE's Board of Directors. Jim completed a three-month sabbatical in 2013 and has spoken at various District conferences on his sabbatical topic: Wellbeing as a Christ-Like Servant Leader.

Jim and Joanna have been married for 39 years. They have been blessed with three adult children and 5 1/2 grandchildren.

Sectional D: Thursday, October 22nd 2:00-2:45 p.m.

D1: Emotional Intelligence: Why it Matters!

Whether it's first grade, a high school history class, or the teacher's workroom, it seems there are always opportunities for us to work at understanding, empathy and compassion. Come get a refresher on the four competencies of Emotional Intelligence (Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Relationship Management and Self-Management), in this fun session as we all continue to work on sharing the love of Jesus with everyone in our school environment.

Dr. Beth Pester, Associate Professor of Education, at Concordia University Nebraska since 2005, after spending 10 years in Lutheran and public schools as a middle school science teacher. Currently serves as the Director of Middle Level Education and the Director of Student Teaching at Concordia University.

D3: Race Matters: Talking with Your Youth About Diversity, Inclusion, and Equality

This presentation seeks to give ministers and educators a way to create space in order to discuss race, diversity, inclusion, and equality with their youth and those in their leadership spaces.

Rev. Gerard Bolling (see A3)

D4: So You Wanna Do Youth Ministry in Covid19?

COVID-19 has changed how we do youth ministry. Depending on your area and guidelines, you may only be able to meet online or if you are able to meet in-person, it still doesn't look like it normally does. This will be a brainstorming session to share what has worked, what hasn't worked, and what tools are helpful!

Paul Nelson is a Director of Christian Education at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Chesterfield, MO. Paul works primarily with the youth but also helps with worship, live-streaming, Sunday School, and family ministry. He has a passion for building relationships and using technology to connect the next generation with Jesus Christ.

D5: NLSA & Cognia Accreditation

Dr. William Cochran & Alan Freeman

D6: How to Keep Your Retirement on Track

Investing with the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan 403(b) is easy but juggling a multitude of financial responsibilities is hard. How to prioritize your financial goals depends on you, your time horizon and where you are in your career. Learn how to get on track and stay on track for the long haul based on your age and life stage. Appropriate for early to mid-career workers.

Karen Kirchner Wilhelms (see A5)

D7: Mission-Minded, Data-Backed Decisions: Goals and Process with Examples and Lessons Learned

Delivering a Christ-centered mission to students is a Lutheran school's highest calling. At the same time, accreditation expects schools to implement comprehensive assessment systems to guide continuous improvement. How can we think of data analysis as gift and not law? In what ways can data steward our schools and not drive them? And what are examples of doing so that not only enable student success and enhance programming, but also promote school-wide collaboration?

Dr. Benjamin Stellwagen is currently Director of Dual Credit Programs & School Partnerships at Concordia University, Nebraska, after previously serving as Principal at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, IN. At Trinity, he and several colleagues were trained by the Indiana District to develop data-driven processes as a collaborative way for faculty and schools to launch initiatives geared toward student success that more effectively delivered on the school's mission, vision, and values. A historian by training but a statistician by hobby, he loves both context and numbers and believes that process matters in finding data-backed--and winsome!--ways for schools to best serve the students and families in their care.

D8: It is Well with My Soul...or Is It? (Part II)

DCE's will examine their spiritual journey, identify challenges that impact their faith walk, and address a plan of Cultivating Faith as a Christ-Like Servant Leader!

James (Jim) Bradshaw (see C8)
