



Joy in Ministry **Missouri District Pastors' Conference**

October 17-19, 2021

Margaritaville Lake Resort – Osage Beach

The 2021 Missouri District Pastors Conference will be a time of encouragement and refreshment from the Word of God and the mutual consolation and conversation of the brethren. This year's conference is planned to allow more time together (including "happy hour" and golf) after the challenging few months of ministry that we have all endured.

Sectional Guide

Plenary I **Monday, October 18** **9:45-10:30 a.m.**
Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Plenary II **Monday, October 18** **10:45-11:30 a.m.**
Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, President of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Plenary III **Monday, October 18** **1:45-2:30 p.m.**
Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour

Sectional A: Tuesday, October 19 8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Sectional	Title	Facilitator
A-01	Reflections on a Pastor's Devotional Life	Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan
A-02	Pastoring Parents of Prodigal Children	Rev. Dr. Tyler C. Arnold
A-03	Concordia Plans – Caring for You!	Megan Sherman
A-04	Mission and Ministry Coming Back from COVID-19 Stronger and Healthy	Rev. Bill Geis

A-01: Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly – Reflections on a Pastor's Devotional Life

This breakout will focus on the practice and blessing of a healthy devotional life for a pastor. It will include resources, suggestions, and conversation about this important, but at times, neglected topic.

Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan was elected president of the Missouri District in 2015. He is a graduate of Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Dr. Hagan served parishes in Concordia, Missouri and Evansville, Indiana. He is married to Jill, and they have two children. Caroline will be a senior at Concordia University Wisconsin and Jack will be a senior at Lutheran High School, St. Charles.

A-02: Pastoring Parents of Prodigal Children

There are many reasons why teen and adult children turn away from the Lord. Outwardly they differ, but inwardly sin and the devil remain the constant root-cause. As pastors, we long to see parents and their children walk side by side with Jesus. Anguish intensifies the further children stray from the church. We crave relief for parents and the repentance of their prodigal children. The good news for all is that God promises to draw near in order to help you as *Seelsorger* and them as parents navigate these difficult times. In this session we will explore the distress parents encounter, salutary pastoral approaches to families in need, and helpful guideposts for continuing care.

Rev. Dr. Tyler C. Arnold serves as Senior Pastor at Christ Lutheran in Platte Woods, MO and is a Fellow in the DOXOLOGY Collegium of Pastors. He is a 1995 graduate of Concordia University, River Forest, IL, a 1999 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He completed his Doctor of Ministry degree at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne in 2019. He has served on the Board of Congregational Support for the Southern Illinois District, Unity Lutheran School Board in East St. Louis, IL, and the Executive Council for the Northland Lutheran School Association in Kansas City. He served as Circuit Visitor for the Kansas City North Circuit for nine years. He served on numerous committees for the Missouri District including Chairman of the District Structure and Administration Committee and the Structure and Administration Task Force. Currently, he serves on the Board of Regents at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rev. Arnold is married to Andrea (nee Thur) and has two adult children, Jacob and Benjamin.

A-03: Concordia Plans – Caring for You!

Taking care of yourself is an essential part of your physical and emotional wellness but sometimes it can be difficult to find the time or the support that is right for you. During this presentation, you'll have the opportunity to reflect on your own health and learn about the Concordia Plans programs and services that are available to support you and your families.

Megan Sherman joined Concordia Plans in 2019 as a Health and Wellness Educator. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree with Health Management, with an emphasis in Health Promotion and Nutrition, from Southeast Missouri State University. She has more than 15 years of experience encouraging healthy living and implementing wellbeing programs. 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 resides in St. Louis, Missouri with her husband and two children.

A-04: Mission and Ministry Coming Back from COVID-19 Stronger and Healthy

B.C., "Before Covid," church workers and lay leaders were sorting out many serious questions on the future of their ministry activities and programs. During the pandemic these activities were largely sidelined to focus on member care and worship. This workshop helps ministry leaders take their next step "opening up" in a post-COVID world. It will provide practical tools and processes to make re-opening stronger and healthy for your congregation and community.

Bill Geis has served over 30 as pastor in ministries 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 on missions, community outreach, discipleship and shared ministry with the Church in publications, as a guest teacher in seven colleges and seminaries. He's mentored over 75 church workers with a year or more of field service and internships. Since 2017 he has served the Missouri District as the president's assistant for congregational services and missions.

Sectional B: Tuesday, October 19**9:45 – 10:30 a.m.**

Sectional	Title	Facilitator
B-01	Resilient Ministry Factors	Rev. Marty Hasz
B-02	Speaking with One Voice: Catechesis for the Home, Congregation, and School	Rev. Gregory R. Truwe
B-03	Planning for Retirement? It's Time to Plan!	Paul Snyder
B-04	Consecrated Stewards	LCEF Staff

B-01: Resilient Ministry Factors

A discussion of observed & research-based resiliency factors vs. intuitive or commonplace behaviors aims to bring LCMS church workers an awareness of evidence-based practices they can trust to foster worker resilience in the midst of challenging times.

Rev. Marty Hasz, PLPC – (573) 979-2791, marty.hasz@mo.lcms.org

Rev. Hasz loves to walk alongside God's servants to build them up in Christ for joyful service under the Lord Jesus Christ. Since January 2020, Rev. Hasz has been serving as the Assistant to the President for Church Worker & Congregational Health in the Missouri District. Previously, he served as pastor at Eisleben Lutheran Church in Scott City, Missouri and Director of Christian Education in the Indiana District. He holds a Master of Arts in mental health counseling from Southeast Missouri State University. He is a National Board-Certified Counselor specializing in EFT (Emotionally Focused Therapy) and is working to complete his LPC post-grad hours. Rev. Hasz is a Christian Reconciler through Ambassadors of Reconciliation and has been teaching and leading LCMS church workers and congregations through reconciliation and conflict management since 2015. He and his wife have three teenage sons and live in the rolling hills of Cape Girardeau near the Mississippi River in Southeast Missouri. Rev. Hasz loves to spend time in God's creation with his family hiking, mountain biking, traveling & snow skiing.

B-02: Speaking with One Voice: Catechesis for the Home, Congregation, and School

Pastors are called and ordained to teach the faith to those entrusted to their care. Parents also have a duty to teach the faith to their children. When the congregations we serve have Christian day schools, there are teachers who also end up teaching our children. While there is one faith, and we have received a pattern of sound words, unfortunately, even in the church, the teaching of pastors, parents, and teachers is not always unified, to the detriment of those who hear such dissonant voices. In this nuts-and-bolts workshop Pastor Truwe will share a catechetical method that synthesizes the teaching voices of parent & pastor (and, if applicable, teacher) according to the Six Chief Parts of Christian doctrine.

Rev. Gregory R. Truwe, Senior Pastor, Trinity, Cole Camp: Greg lives in Cole Camp, MO, with his wife, Jamie, and their six children. As Senior Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, his duties include regular teaching in The Lutheran School Association. The son of Lutheran educators, Greg's interest in handing down the faith was kindled at an early age, and was further developed as a Doctor of Ministry candidate at CTSFW. He is the founder of the annual Marriage & Family Conference, and serves on the Board of Directors of David's Harp, a center for musical development.

B-03: Planning for Retirement? It's Time to Plan!

If you're thinking about retirement, do you know all the things you need to consider? Who'll you'll be. What you'll be doing. What will your income and expenses look like? What will you do for healthcare? We'll help walk you through the questions you need to be asking yourself and share tools and resources available through Concordia Plans.

Paul Snyder has been with Concordia Plans for more than 38 years. In his role as a Financial Educator one of his main functions is to help those serving in the church understand their benefits and finances, and plan for their future, especially their retirement.

In addition to his role at Concordia Plans, Paul is the Director of Worship in Immanuel in Olivette, MO, and served 9 years as a member of the Missouri District Board of Directors.

B-04: Consecrated Stewards

Congregations that fail to talk about Christian stewardship on a regular basis often find themselves talking about money all year long. Some congregations do talk about stewardship, but only in the context of the annual budget. However, budget-focused stewardship programs rarely raise more than what is needed to meet the budget.

Join this break out to learn more about how Lutheran Church Extension Fund's Consecrated Stewards can raise annual giving by raising Christian stewards. This consultant led stewardship education is founded on our Lutheran understanding of biblical stewardship, uses scripture to awaken a Spirit-led, free, and joyous response to the grace of God through Jesus Christ, puts ministry before money, can be used anytime during the Church year, and uses your own LCEF facilitator to train, motivate, and assist congregation leaders in maximizing results.

Plenary Presenters



Rev. Dr. Thomas Egger

Dr. Thomas J. Egger is president of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is a professor of Exegetical Theology.

Before being named as the 11th president of Concordia Seminary in 2021, Egger was the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach Professor of Exegetical Theology, chairman of the Department of Exegetical Theology, associate professor of Exegetical Theology and the academic adviser for first-year students. He has been a faculty member at the Seminary since 2005.

Egger served as pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, from 2000–05. He previously served as a guest instructor at Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, in 1999.

Egger earned his Master of Divinity at Concordia Seminary (1997), and received his Bachelor of Arts in English and German from Central College in Pella, Iowa (1993). He completed his Doctor of Philosophy at Concordia Seminary in 2019. His dissertation focused on the phrase “visiting iniquity of fathers upon sons” from the book of Exodus.

His areas of interest and expertise include biblical Hebrew, the books of Genesis and Exodus, Old Testament theology, Old Testament Christ-typology, divine justice, narrative and rhetorical analysis, the nature and authority of Scripture, and “objectionable” texts in the Bible (those often raising criticisms of divine violence and accusations of divine immorality).

He has made contributions in the area of American Lutheran history, especially the history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and its first president, Dr. C.F.W. Walther. Another area of special interest is

the theology of Luther's catechisms and the intersection of the catechism and the Bible in Lutheran teaching and piety.

He has written pieces for a number of publications, including *Concordia Journal*, *Modern Reformation*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society*, *Concordia Pulpit Resources* and *The Lutheran Witness*, and for the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR).

Egger currently serves on the Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) Awards Committee. He previously served on the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. He served three terms on the CTCR and was part of the seven-member LCMS Catechism Revision Committee, which prepared the 2017 revision of the Synod's explanation of Luther's Small Catechism. For 10 years, he served on the Board of Directors of Providence Classical Christian Academy, a K–12 school in St. Louis, Mo.

His favorite pastimes are running, Cardinals baseball, birdwatching, hiking, golf, reading stories and poetry to his children, and singing hymns with his family. He and his wife, Victoria, have been blessed with six children: Andrew, Stacey, Abram, Bonnie, Ellen and Mary.



Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast

The Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. serves as the sixteenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism. Dr. Rast joined the Department of Historical Theology in the fall of 1996. Previous to his seminary service, he was the pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tennessee (1992-1996).

He received his B.A. in Theological Languages with a minor in Theology from Concordia College (now University), River Forest, Illinois (1986), and his M.Div. (1990) and S.T.M. (1995), both with a major in Historical Theology and a minor in Systematic Theology, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. In 2000 he received the M.A. degree and in 2003 he successfully defended his dissertation, "Joseph A. Seiss and the Lutheran

Church in America," earning his Ph.D. in American Church History from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

Dr. Rast is the chairman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) on which he has served since 2006. The CTCR provides guidance and leadership in the areas of theology and church relations. This includes doctrinal issues as well as social concerns such as divorce, gender identity, and immigration. He also serves as president and member of the Board of Directors for the journal *Lutheran Quarterly*.

He has authored numerous articles on a wide range of topics with special interest in the growth and expansion of Lutheranism in the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries. Dr. Rast is currently writing a comprehensive history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for Concordia Publishing House and continues work on an oral history project chronicling the rich and varied stories of African-American pastors in both the LCMS and the old Synodical Conference.

As President of CTSFW, Dr. Rast launched a significant strategic planning process that has resulted in the funding and completion of a new library, the doubling of the Seminary's endowment, successful audits of all business practices, the provision of a 100% tuition guarantee for all residential students, and steady enrollment in the face of significant demographic challenges. Dr. Rast has worked to ensure that the Seminary upholds its core values and vision in all it does so that it can continue to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

In addition to serving at the Seminary, Dr. Rast regularly presents at district and congregational workshops, retreats, and conferences around the United States. He has represented the Seminary and Synod at numerous international conferences and by teaching in Argentina, Brazil, Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Ethiopia, Ghana, Russia, Germany, Sweden, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and elsewhere throughout the world.

When not teaching or traveling, Dr. Rast still enjoys the delving into history, especially from the Civil War era. He is a music enthusiast and his iPod playlist includes genres from Classical to Bluegrass—the more obscure the better. But perhaps his favorite pastime is all things pertaining to railroads. He has an encyclopedic knowledge of locomotives, train stations, and routes. He is a long-time member of the Pennsylvania Railroad Technical and Historical Society and models the Pennsy in HO scale from the year 1948.

The greatest joy of his life, however, comes from the time he spends with his family. He and his wife, Amy, have three children: Lawrence III, Karl, and Joanna.



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Speaker of The Lutheran Hour

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler began serving with LHM as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour in October 2018. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Epiphany Lutheran Church (2014-2018) and assistant pastor at Timothy Lutheran Church (2012-2014), both in St. Louis. Before becoming a pastor, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the Air Force.

Michael grew up in a military family, living throughout the U.S., from North Dakota to Alabama, Virginia to Colorado. His family moved eleven times before he finished high school in Springfield, Missouri. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Academy in 2001 with a general engineering degree and served 5 years in the Air Force. He left active duty in 2006 to prepare to be a pastor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, completing a Master of Divinity in 2010 and a Ph.D. in 2014.

He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois, and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary.

Michael and his wife, Amy, have four children. Amy enjoys being a home-school and Sunday school teacher, cooking, crafting, and being a catalyst for events aimed at strengthening bonds between family and friends.