

LCMS U CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF CONFERENCE

Engaging the Collegiate Mind



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

MAY 31–JUNE 1, 2023

May 31

10:00 a.m.	Matins
10:30 a.m.	Welcome
10:40 a.m.	<i>The Wittenberg Mind</i> with Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss
11:30 a.m.	Sext (Midday prayer at the sixth hour)
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	<i>An Appeal for Apologetics</i> with Dr. Adam Francisco
2:00 p.m.	Break
2:15 p.m.	<i>State of LCMS U</i> with Rev. Michael Meyer
2:45 p.m.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
	A. <i>Intentional Friendships with International Students Open Doors for Spiritual Conversations</i> with ministry catalyst for International Student Ministry Inc., Sue Hasselbring
	B. <i>Zoomer Rumors: What Do Kids Today Actually Care About</i> with University Lutheran Chapel's campus ministry vicar, Samuel Smith
	C. <i>Using Hymnody to Teach the Faith</i> with Rev. Mark Preus

3:45 p.m.	Break
4:15 p.m.	<i>Preventing the Pitfalls of Politicization</i> with Rev. Eric Andrae
5:15 p.m.	Vespers
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Gemutlichkeit at Luther House

June 1

10:00 a.m.	Terce (Prayer at the third hour)
10:15 a.m.	<i>Muslim Views on Christianity</i> with Dr. Adam Francisco
11:30 a.m.	Sext (Midday prayer at the sixth hour)
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
1:15 p.m.	<i>Christian Literature — Christian Literature?</i> with Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss
2:15 p.m.	Break
2:45 p.m.	Roundtable/Sharing Ideas
4:00 p.m.	Itinerarium (prayers for travel)

Speaker Descriptions >>>

SPEAKER DESCRIPTIONS

ADAM FRANCISCO

Dr. Adam Francisco earned his D.Phil. from the University of Oxford. His dissertation was published shortly thereafter under the title *Martin Luther and Islam* (Brill, 2007). He has since served as professor of history, dean and assistant provost in the Concordia University System. He is currently scholar in residence at 1517 and lives with his wife and children in Wheaton, Ill.

An Appeal for Apologetics

St. Peter's first epistle exhorted early Christians to always be prepared for the apologetic task. They had to, for they lived in a world that was anything but friendly to the Gospel. Our age is not so different. Christianity is, at best, regarded as a cleverly devised myth. At worst, it's viewed as a dangerous and hateful ideology. The task of apologetics, then, is to dispel these misconceptions. It is also to address the other allegations our culture throws our way. This talk assesses the need for and describes a variety of issues relevant to apologetics in the 21st century.

Muslim Views on Christianity

Islam is now — and has been for some time — part of America's religious landscape. Muslims continue to assimilate into American institutions, especially universities. This presents Christians a unique opportunity to reach them. This talk covers the contours of the Muslim worldview with particular focus on how Islam understands the claims of Christianity, and explores ways Christians might speak the Gospel to them.

JON BRUSS

The Rev. Dr. Jon Bruss is a professor of systematic theology at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. He holds an M.Div. from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, Minn., and an M.A. and Ph.D. in classics and philosophy from the University of Minnesota. He has served as a professor at Bethany Lutheran College, St. Olaf College, The University of the South, and the University of Kansas. Most recently he served as pastor at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kan., where he helped start an LCMS U chapter serving Washburn University.

The Wittenberg Mind

The Wittenberg Reformation is multi-dimensional. Often thought of as a response to a pastoral crisis, as a theological house cleaning, or even as a religious shift to map over new socioeconomic realities, the Reformation was also very much a university phenomenon, dealing with "high culture," and the University of Wittenberg set about in the reformation of its own curriculum to shape the future leaders of church and state in a fundamentally new way, characterized by an *ad fontes* orientation, an expansive notion of the law, and an approach to thinking and discourse that sought to inspire and sustain in students "an eloquent and learned piety." This is the intellectual culture of early Lutheranism. Does the Wittenberg way of cultivating the Wittenberg mind

have any value in the contemporary world, especially in campus ministry settings? If so, how might campus ministries foster their own uniquely Lutheran intellectual culture?

Christian Literature — Christian Literature?

Can Christian literary art be anything beyond the fairly nude allegories of, say, C.S. Lewis in *The Chronicles of Narnia*? Is there a Christian use of non-Christian literature? If so, does Lutheranism have any room for such frivolities? And how might Christian literature and Christian readings of non-Christian literature be put to the service of a robust Lutheran campus ministry? The first half of this session will briefly address these and other questions, while the second half will be devoted to a seminar-style exploration of a short piece of Christian literature (TBD) as a demonstration of how your campus ministry could use Christian literature — and Christian readings of non-Christian literature — in the development of "an eloquent and learned piety" for the sake of church and state among the students you serve. Session comes complete with a starter bibliography for those interested in picking up the torch.

ERIC ANDRAE

The Rev. Eric R. Andrae has been the campus pastor at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh since February 2001. He has also served the church-at-large as chaplain at two recent national LCMS U campus ministry conferences, as a member of the Board of Regents for Concordia University Chicago, as a member of the Higher Things Campus Ministry Committee, as a founding member of the Advisory Council of the PGH Christian Studies Program/Beatrice Institute, and as an author. He has an S.T.M. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with a thesis on Pastoral Care in Bo Giertz.

Preventing the Pitfalls of Politicization and Polarization

The nation's colleges are hotbeds of social justice and political activity. Students are perhaps more engaged than at any time since over half a century ago in the '60s. Justice-seeking, activity and engagement are good, especially when facing indifference or apathy or even hostility. So, then, how do we campus ministry leaders lead and equip our students in ways that foster faith-driven engagement while avoiding the pitfalls of politicizing (and thus nullifying) the Gospel, whether to the right or to the left? How do we help students prevent the polarization that divides not only campus and country, but even the members of the Body of Christ? The Episcopal Church was once called "the Republican Party at prayer" — may it never be said that the LCMS is the "Republican/Democratic/Green/American Solidarity/Socialist (etc.) party at prayer."