

Speakers Bureau



DR. BERNIE TONJES graduated with a B.S.Ed. and began his teaching career at Immanuel First Lutheran in West Covina, Calif. In 1982, after completing a master's degree in school counseling and administration, he accepted a call to Lutheran High School of St. Charles County in St.

Peters, Mo., where he spent the next 24 years serving as school counselor and teaching a broad range of classes. In 2005 Tonjes received a Ph.D. in educational foundations from St. Louis University. From 2006–2018 he served as a professor of education at Concordia University, Nebraska, teaching educational psychology and child development. He is now semi-retired, teaching psychology part time at Lutheran St. Charles and working on honing his skills as a grandparent.



SANDRA MADDEN formerly served as the conference executive for Higher Things, Inc. (a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS). Before working full time for Higher Things, she served on their board of directors for nine years and worked as a Christian education and youth director

in Loveland, Colo. She received a B.A. in theology (pre-seminary) from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind; an M.A. in Christian history from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.; and is currently in the process of earning her Ph.D. in missiology from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. She has also served as a member of the board of regents for Concordia University Irvine since 2010. As a survivor of domestic abuse, Madden works diligently to bring awareness to the issue of domestic violence through her writing and speaking, drawing from her personal experiences.



DR. STEPHEN SAUNDERS graduated from Northwestern University in 1991. He joined the faculty at Marquette University in 1994, where he is now a professor of psychology and the chair of the psychology department. He has published over 50 articles and has made over 200 presentations

regarding the mental health service delivery system, focusing on who needs treatment, who seeks treatment, how treatment is

best delivered, and how to document the effectiveness of treatment. He has written about the proper integration of religious beliefs into psychotherapy. Saunders also has a two-volume book published by Northwestern Publishing (Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod) entitled “A Christian Guide to Mental Illness: A Helpful Guide for Ministers and Church Workers to Recognize and Understand Mental Illness in the Parish and School.”



DEACONESS DR. KIM SCHAVE

formerly served as chair of the LCMS Task Force on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. Currently, she serves as associate director of business planning and analysis at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Canada. Previously, she served as executive

director of Humanitri, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization that provides housing resources to families facing homelessness, many of whom are survivors of domestic violence. She also served as director of project and policy administration in the office of the chief administrative officer of the LCMS. Schave also served as the director of human care for the LCMS Ohio District, and, prior to serving in that role, was responsible for developing and serving as director of a pregnancy resource center in Georgia. She also started a community-based soup kitchen at a mission congregation. Schave is a certified public accountant and has served in various financial positions within institutions of higher education and nonprofit organizations. Schave earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Cincinnati, a master's degree in religion as well as the deaconess certificate at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and a doctoral degree in organizational leadership with a business management concentration at Eastern University near Philadelphia. Schave also serves as an adjunct faculty member teaching accounting and MBA courses at Missouri Baptist University in St. Louis.