SPEAKERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

ANDY BATES

Andy Bates, DCE, began serving as host and producer with Worldwide KFUO, the broadcast ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in 2013. He was appointed director of Programming for KFUO in 2015 and began co-hosting “The Coffee Hour” in January 2018. A variety of education and experiences helped prepare him for this unique work. A love for delivering the spoken word was sparked when he participated in the 1993 Regional Missouri State High School Speech and Drama Contest in the radio speaking event. While a student at Mineral Area College in Park Hills, Mo., he began the first of multiple regular radio shifts at local stations KDBB and KFMO as well as WCBW in St. Louis. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communication/Theatre, a Master of Arts in Religion and a Director of Christian Education Certificate from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill. As a DCE, he has served camps and congregations in Illinois, New York, Missouri, Florida and Texas. Bates and his wife, Lauren, who is also a DCE, live in West St. Louis County, where they are grateful to have the help of their family and St. Mark’s Lutheran Church and School, Eureka, in raising their son, Oscar, in the one true faith.

REV. EDWARD AND SHERYL DEWITT

The Rev. Edward and Sheryl DeWitt are co-founders of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization in Sanford, Fla., that operates a residential maternity home and a transitional living home for single pregnant and postpartum women in crisis. For 25 years, the DeWitts shared a dream of opening a home for single women who, for various reasons, were at risk of aborting their unborn children. In November 2013, that dream became a reality when the maternity home opened to provide a comprehensive residential program for expectant mothers. In August 2018, Redeeming Life celebrated the opening of a transitional home to offer graduates of the maternity home the opportunity to continue receiving program services as they work toward self-sufficiency. Sheryl is executive director of Redeeming Life. Prior to founding the ministry, she had a 25-year career in the insurance industry as an underwriting manager and quality assurance officer. Edward is the president and chairman of Redeeming Life’s board and also the pastor of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Sanford. Prior to entering the seminary in 1991, he had a successful career as a commercial real estate broker. The DeWitts have been married for 38 years. Together they have raised three children: Patrick, Katie and Kyle. Katie, who is a single mother, helped co-found Redeeming Life.

REV. CHRISTOPHER ESGET

The Rev. Christopher Esget is senior pastor of Immanuel Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Alexandria, Va., where he has served since 2001. He also is the sixth vice-president of the LCMS (East-Southeast Region). Esget previously served Bethel Lutheran Church in Du Quoin, Ill. He is the author of “Saints and Faithful Brothers” and “The Table of the Lord and the Gates of Hell” in The Gates of Hell: Confessing Christ in a Hostile World (Concordia Publishing House, 2018). Esget is a member of the Concordia College New York Board of Regents. He holds a bachelor’s degree in music from Berklee College, Boston, and Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. His sermons and other writings are available at esgetology.com. He and his wife, Kassie, have one son.

REV. DR. ALFONSO O. ESPINOSA

The Rev. Dr. Alfonso O. Espinosa is senior pastor of St. Paul’s Lutheran Church of Irvine and has served as an adjunct professor of Theology at Concordia University, Irvine, Calif., for many years. He is the author of the book Faith That Sees Through the Culture (Concordia Publishing House, 2018), served on the study notes team for The Lutheran Study Bible, and wrote the chapters on Creation and God the Son for The Lutheran Difference. After graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., with an M.Div., he earned an M.A. in Christian Apologetics from Biola University, La Mirada, Calif., and a Ph.D. in Theology from the University of Birmingham, England. He has been married to Traci for 31 years, and they have been blessed with eight children and four grandchildren. Espinosa has served the LCMS Board for National Mission (BNM) for over four years and is currently the vice-chairman. His service on the BNM has focused on marriage, life and the family.
DEACONESS RACHEL GERACI
Deaconess Rachel Geraci began serving as mission and ministry director at Lutherans For Life in January 2018. She received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., in 2011 and a Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2017. Before joining the national staff of Lutherans For Life, Geraci worked as a registered nurse in an emergency department in Cincinnati, Ohio. In October 2018, she was commissioned as a deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. She currently resides in St. Louis, where her husband, Coleman, is completing his final year of seminary. Together they enjoy being parents to their beautiful daughter, Augustana Ruth, the joy of their lives.

SARAH GULSETH
Sarah Gulseth joined Worldwide KFUO (@KFUORadio), the broadcast ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in May 2016 and is now digital media specialist, overseeing social media, website and podcasting, as well as co-hosting “The Coffee Hour” with Andy Bates. Gulseth received a dual bachelor’s degree in Exercise Science and Graphic Arts from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., in 2010. While living in Chicago, she developed a love for people and their stories while serving at a local YMCA. A curious learner and lover of coffee, Gulseth enjoys hearing about other people and their passions, interests and hobbies, especially over an almond milk latte. She is also a Trek Women’s Advocate for Trek Bicycle Company, Waterloo, Wis., and encourages women and girls to enjoy riding bikes for fun, fitness or competition in the St. Louis area. Gulseth and her husband, Luther, who is trained in church music and is also an avid cyclist, have been married eight years and reside in St. Louis, where they attend Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Mo., and are involved in providing beautiful music to enhance weekly Divine Services.

REV. DR. MATTHEW C. HARRISON
The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison has served as president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod since 2010. In this role, Harrison serves as the chief ecclesiastical officer of the LCMS, supervising the doctrine taught and practiced; representing the LCMS with its partner church bodies throughout the world; and overseeing all officers, executives and agencies of the LCMS.

Before becoming president, Harrison served for nine years as executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. During that time, the organization coordinated the $14 million LCMS response to Hurricane Katrina and the multimillion-dollar responses to the tsunami in Asia and the earthquake in Haiti. Prior to this, Harrison served as parish pastor of congregations in Iowa and Indiana.

Harrison and his wife, Kathy, have two sons. Harrison is also an avid banjo player and instrumentalist who makes guitars, banjos and mandolins.

REV. DR. JAMES I. LAMB
The Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb grew up in the small, southern Minnesota town of Good Thunder. There he married his childhood sweetheart, RoxAnne. The Lambs have been blessed with two sons and a wonderful woman they claim as their daughter. God has also blessed them with six grandchildren.

Lamb received a B.A. in Biology from Minnesota State University, Mankato, in 1973. In 1975, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served as an emergency medical technician at the USAF Academy Hospital in Colorado Springs, Colo. He attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he received his Master of Divinity in 1982 and his Doctor of Ministry in 1994. Prior to accepting the position of executive director of National Lutherans For Life (LFL) in April 1996, Lamb served as senior pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Garner, Iowa, for 14 years. He retired as executive director of LFL at the end of 2015. In December 2016, he accepted a part-time position as the life advocate for Lutheran Family Service of Iowa. He still maintains a busy speaking schedule. He and RoxAnne live in Marshalltown, Iowa.
SPEAKERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

REV. JONATHAN LANGE
The Rev. Jonathan Lange has been married to his wife, April, for 27 years and is the father of nine children. He is the marriage, life and family facilitator for the LCMS Wyoming District and is chairman of the LCMS Life Coordinators. He also is editor of the *Free to Be Faithful* Newsletter published by the LCMS. In 2013, Lange became one of the founding leaders of the Wyoming Pastors Network, which shares information and coordinates efforts among a broader community concerned with marriage, life and religious freedom in the public square.

KIM LAUBE
Kim Laube earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa, in 1991. Over the years, Laube has worked in several different capacities, including as executive director of Iowans For L.I.F.E., as an adoption and pregnancy counselor, and as life ministries director for Lutheran Family Service. All her work surrounds the central notion that all human life is valuable. Laube's work involves both the beginning and end of life stages. She leads the Embryo Adoption Program at Lutheran Family Service, where they advocate for the lives of tiny embryos who have been created through in vitro feralization and are cryopreserved. The future for these embryos are unknown and at risk to be killed if other opportunities, like embryo adoption, are not available to them. Laube also works to preserve sanctity at the end of life. She has created programming to discuss the dangers of physician-assisted suicide within congregations in Iowa.

REV. DR. JOHN T. PLESS
The Rev. Dr. John T. Pless is assistant professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., where he also serves as director of field education. Prior to joining the faculty, he served for 17 years as campus pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. From 1979 to 1983, he served on staff at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind. Since 2009, he also has served as a visiting lecturer at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Pretoria, South Africa.

Pless is the author of numerous books and a member of the editorial council of *Lutheran Quarterly*. In addition, Pless is a fellow of the Luther Academy for Madagascar and chairman of the Synod's Commission on Doctrinal Review. He also served as one of the primary drafters for the Synod's revision of the 2017 edition of *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation* (Concordia Publishing House). Pless graduated from Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas, with a B.A in Theology and Philosophy and from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, with a Master of Divinity. He was awarded an honorary doctorate (D.Litt.) by Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., in 2018.

REV. MAX PHILLIPS
The Rev. Max Phillips is pastor of a new multi-congregational parish formed from the ministry partnership of Christ Lutheran Church in Bouton, Iowa, and Zion Lutheran Church in Ogden, Iowa. In addition, he serves as leader for two LCMS Recognized Service Organizations: as CEO of Perry Lutheran Home, an elder care community specializing in dementia and intergenerational care, and as executive director of Lutheran Family Service, a counseling and adoption ministry serving a growing number of LCMS districts. In addition, Phillips serves as chairman of the Board of Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Phillips has served as a bi-vocational minister for most of his career, spending 33 years in the telecommunication field where he served as a senior executive for Qwest Communications. He also has served as mayor, as president of the local school board and has received three different gubernatorial appointments to serve on the State of Iowa Board of Education. Phillips holds master's degrees from the University of Iowa and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He and his wife, Sherrill, live in rural Iowa and have three adult children and three young grandsons.
SPEAKERS AND WORSHIP LEADERS

REV. KEVIN ROBSON
The Rev. Kevin Robson is chief mission officer for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Prior to that, he served as pastor of Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Baxter, Minn. (2006–2015). He also has served as pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Elgin, Minn.; as vacancy pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hay Creek (Red Wing), Minn.; and as vacancy and sole pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Long Prairie, Minn.

Prior to earning his Master of Divinity at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2001, Robson enjoyed a broad career in corporate research and development, product management, business development, sales and consulting with Union Carbide Corporation in Chicago and Air Products and Chemicals in Allentown, Pa.

Robson is a 1988 graduate of the University of Chicago with a master's degree in Finance and Marketing and a 1982 graduate of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, earning both a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and a Bachelor of Science and Engineering in Chemical Engineering. He is currently working toward a doctorate from Concordia Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Peg, have one son.

REV. MICHAEL W. SALEMINK
The Rev. Michael W. Salemink began serving as executive director of Lutherans For Life in January 2016. Previously, he served as pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church, Webster, Minn., (2003–2005) and as associate pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and School in Lafayette, Ind. (2005–2015). Salemink received a B.A. in Theology from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., in 1999 and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., in 2003. Salemink and his wife, Heather, have been married 18 years and reside in St. Louis, where they attend Immanuel Lutheran Church, Olivette, with their three sons: Christian, Nathan and Luke. Salemink writes regularly and speaks nationwide as he equips Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices for life.

DEACONESS KIMBERLY TROMBLEY
Deaconess Kimberly Trombley has a passion for seeing people of all abilities be actively involved in the life of the church. She is vice-president of Religious Life at Bethesda Lutheran Communities, where she oversees the Religious Life team and its initiatives to provide faith supports to clients, staff and congregations. She also provides leadership to the organization in carrying out its mission to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through services that share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Trombley came to Bethesda in 2012 as a ministry consultant to northeast Indiana and Michigan. Before accepting her current position, she served Bethesda as the corporate director of Religious Life. Trombley has a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Ball State University, Muncie, Ind., and a Master of Art leading to deaconess certification from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. She resides in Fort Wayne with her husband, Pastor Michael Trombley; her children; and an English Bulldog named Luther.

REV. DR. JON D. VIEKER
The Rev. Dr. Jon D. Vieker is senior assistant to LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. Prior to joining the president’s staff in September 2010, Vieker served as assistant director for the LCMS Commission on Worship for 12 years. In that position, he was involved with all aspects of research, development, editing and production of Lutheran Service Book and its core companion volumes.

Before that, Vieker was a parish pastor for nine years at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, West Bloomfield, Mich. He also has written a variety of articles on Lutheran hymnody and liturgy and is a composer with choral settings and organ preludes published by Concordia Publishing House and Liturgy Solutions.

A native of Livingston, Calif., Vieker received a B.A. in Music from California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, Calif., and M.Div., S.T.M. and Ph.D. degrees from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He and his wife, Kim, live in Manchester, Mo., and are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Des Peres, Mo., where they serve in the parish choral and instrumental ensembles. They have two grown children.
REV. ROBERT ZAGORE

The Rev. Robert Zagore serves as executive director of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Office of National Mission, where he oversees the implementation of the policies that direct the domestic ministries serving the congregations, schools and districts of the Synod. He began serving in this position in May 2018.

To this role, Zagore brings 27 years of experience as a parish pastor in both urban and rural congregations. He spent 17 of those years as senior administrative pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Traverse City, Mich. Prior to that, he was pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church (1997–2001) in Niles, Mich., and Hope Lutheran Church (1991–97) in Stanton, Mich. He also has served as a pastoral delegate at three LCMS conventions, as a circuit counselor in the LCMS Michigan District, and as a vicarage and seminary field work supervisor.

Zagore received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (1990), and he later completed additional coursework toward a Master of Sacred Theology degree. He also holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind. (1983).

Before becoming a pastor, Zagore worked as an accounting consultant for Cleveland Business Consulting Services.

Zagore and his wife, Gwen, have four adult children: Christopher (married to Leah), Katie, Elise and Faith.