



**HAVE NO FEAR**

WITH MAN THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE, BUT WITH  
GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE (MATT. 19:26).

# 2018 NATIONAL RURAL & SMALL TOWN MISSION CONFERENCE

— CONFERENCE BOOKLET —



THE  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Missouri Synod

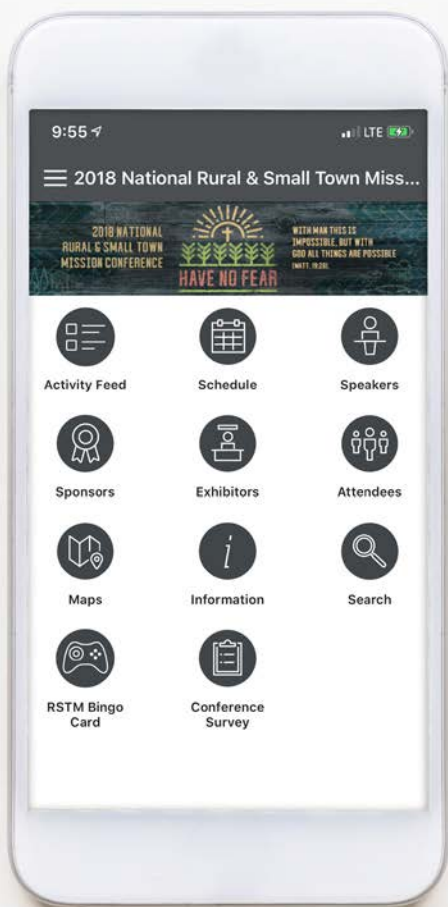
Rural & Small Town Mission







## CrowdCompass AttendeeHub



- 1 Download the “CrowdCompass AttendeeHub” app from the iOS or Google Play Store.



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- 2 Search for “Rural 2018” and download the “2018 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference” event to your device.
- 3 Log in to the app for personalized schedules and event notifications.
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# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## > THURSDAY, NOV. 8

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

**REGISTRATION** (*Lunch on your own*)

1 p.m.

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM

1:15 p.m.

**BIBLE STUDY**  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*Matthew 19:26 — With Man This Is Impossible, But with God All Things Are Possible (Part 1)*

REV. DR. ROOSEVELT GRAY JR., DIRECTOR,  
LCMS BLACK MINISTRY

We live in a world of extreme poverty and extreme wealth, yet it is impossible to see how either the rich or the poor could be saved on their own. Thankfully, God comes to the world in Christ and makes salvation possible for all humanity. Christ is the Word made flesh, and His body and blood are the gifts from God for everyone! The Word, Baptism and the Eucharist are the means His people use to grow their faith and to bring others to faith in Christ, no matter who they are. What wonderful gifts we have to share with the world.

1:45 p.m.

**PLENARY**  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*Blessed Are the Rural*

REV. TIMOTHY KOCH, PASTOR, CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH, CRESBARD, S.D., AND IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WECOTA, S.D.

God has called the wisdom of this world foolish and revealed His power in the cross. Meditate on the blessings of rural and small-town ministry during this plenary session.

2:30–2:45 p.m.

**BREAK**

Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break. These break times are for your convenience.

2:45–3:45 p.m.

**SESSION 1** (*Options*)

> **LERT Disaster Training (Part 1)**

KANSA E

Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response

"We love because he first loved us" (1 JOHN 4:19). Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Get equipped to help the hurting after a disaster through Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) disaster-preparedness training. (*Note: This is a six-part intensive track on LERT. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.*)

> **Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 1)**

KANSA D

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., along with peer youth leaders, Tori Ritzma and Malaina Pitsch.

This learning track will equip youth and youth leaders to better engage their communities and each other while speaking the truth in love. Resources will be provided to help participants better serve as leaders in today's church. (*Note: This is a six-part intensive track on Youth Ministry. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.*)

> **First Year in a New Parish**

KANSA C

Rev. Randy Wurschmidt, pastor, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian, Ind.

New transitions can be hard for everyone. A pastor and his family are regular people with regular needs, just like everyone else. Join us to discuss strategies for easing the transition for all while building strong, Christian relationships with new congregation members and the community.

> **re:Vitality**

KANSA A

Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director, LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and LCMS Revitalization

re:Vitality provides practical resources for helping Lutheran congregations engage their communities with the Good News of Jesus. What would that look like for your congregation?

> **Endowments: Thinking Beyond the Offering Plate**

KANSA B

Ralph Simon, vice-president for Investment Services, LCMS Foundation

Meet with experts from the LCMS Foundation to learn about creative ways of using endowments to fund the mission in rural areas and small towns.





**4–5 p.m.**

**SESSION 2** (*Options*)

› **LERT Disaster Training (Part 2)**

**KANSA E**

*Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response*

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› **Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 2)**

**KANSA D**

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This learning track will equip youth and youth leaders to better engage their communities and each other while speaking the truth in love. Resources will be provided to help participants better serve as leaders in today's church. (*Note: This is a six-part intensive track on Youth Ministry. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.*)

› **Works of Mercy and Human-Care Projects: A Case Study**

**KANSA A**

*Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director,  
LCMS Recognized Service Organizations*

Learn about opportunities to provide for the needs of members of the church and community. Come away with networking tips and resources for initiating mercy projects where needed most.

› **Ministry to the Armed Forces/Operation Barnabas**

**KANSA B**

*Chaplain Craig Muehler, director,  
LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces*

Barnabas was Paul's companion, and he helped Paul on his missionary journey. Come learn about Operation Barnabas, a network of care to our nation's military members, families and veterans. We hope to encourage our military members and their families with the Gospel in action!

› **Transitioning to a New Parish**

**KANSA C**

*Rev. Randy Wurschmidt, pastor,  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian, Ind.*

New transitions can be hard for everyone. A pastor and his family are regular people with regular needs, just like everyone else. How can your congregation best welcome your new pastor and his family? What are the best ways to integrate them into the community? Join us to discuss strategies for easing the transition for all while building strong, Christian relationships.

**5:15–6:15 p.m.**

**OPENING WORSHIP**

**SHAWNEE BALLROOM**

*Preacher – Rev. Robert Zagore, executive  
director, LCMS Office of National Mission*

**6:30–7:30 p.m.**

**DINNER**

**SHAWNEE BALLROOM**

**7:30–9 p.m.**

**OPTIONAL EVENING SESSION** (*Options*)

› **Rural Ministry Resources Idea Exchange**

**KANSA A**

*Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, and Amy Gerdtts,  
project coordinator, RSTM*

Meet with the RSTM team and learn more about the array of resources available to help support your congregation in this Q&A session. Learn, discuss and share ideas for rural and small-town congregations.

› **Recognized Service Organizations Idea Exchange**

**KANSA E**

*Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director,  
LCMS Recognized Service Organizations*

Come discuss the many possibilities for partnering with the various Recognized Service Organizations of the LCMS. You'll leave with networking tips and resources for initiating mercy projects where needed most. Bring your own ideas to share!

› **Stewardship Idea Exchange**

**KANSA C**

*Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador, senior pastor, St. John Lutheran Church,  
Plymouth, Wis., and assistant coordinator, LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

Come receive and exchange practical ideas for all types of congregational stewardship and stewardship education. This session will help identify best practices for teaching stewardship.





# > FRIDAY, NOV. 9

7–8 a.m.

## BREAKFAST

8–8:30 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDY SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*Matthew 19:26 — With Man This Is Impossible, But with God All Things Are Possible (Part 2)*

REV. DR. ROOSEVELT GRAY JR., DIRECTOR,  
LCMS BLACK MINISTRY

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him” (2 COR. 1:20). That’s why it is through Him that we utter our amen to God for His glory. Christ is God’s amen to the world! And in Christ, we receive all the promises of God. John reminds us, “Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name” (JOHN 20:30–31).

8:30 a.m.

## PLENARY SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*Spiritual Warfare*

REV. DR. ROBERT H. BENNETT, GUEST PROFESSOR,  
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, IND.

We must always be on our guard! “Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour” (1 PETER 5:8).

## SPONSOR RECOGNITION

9:15–9:30 a.m.

## BREAK

Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break.



9:30–10:30 a.m.

## SESSION 3 (Options)

### > LERT Disaster Training (Part 3)

KANSA E

Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response

“We love because he first loved us” (1 JOHN 4:19). Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Get equipped to help the hurting after a disaster through Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) disaster-preparedness training. *(Note: This is a six-part intensive track on LERT. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.)*

### > Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 3)

KANSA D

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., along with peer youth leaders, Tori Ritzma and Malaina Pitsch.

This learning track will equip youth and youth leaders to better engage their communities and each other while speaking the truth in love. Resources will be provided to help participants better serve as leaders in today’s church. *(Note: This is a six-part intensive track on Youth Ministry. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.)*

### > Suffering in Christ, Grieving with Hope

KANSA B

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, executive director,  
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

You might mourn for a few weeks, or your grief may extend for years. No matter how long it takes for you to heal, you can ground your hope for healing in Jesus.

### > Ministry to the Armed Forces/Operation Barnabas

KANSA C

Chaplain Craig Muehler, director, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces

Barnabas was Paul’s companion, and he helped Paul on his missionary journey. Come learn about Operation Barnabas, a network of care to our nation’s military members, families and veterans. We hope to encourage our military members and their families with the Gospel in action!

### > Ministry to Inactives

KANSA A

Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, RSTM

Ministry to inactives is a challenge for congregations of all sizes and settings. Explore practical approaches to offering care to those who have wandered from worship, while being sensitive to the unique perspective of rural/small-town settings.



**10:30–10:45 a.m.**

**BREAK**

Please be prepared to leave the room and move back to the Plenary session during the break.

**10:45–11:30 a.m.**

**PLENARY  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM**

*Partnering Together for the Sake of the Gospel  
(Part 1)*

REV. TOM SCHLUND, SENIOR PASTOR,  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALGONA, IOWA

As God's beloved children, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. Yet, sometimes we act as though we are all competing for our Father's attention. What if, instead of working apart from one another, we partnered together to spread the Gospel of Christ? In Part 1, we'll explore the nuts and bolts of who to partner with and what to think about when partnering together.

**SPONSOR RECOGNITION**

**11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

**LUNCH  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM**

**SPONSOR RECOGNITION**

**12:30–1:15 p.m.**

**PLENARY  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM**

*Partnering Together for the Sake of the Gospel  
(Part 2)*

REV. TOM SCHLUND, SENIOR PASTOR,  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ALGONA, IOWA

We have been loved by God and sent into the world to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ. As we continue exploring what it looks like to partner together, we'll take a closer look at the work that God is doing through a couple of congregations that took a leap of faith and started working together.

**SPONSOR RECOGNITION**

**1:15–1:30 p.m.**

**BREAK**

Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break.

**1:30–2:30 p.m.**

**SESSION 4 (Options)**

**> LERT Disaster Training (Part 4)**

**KANSA E**

Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response

"We love because he first loved us" (1 JOHN 4:19). Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Get equipped to help the hurting after a disaster through Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) disaster-preparedness training. *(Note: This is a six-part intensive track on LERT. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.)*

**> Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 4)**

**KANSA D**

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., along with peer youth leaders, Tori Ritzma and Malaina Pitsch.

This learning track will equip youth and youth leaders to better engage their communities and each other while speaking the truth in love. Resources will be provided to help participants better serve as leaders in today's church. *(Note: This is a six-part intensive track on Youth Ministry. Please sign up for all six sessions. Seating is limited.)*

**> Suffering in Christ, Grieving with Hope**

**KANSA B**

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, executive director,  
Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty

You might mourn for a few weeks, or your grief may extend for years. No matter how long it takes for you to heal, you can ground your hope for healing in Jesus.

**> Moving People with Disabilities from Invisible to Indispensable!**

**KANSA C**

Mona Fuerstenau, director of Ministry Partnerships,  
Bethesda Lutheran Communities

First Corinthians 12:23 says that those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable. People with disabilities are often missing, and so the Body of Christ is incomplete. Let's change that!

**> Planning for Partnerships**

**KANSA A**

Rev. Tom Schlund, senior pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, Iowa

When congregations consider partnering together, awesome things can happen. Let's look to the Lord to guide and direct our thoughts and hearts to use the congregations in the community to do His work in a way that will bear lasting fruit.



**2:30–2:45 p.m.**

**BREAK**

Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break.

**2:45–3:45 p.m.**

**SESSION 5 (Options)**

**> LERT Disaster Training (Part 5)**

**KANSA E**

*Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response*

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**> Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 5)**

**KANSA D**

*Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., along with peer youth leaders, Tori Ritzma and Malaina Pitsch.*

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**> Spiritual Warfare**

**KANSA A**

*Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett, guest professor,  
Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

Continue the discussion on spiritual warfare during this follow-up session.

**> Moving People with Disabilities from Invisible to Indispensable!**

**KANSA C**

*Mona Fuerstenau, director of Ministry Partnerships,  
Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

First Corinthians 12:23 says that those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable. People with disabilities are often missing, and so the Body of Christ is incomplete. Let's change that!

**> Generation to Generation**

**KANSA B**

*Tessa Brasher, director of Christian education,  
St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, Ark.*

Equipping rural and small-town families to teach the faith to the next generation in their homes allows for ministering to happen at home and to the community at-large. Join this interactive session as we explore ministry at home and beyond.

**5:30 p.m.**

**SOCIAL HOUR**

**6:30 p.m.**

**BANQUET  
SHAWNEE BALLROOM**



# > SATURDAY, NOV. 10

7–8 a.m.

## BREAKFAST

8–8:45 a.m.

## BIBLE STUDY SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*Matthew 19:26 — With Man This Is Impossible, But with God All Things Are Possible (Part 3)*

REV. DR. ROOSEVELT GRAY JR., DIRECTOR,  
LCMS BLACK MINISTRY

Christ is God's abundant life for those who believe in Him as their Savior. Christ reminds us that we are in a battle for our very soul. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (JOHN 10:10). As we await the glorious reappearing of Christ, we are assured of a life full of the fruits of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law.

8:45–9 a.m.

## BREAK

Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break.

9–10 a.m.

## SESSION 6 (Options)

### > LERT Disaster Training (Part 6)

KANSA E

Rev. Michael Meyer, manager,  
LCMS Disaster Response

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### > Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 6)

KANSA D

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., along with peer youth leaders, Tori Ritzma and Malaina Pitsch.

This learning track will equip youth and youth leaders to better engage their communities and each other while speaking the truth in love. Resources will be provided to help participants better serve as leaders in today's church.

### > re:Vitality

KANSA C

Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director, LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and LCMS Revitalization

re:Vitality provides practical resources for helping Lutheran congregations engage their communities with the Good News of Jesus. What would that look like for your congregation?

### > Generation to Generation

KANSA B

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St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, Ark.

Equipping rural and small-town families to teach the faith to the next generation in their homes allows for ministering to happen at home and to the community at-large. Join this interactive session as we explore ministry at home and beyond.

### > Big Visions in Small Congregations

KANSA A

Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, S.D., and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, S.D.

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul speaks of the Body of Christ. Reflect with Pastor Koch on the "big" possibilities available to the "small" — yet indispensable — members of the Body of Christ.

10 a.m.

## PLENARY

SHAWNEE BALLROOM

*God and Country, Can We Still Serve Both Kingdoms?*

CHAPLAIN CRAIG MUEHLER, DIRECTOR,  
LCMS MINISTRY TO THE ARMED FORCES

Many rural and small-town communities are intimately tied to military communities in one way or another. How can our congregations reach out through these relationships to engage and encourage our military members and their families with the Gospel in action?

11–11:30 a.m.

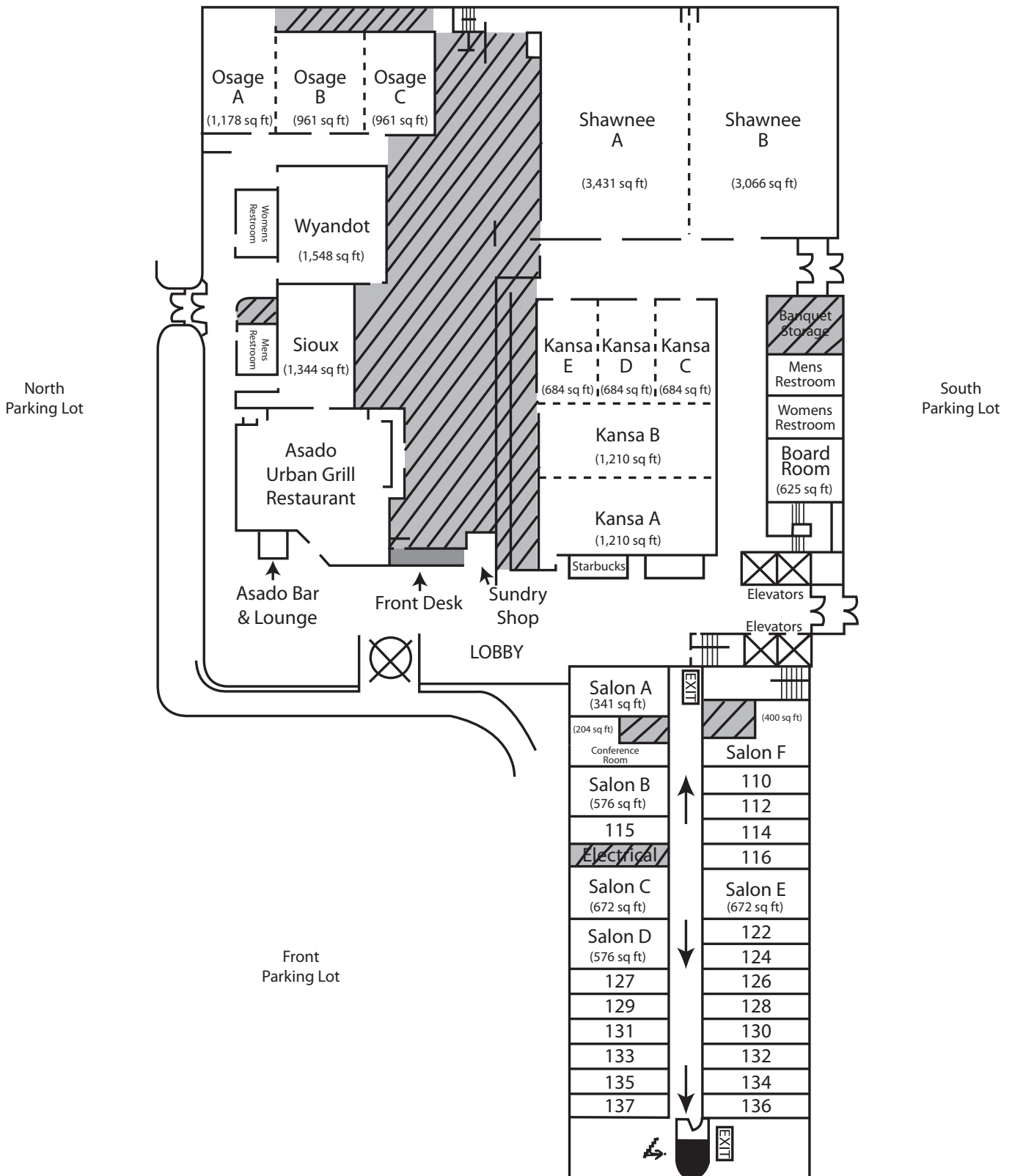
## CLOSING WORSHIP

SHAWNEE BALLROOM

Preacher — Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor,  
Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, S.D.,  
and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, S.D.



# HOTEL MAP



## 2018 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



### REV. DR. ROBERT H. BENNETT

*Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett grew up in Michigan, where he served as pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church of Benzonia and Trinity Lutheran Church and School of Reese, Michigan. Bennett holds a B.A. from Concordia University, Ann Arbor (Human Resource Management), as well as an M.Div. (Exegetical Studies), an S.T.M. (Exegetical Studies) and a Ph.D. (Missiology) from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. His Ph.D. research focused on the growth

of the Lutheran Church of Madagascar (F.L.M.). Dr. Bennett's research led to the publishing of his first book, *I Am Not Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare*, and his later book, *Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare in America*. Bennett is the Executive Director of Luther Academy and also serves Concordia Theological Seminary as an International Missions Specialist and visiting professor of missiology.



### REV. TIMOTHY KOCH

*Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, S.D., and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, S.D.*

The Rev. Timothy Koch grew up 30 miles north of Minneapolis. He is the son of two Lutheran grade school teachers and a fifth-generation LCMS church worker. He is a 2006 graduate of Concordia University Seward, Neb., and a 2010 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He completed his S.T.M. from Concordia Seminary in 2013, writing his thesis on *Manuscript 2193 and Its Text*

*of the Gospel According to John*. He was ordained on July 3, 2011, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Wecota, where he has ever since served her and her sister congregation, Concordia in Cresbard. Koch married his wife Emily in 2005, and they have been blessed with three children, Ezra, Evelyn and Levi, and are expecting their fourth child this year.



### CHAPLAIN CRAIG MUEHLER

*Director, LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces*

Chaplain Craig Muehler, a retired U.S. Navy captain, serves as the director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces. He began serving in this position in August 2014 after retiring as deputy chaplain of the U.S. Marine Corps.

As director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, Muehler is the chief liaison to the 160-plus LCMS chaplains serving in all branches of the military — both active and reserve — and the Civil Air Patrol.

A native of Springfield, Ill., Muehler grew up in South Dakota and Missouri. He received his bachelor's degree from Concordia University Chicago, River Forest, Ill., in 1984 and his M.Div. degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1988. He earned his Master of Theology degree in Pastoral Counseling from Trinity International University in Deerfield, Ill., in 2001.



### REV. TOM SCHLUND

*Senior pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, Iowa*

The Rev. Tom Schlund has spent his whole life in the church as the son of a pastor and brother of a missionary. One thing he was certain of while he was growing up was that he was never going to be a pastor. God had other plans. Before becoming a pastor, he worked in student development and leadership at Texas Tech University and the University of Missouri, which gave him great appreciation for the value of partnerships in accomplishing common goals. As senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church,

he led the congregational leadership through conversations with St. John's Lutheran Church (a congregation 10 miles away) that resulted in a ministry partnership agreement and the calling of an additional associate pastor to serve both congregations. He is passionate about partnering together as the Body of Christ to spread the Gospel. He received a B.S. in business administration from the University of Nebraska—Kearney, an M.Ed. from Texas Tech University and an M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.



## 2018 BREAKOUT SPEAKERS

### REV. DR. ROBERT H. BENNETT

GUEST PROFESSOR

*Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.*

### TESSA BRASHER

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, Ark.*

### MONA FUERSTENAU

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

*Bethesda Lutheran Communities*

### AMY GERDTS

COORDINATOR

*LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission*

### REV. TIMOTHY KOCH

PASTOR

*Concordia Lutheran Church, Cresbard, S.D.,  
and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wecota, S.D.*

### ANGIE KOLLBAUM

YOUTH DIRECTOR

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo.*

### REV. TODD KOLLBAUM

DIRECTOR

*LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission*

### DEACONESS DOROTHY KRANS

DIRECTOR

*LCMS Recognized Service Organizations*

### REV. DR. NATHAN MEADOR

SENIOR PASTOR

*St. John Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Wis.,  
and assistant coordinator, LCMS Stewardship Ministry*

### REV. MICHAEL MEYER

MANAGER

*LCMS Disaster Response*

### CHAPLAIN CRAIG MUEHLER

DIRECTOR

*LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces*

### MALAINA PITSCH

YOUTH PEER LEADER

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo.*

### TORI RITZMA

YOUTH PEER LEADER

*St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo.*

### REV. TOM SCHLUND

SENIOR PASTOR

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, Iowa*

### REV. DR. GREGORY P. SELTZ

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty*

### RALPH SIMON

VICE-PRESIDENT FOR INVESTMENT SERVICES

*LCMS Foundation*

### REV. DR. MARK WOOD

DIRECTOR

*LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and LCMS Revitalization*

### REV. RANDY WURSCHMIDT

PASTOR

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ossian, Ind.*



# SPECIAL THANKS

## CONFERENCE SPONSORS



## CONFERENCE EXHIBITORS







# **OPENING HYMN:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LSB 790

1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
 2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
 3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
 4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -

a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
 reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
 made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
 fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall

health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
 lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
 fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
 dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -

tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
 need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
 failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
 might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.

- 5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him!  
 All that has life and breath, come now with praises before Him!  
 Let the Amen  
 Sound from His people again;  
 Gladly forever adore Him!

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## OPENING VERICLES

- L** Holy God, holy and most gracious Father,  
**C** have mercy and hear us.

## READING

PSALM 149

Praise the LORD!

Sing to the LORD a new song,  
his praise in the assembly of the godly!  
Let Israel be glad in his Maker;  
let the children of Zion rejoice in their King!  
Let them praise his name with dancing,  
making melody to him with tambourine and lyre!  
For the LORD takes pleasure in his people;  
he adorns the humble with salvation.  
Let the godly exult in glory;

let them sing for joy on their beds.  
Let the high praises of God be in their throats  
and two-edged swords in their hands,  
to execute vengeance on the nations  
and punishments on the peoples,  
to bind their kings with chains  
and their nobles with fetters of iron,  
to execute on them the judgment written!  
This is honor for all his godly ones.  
Praise the LORD!

- L** This is the Word of the Lord,  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## READING

1 JOHN 3:1-3

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord,  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## READING

MATTHEW 5:1-12

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord,  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOMILY

## LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven. hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.



## APOSTLES' CREED

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

## AFTERNOON

**L** Show us Your steadfast love, O Lord,

**C** and grant us Your salvation.

**L** Let Your priests be clothed with righteousness;

**C** and let Your saints shout for joy.

**L** Lord, keep this nation under Your care,

**C** and guide us in the way of justice and truth.

**L** Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,

**C** for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon the earth.

**L** Let the peoples praise You, O God;

**C** let all the peoples praise You!

**L** For the needy shall not always be forgotten,

**C** and the hope of the poor shall not perish forever.

**L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,

**C** and renew a right spirit within me.

**L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;

**C** let my cry come to You.

**L** O Lord, keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Additional prayers may be offered.*

**L** Heavenly Father, in whom we live and move and have our being, we humbly pray You so to guide and govern us by Your Word and Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget You but remember that we are ever walking in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

**L** Let us bless the Lord.

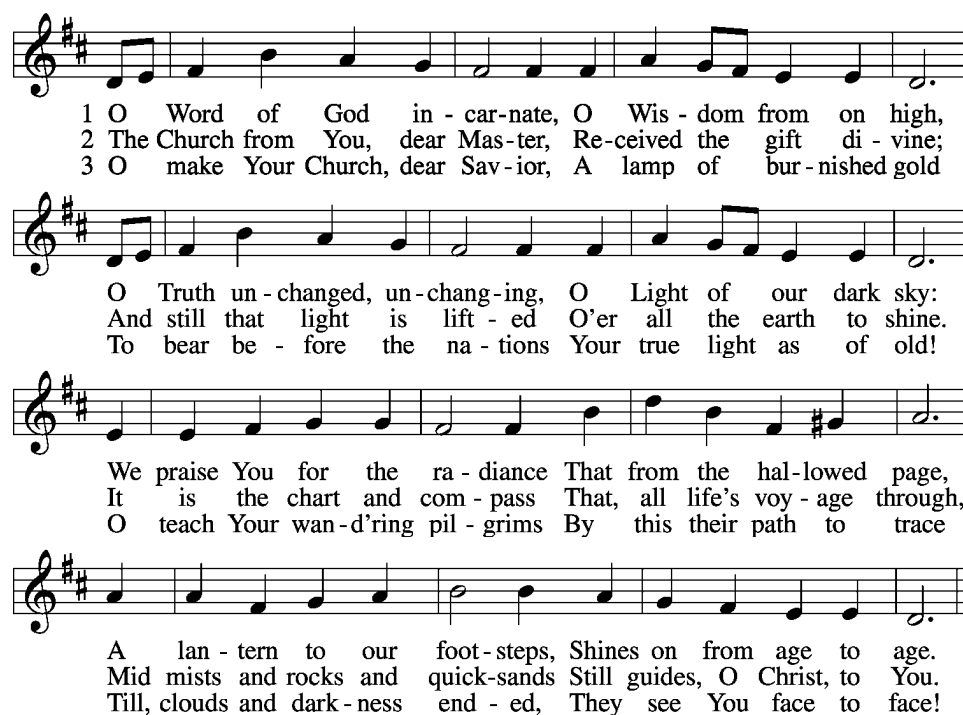
**C** Thanks be to God.

**L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN: *O Word of God Incarnate*

LSB 523



1 O Word of God in - car-nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from You, dear Mas - ter, Re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
3 O make Your Church, dear Sav - ior, A lamp of bur - nished gold

O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
And still that light is lift - ed O'er all the earth to shine.  
To bear be - fore the na - tions Your true light as of old!

We praise You for the ra - diance That from the hal - lowed page,  
It is the chart and com - pass That, all life's voy - age through,  
O teach Your wan - d'ring pil - grims By this their path to trace

A lan - tern to our foot - steps, Shines on from age to age.  
Mid mists and rocks and quick - sands Still guides, O Christ, to You.  
Till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, They see You face to face!

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### Acknowledgments

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**OPENING HYMN:** *Jesus Shall Reign*

LSB 832

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun Does its suc -  
 2 To Him shall end - less prayer be made, And end - less  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue Dwell on His  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er He reigns: The pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring Hon - ors pe -

ces - sive jour - neys run; His king - dom stretch from  
 prais - es crown His head; His name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; And in - fant voic - es  
 leap, un - loose their chains, The wea - ry find e -  
 cu - liar to our King; An - gels de - scend with

shore to shore Till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise With ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim Their ear - ly bless - ings on His name.  
 ter - nal rest, And all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, And earth re - peat the loud a - men.

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## OPENING VERSICLES

- L** O Lord, open my lips,  
**C** and my mouth will declare Your praise.  
**L** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;  
**C** make haste to help me, O Lord,  
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

## READING

PSALM 146

Praise the LORD!  
Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
I will praise the LORD as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.  
Put not your trust in princes,  
in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.  
When his breath departs, he returns to the earth;  
on that very day his plans perish.  
Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,  
who made heaven and earth,  
the sea, and all that is in them,  
who keeps faith forever;  
who executes justice for the oppressed,  
who gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets the prisoners free;  
the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.  
The LORD watches over the sojourners;  
he upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.  
The LORD will reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
Praise the LORD!

## READING

HEBREWS 9: 24-28

For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Nor was it to offer himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not his own, for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

- L** This is the Word of the Lord,  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## READING

MARK 12: 38-44

And in his teaching he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows' houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." And he sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

- L** This is the Word of the Lord,  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## HOMILY

## KYRIE

- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.
- L** O Christ,
- C** have mercy.
- L** O Lord,
- C** have mercy.

## LORD'S PRAYER

- C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

## APOSTLES' CREED

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

## VERSICLES

- L** Hear my prayer, O Lord;
- C** let my cry come to You.
- L** In the day of my trouble I call upon You;
- C** for You answer me.
- L** Hide Your face from my sins,
- C** and blot out all my iniquities.
- L** Create in me a clean heart, O God,
- C** and renew a right spirit within me.
- L** Cast me not away from Your presence,
- C** and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
- L** Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
- C** and uphold me with a willing spirit.
- L** Because Your steadfast love is better than life,

- C** my lips will praise You.
- L** For You have been my help,
- C** and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.
- L** Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth;
- C** unite my heart to fear Your name.
- L** I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart,
- C** and I will glorify Your name forever.
- L** May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.
- C** May those who love Your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”
- L** Save Your people and bless Your heritage!
- C** Be their shepherd and carry them forever.
- L** Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;
- C** listen to my plea for grace.

## COLLECTS

- L** Let us pray.  
O Lord, keep Your household, the Church, in continual godliness that through Your protection she may be free from all adversities and devoutly given to serve You in good works; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## BEFORE TRAVEL

- L** Lord God our Father, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, You led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star You led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now in this time as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where You dwell in glory with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## BENEDICAMUS AND BLESSING

- L** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.
- L** The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.





1 Hark, the voice of Je - sus cry - ing, "Who will go and work to - day?  
2 If you can - not speak like an - gels, If you can - not preach like Paul,  
3 If you can - not be a watch - man, Stand - ing high on Zi - on's wall,  
4 Let none hear you i - dly say - ing, "There is noth - ing I can do,"



Fields are white and har - vests wait - ing— Who will bear the sheaves a - way?"  
You can tell the love of Je - sus, You can say He died for all.  
Point - ing out the path to heav - en, Of - f'ring life and peace to all,  
While the mul - ti - tudes are dy - ing And the Mas - ter calls for you.



Loud and long the Mas - ter call - eth; Rich re - ward He of - fers thee.  
If you can - not rouse the wick - ed With the judg - ment's dread a - larms,  
With your prayers and with your boun - ties You can do what God com - mands;  
Take the task He gives you glad - ly, Let His work your plea - sure be;



Who will an - swer, glad - ly say - ing, "Here am I, send me, send me?"  
You can lead the lit - tle chil - dren To the Sav - ior's wait - ing arms.  
You can be like faith - ful Aar - on, Hold - ing up the proph - et's hands.  
An - swer quick - ly when He call - eth, "Here am I, send me, send me!"

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# RSTM RESOURCES

Mark your calendars! The following LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission events are being planned. Have your district contact us if you are interested in having an event in an area near you.

## 2018-19 RSTM EVENTS

**SATURDAY, NOV. 10 – WEDNESDAY, NOV. 14, 2018**

### RURAL IMMERSION FOR SEMINARY STUDENTS

Immersive experience in rural and small-town areas. Seminary students stay on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Mo.

**TBD**

### ENGAGING THE WANDERING (ETW) EVENT

Presented with the LCMS Minnesota North District

### ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY (EYC) EVENT

Presented with the LCMS Texas District

### WORKER PRIEST “RESPITE AND REVITALIZATION” RETREAT

Retreat experience for bi-vocational pastors and families on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School, Concordia, Mo. Presented with Grace Place Wellness.

### ENGAGING THE WANDERING (ETW) EVENT

Presented with the LCMS Ohio District

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

### ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY (EYC) EVENT

Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, Ark., presented with the LCMS Mid-South District

**SEPTEMBER 2019**

### ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY (EYC) EVENT

Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, Tenn., presented with the LCMS Mid-South District

**THURSDAY, NOV. 14 – SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 2019**

### 2019 NATIONAL RSTM CONFERENCE / *Minneapolis, Minn.*

Plenary speakers to include the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, the Rev. Dr. Hal Senkbeil and featured Bible study leader Rev. Robert Zagore



## 2019 RSTM WEBINARS *(All times, 1–2 p.m. CST)*

**JANUARY 24**

### RURAL MINISTRY RESOURCES

Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, and Amy Gerds, coordinator, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

**FEBRUARY 21**

### REACHING YOUNG WOMEN: LWML

Kaye Wolff, vice-president of Special Focus Ministries, LWML

**MARCH 7**

### RAISING YOUNG LEADERS AND LUTHERAN YOUTH CORPS

Julianna Shults, DCE, program manager, Special Ministries-Lutheran Young Adult Corps

**APRIL 11**

### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenfield, Iowa

**MAY 23**

### OUTREACH THROUGH LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS

Rose Jaimes, director of Outreach, Lutheran Braille Workers

**JUNE, TBD**

### WITNESS & OUTREACH RESOURCES

Rev. Dr. Mark Wood, director, LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry

**JULY 25**

### ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP IN THE RURAL PARISH

Rev. Heath Curtis, coordinator, LCMS Stewardship Ministry, and pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Worden, Ill., and Zion Lutheran Church, Carpenter, Ill.

**AUGUST 22**

### THE NO-CASSEROLE ILLNESS AND HOW THE CHURCH CAN RESPOND

Rev. Dr. Dennis Goff, director of Ministry Programs, The Lutheran Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.

**SEPTEMBER 26**

### CHURCH REFLECTIONS

Rev. Benjamin Meyer, pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Sunbury, Ohio

**OCTOBER, TBD**

### MOVING BEYOND SURVIVAL: DOXOLOGY AND YOUR CHURCH'S FUTURE

Rev. Dr. Hal Senkbeil, executive director for Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

**NOVEMBER, TBD**

### DEALING WITH ADDICTIONS IN RURAL AREAS

Rev. Gary Griffin, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, Mo.

**DECEMBER, TBD**

### CONVERSION STORY – FROM MOHAMMED TO CHRIST

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## NOTES

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## AFTER THE CONFERENCE

### POST-CONFERENCE SURVEY

If you wish to electronically complete an evaluation of this year's conference, use this link:

***[surveymonkey.com/r/RSTM2018](https://surveymonkey.com/r/RSTM2018)***

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission will also be emailing this link out following the conference for your convenience. Thank you for your feedback! We listen!

### CONFERENCE MATERIALS

Digital copies of the plenary speakers' general sessions will be available for purchase by contacting our office.

If you need copies of the handouts or PowerPoint presentations from one of the breakout sessions, sign up in the session with your email or contact our office by email at ***[rstm@lcms.org](mailto:rstm@lcms.org)***.

### 2019 NATIONAL RSTM CONFERENCE

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