

RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE:

EYES FIXED ON JESUS



SCHEDULE | LCMS NATIONAL RURAL & SMALL TOWN MISSION CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, NOV. 14

11 a.m.–1 p.m. **Registration** (Lunch on your own)

1 p.m. **Welcome and Introductions**

1:15–1:45 p.m. **Bible Study**

Hebrews 12:1b–2a – ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ... (Part 1)

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

Running with endurance requires training, but what kind of training allows us to be equipped for what we will endure?

1:45 p.m. **Plenary**

Running with Endurance

Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

The race is long and sometimes arduous, but it has been given to us by God. As the church, we seek to faithfully run the race in rural and small-town congregations, yet endurance is often in short supply. Let us discover the riches of God's gifts to run with endurance.

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.

SESSION 1

2:45–3:45 p.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 1)

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., and youth peer leaders

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.)

Dealing with Addictions in RST Settings

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

It may take months or years for a person to heal, but you can ground your hope for healing in Jesus. Learn ways to help the hurting and restore hope against addictions. Join the discussion to assist people with recognizing triggers, setting boundaries and changing habits.

Active Stewardship in the Rural Parish

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

Understanding the biblical basis for stewardship is a blessing in itself. However, living out that stewardship in our daily lives is often a challenge. This session will assist congregational leaders with ways to model that life of stewardship to their congregation and community.

Inheriting in Harmony – Keeping the Farm in the Family

Joan Bartz, Certified Kingdom Advisor, ChFC®, CLTC®, RICP®,

financial consultant, Thrivent

Large assets like cabins, farms and small businesses are a part of the fabric of your church's culture. Transferring them to the next generation can be tricky. Managing the emotional connections is just as important as navigating the financial and legal processes and requires more than deeds and keys. Join us to learn how to start — and shape — the inheritance process.

Online Education

Jocelyn Benson, head teacher at Wittenberg Academy

Technology can be a great tool for education, as well as for mission and ministry. What online education opportunities are available for you or your student? Come discuss opportunities for outreach, community building, best practices and more.

3:45–4 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.

SESSION 2

4–5 p.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 2)

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., and youth peer leaders

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.)

Moving Beyond Survival: DOXOLOGY and Your Church’s Future

Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil, executive director of Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

Join us to discuss resources, insights, teaching, admonition, encouragement, new tools and strategies needed to move beyond “survival functioning in pastoral ministry” to joyful service in the pastoral life and calling. This movement is accomplished through a program of soul care grounded in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions.

Rural Ministry Resources

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

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

Inheriting in Harmony – Keeping the Farm in the Family

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Large assets like cabins, farms and small businesses are a part of the fabric of your church’s culture. Transferring them to the next generation can be tricky. Managing the emotional connections is just as important as navigating the financial and legal processes and requires more than deeds and keys. Join us to learn how to start — and shape — the inheritance process.

Raising Young Leaders and the Lutheran Young Adult Corps

DCE Julianna Shults, program manager of the Lutheran Young Adult Corps (part of LCMS Youth Ministry)

We know that having young leaders in congregations helps retain young people into adulthood. Come discuss how we can raise up young leaders in congregations and for programs like the Lutheran Young Adult Corps. This program from LCMS Youth Ministry provides opportunities for young adults (ages 18–26) to grow in a community of faith and service through long-term, full-time service.

5–5:15 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.

5:15–6:15 p.m. Opening Worship

6:30–7:30 p.m. Dinner

OPTIONAL EVENING SESSION

7:30–9 p.m.

Bi-vocational Roundtable

Rev. Troy Neujahr, pastor, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Shaker Heights, Ohio, and Rev. Dr. Keith Schweitzer, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greenfield, Iowa

Come join in this roundtable discussion about bi-vocational ministry from both the congregational perspective and the pastor’s perspective. Learn, discuss and share ideas for rural and small-town congregations and pastors in this type of ministry.

Youth Roundtable

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., and youth peer leaders

Come discuss the many possibilities for partnering with rural and small-town youth ministry in the LCMS. Come away with networking tips and resources and discuss your challenges and ideas for how LCMS RSTM and LCMS Youth Ministry might better support you in your various ministry locations. Bring your own ideas that you might want to share.

Mental Health/Drug Addiction Roundtable

Rev. Gary Griffin, pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lockwood, Mo., and Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil, executive director of Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

Come to receive and exchange practical ideas for all types of mental health and addiction support. This session will help identify best practices for congregational support systems and how to start a support system at your church.

Education Roundtable

Dr. Rebecca Schmidt, director, and Matthew Bergholt, manager, LCMS School Ministry

Come discuss the many possibilities for partnering with LCMS School Ministry. Walk away with networking tips and resources for initiating mercy projects where needed most. Bring your own ideas that you might want to share.

FRIDAY, NOV. 15

7–8 a.m. Breakfast

8–8:30 a.m. Bible Study

Hebrews 12:1b–2a – ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ... (Part 2)

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

Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. Those words make promises linked to the creation of the world and our re-creation in baptism. Linking these two events together in Christ can have a profound impact on our lives.

8:30 a.m. **Plenary**

For Such a Time as This

Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil, executive director of Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

In order to faithfully engage our world, we need to understand its context. It's helpful to gain historical perspective on the major shifts in world view over the centuries and especially to grasp the confluence of the influences and their spiritual impact on people who live in what has been labeled a "post Christian" society in the West.

9:15–9:30 a.m. **Break**

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

SESSION 3

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 3)

Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., and youth peer leaders

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.)

Transitioning to a Worker-Priest Model

Rev. Troy Neujahr, pastor, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Shaker Heights, Ohio

New transitions can be hard for everyone. In this session, we will be talking about bi-vocational ministry from both the congregational perspective and the pastor's perspective. Learn some practical strategies and share with others in similar settings.

LCMS Rural and Small-Town Church Dynamics

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

The story of the rural and small-town LCMS church and community is rich and diverse, but often misunderstood, even by our very own church body. Join the RSTM staff to learn how positively and dynamically the rural/small-town demographic is affecting both the LCMS and the nation.

Outreach Through Lutheran Braille Workers

Daniel Jenkins, vice-president of Ministry Advancement, Lutheran Braille Workers

Lutheran Braille Workers exists to show the love of God to people who are blind or visually impaired and to help bring them into a growing relationship with God. Join us to find out more about how this is done by engaging volunteers who joyfully produce volumes of braille and large-print Bibles and other Christian materials, as well as by providing hands-on outreach to an often ignored and under-served community.

Church Reflections

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

Look at the requirements for church leadership in the New Testament. How many of them are about academic degrees, fund-raising acumen, facility construction or oratory skill? Not one. New Testament church leadership qualifications are about personal holiness, family harmony, stewardship, spiritual growth, textual integrity, faithfulness and other similar, very personal matters.

10:30–10:45 a.m. **Break**

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

10:45–11:30 a.m. **Plenary**

Sex and Marriage

Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil, executive director of Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

The Christian church of late antiquity called its faithful to a life of chastity in a world in which sexual hedonism prevailed. We in our time bring healing to embodied souls broken by their own and others' sins and provide a positive, hopeful witness as they learn how to live as created, redeemed and sanctified sons and daughters of God.

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

12:30–1:15 p.m. **Plenary**

The Light No Darkness Can Overcome

Rev. Dr. Harold L. Senkbeil, executive director of Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

Jesus has called His ministers and royal priests to faithful proclamation and living in every era. We must not shrink in the face of our current challenge. Confident mission in our tumultuous times rests securely on the efficacy of His Word, the Incarnation of His Son, the transforming power of His Sacraments, the *koinonia* of His body, the Church, and the sanctifying power of His Spirit.

1:15–1:30 p.m. **Break**

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

SESSION 4

1:30–2:30 p.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 4)

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Partnering with LERT

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

“We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19). Helping the hurting amid disaster. When disaster hits your community, do you know how to call for help? Are you prepared to partner with groups like LERT to help effect recovery efforts in your area? Join this session for discussion involving first-hand experience.

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

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2:30–2:45 p.m. Break

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SESSION 5

2:45–3:45 p.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 5)

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The No-Casserole Illness and How the Church Can Respond

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

When someone in our church family becomes physically ill (i.e., homebound or recovering from hospitalization), it’s not uncommon for others to bring a casserole to cheer them up and help them out. But what about when someone is struggling with mental health issues? Many have said mental health issues are the “no-casserole illness” because people don’t know what to say or do, and so consequently often do and say nothing. In this session, we will identify the commonness of mental and behavioral health issues among us, as well as explore opportunities for the faith community to respond. Too often there is silence and stigma related to mental health issues, but the Word of God has much to say on this issue.

Raising Young Leaders and the Lutheran Young Adult Corps

DCE Julianna Shults, program manager of the Lutheran Young Adult Corps (part of LCMS Youth Ministry)

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Community Engagement

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

In our rural and small-town communities, our congregations have the opportunity to set the stage and lead the culture by becoming leaders in the community. Come discuss ways the pastor and congregation can engage the community without sacrificing the mission and ministry of the church.

Transitioning to a Worker-Priest Model

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5:30 p.m. Social Hour

6:30 p.m. Banquet

SATURDAY, NOV. 16

7–8 a.m. Breakfast

8–8:30 a.m. Bible Study
Hebrews 12:1b–2a – ... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ... (Part 3)

Rev. Robert Zagore, executive director, LCMS Office of National Mission
 Who for the “joy” set before Him endured the cross. Is this an overstatement or is there a Christian secret buried here that we need to live and share?

8:30 a.m. Plenary
Eyes Fixed on Jesus

Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission
 Doing rural and small-town mission is impossible on our own. Yet, when we remember to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the mission of the church comes into true perspective. In this session we will learn how we “keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.”

9:15–9:30 a.m. Break
Please be prepared to leave the room and move for your session of choice during the break.

SESSION 6

9:30–10:30 a.m.

Speaking the Truth in Love: Youth (Part 6)
Angie Kollbaum, youth director, St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Concordia, Mo., and youth peer leaders

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“... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, **LOOKING TO JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ...”** HEBREWS 12:1B-2A

Reaching Young Women: LWML
Lutheran Women’s Missionary League
 Learn and share about the opportunities for reaching out to young women in small parishes when your women are willing to use their assets to engage congregational members and the community.

Engaging Through Service and Servant Events
DCE Julianna Shults, program manager of the Lutheran Young Adult Corps (part of LCMS Youth Ministry)
 Local service and larger LCMS servant events give people an opportunity to live out their faith in new ways and connect congregations to their community. Join in this discussion about how to use service and LCMS servant events for engagement and discipleship.

The No-Casserole Illness and How the Church Can Respond
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10:30–11:30 a.m. . . . Closing Worship and Announcements