February 21-23, 2019
Christ Church-Lutheran | 3901 E. Indian School Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85018 | #bpmphx2019

Plenary Sessions

Dan Schepmann (Gloria Dei Lutheran, TX) Thur., 5PM, Gym
Plenary Session: The Race Every one of us has a story, yet no one’s is the same. Our stories shape our perspective, drive our decisions, and define our success. As servants of Christ and ministers of the Gospel, we proclaim strength and peace in Christ for everyone else, but believing that same message for ourselves is a challenge. How can we live and lead courageously in Christ while struggling with the realities of ministry, “approvalitis,” crises, and insecurity? Pastor Dan Schepmann will share his story, how it has shaped him as husband, father and pastor, and led him to wholly lean on Jesus’ presence to experience His peace.

Brad and Sue Hewitt (Upworks, MN) Fri., 1PM, Gym
Plenary Session: Putting God’s Word into Practice Brad and Sue will share life stories on how God’s Word has impacted their faith, work, and life focus. Each life experience demonstrates the importance of applying God’s Word to deepen one’s faith and live out God’s unique call.

Pat Ferry and Reed Lessing Fri., 6PM, Gym
(Concordia University-Wisconsin and St. Michael Lutheran, IN)
Plenary Session: When the Saints Go Marching In The Jefferson High School class of 1977 had a chant that we shouted at pep rallies, "We’ve got spirit straight from heaven, we’re the class of ’77."

This seemed apt for students from our high school, after all, we were the Jefferson Saints. We were proud to be in that number as we sang our fight song, "Oh when the saints go marching in." To be honest, though, we weren’t exactly saints. But we were friends, good friends, who were in the early part of a journey that would eventually help us understand what it really means to be saints. A friendship spanning a half century is the backdrop for this presentation aimed to offer encouragement and support to all the saints at BPM.
Scott Christenson (Saint Paul Lutheran, CA) Sat., 1PM, Gym

Plenary Session: Words of Encouragement

Ministry leadership is an incredible blessing, and, at times, an incredible burden. Even when it's going well, it's easy to get tired, frustrated and discouraged as a ministry leader. In the midst of these challenges, God calls us to "encourage one another and build each other up." (1 Thessalonians 5:11). That's exactly what this session will do!

Breakout Session Descriptions

Administration/Church Operations

Bob Brown and Scott Schmidt Fri., 10:30AM, Room 34
(Church/Ministry Law, Phoenix, AZ and Stuckey Insurance, AZ)

2019 Best Practices Defense Against a Runaway Jury Join senior real estate and church attorney Bob Brown along with local church leaders for a first hand look at the Campus Preservation Planning Best Practices approach for protecting your ministry’s critical assets against a runaway jury. This interactive session will include interviews and an interactive session to examine the practical benefits, problems and costs of implementing this groundbreaking program for protecting your ministry real estate and endowment against an uninsured, underinsured, or uninsurable claim which exceeds policy limits. Don’t miss this opportunity to hear the unvarnished nuts and bolts commentary on this important planning technique!

Margie Christensen (Alliance Defending Freedom, AZ) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 24

The Role of ADF and the Church in a Culture Becoming Increasingly More Hostile to Christianity Since 1994, ADF has helped bear the legal burden of churches so that the Gospel can be freely preached and lived. Now, through their new Church Alliance, your church can access the ADF team of lawyers when legal counsel is helpful or necessary. Membership includes a review of your church’s governing bylaws, constitution, employment policies and more. Learn about the attack on churches and how church boards can gain practical aid and a wide array of resources to protect them from lawsuits in today’s culture.

Joel Wetzstein (Woodbury Lutheran, MN) Thur., 1PM, Nursery

Making the Most of Your Church’s Data When everyone on your team is using an integrated database, one that's easy to use, your decisions AND communications can be right on point! Come see the full power of Planning Center.
James Fuchs (Prior Lake, MN) **Fri, 10:30AM, Room 14 and Fri., 4PM, Room 14**

**How to Assimilate Staff Effectively** Correctly determining the position. Techniques on effective interviewing and evaluating candidates. Correctly assimilating the new hire.

James Fuchs (Prior Lake, MN) **Thur., 3PM, Arizona Room**

**How to Effectively Manage Your Staff** Critical methods for managing people to achieve optimum results. How to significantly reduce problems when one has to terminate an employee or eliminate a volunteer.

Bob Brown (Church/Ministry Law, Phoenix, AZ) **Fri., 2PM, Room 34**

**Liability Insurance Company: Friend or foe?** Legal disputes between churches and their own insurance companies are the fourth biggest reason churches go to court! Hear a former insurance company attorney’s (now a church attorney!) thoughts on:

* Why you should immediately stop using form Waivers for summer camp
* How much liability insurance coverage is enough?
* Avoiding Insurance application minefields!
* Dangerous sub-limits on Sex Abuse Coverage!
* Common Gaps in Liability Policies

* Negotiating better coverage for lower premiums
* How Enterprise Risk Management can benefit your Ministry

Roger Paavola **Thur., 3PM, Sanctuary and Fri., 8:30AM, Room 10**  
(Mid-South District - LCMS, TN)

**New Tools for Mission and Ministry Strategic Planning** The Congregational Assessment Resource (CAR) and COMPASS survey tools have been developed by the Mid-South District. The tools have demonstrated dramatic results for congregations that want a comprehensive assessment of their mission and ministry. CAR is a computerized program that provides comparative information on a congregation using data that quantifies every activity and facet of ministry, and then compares that information with dozens of other congregations’ performance in similar situations, that gives 450 comparative ratios to determine the efficiencies and effectiveness of congregation performance. It includes congregational statistical information, financial, operational, community, stewardship, and building, grounds, and infrastructure. That information is used when we conduct a COMPASS visit to congregations that invite the District to visit them for a detailed survey of strategic information and problem analysis. The turnaround of directions for congregations that have used COMPASS and CAR has been dramatic. One congregation explored ways to eliminate its debt burden and eventually reduced its debt from $1million to under $100K in less than a year’s time! The COMPASS survey takes three days, solicits information from the congregation’s leadership, pastor, members, and community. The MAP – Ministry Action Plan uses the COMPASS materials and has a navigator assigned to the congregation from the survey team to assist the congregation keep its focus. The information for the MAP is “Descriptive” of the climate of the congregation, rather than “Prescriptive” as what happens in other survey tools.
**Bob Brown**  **Fri, 8:30AM, Room 34 and Fri., 4PM, Room 34**  
(Church/Ministry Law, Phoenix, AZ)  

**Kristina Campbell** (**Paychex, AZ**)  **Thur., 1PM, Sanctuary**  
**Top 10 HR Issues** Overview and discussion around the top HR issues employers experience and best practices for effectively handling them.

**August Ristow** (**Intentional Interim Ministry, NV**)  **Fri., 2PM, Room 10**  
**What to Do When Your Church Falls Apart (AND YOU DO TOO)!** Expert insight and advice from a veteran intentional interim pastor whose passion is to turn around churches that have fallen apart. Clearly written, the five step process works to get all churches small, medium and large and their staffs back on track.

**Adult, Young Adult, Senior Adult Ministry/Education**

**Rich Bimler**  **Fri., 4PM, Sanctuary and Sat., 8:30AM, Sanctuary**  
(Lutheran Church Charities, IL)  
**Aging is the Only Way to Live!**  
1....Celebrating God’s Gift of Aging!  
2....The Attitude of Aging – Blessing, or Burden?  
3....Dealing with the AH-HA’s and the UH-OH’s of Life  
4....Wit, Wisdom, Wrinkles, and ...Wows!  
5....Amazing Grays!  
6....Living Well, Aging Well, Dying Well!  
7 ...Down with Groan Ups! Up with Mentoring, Being and Doing!  
8....Laughter and Life – And God said, “Lighten Up!”  
9....Pains, Perceptions, and Promise! Focus on Promise, not Problems!  
10...A Call to Change the Way We Age - Time for a “Climate Change”!
**Kenneth Holdorf (ALOA, FL) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 18 and Fri., 2PM, Room 18**

**Best Practices in Senior Adult Ministry**

Best practices for S.E.N.I.O.R.S. in these categories: Spiritual, Enlightenment, Nutrition/health, Intergenerational, Outreach, Recreation/fellowship, Service. Discussion and resources for each of these areas of Senior Adult Ministry at the congregational level.

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**Paula Isakson Thur., 1PM, Room 8 and Fri., 10:30AM, Room 8**

**(Faith Family Reunion, CO)**

**Breaking Down the Walls (session 1)** How can we begin a conversation with parents that have a prodigal? How do we help them to open up and begin talking about it? Get ideas and learn how to break down the walls of shame and secrecy that keep parents from discussing the pain of having a child that has left the faith in Jesus Christ. My brothers and I grew up in a loving Christian home then one by one we each fell away from faith in Christ. By the grace of God, after being away from the faith for over 25 years, I returned to faith in Jesus Christ enabled by the Holy Spirit. Together my parents and I started Faith Family Reunion, an outreach to parents with prodigals. Our passion is to inspire and encourage parents to never give up on their prodigals as their children are never out of reach of their Heavenly Father. Visit www.faithfamilyreunion.com.

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**Kenneth Holdorf (ALOA, FL) Fri., 4PM, Room 18**

**Dealing with Fundamental Questions about the Process of Aging**

Exploring fundamental questions: As an older adult what is my purpose for living? How do I fit into the purpose of the church? How do I move from just surviving as an older adult to thriving in the aging process? How do I deal with loneliness, depression, and sense of value and significance in living?

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**Mark Schoepp (ALOA, FL) Sat., 8:30AM, Nursery**

**EncourAGING Ministry FOR and WITH Older Adults**

Two parts: 1) Why bother with a focus on older adults? and 2) Specific areas a church can impact their community by focusing on older adults. The demographic statistics are staggering, but it’s much more than that. Discipleship doesn’t have a "retire now" date. Needs change, circumstances change, opportunities change, but God’s call doesn’t change. Explore the impact your church can make through ministry for and with older adults.

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**Jill Dodge (Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, AZ) Fri., 4PM, Upper Room**

**Help for Hurting Parents of Adult Children**

One of the most painful things for a parent to deal with is when their adult child strays from the faith, makes poor life choices, or becomes alienated from the family. It is especially difficult when the parent is in ministry. The fishbowl effect of being watched and observed makes it even more difficult to navigate the personal grief and implement the boundaries required to deal with these situations. Whether you are personally struggling with a prodigal or supporting someone who is, this workshop is for you. Drawing from her own personal experience with a prodigal as well as her professional background, Jill will explore the different types of prodigals, the personal toll on one’s emotions and health, and some practical ways to cope.
Rich Bimler and Mark Zimmerman Fri., 10:30AM, Sanctuary
(Lutheran Church Charities, IL and Creative Communications for the Parish, MO)

Hopefully Living by Aging Out Loud Older adults are in a unique position in the church and community to live out their faith in many and various ways that those in other age groups of the church are simply not able to do. In this session we will explore the special and exciting opportunities God has provided for older adults to engage and celebrate in the ministries of the church locally, nationally, internationally, intergenerationally and especially one-on-one with fellow believers. Our later years are not a time to slink back into the shadows, but to live out loud by serving and loving others to declare the glory of God, by sharing the ah-has and uh-ohs of life, and by expressing in word and deed the Good News of the sure hope we have in Christ for all eternity.

Paula Isakson (Faith Family Reunion, CO) Sat., 8:30AM, Upper Room

I Have a Prodigal, Now What? (session 2) How can we help parents whose child has left faith in Jesus Christ? Too often parents that have a prodigal become isolated and feel alone not only with their immediate family but also with their church family. Many of you may have read or heard about the loss of people in the church or are experiencing this phenomenon within your own congregation. As we watch our members fade away, we may experience a sense of hopelessness, not knowing what to do or how to deal with the situation. Some congregations have focused on our youth, and this makes sense. But are we missing part of the equation? Could parent’s be the answer in reaching the prodigal? Let’s discuss how we can engage these parents, support them and help them through this difficult time. Visit www.faithfamilyreunion.com.

Sarah Kolb and Chelsey Strickler Sat., 10:30AM, Sanctuary
(Church Doctor Ministries, IN)

Reaching Young Adults with Young Adults Where have all the young people gone? A common question and struggle for many churches today. It doesn’t have to be that way. Learn from a young adult leader serving in ministry with young adults how to reach, disciple, and train the largest generation of people who have stepped away from the church. This session is led by two young adults serving and leading a movement to help churches, pastors, and ministry leaders become more effective at reaching, discipling and keeping young adults on fire and active in their faith long after confirmation and catechism classes are over.

Luke Watt (Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, MO) Thur., 1PM, Room 32 and Sat., 8:30AM, Room 32

Single Adults and the Church Question: Do churches affirm singleness as a valuable vocation? Do “family focused” churches exclude/ignore care for single adults? Are single adults included in the ministries and other activities of the church? Singleness, like marriage and family, is integral to the body of Christ. Yet, churches might overlook the needs of singles, and they may fail to embrace the gifts singles can offer. This workshop, along with the help of Dr. Bruce Hartung, will seek to help churches recognize the variety of struggles and blessings of singleness while finding creative ways to include single adults into the whole life and ministry of the church.
**Gary Schaper** *(Prince of Peace Lutheran, TX)* **Sat., 10:30AM, Nursery**

**The Harvard Study of Adult Development** What are the six factors at age 50 that predict successful living to age 80? This 80-year study of 268 Harvard graduates and 456 inner city students has statistical results and answers. Also, What affect do mothers have on lifetime income? Does stress actually lead to alcoholism? What are the keys to a successful retirement? Such findings will be presented.

**Pete Jurchen** *(Concordia Publishing House, MO)* **Thur., 3PM, Room 8**

**Why Adults Need Bible Stories** “Bible stories, aren’t those for kids and Sunday school? Adults in Bible class won’t want to learn about those!” For many, the thought of teaching Bible narratives, or Bible stories, to adults seems far-fetched and implausible. But for those who experience the power of Bible stories in their context, it can be epic. Pick up tips about how leading adults through Bible narratives changes lives, and discover why now is the critical time to engage them in Bible classes.

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**Apologetics**

**Jennifer Schlak** **Thur., 1PM, Upper Room and Fri., 2PM, Upper Room** *(Biola University, CA)*

**Answering the Problem of Evil** If God is good and all powerful, then why does evil still exist in the world? This and other questions about evil make many Christians stumble. This session seeks to equip you to confront challenges such as these from both Christians and non-Christians. When understood through the proper perspective, the problem of evil can be a tool used to witness to the unbeliever and deepen our understanding of the glory that awaits us in heaven.

**Mark Boerger** *(Bethany Lutheran, TX)* **Fri., 4PM, Room 10**

**Faith, Evidence in Cosmology and Earth Sciences** Science provides extraordinary evidence for the truth of the Bible. I would like to share some of my favorite examples from Cosmology (study of the universe) and Earth Sciences.

**Mark Boerger** *(Bethany Lutheran, TX)* **Sat., 8:30AM, Room 10**

**Faith, Evidence in Human Complexity** Science provides extraordinary evidence for the truth of the Bible. I would like to share some of my favorite examples from human anatomy and physiology.
Scott Mauser Fri., 10:30AM, Room 10 and Fri., 4PM, Arizona Room
(Lutheran Church and School of Messiah, CO)

How Do Dinosaurs Fit into the Bible? This is one of the primary occasions that evolution is first presented to our youth and a good understanding for children and adults is vital. I have been teaching on science/worldview apologetics for many years and see this as a hot topic that most people are unaware of how it is undermining the faith of our youth. Relive your childhood fascination with in-depth teaching on dinosaurs answering some of the most common questions like: “When did the dinosaurs live?” “Did dinosaurs live alongside humans?” “How did the dinosaurs die?” In this presentation, I will share what the Bible says about dinosaurs and also look into sources of ancient and even recent history to understand cultural traditions regarding dragons. Recent evidence will also be presented to show that dinosaurs could not have lived millions of years ago as is commonly taught.

Tim Gerk (Holy Cross Lutheran, IL) Fri., 2PM, Room 7

Interpretation of Nature through a Christian/Creationist View This session is designed to show how Scripture often points directly to examples in nature, and will add insights of faith as well as creation science into your understanding of the landscapes and living things around you.

Bible Study

Mark Siegert (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Fri., 8:30AM, Sanctuary

Getting the Most from Your Bible Studies Let’s face it, some Bible studies are more insightful than others. And, outside of our church’s Bible studies, a lot of people quote the Bible, making it say a lot of different things. How do you know you’re finding the truth of God’s Word? In this session, you’ll learn about 4 easy-to-remember pillars which will support any Bible study. They’ll help you get the most from your personal and group studies, no matter the age group.

Camp Ministry

Bob Polansky (Camp Wartburg, IL) Thur., 1PM, Room 14

Get Out! This session will discuss the elements of nature deficit and talk about encouraging everyone to Get Outside and enjoy the wonders of God’s creation.

Kevin Bueltmann (Trinity Lutheran Camp, MT) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 21

Your Church Should Start a Camp! Camp is a powerful ministry! Find out from a veteran LCMS camp director (who has worked for a camp owned by a district, a camp run by an association of churches, and now one owned by a single church) why and how he believes that large and/or small churches can and should consider starting a camp ministry of their own; even if just for a few weeks each year. Hear ideas about staffing, funding, how a small rural church with a vacant school building could partner with a larger church with other resources and other ideas.
Care Ministry

Jim Buckman (Faith Lutheran, IL) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 7
A Prayer Care App for Your Ministry Use this free prayer care app to help disciple your members/ministry by leveraging this very practical technology. Improve communication re: your ministry’s follow up and also your outreach into your community.

Lou Jander (CrownPoint Ministries, TX) Fri., 4PM, Camelback Room
Care Partners in Life Crisis and Disaster Response Being a CarePartner can happen in disasters as you stand with people in front of a flooded home; stand with them as they look at the remains that the tornado left behind; comfort them as they see the remains of a burned out home; and, on and on. Being a CarePartner is being available to people as they make their daily journey through life experiencing the ups and downs life inevitably seems to provide. “God is indeed our shelter and strength and provides hope and comfort through presence, listening, prayer and the Word.” You’ll be introduced to the importance of “presence” and the role of CarePartners in the local congregation, community, and beyond. We’ll share how people can be equipped to provide presence, compassion, and support through listening, sharing Scripture, and praying for the individual(s).

Dale Kreienkamp (Author, MO) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 16
How Long, O Lord, How Long? – How to Support the Unemployed Even in a good economy, over 20 million people in the US become unemployed through a discharge, layoff or job elimination each year. In fact, you will have more congregational members become unemployed in a year than will be diagnosed with cancer, be divorced or pass away, yet it often goes unnoticed because they don’t talk about it. Learn practical ways you can support the members of your church community and local community who are walking through the journey of unemployment.

Martha Garmon (Prince of Peace Lutheran, IL) Thur., 3PM, Room 28 and Fri., 10:30AM, Room 28
The Care and Feeding of Caregivers There is a lot of information on how to care for a person with dementia. But there is another person needing care - the caregiver. Statistics show that 40% of caregivers of dementia patients die of stress related disorders before their caree does. I interviewed 47 caregivers of people with dementia for my book "I Am Not Alone: Conversations with Care Partners of People with Dementia" and have been caring for my husband with ALS and FTD (frontotemporal degeneration) since he was diagnosed in 2016. Through personal experience and the writing of my book, I have found simple and easy ways to support the caregiver. Don’t let dementia take two victims; come learn more about who we, the caregivers, are and what we need. It doesn’t take much to make a big difference.

Children’s Ministry

Jane Robinson (CTA, Inc., MO) Fri., 2PM, Nursery
20 Ways to Create Anticipation in Your Children’s Program Imagine children eager to get to church each week, wondering what you have planned for them! This session will show you how to set up that feeling of eager anticipation and follow through with simple yet engaging ideas.
Kim Bestian (Author, TX) **Fri., 10:30AM, Room 26**

*Blueprints for Children’s Ministry* Discover Scripture-based tools in building and creating your own blueprints for children’s ministry in your congregation. Enjoy exploring definitions, clarity of ministry, direction, and partnering with parents.

Cynthia Brown (SALT Church, MI) **Fri., 10:30AM, Camelback Room**

*Children’s Ministry Dialogue* Join leaders invested in Children’s Ministry for an honest look at how we’re doing, for a conversation about challenges, for sharing what we’re learning, for exchanging ideas, and for exploring God’s desires for children and families.

Valorie Eddy (KidZ at Heart International, AZ) **Thur., 3PM, Nursery**

*Connecting Children (and Ourselves) with God* For too long, we’ve taught kids about God and haven’t connected them with God. Trust your children and their Creator to communicate with one another successfully! Experience child-friendly spiritual practices that you can use at home or church to give kids time with God.

Daniel Baker, Erica Barton, Maria Devenport, Dave Noll & Doug Weinrich **Fri., 8:30AM, Room 25**

(Redeemer Lutheran, WA)

*I’ll Take VBS for a 1000* How does a middle-sized church pull off a Vacation Bible School for over 1000 children? We’ll show you how! Learn the ins and outs of navigating curriculum, scheduling, music, drama, missions, crafts and volunteers. Grow your VBS beyond the church walls (the secret might be in the snacks).

Lisa Clark and Pete Jurchen **Fri., 8:30AM, Upper Room**

(Concordia Publishing House, MO)

*Is Sunday School Worth the Fight?* Pete Jurchen has served as a parish pastor, evaluating what makes a Sunday School work. Lisa Clark is a teacher-turned-church-volunteer who uses her spare time to coordinate her church’s Sunday School. Both are editors and writers of Sunday School curriculum. And during those journeys, they’ve both asked the daunting question: “Is Sunday School worth the fight?” Join the discussion as Pete and Lisa wrestle with this challenge and share their learning along the way.

Valorie Eddy (KidZ at Heart International, AZ) **Fri., 8:30AM, Nursery**

*Nurturing the Spiritual Development of Children* What does a “great” child look like and how do we cooperate with God in nurturing children to greatness? Most importantly, what is required of us if we want to become great nurturers? Discover where a child’s faith is formed and how to impact these in ways that will nurture a child to greatness.
Lisa Clark (Concordia Publishing House, MO) Fri., 4PM, Room 8
Tales of a Volunteer Sunday School Coordinator By day, Lisa Clark is an editor of Sunday School resources. By night (on weekends, during the lunch break...), Lisa volunteers at her congregation to help organize and serve a team of Sunday School teachers and their students. She knows that good help can be hard to find, and she’s excited to share ideas (and learn new ones) for how to keep a Sunday School (or whatever you may call it) going despite all odds.

Dan Weber (St. Luke’s Lutheran, WA) Sat., 10:30AM, Arizona Room
VBS is the Worst: Rethinking children’s discipleship VBS can be an incredibly effective tool for ministry and an efficient way for volunteers to partner in the mission of your congregation. However, for many congregations, it’s a week that burns out staff and volunteers, even though we get the selfie with the sanctuary full of kids. But what if there was a better way? Last July, we tried something different. In the end, we spent less time decorating, less money on supplies, and had less chaos. At the same time, we served the same number of children with even fewer volunteers. We had more community members involved. We had faster sign-ups. We got to know more kids by name. And we were able to connect God’s Word to kids’ lives in real concrete ways that simply weren’t happening in our previous versions of VBS. And we did it all without a full-time children’s ministry staff person. Come hear the challenges we faced, the strategies we came up with, and the steps we took to implement last Summer and what we’ll do to improve next year.

Nicole Carmines (Concordia Lutheran, TX) Thur., 1PM, Room 43
VBS: From start to finish Nicole Carmines, Director of Children’s Ministry, has been blessed to lead the charge in one of Concordia’s biggest outreach events... VBS. In this session, take away practical tips and “must have” timelines that are sure to set you up for success!

Christian Relationships/Community/Conversations

Beverly Yahnk Thur., 3PM, Upper Room and Sat., 10:30AM, Upper Room
(DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, WI)
Depression: Someone you know really needs for you to hear this This conversation may forever shape the way that you think about what it means to care for self and others in God’s family. Engaging clinical strategies will be offered to benefit pastors, teachers or anyone who has ever wanted to be able to provide assistance and care for those who are hurting, depressed, deeply discouraged or suicidal. The sectional will focus on how to detect and how to respond to signs and symptoms of depression in children and adults. We’ll also examine how to remain healthy as you support a friend, colleague or loved one suffering with depression.

Brian Barlow Thur., 1PM, Arizona Room and Fri., 10:30AM, Arizona Room
(Our Savior Lutheran, CA)
From Gay Bars to Jesus: A clear voice in a gender confused culture - dispelling the toxic message of “gay Christianity” Having been called out of a gender broken identity, Vicar Brian Barlow has invested over 20 years in ministry to those who struggle with relational and sexual brokenness. His role as regional director for a para ministry in the Pacific Southwest, offers a voice of hope to the gender broken, pastors, church leaders, and parents of gay and transgender children. Brian Barlow is currently enrolled in the CMC program through Concordia University, Irvine. In addition, Vicar Brian serves with many local and national ministry partners including LINC-LA. In the shadow of recent legislation such as California Assembly Bill 2943, Brian offers a fresh and needed voice to
those called to minister in a gender confused culture. This session is intended to offer dialog and identify practical tools and resources for pastors and lay leaders.

**Sam Leiter (Messiah Lutheran, IN) Fri., 4PM, Nursery**

**Gender Identity - When It Becomes Real** I’m a husband, a pastor and a father. I have three grown kids and one who lives a homosexual lifestyle. In the church, we talk about such issues when it’s outside our own personal experience as if we truly know how we would or should address them. That all changed when it was on my front doorstep. Let’s talk what it’s really like to love others while being true to God’s Word. It’s not always that easy or black and white. There’s so much more to learn.

**Garry Ingraham (Love & Truth Network, AZ) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 31**

**Restoring Relational and Sexual Wholeness in a Sex-Saturated Culture and Church** In this workshop we’ll discuss frank and honest realities of what every church community is experiencing - a hidden epidemic of relational brokenness, sexual sin and addiction. This isn’t only an issue in the broader culture, statistics are staggering for the Church as well. Whether it's pornography, adultery, sex before marriage, LGBTQ and identity struggles - we as Christians desperately need to get equipped on how to walk in freedom from our own sexual sin and be able to graciously minister to others in need. Garry brings his own experience as a pastor; overseeing support groups and counseling ministry, as well as his own background of homosexuality to this conversation.

**Beverly Yahnke Fri., 10:30AM, Room 2**

*(DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, WI)*

**The Christian’s Guide to Resilience: Nearly everything we need to know** Are you a pastor/church worker? Do you love a pastor/church worker? Then THIS is for you! Resilience sharpens us to be more effective and to find greater satisfaction in our personal/professional lives. This fast-moving presentation invites you to review your habits of responding to challenges or stress in ministry/office/classroom. You’ll take home pre-emptive strategies and spiritual resources you can use with confidence—and can share with co-workers, as well!

*Abridged Edition*

**Mary Schuldheisz (Renue, LLC, OR) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 7**

**The Church Militant** Do you find it hard to stand up for what you believe in as a Christian in the public square? Do you find yourself wondering what you should defend when the culture we live in continues to bombard us and challenge what we believe in as Christians? While this session won’t have all the answers, the content will be engaging, thoughtful, Biblical and, God-willing, enable you to be as bold as you want to be.

**Christian Travel**

**Ron Biel**

**Thur., 1PM, Room 28 and Fri., 8:30AM, Room 28**

*(Educational Opportunities Tour, FL)*

**“Bucket-Lists”**: Ministry opportunities So, what's on your bucket-list? A question for seniors or of any age. What have you been putting off? Members' interests can become prime focus for ministry opportunities in any congregation. Let's explore some ideas -- mission trips, hobbies for the Kingdom, a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, being with family.
Church Future

Gerald “Jerry” Kieschnick (Legacy Deo, TX) Fri., 8:30AM, Arizona Room
Quo Vadis LCMS? Part One Throughout the 50+ years of my ministry I’ve experienced the strength, beauty, and weakness of The LCMS. Today I share my heartfelt perspectives on matters that hinder the health and growth of our beloved Synod.

Gerald “Jerry” Kieschnick (Legacy Deo, TX) Fri., 2PM, Arizona Room
Quo Vadis LCMS? Part Two Practical and ecclesiastical aspects of our life together as members of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are often out of sight, out of mind. Yet these matters are important for the future of our church body. In this session I’ll address ecclesiastical supervision, higher education, seminary preparation, international missions, and para-church organizations.

Church Growth

Zach Zehnder (theCross Family, FL) Thur., 3PM, Gym and Fri., 10:30AM, Room 31
10 Ways to Grow Your Church with Little to No Money theCross in Mount Dora, FL has seen explosive growth over its first 7 years. Learn 10 things that any church can do to immediately help your church grow that cost little to no money.

Terri Albrecht (Ministry by Design, MN) Thur., 3PM, Room 6
Designing Ministry: Vision to reality Do you desire to create a new ministry opportunity, or enhance a current one in your church or school? Would you like a practical process you can use to design ministry that brings your vision for ministry to reality? Join me for this interactive session to: clarify your vision, overcome challenges, practice creative problem solving, develop strategies for engaging lay leaders, and apply SMART goals in ministry planning.

Darrell Zimmerman (Grace Place Wellness Ministries, MO) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 26
Healthy Things Grow They'll know we are His disciples by the way we love one another. Before we "DO" the work of mission and ministry we’re called to "BE" the people of God. Healthy, growing ministries begin with healthy, Christ-centered relationships. The Grace Place Congregational Wellness Model is a simple assessment tool for life together that glorifies God, strengthens the body of Christ and lays the foundation for growth.
Justin Beene  
**Thur., 1PM, Room 10**  
(*Grand Rapids Center for Community Transformation, presenting on b/o We Raise Foundation, MI*)

**Urbanization, Diversity, and the Church**  
In the next 30 years, it is estimated that the population will increase by 2.5 billion people. 100% of this growth will be absorbed by urban areas, increasing the world’s urban population to almost 70%. Each of us will increasingly be living in proximity with more variety, social-economic statuses, religions, languages, customs, and with this urbanization the diversity will continue to have challenges of poverty, violence, and inequality. What is the Christian Church called to do? How do we retain our relevancy in a rapidly changing world that at times seems to be out of control? Come learn from a seasoned global urban practitioner about real and practical ways to lead in such a time as this and be inspired about God’s plan for the world and how you can be engaged.

**Church Health**

Jonathan Dinger (*Grace Lutheran, ID*)  
**Thur. 3PM, Room 34**

**Assessing Your Congregation’s Spiritual Health**  
Natural Church Development (NCD) has been around for more than 20 years, and more than 70,000 congregations around the world have used this method of assessing church health. Not a program but a process, NCD gives hard data and solid targets to aim at when resources may be harder to come by.

**Church Online**

TJ Winters (*Concordia Lutheran, TX*)  
**Fri., 10:30AM, Room 44 and Fri., 2PM, Room 44**

**How to Do Online Church**  
If your congregation wants to move beyond posting your sermons on YouTube, then join me as we discuss not only live-streaming, but also starting an online campus. I love conversation, so bring your questions and ideas! *All are welcome, but this session is especially great for Pastors, Tech Directors, Worship Leaders, and Outreach Directors.*

Sean McAdams (*Lutheran Church Charities, IL*)  
**Fri., 4PM, Room 31 and Sat., 8:30AM, Room 44**

**So You Want to Start Live Streaming?**  
It’s no secret that sharing your worship on digital platforms can be beneficial, but what you might not know is that many churches already have a lot of the tools they need to get a simple live stream up and running! Join Sean McAdams, Media Specialist from Lutheran Church Charities, as he shares some helpful tips for churches who are just beginning to think about how to share worship in the digital world!

Don Everts and Rachel Legouté  
**Fri, 10:30AM, Nursery**  
(*Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO*)

**Witnessing to Nones and Dones in a Digital Age**  
Come hear how THRED, a digital outreach of Lutheran Hour Ministries, is leading with a posture of listening and building relationships with a demographic that has largely left the church in their rearview mirror. We’ll share our best practices for targeting content, building relationship, and harnessing the power of the question mark. We’ve got 10 tips to help you connect with people online and engage them in conversations about life and faith in the digital age.
Communion

Howard Patten (Zion Lutheran, TX) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 7
Recognizing the Body of Christ in the Practice of Holy Communion... Theology of the Cross or Theology of Glory? One of the most challenging dimensions in describing and developing the public Communion practice for a 21st century congregation is understanding as clearly and deeply as possible our Lord’s intention for His communicant in this precious and powerful event. We attach word descriptions to the congregation’s practice in an attempt to summarize the Spirit’s intention for His people... "Open" ... "Close" ... "Closed" ..."etc". One word summaries of a gift so profound, life changing and life sustaining are not only unsatisfactory, but probably only marginally Scriptural. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the historical interpretations and consequent practices of certain communion passages in one of Paul’s Letters to the Corinthians, 1 Corinthians 11:23-34. One interpretation, current and long held, closes the Altar to all, but the readily identifiable "members". A much more accurate, biblically faithful and contextual interpretation recognizes and celebrates the mission of Jesus in His Gift and the mission of His people in their Eucharist to the world. Only one word accurately and properly describes Sacramental practice, "Christ's Communion".

Confirmation

Philip Doublestein and Jennifer Roettjer Sat., 10:30AM, Room 44 (Redeemer Lutheran, IL)
Confirmation is Like a Box of Chocolates Wait a minute! I thought LIFE was like a box of chocolates, not Confirmation. That doesn’t sound right. But could it? Could confirmation really be like a box of chocolates? With so many topics to cover and elements to include, you certainly have the variety of a box of chocolate. I wonder if you turned each component into a module, what that would look like? I bet you could create a standardized program with flexibility, yet maintain accountability at the same time. Maybe I’ll check it out!

Daniel Lepley (Our Shepherd Lutheran, IN) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 27
ConfirmationYou ConfirmationYou is a YouTube-based confirmation program freely available for churches, families and workers. Featuring 3-5 minute videos, the program uses worksheets, lessons and small group discussion to deepen the learning experience for confirmands. We share how our program works, how it may be used and how other churches could do something similar to leverage technology to teach confirmation through media digital natives have been raised with.

Jeremy Jacoby Fri., 2PM, Room 42 and Sat., 10:30AM, Room 42 (Summit of Peace Lutheran, CO)
How a Medium Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas - Confirmation as Discipleship In this session, we will share with you how our Pastor and Confirmation Leaders have taken what we’ve learned at BPM and applied it to our Confirmation and Youth programs. We will share how we completely rebuilt this ministry from the ground up and included a “Flipped Classroom”, guides for faith mentors, family faith activities, and a 5th – 8th grade model that includes fellowship and service activities. We include our practical applications, failures, success stories and the results so that you can take back real-life examples, relevant for your small to medium sized church.
**Guy Roberts (Zion Lutheran, MN) Thur., 1PM, Room 33**

**Taught in a Simple Way - Family Centered Confirmation**
We know and teach that God created family and tasked parents with the responsibility of raising their children to follow the way of the Lord. Yet most of our ministries intentionally bypass parents, placing the responsibility for catechesis/discipleship in the hands of religious teachers. The result? Generation after generation drifts away, their faith or lack thereof, eerily similar to that of their parents. Let’s join together to reflect on how you can equip parents (our greatest strength) to teach children in a simple way.

**Pete Jurchen (Concordia Publishing House, MO) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 8**

**Teaching Timeless Truth**
Knowing where to start can be tricky, especially when teaching God’s Word to young people with questions. But it also provides a great opportunity. Explore one framework for learning and confirming the faith that not only applies to youth, but to all aspects of teaching the faith for life.

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**Discipleship**

**Kurt Bickel Fri., 2PM, Camelback Room and Sat., 10:30AM, Camelback Room**

*(Cornerstone Consulting, FL)*

**10 Strategies for Great Meetings**
Meetings can be efficient, effective and empowered for mission. This session will explore 10 strategies described in the book by Kurt Bickel and Rich Bimler "Till We Meet Again". Participants will receive a copy of the book.

**Faustino Munoz and Chris Sommer Thur., 3PM, Room 24**

*(Faith Lutheran, MO)*

**A Discipleship Experience to Connect People to Christ, His Church, and their Purpose**
The Rooted Experience (TRE) is an interactive 10-week journey in which groups gather weekly to talk about what God has revealed to them through weekly readings, journal entries, and prayer. It is also a catalyst for forming new groups, raising up new leaders, and being missional in the community. Since beginning TRE three years ago, over 1,500 people have attended across 21 LCMS churches in 10 different states and this year we are introducing a new “Student Edition” that is designed for middle and high school students.

**David Seabaugh (Immanuel Lutheran, IL) Fri., 2PM, Room 12**

**Agape Sticks: A simple way for anyone to illustrate the Christian faith**
Christianity can often seem complex, confusing, and even burdensome. Agape Sticks is a remarkably simple method for illustrating the faith that instantly and powerfully applies to our everyday lives. Agape Sticks is accessible enough for the impromptu napkin sketch and profound enough to illustrate the deepest theological topics in the classroom, small group and sermon.
**Steven Hokana** *(Ministry to the Armed Forces-LCMS, MO)* **Fri., 4PM, Room 28**

**Anger is Not the Problem!** Anger is not the problem! It's how we use anger. This is a Scripture-based class rooted in our Lutheran faith. We explore Anger as a part of our humanity. Anger is also a tool in redemption as seen in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (Warning: this class is a mature approach to a volatile emotion).

**Jacob Baumann & Zach Zehnder** *Sat., 8:30AM, Room 41*
*(theCross Family, FL)*

**Building an Internship Program from Scratch** Find future staff members. Boost ministry productivity. Gain valuable perspective. Foster a culture of enthusiasm. All of these things can happen through an Internship Program at your church. Learn how theCross Family (one of the fastest growing churches in the LCMS) implemented a 1-Year Internship Program, which includes 1) theological teaching, 2) personal and spiritual development, and 3) church and leadership training, and how you can do the same in your church setting.

**Kale Hanson** *(Zion, IL)* **Sat., 10:30AM, Room 10**

**Creative Discipleship** This session looks at how to use technological tools to form good habits in our people. The church normally uses technology for marketing or informational purposes. In this session we'll look at ways to use free online services to challenge and engage our people in reading Scripture, talking about their faith with one another, meet them where they are on an average work day and connect them both to each other and to their church.

**Julie Jacoby and Ronda Palazzari** *Fri., 8:30AM, Room 42*
*(Summit of Peace, CO)*

**How a Medium-Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas - Member Assimilation** Marketing and branding efforts for the church continue inside the building. When marketing is effective and new members begin arriving, what do they see? How are they welcomed? How can you better engage them into the life of the congregation? What are the steps to membership? In this session, we will share our step by step process, practical applications, failures, success stories and the results, so that you can take back real life examples relevant for your small to medium sized church.

**Greg Finke** *(Dwelling 1:14, TX)* **Thur., 3PM, Room 33 and Fri., 2PM, Room 33**

**How to Disciple People to Be Followers of Jesus** If we're supposed to make disciples, how do we do that? Start a class? Buy a curriculum? Or imitate Jesus? In this session we will rediscover how Jesus disciples His followers in the gospels so we can reform our way of discipling to His way.
Tom Van Duzer (Our Saviour Lutheran, KS) **Sat., 8:30AM, Room 28**

**How to Survive a Failure** Everyone would like to succeed all the time. However, there are times that doesn't happen. Despite best intentions and hardest efforts ministries fail. How do you move on as a Child of God and as a church professional and continue to contribute to the Kingdom of God?

Katy Sensmeier (Community Lutheran and Grace Lutheran, CA) **Sat., 10:30AM, Room 24**

**In His Mighty Name** As Christian leaders, spiritual warfare is a discipline we need to be familiar with and apply in our daily faith journey. We are also called to fight alongside others who are struggling with spiritual darkness. As a faith-filled believer and Marriage and Family Therapist, my battle training happened by the seat of my pants, out of necessity. In this session, I will share some of my experiences and practical applications to help prepare you to effectively battle the influences that Paul refers to as "the spiritual forces of evil".

Cindy Steinbeck (Voice in The Vineyard Ministries, CA) **Fri., 8:30AM, Room 22**

**Intimate Connection - Life in The Vine** Intimacy is a God-breathed desire of all people. Discover the rich image of our intimate connection to Christ, the true vine and how that connection leads to intimacy with one another. California vineyard and winery owner speaks this rich message of hope and healing.

Jacob Baumann (theCross Family, FL) **Thur., 1PM, Room 41**

**LAUNCH - A 4-week Discipleship Experience** LAUNCH is a four week curriculum that your church can use! The goal of LAUNCH is to help all of your people understand faith in Jesus Christ, connect to their church (Membership), engage in discipleship (Small Groups), learn what their spiritual gifts are, and discover how to make a difference by serving! Hundreds of people at theCross Family (one of the fastest growing churches in the LCMS) have gone through LAUNCH since it was implemented in February 2017.

David Luecke (Royal Redeemer Lutheran, OH) **Fri., 2PM, Room 5**

**Launching a Virtual Church Fellowship in Your Congregation** Such fellowship will be on a Facebook Group page made specific for your congregation. You will receive a 20-blog booklet companion to the 52 blogs in What Happened to Our Churches? available at www.WhatHappened.church and www.VirtualFellowship.church. Both volumes will be on hand for participants. This Facebook Group page guides the sharing of episodes of their personal spiritual journeys among members in their congregation. Luther highly recommended "the mutual conversation and consolation of brethren."

Terry Tieman (Transforming Churches Network, TN) **Thur., 1PM, Room 34**

**Making Reproducing Disciples (Like Jesus Did)** Jesus started a grassroots Gospel movement that shook the world 2,000 years ago and continues to grow like a tsunami in many parts of the world today! But not so much here in North America... Why? Could it be because we are overlooking the simple, but profound, kingdom principles that Jesus taught His first disciples?
Mobilize Members for Ministry through Spiritual Gifts

In this session we will discuss how to mobilize every member of your church for ministry through using and understanding how God gifted them to serve. This session includes free materials and resources you can begin to use immediately to help every person in your congregation discover and "test drive" their spiritual gifts. God has a plan for every Christian to take part in the mission and ministry of His church here on earth. Learn more about how encouraging members to explore and learn more about this gifting and calling can help your church grow and effective ministry can be multiplied.

Red Letter Challenge: A life-changing discipleship opportunity to follow Jesus’ words

Never before has there been more information on discipleship and never before has there been more confusion on what a disciple of Jesus actually is. We have a hard time knowing on a daily basis what it practically looks like to follow Jesus and measuring how effectively we’re representing Him. What if all the answers for how to follow Jesus actually came from Jesus Himself? In the Red Letter Challenge, Pastor Zach Zehnder looked at every command that Jesus gave His followers and found five main principles that if you, your small group, or your congregation put into practice will produce life-changing results (www.redletterchallenge.com).

Resources on a Budget

Need Christian Growth materials such as Bible studies, retreats, devotions or Spanish language Bible studies? Would you like to start writing resources? Take a stroll through what LWML—Lutheran Women in Mission have available for your use as free resources. We would love to support you in your ministry!

Retirement/Semi-Retirement with Purpose

How do you plan to spend your time in retirement? For me, I have sought to fill my life with active participation in giving back utilizing my professional background in recruiting and human resources; e.g. by serving my church as the outreach committee chair, on the board of two nonprofits that help the disadvantaged in their job/career searches, mentoring students at the University of Minnesota and the leadership team (and new employees) at my employer (currently in a semi-retired role). At the same time, I continue to stretch my activities with international adventure travel and community support (e.g. mountain climbing in Patagonia, bike racing in South Africa, an educational trip to Cuba, teaching elementary students in Morocco, zip-lining with grandkids in Costa Rica, and helping to build a community center in Sri Lanka). According to Winston Churchill "we make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."

Science, Scientism, and Christian Witness

How do we as Christians talk with someone who expects science to meet all their needs? Or with someone who looks to science as the source of all knowledge, and wonders how we can believe what Scripture says? Scientism is not science—but many people don’t know the difference. And, even when scientism appears to be the issue keeping someone from hearing God’s Word, it is not always the underlying issue. We will look at some common pitfalls for Christians to avoid, and also examine ways to engage winsomely with people in a culture where scientism is widespread.
**Tracee Swank (Church Doctor Ministries, IN) Fri., 2PM, Room 2**

**Spiritual Formation: Every day disciplines every leader can do**

This session will cover seven foundational spiritual disciplines that every leader can practice to help them grow in their own spiritual health and formation. Teaching will also include how to multiply these spiritual formation practices among the ministry teams you lead. We will also share key strategies that will help you break through the common challenges and roadblocks of practicing spiritual disciplines such as time management, and low level of confidence in understanding spiritual practices. This session will be helpful to any leader interested in helping those they lead, specifically newer or younger leaders, go deeper in their faith and personal spiritual formation.

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**David Seabaugh (Immanuel Lutheran, IL) Thur., 3PM, Room 12**

**The Beatitudes: How to follow Jesus' narrow way**

The beginning of Jesus' most famous sermon has puzzled Christians for centuries. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? How is it a blessing to mourn? Most people don't feel blessed when they're hungry or thirsty and certainly not when they're persecuted! Jesus isn't trying to confuse us. Instead, He is laying out the roadmap for how to follow Him on the narrow way. Every Christian follows this path as he or she matures into a deeper discipleship. Come explore the narrow way behind Jesus through this discussion on The Beatitudes. (Matthew 5:3-10)

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**Matt Hoehner (Open Sky Education, MO) Thur., 1PM, Room 31**

**The Christian Character Formation Project**

The Christian Character Formation Project (CCFP) is a Biblically based journey that equips and trains children and the adults around them to live Christ-centered, fulfilling lives for Greater Purpose. Over 20 Lutheran schools are using it across the nation along with Christian communities around the world. The fully integrated mobile platform and mobile app provide easy access to the content that enables the community to grow in Christ together.

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**Jacob Hoyer (claritynavigator.com, FL) Fri., 2PM, Room 8**

**The Power of a Ministry Map**

In this workshop we'll talk about why most churches are "over-programmed", why you have trouble "on-ramping" new attenders to become active disciples, and some simple steps that will help you to start communicating about how God has called your church to build unique disciples.

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**Michael Spencer (Life Training Institute, CO) Thur., 3PM, Room 44**

**The Case for Life**

Many people today reject or are indifferent to the pro-life view, often because they've never heard the pro-life position presented in a compelling manner. Making The Case for Life is designed to equip pro-life ambassadors to speak intelligently and graciously to the most pressing moral issue of our time; abortion. You’ll learn to simplify the abortion debate by focusing on two crucial questions: What are the preborn? and What makes humans valuable? This talk will teach you to persuade others by exposing the logical fallacies of abortion-choice rhetoric in a winsome manner.
Early Childhood Ministry

Ann and David Barber (Immanuel Lutheran, IL) Fri., 2PM, Room 28
Bridging to Families through Child Care Early Childhood Education provides a tremendous opportunity for outreach. Fundamental to mission is understanding how to create opportunities to build relationship beyond being a service provider. Philosophy, Strategy and Ideas.

Erica Dunn (Word of Life Lutheran, AZ) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 16
Faith Family Future: Ignite a passion in your preschool What is your Preschool's mission? How can you keep the fire going or ignite the spark that you once had for teaching or leading? This session will help you discover the passion you have inside you for early education and we will share fresh ideas for impacting your classroom and school. It's time to get back to the Bible in our schools where we put Faith First, Families Second, and rely on God to build our Children's Future.

David Barber (The Open Arms Institute, IL) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 28
Open Arms- Early Childhood Ministry as Mission The Open Arms Institute has a long history of assisting congregations in planting and expanding their ministries through serving their communities through Early Childhood Ministry. Open Arms has processes and administrative resources to help you. Bring your questions.

Sara Mulso (Woodbury Lutheran, MN) Thur., 1PM, Room 25
The Be-Attitudes of Early Childhood Care and Ministry Working with young children and their families is a rewarding opportunity! We have the privilege of providing high quality care and education as well as walking alongside these families as they raise up their children to know Jesus. But like any ministry, there are pitfalls and challenges along the way. In our time together you will be reminded of best practices, refreshed with new ideas and affirmed in the ways that your program uses important “be” attitudes of early childhood ministry.

Education

Mary Schuldheisz (Renue, LLC, OR) Thur., 3PM, Room 7 and Fri., 4PM, Room 7
Church + School = Ministry One of the reasons Lutheran schools have declined is the disconnect between the church to the school and/or the school to the church. This workshop will explore the reasons this disconnect has occurred and what can be done to cure the problem so the church and the school can benefit from each other's company.

Gretchen Huesmann (Living Word Lutheran, WI) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 6
Integrating Faith in Public School Partnerships Can a Lutheran school successfully partner with the public system without compromising its core beliefs? Learn of our journey to provide public 4K in our Lutheran setting. We'll share the struggles and joys of this unlikely union.
John Kellerman and Peter Schneider  
_Fri., 8:30AM, Room 21_  
(STEM Revolution, Groth Design Group, WI)
**Leading the STEM Shift** Understanding how to implement STEM and STEAM may be confusing, but the need to prepare our children for the future is clear. As many as 65% of future jobs are unknown today. For our Lutheran schools to remain relevant in today’s shifting educational environment, we must adapt. STEM teaching and learning has two components: what to teach and how/where students learn it best. We will explore STEM curricula and space needs to implement STEM at an existing school or church. We will also explore how this integrates into the overall mission and ministry our Lutheran schools.

Jeffrey Kloha  
_Thur., 3PM, Room 25 and Fri., 2PM, Room 25_  
(Museum of the Bible, Washington, D.C.)
**Museum of the Bible: Inviting all people to engage with the Bible** Museum of the Bible is an innovative, global, educational institution whose purpose is to invite all people to engage with the Bible through compelling, innovative experiences and presentations. A 430,000 square foot museum in Washington DC is the hub of that activity. This session describes the museum, its impact, and how the museum can be a resource for schools and congregations.

David Kuschel (Concordia Plan Services, MO)  
_Thur., 1PM, Room 27_
**What’s Happening in Our Schools** Over the course of 2018 Concordia Plan Services dove into that question. We’ve studied our data to look at how many commissioned teachers are entering LCMS schools each year, how long they stay and how many leave. We’ve also talked to teachers and administrators to find out what’s great about their schools, and where there’s room for improvement. All of this was done with the goal of helping LCMS schools become a destination for both high-quality commissioned educators and students. In this session we’ll look at what we’ve learned.

Sarah Schultz (Dignity Revolution, WI)  
_Fri., 2PM, Room 31_
**Untangling the Bullying Mess** Are you finding yourself frustrated and under equipped to deal with the bullying you hear about from your kids and in your community? Participants will receive training in identifying, stopping, and preventing behaviors that do not create safe environments for students. We will help you educate and empower youth to stand up for the value of every person.

Evangelism

David Kim (Glocal Mission, TX)  
_Fri., 10:30AM, Room 45_
**10 Simple Ways to Begin Reaching Your Community for Christ** You’ll discover practical and effective ways to reach the lost and align and empower every believer to live as everyday missionaries.
Fredric Hinz (Minnesota South District, MN) Fri., 4PM, Room 4
Proclaiming the Gospel in a World Where Matter No Longer Seems to Matter  The Bible tells us that God created us with both a body and a soul. Both are good and both carry great meaning and purpose. Today, however, many people are falling prey to an ancient heresy, Gnosticism, which denies the goodness and meaningfulness of the body. In other words, they are beginning to believe that matter no longer matters. This, in turn, has spawned numerous distortions in our culture, including, abortion, same-sex marriage, transgenderism, etc. Come learn more about this common root from which all these distortions spring and learn what practical things each of us can do to counter it.

Mark Wood (LCMS Witness and Outreach Ministry, MO) Fri., 2PM, Room 23
Sharing the Simple Gospel in a Complex World  How do we share God’s Word in a world that is growing more hostile and more indifferent to the Gospel? We’ll discuss how to more active and effective witnesses of Jesus using the LASSIE approach of Every One His Witness.

Mary Ann Torgerson (mychurchbuzz.com, AZ) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 24
Social Media Tools for Evangelism  Social media is a powerful tool to connect communities and share the Good News. This session will discuss the challenges of social media in church environments, effective strategies and tactics to increase engagement and evangelize, and introduce church leaders to myChurchBuzz, a simple social media scheduling tool to assist in achieving social media objectives.

Jason Broge (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 5
The Eager Conversationalists: A hopeful look at what prepares Christians for witness  Jesus called His disciples to go as witnesses throughout the world (Acts 1:8). But how do you do that when more and more of us every year are reluctant to even talk about our faith in everyday life? The latest research from Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Barna Group has revealed five key characteristics shared by Christians who are comfortable, and even eager, to talk about their faith. Come discover this important EAGER Profile, assess your own readiness for witness, and make a spiritual growth plan.

Don Everts (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO) Thur., 1PM, Room 5
The Spiritual Conversation Curve: A practical tool for reluctant witnesses  Paul encouraged all Christians to wisely discern “how to answer” each non Christian in your life (Colossians 4). But how exactly do we do that in an age where many non Christians have experienced “church hurt” and don’t show any interest in Jesus at all? Come discover the simple but revolutionary tool developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries that can help you, and your congregation, discern how to talk with the non Christians in their lives.

Joseph Gudel (Concordia Lutheran High School, IN) Fri., 2PM, Room 16
Using the Qur’an to Share the Gospel with Muslims  Most Christians feel intimidated about sharing their faith with Muslims they may know or encounter. And just quoting the Bible doesn’t work because Muslims believe our scriptures, sent by Allah, have become corrupted. However nowhere in the Qur’an does it say this. Rather, the Qur’an itself states unequivocally that no man can alter the words of Allah. In this session I will show how we can use the Qur’an to point them to Jesus in the gospels - and once they begin reading these God the Holy Spirit will take over. (Each participant will receive a copy of my tract “Jesus and the Qur’an”).
Events/Organization/Planning

Joy Hamann (Concordia Lutheran Church, TX) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 44
How to Plan a Large Event Make the most of your events! In this session you’ll learn ten steps to help you plan and execute a successful event. These steps include items like timelines, fun ideas to recruit volunteers, creative ways to capture contact info from your guests, and more!

Family Ministry

Rebecca Duport (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Thur., 3PM, Room 27
A Family Approach to Youth Ministry A family has more influence on a young person’s growth in faith than anything that happens in a congregation or ministry. Take a look at Faith Development in the Home and receive practical ways to become a more Family-based ministry.

Anthony Cook (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO) Thur., 3PM, Room 10
Becoming a Spiritual Vibrant Household It’s safe to say nuclear families are becoming less and less common. In fact, today’s American households are multi-generational, multi-family, and even multi-faith. Hear about the latest research project from Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Barna Group, as we look at what makes vibrant households who grow together, practice hospitality, and share their faith with those around them and the next generation.

Rachel Hinz (Immanuel Lutheran, MN) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 23
Can Holidays be Holy Days? Searching for ways to make the Christmas season a more faith-centered and meaningful experience for your congregation and community? Host an "Advent Adventure" for families and individuals of all ages! What is it? It's an Absolutely Delightful, Very Entertaining Night Together exploring a variety of ways to transform the holidays (translate: hectic, expensive, emotionally and physically draining) into Holy Days (sacred, enriching, balanced) by celebrating the WHOLE season: Advent, Christmas and Epiphany - and in so doing, introduce to participants (from kids to grandparents) the value of observing the Church Year.

Rebecca Fisher (Christ Lutheran, NE) Fri., 2PM, Room 22
Church vs. Sports or Church AND Sports Sunday morning and Wednesday night sports/dance/drama practices, long and distant weekend tournaments... that’s the reality for American families with children and youth. Rather than fighting it, find out how a church has begun to not only equip but embrace the participants, their families and coaches with this ultimate goal: launch a lifetime of weaving the Christian faith tightly into the fabric of active families on the field, the court, the pool, the stage. Minivan ministry. It’s a thing.
Terri Albrecht (Ministry by Design, MN) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 6
Connecting Families in Faith Would you like help families grow in their faith walk together? How could you create community among the families you serve? In this session you will assess needs, develop strategies, and go home with concrete ideas. It doesn’t matter how many families you serve in your congregation or school, come to this session and explore ways to connect people to God and each other.

Governance/Board Leadership

Ted Kober (Ambassadors of Reconciliation, MT) Thur., 1PM, Room 7
Policy Governance: What’s best for Lutheran churches? The TRADITIONAL 8-BOARD model doesn’t fit today’s churches as well as it used to. So, some churches are moving towards a SINGLE BOARD/PASTOR AS CEO model. But is this really the best fit for Lutheran churches? With 25 years’ experience consulting churches, Kober presents a hybrid model of church governance. Maximize the benefits of the two models described above while minimizing their weaknesses.

Paul Zilz (The Governance Coach, IN) Fri., 4PM, Room 44
Policy Governance®: Ten principles for maximizing mission and ministry strategic results You will gain a foundational understanding of the ten principles of John Carver’s Policy Governance® system of governance. When properly applied, this governance system will help your ministry achieve strategically-focused results for the people you serve while sufficiently addressing the legal, financial, and ethical risks facing your ministry.

Jim Galvin (Galvin & Associates, IL) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 33
Upgrading Church Governance There are five types of governance models currently in use in LCMS congregations across the country. No matter which type you currently operate under, there are practical steps your leadership can take to improve congregational governance. Participants will determine if they should change their current governance model or keep what they have, learn best practices for their type of governance, eliminate bad practices, and identify leverage points for healthy change.

Lay Ministry

Stephen Epley (King of Kings, IA) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 27
Developing New Lay Leaders... A Training Program Your Congregation Can Use Learn about a tangible, practical program to identify, lift up, and train new people for team leadership roles. The innovative three-phase program is highly structured and includes initial Bible instruction and role playing, assistance in planning and developing team ministry projects, and ongoing encouragement and support as newly commissioned leaders undertake their assignments. The program is designed to be embedded in the leadership practices of congregations. The session includes lessons learned from three successive offerings of the training program at King of Kings and the results of two successive beta tests with eleven congregations of varied sizes and locations across the country.
James Tino (Global Lutheran Outreach, Santiago, Chile) Sat., 10:30AM, Maricopa Room
Your Church Can Fly! Much like a bird, God designed the church so that her two wings - leadership and laity - would work together to make it soar. But too often, congregations of all sizes look more like a one-winged bird, endlessly flapping in circles on the ground. In this session, together we will rediscover God's design for your church and figure out how to get both wings moving in harmony.

Leadership

Matt Behrens Thur., 3PM, Room 32 and Fri., 2PM, Room 32 (Calvary Lutheran/LINC Bay Area, CA)
4 Habits to Form if You Want to Raise Up Leaders You believe the people of your church are called to mission. You believe they have potential to make an impact for the kingdom. What are they waiting for? They're probably waiting for you. Our cultures and systems tend to encourage people to remain students and followers instead of risking leadership. You can help others make the transition. We won't talk about a specific program or method for raising up leaders. We'll center our conversation around 4 practices which will help you equip, encourage and release others to lead with the gifts God has given them.

Leah Abel (Abel Project Management & Facilitation, CO) Fri., 4PM, Room 27
A Better Plan: Getting from idea to action Great ideas are inspiring and life-giving... at least at first... until the weight of “how am I gonna pull this off!?“ sets in... followed quickly by the crushing guilt. Great ideas take work. Great work needs a great plan. This session will identify some of the obstacles that keep a great idea from getting off the ground as well as key behaviors to building a better plan and getting from idea to action.

Scott Giger and Mike Rowland Fri., 10:30AM, Room 25 (Cornerstone Lutheran, IN)
A Church’s Response to a Local School Shooting Last May, at Noblesville West Middle School, a shooter entered a classroom and fired a weapon multiple times, which resulted in the injury of a student and a teacher. The student, teacher and their families are all disciples of Cornerstone Lutheran Church. As a staff we had to quickly pull together to communicate to our congregation and minister to the victims and their families, as well as other families at our church. No one ever wants to think about this possibility, but being ready to respond in crisis situations is important. In this session we will take you through our response and share the lessons we learned.

Mark Schulz (Peace Lutheran, WI) Fri., 4PM, Room 25
Becoming a Developmental Church Many churches in our consumer society have been content with only attracting people to weekend worship services and other events. Developmental churches seek to move people down the two tracks of discipleship and missional calling. In this session you will have the opportunity to assess where your church is on the attractional-developmental spectrum and consider next steps toward becoming a church that gets people moving.
Vince Putnam (Trinity Lutheran, FL) Fri., 4PM, Room 26
**Benefit from non-Lutheran Church Partnerships** Once Trinity began partnering with other churches in our community we were able to accomplish things we could have never done on our own.

Tim Ahlman (Christ’s Greenfield Lutheran, AZ) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 21
**Change and Conflict: Ask Jesus for courage in daily difficult conversations** Do you struggle with change and conflict? Do difficult conversations keep you up at night? Come explore biblical and research backed tips for leading through inevitable change and conflict. It does not have to be painful. Relational resilience can be learned. You don’t have to slide to either extreme of being a jerk or a wimp. Jesus models a better way, and current social sciences back up the way of Jesus (shocker). What we learn together will impact every sphere of your life.

Todd Jones (Michigan District-LCMS, MI) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 8
**Clarity in Planning** Are false starts, scarcity of volunteers, or missed deadlines hindering your ministry from completing projects? This workshop will address common planning challenges and will provide a diagnostic tool for identifying missing components in the planning process.

Vicki Biggs (Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, MO) Fri., 8:30AM, Maricopa Room
**Communicating in Times of Crisis** Let's face it. If you haven't already experienced a public relations crisis, then you are overdue. In this session, explore ways to prepare for a crisis. Learn the steps to maintain or restore confidence in your organization, care for those affected and get your focus back on ministry.

James Reed (Light of the Valley, CA) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 43
**Connecting the Disconnected** Learn about how Light of the Valley walks alongside visitors transforming them from disconnected to leading.

Donald Christian (Concordia University, TX) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 24
**Creating a High Functioning Leadership Team** It’s one thing to hire really smart people - it’s another thing to form them into a high functioning team that will successfully lead the organization. This session will explore the ways in which Dr. Christian created a strong executive team that is leading Concordia University Texas toward its vision, including tips and tools you can use with your own team.
John Reeb (Colorado Leadership Institute, CO) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 34
Dealing with Different Personality Styles Why are there some people that you just struggle to get along with? They seem nice enough, but you seem to rub each other the wrong way. It is very likely it’s because your personalities clash. Can that be dealt with effectively? Of course it can. This workshop will teach you practical ways that you can deal with any personality type and be effective at influencing them, building a strong relationship.

Jack Kalleberg (Christ’s Greenfield Lutheran, AZ) Fri., 4PM, Room 21
Execute with Excellence Have you ever felt like your ministry has a ton of great ideas, but never gets anything done? If you are like most organizations, you probably aren’t suffering from a lack of “vision” or a lack of good “strategies”. Instead your team is probably lacking in the necessary skills and knowledge to execute on these major goals with excellence. In this session, you will learn about The Four Disciplines of Execution, and how you can use them to supercharge your ministry and turn it into a strategic implementation machine.

Kent Hunter (Church Doctor Ministries, IN) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 2
Help! Our Pastor is Retiring! A Biblical Approach to Pastoral Replacement Your beloved pastor is retiring. Now what? Are you ready? Are you fearful about what will happen to your church, the culture, the mission and ministry momentum? Church Doctor Ministries Founder, Dr. Kent R. Hunter will share the effective strategies used to help churches navigate one of the most important transitions in the life of a church. Pastoral retirement and transition is one of the fastest growing areas of concern for church leaders today. There is more to an effective transition strategy and it starts long before establishing a call committee for the new pastor. Learn how to proactively plan and implement a pastoral transition plan that will keep the important momentum of effective ministry going as you call a new senior leader.

Debbie Arfsten (Concordia University-Chicago, IL) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 12
Honey, Our Church Workers are Shrinking! Why are our church work programs shrinking? What are "they" doing to fix the problem? Is it just about a numerical decline in the LCMS or is there more to it than that? This session will be a spirited conversation together as we seek to examine the issues and consider possible ways to reverse the trend.

Kent Hunter (Church Doctor Ministries, IN) Fri., 4PM, Room 2
Hope for America: Hope for your church Recent research shows that many people living in America today are hope-less. But Christians do not have to live this way. Our hope is in Jesus Christ! Learn more about how to influence and change the culture of your home, marketplace, community, and country by sharing the hope we have in Christ with others. In this session we talk about the culture of hopelessness gripping many people today and how the local church can become a beacon of hope and light. This isn’t a political discussion - but an important topic to learn and explore as leaders. Learn about how to bring hope to your community and what that means for the hope and future of the local church. This session is led by Kent R. Hunter, founder of Church Doctor Ministries.
Jeremy Jacoby (Summit of Peace Lutheran, CO) **Thur., 1PM, Room 42**
**How a Medium-Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas – From Cruise Ship to Rescue Boat** Changing a historically inward focused congregation to an outward driven mission takes changes at all levels of the church. Church structure – programming – ministry goals – communication – outreach – discipleship. As society changes and its needs and methods of communication evolve, the church must adapt its methods or risk becoming irrelevant. What is the order in which change should occur? Why and how does a traditional church consider these types of changes? This is not about change for the sake of change. It’s about change for the sake of the great commission.

Jim Galvin (Galvin & Associates, Inc., IL) **Fri., 10:30AM, Room 33**
**How to Self-Publish Your Book** Getting your book in print has never been easier. You have access to software, tools, and services that can help you produce a quality product. Participants will learn how to conquer the writing challenge, how to test your working title, how to create a campaign to fund your project, how to get word-of-mouth jump-started, and how to make your book available on Amazon.

Vince Parks (LINC Ministries, TX) **Fri., 8:30AM, Room 14**
**Leadership and Church Size Dynamics** A common cause for pastoral leadership mistakes is blindness to the significance of church size. Size has an enormous impact on how a church functions. Every church has a “size culture” that profoundly affects how decisions are made, how relationships flow, how effectiveness is evaluated, and what pastors, staff, and lay leaders do. We’ll consider the 5 leadership systems in every church and the roadblocks which hinder ministry growth.

Donald Christian (Concordia University-Texas, TX) **Fri., 2PM, Room 24**
**Leading when Others Doubt Your Leadership** Leadership is hard - and it is even harder when others doubt your leadership. How does one "stand in the gap" when those you lead (and sometimes your own self) has stopped trusting and believing that God has called you to lead the institution? This session will explore both external and internal resources from which those in leadership roles can draw to keep moving forward in spite of the doubts and fears that exist.

Doug Mauss (St. John Lutheran, MO) **Thur., 1PM, Room 2**
**Leverage Your Personality Type for Ministry: The enneagram as a tool for spiritual growth and healing through self-discovery** Ephesians 2:10 says that we are individually “God’s finest craftsmanship.” And yet we try to conform ourselves to a cookie-cutter version of spiritual maturity. But what if spiritual growth looked like rediscovering God’s unique design for each of us? Come understand your own patterns of holiness and sin through the Enneagram. It will save your marriage, revive your ministry, and help you become an authentic, grace-based leader with an exponential impact on the Kingdom.
Honoring and holding fast to the order of creation? In this session we will discuss the need for female ministry leaders on our, male dominated, ministry teams and how this can be accomplished in ways that are not only biblical but enormously beneficial to the spiritual health of your congregation.

Gail & Jack Ficken & Kyrie & Phil Klopke **Thu., 1PM, Room 21**
(PLI Leadership + 1,000 Young Leaders, TN)

PLI - 1,000 Young Leaders Being a Leader isn’t easy. You are going to think new thoughts, acquire new visions, and discover new ambitions. This is the case for millennials. So how do we invest in them so that they become a person of influence where their intentional presence will bring a hopeful voice to a generation that longs for what Jesus offers?

Tim Ahlman, Jake Boessling, and Rachell Highley **Sat., 8:30AM, Room 21**
(Christ’s Greenfield Lutheran, AZ)

Male and Female Ministry Roles in the LCMS: Frank conversation about our need for a Biblical model of gender balanced church leadership Why is it important to have a more gender balanced leadership throughout LCMS congregations? How can this be accomplished while still honoring and holding fast to the order of creation?

Brian Banke *(Pathway Leadership Development, WA)* **Fri., 4PM, Room 33**

Multiplying Congregational Leadership You not only need to recruit leaders, you need to build them. Learn a framework for holistic leadership development for your congregation. Join Brian Banke from Dwelling 1:14 and Pathway Leadership Development to learn about developing leaders around Christ, Community, Character, Calling, and Competencies.

Leah Abel *(Abel Project Management, CO)* **Sat., 8:30AM, Room 27**

**Practical Tools for Better Teamwork** A great idea or a beautifully targeted goal can sit hardly moved after months of board or committee meetings. Why is it that teams seem to get stuck having the same conversations again and again making little progress between face to face meetings? This session will explore some simple to use, practical tools (tech and otherwise) for keeping a team connected and moving important projects forward.

John Eckrich *(Grace Place Wellness, MO)* **Fri., 8:30AM, Room 23**

**Resilient Aging: Mindful stewardship of body, mind and spirit into the next season of Christian living and service** An increasing percent of church workers and congregants are entering senior years and seem to still have more in the tank to give and live. How do we "mindfully steward" body, mind and spirit so that we may serve in repositioned ministries with vigor and effectiveness even if we’re occupying "older" vessels?
Mark Blanke (Concordia University-Nebraska, NE) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 5
The Difference between Talking and Teaching Just because you're talking doesn't mean you're teaching. Consider these simple steps to enhance your effectiveness as an educator in the church.

Dust Kunkel (Northwest District-LCMS, OR) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 4
The Monster at the End of this Talk I can be ministry's worst enemy. This session looks at the leader as antagonist in ministry and how to get out of Jesus' way while staying on His way. If you're looking for programmatic "how to's" this is NOT the session for you. If you need some "how to's" on being a counter-cultural and counter-intuitive leader, then this session may be for you. Maybe.

Zach McIntosh & Greg Styles (Concordia Lutheran, TX) Fri., 4PM, Room 43
The Road to a Stress-Free Sunday Morning Do you feel overwhelmed with details as you head into Sunday Morning Services? Does your vision seem to get lost in the daily grind between managing your staff and going to meetings? Come explore ways to become more efficient by planning and executing the right meetings that will keep you prepared all year long with Concordia San Antonio’s Chief of Staff, Greg Styles and Executive Pastor, Zach McIntosh. This session will discuss the importance of critical meetings, staff management, vision casting, and event execution, with plenty of time for Q&A. * This session is great for Department Leaders, Pastors, Program Directors, and Meeting Organizers.

Rebecca Fisher (Christ Lutheran, NE) Thur, 1PM, Room 22
What Millennial Parents (Especially Dads) Want in a Church What happens when your church leadership listens to the consultant group and decides to quietly target the "25 to 37-year-old dechurched man with kids" at every step? You listen hard when that man tells you what he needs and then respond as God enables you. We’ll share our journey, the changes we’ve made (and response by our target group) and those changes in the wings.

Ted Kober (Ambassadors of Reconciliation, MT) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 7
What REALLY Makes a Church Healthy? Family systems theory? Successful business practices? Acquiring characteristics of healthy organizations? In his new book, BUILT ON THE ROCK: THE HEALTHY CONGREGATION, Ted Kober posits what makes a church healthy is how well its people, especially her leaders, are grounded in God’s Word. Learn what the book reveals from research, the Scriptures, and 25 years’ experience as a church reconciliation consultant.

WALL/Jon Jordening (WALL at CUI, CA) Sat., 8:30AM, Arizona Room
Worship Ministry Table Talk The Center for Worship Leadership at Concordia Irvine (formerly WALL) exists to connect leaders of worship with one another for empowered learning, common support, and professional inspiration. To that end, this breakout session gathers you around tables to discuss your challenges, answer your questions, and unearth collective solutions from the group. Ten experienced worship ministry professionals – with different credentials, serving in different congregational contexts, from different parts of the country – will facilitate the table discussions to help guide the conversation, identify best-practice perspectives, and apply professional expertise where needed.
Marriage Ministry

Judyann Gallego-Leonard (Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, AZ) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 12
How to Make Your Marriage as Happy as Everyone in the Church Thinks It Is
1. Has ministry, children or other things been your focus so that your marriage isn’t as much fun as it used to be? 2. Would you like to enjoy your spouse more by finding some creative ways to put some sizzle back into your relationship? 3. Does it seem like you’re always encouraging others in their marriages, while you’re feeling less than satisfied in your own marriage? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you will find this practical workshop encouraging. This fun and interactive workshop by Judyann Gallego-Leonard, an experienced marriage therapist, will give you some practical tools to make some small changes in yourself that could bring about some huge changes in your marriage.

Paul and Carol Tepker (Ministry Insights International, AZ) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 25
Marriage: Different by design! Opposites attract - that’s fun. Dealing with differences - that’s not fun. How is it possible to work out conflicts with someone who can be so different from you? In this “Different by Design” workshop, you will discover a very practical tool you and your spouse can use that will transform the way you live life together. Use this same tool in premarital and marital counseling as well as small group workshops.

Media and Technology

Amy Larson (St. John Evangelical Lutheran, AZ) Thur., 1PM, Room 6
5 Easy Apps to Boost Community and Congregational Engagement
A quick start guide to 5 mobile and web apps that are low cost (or free), easy to use, and drive engagement with your congregation and community. Categories include social media, design, marketing, event promotion, and much more. Learn how to utilize your mobile devices and PC to work smarter, not harder, and get more mileage out of your message.

Scott Guenther (Messiah Lutheran, NE) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 45
A Discussion of Tech Solutions for Ministry
Messiah uses dozens of tech solutions for many of their HR and communication practices, along with infusing tech in their Sunday worship and elementary classrooms. Come and learn from what we use and share the tech gems you have found that make your church and school run more smoothly.

Sean McAdams (Lutheran Church Charities, IL) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 31
Basics of Video Production to Expand Your Church’s Reach
Are you curious about how to begin using Video to expand your congregation’s reach in an increasingly digital world? Join Sean McAdams, Media Specialist from Lutheran Church Charities, as he shares some easy ways to increase your reach to members and non-members alike using video!
Kat Stokes (Valley Lutheran High School, AZ) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 27

**GOOGLE** Bring your device! Google Calendar, Google Forms, Google Website, Everything Google for your ministry.

Julie Jacoby & Ronda Palazzari Thur., 3PM. Rm 42 & Sat., 8:30AM, Rm 42 (Summit of Peace Lutheran, CO)

**How a Medium-Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas – Marketing and Branding** A website is the modern-day version of “window shopping”. Social media is the modern-day version of newspaper advertising. Email is today’s version of mailing letters from the church office. In this session, we will share with you how to create a branding and marketing plan for a congregation with no logo, an archaic website, and whose only history in advertising is the Sunday morning newspaper listing. We will share our step-by-step process, practical and cost-effective applications, failures, success stories and the results, so that you can take back real life examples relevant for your small to medium sized church.

Travis Hartjen (Known Legacy, TX) Thur., 1PM, Room 26

**Podcasting 101** Looking for ways to connect with your people and train them during the week? Have more to share than what you have time for on Sundays? Come and hear how to start a podcast, the equipment needed, and some lessons learned.

Tim Schumacher (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Fri., 4PM, Maricopa Room

**Thou Shalt Not Steal in the Digital Age (moving above and beyond a legal view of intellectual property)** Explanations from Luther’s Small and Large Catechisms will inform on how to apply the 7th Commandment to the protection of your neighbor’s intellectual property (think: digital images). Intellectual property and copyright will be addressed, as well as the “transformativeness” exception to Fair Use. Tips will be provided for finding and using images legally and ethically.

**Men’s Ministry**

Scott Keith (1517 Legacy, CA) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 12

**Being Dad** This session addresses the way fathers, and the subject of fatherhood, are treated in modern culture. Dr. Keith’s rich experience with family, students, great mentors, and friends motivate him to to speak into a subject that is crying out for attention. During this session, Dr. Keith draws upon his Christian faith, a scholarly eye for detail, and an ear for story along on the journey, as he works with his audience to navigate a path to a better country where the Father blesses His children and is honored.
Joshua Tallman (Christian Service Brigade, CA) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 18  
Building Young Men of Integrity, Humility, and Courage  
Help dad, grandpa, and other godly men intentionally mentor your sons into servant leaders who talk and act like Jesus. Christian Service Brigade has been used by the Holy Spirit to build godly men for the last 80 years. Our discipleship ministry is based on relationships, adventure, and leadership. We can help the men of your church invest in the next generation.

Scott Keith (1517 Legacy, CA) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 12  
Why the Church Needs Masculine Men  
The last 30 years has seen a steady decline in Mainline Denomination congregational enrollment. Why is that? One reason might be that men have left the church in droves. In this session, Dr. Keith explores the realities regarding why men have left, and the impact their departure has on the life of congregations and families. Dr. Keith suggests that what the church (and the family) needs is masculine men to stick around and lead. Finally, some suggestions will be offered as to how we might get these men back and why forgiveness plays such an important role in that strategy.

Missions

Dust Kunkel and Paul Mueller Fri., 10:30AM, Room 4  
(Northwest District-LCMS, OR and Center for Applied Lutheran Leadership, OR)  
"Doing" Church - Is it Time to Re-imagine it?  
Re-imagining the church is a difficult conversation. We have been "doing" church for centuries and it seemed to work. But now what? Come enjoy a conversation about the future of doing church - what it is, how it looks, and what that means for us.

Cheryl Ehlers (Garuna Christian Schools, AZ) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 41  
"Your" School... 9,000 Miles Away!  
Come and hear about partnership opportunities with the Garuna Foundation’s Lutheran schools in southeast Asia. With six (6) schools now open in Cambodia, you will learn more about how your church/school could be involved with a new school ministry start up halfway around the world. Ready for a missional challenge for your members? Now is the time to learn more about Garuna Christian Schools to consider if one of the levels of involvement suits your missional appetite and ministry situation.

David Kim (Glocal Mission, TX) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 45  
9 Paradigm Shifts for Activating the Church  
You’ll learn 9 key paradigm shifts the church needs to experience when desiring to equip and activate all the people of God to engage in His mission.

Erin Alter (LCMS Office of International Mission, MO) Fri., 2PM, Maricopa Room  
Don’t Get Popped!  
Crossing cultures is hard. So many rules are unwritten because “everyone” knows them. Join this loud, interactive session. You’ll be exasperated and exultant, deflated but not defeated, just like on the mission field! Remember what it’s like to be a kid and learn from your mistakes. It is an essential skill when crossing cultures. Note: balloons WILL be harmed during this session.
**Dan May (Indiana District - LCMS, IN) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 14**

**Dynamic Seniors in Mission** We have developed a way for grandparents to be in mission to their grandchildren and other children. A Grandparents Weekend is offered once a month and the SS is presented by the grandparents (who already have a relationship with the children). They also participate together in worship. We also provide examples of missions to family through social media, cards, letters and conversation.

**Brian Banke & Greg Finke (Dwelling 1:14, TX) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 33**

**How to Develop a Missionary Lifestyle** There is a big difference between a mission program and a mission lifestyle. Come and see how you can join Jesus on His mission as part of your everyday experience. You will also see how to spread this lifestyle throughout your congregation.

**Greg Bearss (LakePointe City Church, AR) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 43**

**How to Reach a City...** What does it look like to reach a city in Jesus’ name? Is it even possible, plausible? Sounds wonderful and makes a bumper sticker but how do we do it? In this session we will look at some real life examples where ministries have been making significant impact on their cities, working as the church with other churches and their city is different as a result! In this session we will talk about The Holy Spirit’s power and leadership in this endeavor as well as the opposition you will face if you choose to embark.

**Mike Rodewald (Lutheran Bible Translators, MO) Thur., 3PM, Room 16**

**Interpreting an OT Narrative from an Outsider Worldview** God’s Word is for all people. Western worldview and culture may cause bias as we study and interpret Scriptural narrative. Understanding how those from other language communities and cultures interpret such narratives increases our knowledge-base and our appreciation of God at work through the Word in the world.

**Peter Alexander (Grace Lutheran/Petrus Ministries, CA) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 4**

**Lighting the Fire: Ways to move the "stuck" congregation forward** Moving "off the dime" into a new chapter of missional revitalization doesn't just happen. There are factors, tools, and approaches that the Spirit of God uses to build new vision, hope and direction for churches that are open and ready. Gospel power is available for a variety of settings and scenarios!

**Patti Ross (Lutheran Women in Mission - LWML, MO) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 26**

**Money for Missions** Your mission may qualify for a mission grant from LWML—Lutheran Women in Mission. Find out requirements, go through sample applications, find out when and where to submit requests. LWML would love to be your partner in Gospel outreach!
**Julie Tucker (Concordia Lutheran, TX)** *Fri., 10:30AM, Room 43*

Prepare for Impact - A Case Study from Harvey

Prepositioning and communication are critical to have a successful response by your congregation to support your community leading up to and immediately following a natural disaster. This session will explore the approach the Texas District used to interface with other non-Lutheran churches, to reach out to other organizations that have valuable methods and resources, to set up volunteer centers, retain supplies, assess homes, collaborate with Federal Agencies, meet with government officials and others and form partnerships with non-profit agencies. This process will help get everyone in action and provide immediate relief to those impacted by a disaster.

**Gregory Seltz (Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, D.C.)** *Sat., 10:30AM, Room 33*

Religious Liberty and the Public Proclamation of the Gospel

Modern society increasingly looks to the overarching State to solve many of its cultural problems. With the weaponizing of politics, dialogue is stifled even outlawed for the sake of a state-manufactured, state-dictated peace. This movement ultimately stifles freedom and the freedom of the Gospel most of all. In America, Christians have been given a protection called the first amendment that allows Christians to put their temporal liberties to work for the sake of the mission of proclaiming the eternal liberties of Christ. In this sectional, you’ll learn the power of God’s Two-Kingdom Engagement strategy for the sake of the culture as well as for the sake of the mission of the Church.

**Dave Falconer & Barbara Laabs (Jamaica Link Ministries, Jamaica)** *Sat., 8:30AM, Room 6*

Short-term Mission Trips: Coming alongside those on the ground

One session, two parts: Sharing best practices for short-term mission trips, with great resources for preparing teams to come alongside local ministries instead of imposing our own goals and biases; and, hearing from Rev. Dave Falconer of Jamaica Link Ministries, which connects teams with needs and ministries in the Montego Bay, Jamaica area.

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**Multicultural Ministry**

**Dan Czaplewski (Mt. Calvary Lutheran, WI)** *Thur., 3PM, Room 2*

A Nonprofit and Your Church - Our Journey

Mt. Calvary started a separate nonprofit organization in 2017. A year later, we have learned some valuable lessons and gained some insights that might help you consider this opportunity for ministry. We are in a diverse, urban neighborhood and we are doing urban farming with young interns. It’s a blast!

**Cindy Rodewald (Mission of Christ Network, MO)** *Thur., 1PM, Room 16*

The Culture Clash

As God sends us forth to be a part of His mission, whether it be overseas or right here in the US, we are smacked in the face with cultures unlike our own. We struggle, make mistakes and learn about a God much bigger than our own cultural box. When we take the time to understand another’s culture, God works in our hearts and the lives of others as we participate in His mission. I will share my journey of learning through mistakes of over 20 years on the mission field and challenge you to step out of your cultural box.
The Muslims are Coming! The Christians are Running! Think you know Islam? Maybe you'll have to think again after this session! This session will introduce attendees to the basics of Islam and global Muslim societies and challenge many commonly held misconceptions about the religion of some 1.7 billion people worldwide. Participants will also be invited to get to know their Muslim neighbors in a new light and imagine how they can reach across boundaries with love in thought, word, and deed.

Dante Langerfeld (Trinity Lutheran, MN) Thur., 3PM, Room 14
The Opioid Crisis: A Christian response Drug overdose is now the leading cause of injury related death in the United States. Majority caused by opioid overdose. The Opioid Crisis is no longer an issue faced only by other communities where it is simply “their problem”. An average of 175 Americans die each day from drug overdose. This has become every community’s epidemic and deserves a Christian response.

James Marriott (Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 32
Worship and Culture What is the relationship between liturgy and culture? How can we responsibly engage our cultural contexts without compromising the integrity of our faith and practice? How can we winsomely and peacefully shepherd our congregations through periods of change? Bring your own questions as well—together we’ll share insights and stories of how we might engage in liturgical inculturation in our local contexts.

Multi-site Ministry

Jeff Scheich (Christ Lincoln, NE) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 22
A Multi-site Experience Explore how to do multi-site strategies for success and pitfalls to avoid.

Music Ministry

Katie Runkel (Summit of Peace Lutheran, CO) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 42
How a Medium-Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas – Music Ministry How do you grow a full-time music ministry with a part time leader and volunteer directors? In this session, we will share with you how our church’s Music Ministry has taken what we’ve learned at BPM and turned a volunteer-run ministry into a Full Worship Music Ministry supported by many groups including a youth choir, youth handbells, adult choir, adult handbells, praise team, a cappella teams, clarinet quintets, vocal quartets, string trios, and more! We’ll share how we are raising and growing our future music leaders, have added worship variety to Sunday mornings, and increased program offerings for all age groups. We will share our own practical applications, failures, and success stories so that you can take back real life examples relevant for your small to medium sized church.
Johnny Venegas (GraceHill Church, NE) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 34

**How to Make a Small Worship Band Sound Big!** Make your worship band sound big with the use of keyboards, loops, and backing tracks! I will show you how we make our band sound big or answer any questions you may have about getting started or improving in these areas.

Blake Flattley (CommunionArts, TX) Fri., 2PM, Sanctuary

**Liturgy of Rest** A time of liturgy, singing, prayer and rest. This session will put into practice what was discussed during the session, "Historically Rooted, Culturally Aware: Exploring philosophical and practical approaches to planning modern liturgical services for your community's context." You do not need to have attended this session in order to participate in Liturgy of Rest.

Kevin Bueltmann (Trinity Lutheran Camp, MT) Thur., 3PM., Room 21

**New Contemporary Songs for Worship** Come to this session to hear new music from several Lutheran songwriters or artists that you might be able to use in worship or just to listen to. If you are a songwriter contact Kevin@WaysofPraise.com for info about sharing your music, even if you can't be there for the session.

Blake Flattley (CommunionArts, TX) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 31

**Planning Modern Liturgical Services** Historically Rooted, Culturally Aware: Exploring philosophical and practical approaches to planning modern liturgical services for your community's context.

Joël Held (Edgewater Lutheran, CA) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 26

**Skillfully (How to Present Meaningful Worship in Your Church Context)** This session aims to give the participants, tips and suggestions for improving their music experience at church. Using the tools/talents (volunteers and staff) God has given them at their church site. Whether your church is traditional, contemporary or blended these tips will help your Sunday morning worship experience move from "cringeworthy" to something that is a beautiful expression of our love to our savior presented in a manner that will allow your congregation to participate in worship.

Adam Countryman (Concordia Lutheran, TX) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 43

**Who, What, When, Why and How Much? Paid vs. Volunteer** Practices and principles in paying worship leaders, musicians, sound people and other talent needed for worship service. This session will also balance use of volunteers and paid personnel for the highest quality experience in your services. This session is good for Worship Leaders, Tech Personnel, Pastors and Decision Makers.
Outreach

**Bill Woolsey (FiveTwo, TX) Thur., 1PM, Room 44**

**Action Steps for Replanting Declining Congregations**
Many of our congregations struggle with changing communities and declining membership, leading to a spirit of frustration and disillusionment. Before shutting the doors and selling the property, this session by FiveTwo offers action steps congregational leaders can take to ensure their ministry exists for the next generation.

**Susan Miller (Just Moved Ministry, AZ) Thur., 1PM, Camelback Room**

**Assimilating Newcomers... We're New in Town and Coming to Your Church!**
What is a visitor's first impression of your church? What makes them want to come back? Learn informative insight and practical tips on assimilating newcomers into your church.

**Peter Meier (Center for United States Missions, CA) Sat, 10:30AM, Room 22**

**Discover Your Community Sweet Spot**
How well do you know your community? How well does your community know you? Discovering your “Sweet Spot for Ministry” can open doors to new relationships, new disciples, and new ministries.

**Richard Schlak (Lutheran Hispanic Missionary Institute, TX) Fri., 4PM, Room 12**

**Immigrants without Visas**
What should Christians do about the battles over immigration in our country? What does the Bible say about it? This session will clear up some misconceptions about immigration, look at the issues from a biblical, Lutheran perspective, and suggest steps for congregations and individual Christians to take. The focus is on undocumented (illegal) immigration, with some attention to other issues.

**Tim Hetzner (Lutheran Church Charities, IL) Fri., 2PM, Room 4**

**LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry: 10 Years In - And Still Growing and Expanding**
The LCC K9 Comfort Dog Ministry of Lutheran Church Charities continues to grow and expand in helping Congregations, Schools, and Universities of the LCMS reach out to their communities and be part of National Crisis and Disaster Response. What is it that uniquely sets this ministry apart from other K9 groups? Learn about the different K9 Comfort Dog areas with Kare 9 (Military and Veterans) and K9 Police Ministry. Come and learn how it works and how your Church can be involved.

**Mark Wood (LCMS Witness and Outreach Ministry, MO) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 23**

**Shepherding the Strays**
How do we actively serve our inactive members? We’ll highlight and discuss the keys for an effective approach for restoring inactive members to the fellowship of believers.
Timothy Sternberg (Concordia University, OR) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 23
The Nones and How to Reach Them The 'Nones' are the spiritually indifferent of our time, lacking reason, motivation, and will to believe. But these souls can be brought to Jesus, and faith in Him through three simple and effective means.

Keith Peterson (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO) Sat., 8:30AM Room 5
Tools for Energizing, Engaging and Equipping God's People for Outreach! Most people in our churches desperately want to share the Gospel with family and friends but can't find simple and effective tools to help. In this session, we'll explore a host of proven witnessing tools and introduce some new ones to help you and those in your congregation make an eternal difference. Come and see!

Parenting

Cindy Koch (1517 Legacy, CA) Thur., 1PM, Room 12
Inspiring Conversations with Our Kids Children are our future. But how do you talk theology with a five year old? A discussion on inspiring the next generation to keep the conversations going from preschool to college. “We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.” (Psalm 78:4)

Prayer

Brady Finnern (DOXOLOGY, MN) Fri., 4PM, Room 23
A Fresh Look at the Whys and Hows of Prayer and Service to Your Neighbor The Christian is called to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Jesus calls us “You shall love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:31)” while James reminds us, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working (James 5:16).” How central is prayer in your ministry? Do we see prayer as an opportunity to serve or simple a ritual with little “impact?” The goal of this presentation is to take an honest look at prayer according to Scriptures and to seek practical ways to pray as a service to others.

Gretchen Huesmann (Living Word Lutheran, WI) Fri., 4PM, Room 6
Praying Aloud: Why we do it- how to teach it Praying out loud continues to be one of those sticky points with many believers. In this session we'll examine tried and true methods of teaching even the most resistant prayer-ers this important Christian discipline.
**Bill Dasch (Bill Dasch Ministries, TX) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 16**
*The Brain on Prayer*  Exciting new studies of the brain on prayer show how prayer changes your brain and God changes your life. Discover 4 astonishing ways God designed your brain for prayer. MRI studies, neuro-plasticity, and theo-plasticity show God’s creative relationship between the brain and prayer. Coupled with practical applications, this could be ground breaking!

**Bill Dasch (Bill Dasch Ministries, TX) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 16**
*When Healing Doesn’t Come*  Let’s face it - not everyone we pray for gets healed physically. So what do you do and think when physical healing doesn’t come? Discover a four step process that will help you find hope and encouragement as you minister to people. This is practical and helpful for pastors, Stephen Ministers, parents, nurses and all who pray for people.

**Preaching**

**Glenn Nielsen (Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO) Thur., 1PM, Room 4**
*How a Dennis the Menace Cartoon Changed the Way I Preach and Teach the Sanctified Life*  How do we exhort and encourage the sanctified life? Lutherans speak of Law and Gospel, but typically the Law is its accusing role. However, we struggle with using the Law in its guiding role for the Christian. One day I came across a cartoon that made me think through this task in a way that changed the way I construct my sermons and what I do in Bible classes. This session will not only show the cartoon, but also go deeper into how we can better carry out our responsibility of instructing, encouraging and exhorting the people listening to us. Sample sermons will guide the presentation.

**John Stennfeld (Christ Lutheran, TX) Thur., 3PM, Room 4**
*Next Level Preaching*  Preaching is more than proclaiming/teaching the Gospel from the pulpit. It is a unique discipline that incorporates aspects of philosophy, psychology, rhetoric, authorship, comedy, and theater - along with all the elements of good theology (exegesis, systematic, history, archaeology, etc.) in order to communicate the life transforming good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sins. This session will make use of many of these elements to help the hearer become a more effective communicator of our precious Gospel message.

**Zach McIntosh & Bill Tucker (Concordia Lutheran, TX) Thur., 3PM, Room 43**
*Sharpen Your Preaching*  We all know preaching is important, but sometimes, the demands of a pastor’s week or the weariness of a pastor’s mind can make preaching a carefully crafted sermon seem nearly impossible. In this session, Pastors Bill Tucker and Zach McIntosh discuss how to prepare sanely for a sermon, how to craft memorable and practical points, how to preach a specific gospel from a text instead of a general gospel into a text, and why the work of preaching is still a worthy and central task, even when it is difficult.
School Ministry

Lori Doyle (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 6

21st-Century Strategies for Presenting the Gospel
The Gospel is the inerrant Word of God and Salvation Truth is unchanging, but Jesus and His apostles modeled for us the need to consider audience, setting, and climate when presenting the Good News. During this session, we will discuss up-to-date statistics describing the current audience, setting, and climate in today’s schools, specifically Lutheran schools, before going into some 21st-century strategies for presenting Salvation Truths and Gospel Good News.

Tim Schumacher (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Sat., 8:30AM, Maricopa Room

A Defense of Student-Centered Learning: A human-centered approach in a Lutheran context
Students not sitting quietly in rows. Teachers acting more like partners than experts. How can this be tolerated in our Lutheran schools?!! Educational practices around the world are evolving rapidly to adapt to the realities of today and our expectations for the future. Some practices can appear to be a threat to our Lutheran ways which are rooted in biblical truths. This session will explore the challenges, as well as, possible paths forward for a Lutheran education that will serve our students well in their future.

CUS Panel: Don Christian (CU-Texas), Patrick Ferry (CU-Wisconsin and Ann Arbor), Brian Friedrich (CU-Nebraska), and John Nunes (Concordia College-New York) |
Moderator: Gretchen Jameson (CU-Wisconsin and Ann Arbor) Fri., 2PM, Gym

Christian Life and Witness: From the academy to the crowd
Christian higher education plays a critical role in retrieving, challenging, and reconstructing the Christian community in our society. Participate in a panel conversation focused on the influence of Lutheran higher education on the Church and in the world.

Kent Schlichtemeier (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Thur., 3PM, Maricopa Room

Classroom Management Skills to Enhance Student Learning
Teaching is the most enjoyable profession on earth - unless, you can’t manage student behavior. The great news is that classroom management skills are acquired rather than genetically predisposed. This seminar, led by someone who struggled with managing student behavior, will present key fundamentals to create a classroom that optimizes students’ ability to learn and heights a teacher’s JOY in the profession.

Sally McBee & Karen Shea Fri., 8:30AM, Room 45
(Concordia Lutheran School, TX)

Exploring the Master Teacher Role
What is a master teacher? Think curriculum, instruction, mentoring, model teaching, staff development and more. Attend this session to find ways to incorporate this position in schools of any size!
Cari Chittick (Concordia University-Irvine, CA) Fri., 10:30AM, Maricopa Room

Lighting the Path
Teaching strategies focusing on students that learn differently can be beneficial for all learners. Focus points are on personal calling, students today, teammates in ministry, and goal setting.

Lynn Bodet (Concordia Lutheran School, TX) Fri., 4PM, Room 45

Math, the Only Subject that Counts! Come find out how to make your math classroom fun and engaging! See how games and enrichment lessons engage students and keep them excited about math. What do “rabbits” have to do with the Fibonacci Sequence? What is a “Palindrome” and why are third graders working so hard to find them? See why 63 + 10 doesn’t always equal 73. Come discover the fun in exploring “Moles Digging Holes”. Learn how to build a “competition” math program. Ideas on how to accelerate your high achievers and many activities will be shared.

Dana Maresh (Concordia Lutheran School, TX) Fri., 2PM, Room 45

Middle School... You’ve Gotta Connect! This session explores the book “You’ve Gotta Connect” by James Allen Sturtevant. Positive relationships are the heart of a safe, productive middle school classroom and this book explains how to make it possible. Attend this session and learn how to connect with students and transform your classroom into an environment where students show mutual respect and genuine enjoyment.

Sally McBee and Karen Shea Thur., 3PM, Room 45 (Concordia Lutheran School, TX)

Staff Meetings - Endless Possibilities! Ready to change up those repetitive, unimaginable staff meetings? Here’s a plan that makes a difference! This session will spark new ideas for faculty meetings, team meetings, vertical meetings, staff development, online meetings, and more!

Michelle Clauberg (King of Glory Lutheran Church & School, VA) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 5

Visionary Leadership in Early Childhood
Two teachers have called in sick today, and there are no subs available. A parent stopped by to see you to discuss how her child is being treated in class. Your office manager has asked you 20 questions in the first hour about a new initiative. Who has time to think about the vision of the school? Setting vision in a school can be daunting and other things scream for your time and attention. Come to this session and discover the importance of and learn how to start to set a vision.
Social Media

Sarah Cooksey (Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO) Fri., 4PM, Room 5
Facebook Fundraising for Nonprofits Did you know your ministry’s Facebook page could be a $5 money-maker $5 waiting to happen?? That’s right! Your Facebook channel is more than a place for posts, engagement, ads, and videos. Learn how to set up your page as a FREE tool for fundraising that will help support your ministry. Gather tips on creating content that tells a compelling story and drives donations in a new and exciting way. You already know why people should donate to your organization… NOW is your chance to tell them!

Bruce Becker (Time of Grace Ministry, WI) Thur., 1PM, Room 18
Ministry in the Digital Space - It’s Where the People Are! Not all that long ago people would gather together in a place. And they still do. But today people also gather together in a space—the digital space. Because people are there, we Christians need to be there too. It’s a space for teaching, learning, sharing, encouraging, and celebrating. It’s what we do at Time of Grace Ministry. We connect people to God’s grace in the digital space. With more than 43 million digital engagements each year, Time of Grace shares the gospel with current and former Christians, as well as atheists, agnostics, and none— all through digital broadcasting, Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, mobile apps, and other distribution platforms. Have we got this all figured out? Not at all, but we’ve learned a lot along the way. Come and explore with us how we meet people where they are—in the digital space. We’ve discovered that it’s the gathering place for our time.

Sarah Cooksey and Rachel Legouté Thur., 3PM. Room 5
(Lutheran Hour Ministries, MO)
NEXT LEVEL Social Media—Zooming in on Your Audience! Are you ready to take your digital game up a notch and expand your footprint online?! Join us as we discuss the importance of getting to know your audience. We’ll share tips on creating and refining your target audience and getting down in the trenches with the people you’re hoping to reach online. Gather tips on how to use a consistent voice, share your brand, and know the ins and outs of the proper platforms to reach your desired followers. Together Sarah and Rachel regularly communicate to a diverse audience of nearly 30,000 people at Lutheran Hour Ministries and THRED. Join them as they share from their experience as we work to more effectively reach our communities online.

Stewardship

Larry Ulrich (Generis, GA) Fri., 8:30AM, Room 2
Discipling God’s People to Be Generous God’s Word tells us that generosity is a mark of a disciple. In this session, we will explore together strategies and tactics Lutheran congregations have effectively used to disciple God’s people towards greater generosity at and through the local church.

Matthew Randerson (Thrivent, MN) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 18
Engaging Generations through Generosity Explore Barna Research insights to uncover what different generations think about generosity and what it means for your church and your leadership.
**Lori Anderson (Summit of Peace Lutheran, CO) Fri., 4PM, Room 42**

*How a Medium-Sized Church Implemented Big Church Ideas – Funding the Mission* In this session, we will share with you how our medium sized church has taken what we’ve learned at BPM from large churches and applied it to our entire culture of giving. How can you transition from an attitude of scarcity to an attitude of generosity? Is it possible to share financials in a way that doesn’t leave ‘em snoring? How do you implement variety in giving options? How can you tie financial giving directly to your mission to make better stewards and better disciples? We will share our own practical applications, failures, success stories and the results - so that you can take back real-life examples, relevant for your small to medium sized church.

**Jennifer Nohelty (Gift Planning Services, LLC, WI) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 25**

*We Have an Endowment Fund Set Up - Why Isn’t Anyone Giving to It?* You took months and maybe even years to develop a great endowment fund. You have adopted great spending and gift acceptance policies, along with a great leadership team, but no one is leaving anything to your fund. What did we do wrong? Discover what you can do to motivate donors to include your endowment fund in their gift plans.

**Volunteerism**

**Michelle Leahy (St. Peter’s Lutheran, IN) Thur., 3PM, Room 31**

*Excited, Engaged, and Empowered Volunteers* Vibrant church ministries cannot run without the hard work and dedication of many, many volunteers. Recruiting can often be a tiresome challenge that leaves leaders feeling a little desperate. As a result, we are tempted to call once again upon that volunteer who won’t say no, regardless of the fit of the position. To make things even more challenging, this new generation has a whole new view on volunteerism. Perhaps, it is time for a change. This session will explore what volunteers want, how to recruit them, and how to empower them for ministry in a way that leaves them feeling fulfilled and purposeful. You will be challenged to turn your approach to volunteerism on its end. Come learn about a new approach that will not only help you find the best volunteers for the job but will also connect your newer members within the church.

**Victoria Waufle (Faith Lutheran, CA) Fri., 8:30AM, Camelback Room**

*Exciting Volunteerism (aka Volunteerism on Steroids)* We all know about volunteerism… and having our arms twisted to volunteer, lol. Learn about an exciting, different way to get your entire church involved at no cost to the church! Faith Lutheran Church/Vista does this twice a year, and averages 130-140 volunteers for a half day of service. Pretty impressive, right? You will receive handouts with directions in order to replicate this at your church! Tweak it and make it work for you.

**Wellness**

**Karen Tripp (Cancer Companions, MO) Sat., 10:30AM, Room 8**

*Compassion Fatigue and Burnout for Church Workers* Can working in the ministry field wear down a person’s ability to cope emotionally with the hardships surrounding them? Can this affect not only their work environment but outside interests as well? What is the difference between Compassion Fatigue and Burnout? Learn ways to prevent both and improve your connections at church, work and at home.
Peter Mueller (Hope Lutheran, WA) Fri., 2PM, Room 21

Peace in Panic: Finding freedom in anxiety Do you or someone you know struggle with anxiety or panic attacks? If so, you’re not alone and this session is for you. Come learn some of the causes and triggers for anxiety and panic, as well as some of the strategies that can provide short and long-term relief and healing (including new content developed since last year). Anxiety and panic attacks can bring great distress and agony in a person’s life - this session is about finding real and lasting hope!

Bruce Hartung (Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO) Fri., 10:30AM, Room 41

Stress is Necessary So Bring It On (More or Less) True or False: stress is enhancing? True or False: stress is harmful? Can stress make you smarter and stronger? Can stress make you sicker and more tired? In a way, likely all of the above have truth to them. But the mindset with which we approach stress goes a long way to determine its effect on us. Do we really need to find ways to live a stress-free and calm life? The answer to that is no, because then we would all just wither away. This workshop will focus on the positives of stress in practical ways and help you consider ways to embrace stress.

Sara Correnti (Concordia Plan Services, MO) Thur., 1PM, Room 45

The Positive Impact of Mindful Eating This presentation will be delivered by registered dietitian Sara Correnti from Concordia Plan Services. To serve well, we must be well and part of our physical well-being includes nutritious intake. Mindful eating provides a simple and straightforward approach to managing nutrition and health. Sara uses her experience in bariatric surgery and clinical nutrition to bring you up-to-date information on mindful eating and its positive health benefits. Attendees will leave: -Understanding the basics of mindful eating -Knowing the health benefits of being mindful while eating -Having habit mindful eating practice through hands-on, interactive learning

Women’s Ministry

Darcy Paape (Women’s Leadership Institute, WI) Fri., 2PM, Room 6

Creating Deeper Connections in Your Women’s Ministry Based on user feedback surveys of the Women’s Leadership Institute, come learn best practices for women to connect and form mentoring relationships within ministry settings. Then brainstorm with others the ways to implement this information in your own congregation.

Worship

Brian Scheller and Eric Van Scharrel Thur., 1PM, Room 24 (St. John’s Lutheran, CA)

A New Song - Traditional Worship in the Modern Church In a time where organs are being switched out for bands, can traditional worship remain modern and relevant to millennials? How do we use the liturgy to communicate the truths of our faith across generational lines without becoming stale and boring? Our God is a unique and creative God, and our worship should reflect this creativity! In this joint session, presented by St. John’s Pastor and Music Director, we hope to offer ideas to re-inspire your worship service.
leaving us in search of answers. Confident that we can all do better – in our work and in dealing with each other – the Center for Worship Leadership at Concordia Irvine (formerly WALI), is committed to the discussion of those things with which leaders of worship wrestle. In short, we want to help! Come and find out what we’re up to and let us know how we might serve you!

Anette and Jeff Shanks (St. John Lutheran, FL) **Thur., 1PM, Room 23**

**Worship Around the Table** In March of 2017 we held the first service based on a vision of a different style of worship. We wanted to emphasize the communal nature of gathering together so we chose a place filled with round tables. Services include a variety of ways in which the theme of the day is put into motion around the table. There has been discussion, hands-on activities, and even joint service opportunities. The Table (as we call it) is growing and learning, but we’ll share what we’ve learned so far as well as where we’re headed.

Vince Putnam (Trinity Lutheran, FL) **Thur., 3PM, Room 26**

**Worship Excellence in an Unchurched Culture** We spend a lot of resources building relationships with the unchurched and trying to connect them with worship. But can an unchurched person participate in a meaningful way? Worship excellence in 2019 means expecting the unchurched person among us and being intentional about connecting with them.

**Worship Arts**

Christopher Cawthon (St. John’s Lutheran, CA) **Fri., 4PM, Room 32**

**Better Slides for Better Worship; Leading from the Booth** Whether you’re new to the game or you’ve been doing it for years, we’ll discuss the relationship between the platform leadership (pastors and worship leaders) and technical arts teams, along with best practices for slide presentation (lyrics, readings, message notes). With special focus on slide design, text flow (widows and orphans), font and color choice, leading vs. following, etc. We’ll couple our discussion of design choices along with practical examples of proper and improper slide display technique. (Sing along time!)

**Youth**

Julianna Shults (LCMS Youth Ministry, MO) **Sat., 8:30AM, Room 22**

**90 Days: Launching Teens into What’s Next** Only 90 Days separate a high school student from a college undergrad. This critical moment can be a tenuous time for faith. Church leaders will discuss how to equip parents and make the most of your time with teens to prepare them for whatever their next steps are.
Rebecca Duport (Concordia University - Irvine, CA) Fri, 2PM, Room 27
Anxiety and Fear: Ministering to Our Hurting Youth  Biblical insight and practical advice for supporting young people as they deal with temptations, fears and anxieties of living in our fallen world. Duport serves as the director of the DCE Program at Concordia University Irvine. Her experience is in life-span education roles working with children, youth, family, and older adults.

Julianna Shults (LCMS Youth Ministry, MO) Thur., 3PM, Room 22
Discovering Gen Z  Welcome Gen Z! The youngest generation is in your Confirmation, Youth Ministry, and Sunday School. In an ever changing world, how is your church uniquely supporting the faith of young people on the cusp of adulthood?

Thomas Couser (Passing the Torch, TX) Fri., 2PM, Room 14
Generation Z: Why we should be excited about the future of the church  Generation Z is the post-9/11 generation. They have grown up in a world where terrorism and school violence is a reality. Often referred to as “screenators,” they are the most tech savvy and most social media engaged generation ever. They also are determined to make a difference. This session will not only seek to understand who Gen Z’s are but why we should be excited about their potential to come alongside us to help grow the Kingdom of God.

Blake Wright (theCross Mount Dora, FL) Fri., 4PM, Room 41
Growing UP! Intentionally Raising Up Your Youth Ministry  What are the most effective ways to intentionally expose as many students to the Gospel as possible? You might be surprised to hear that you already have all the tools you need to make this happen! Join me as we examine what your current youth ministry looks like, and then let’s dive into how you can implement some intentional growth strategies!

Jeremy Hetzel (Family of Christ Lutheran, CO) Sat., 8:30AM, Room 18
Helping Students Hear from God  Students today have jam-packed schedules, endless entertainment options, and super-computers riding around in their pockets. The world is at their fingertips... and yet it often seems like they’re light-years away from their Creator. Join Jeremy as he shares some of the things he’s learned (and the learning environments he’s used) to help students connect with Jesus.

Ben Schrank (Concordia Lutheran, TX) Fri., 2PM, Room 43
Jog, Sprint, or Marathon? Finding the Right Pace in Your Youth Ministry  I’ve been making it up as I go for the last 5 years, so don’t expect me to have a “silver bullet” method of youth ministry. Come for an honest conversation about the joys and the struggles of youth work. Discuss tools and techniques to maximize your time and efforts. And find encouragement from others who have an understanding of what you go through on a daily basis.
Kay Siebert (Christ Cares Clinic, Inc., AZ) *Fri., 4PM, Room 24*

**Mental Health First Aid: Bringing hope and healing to my home, church, school, and community**

This session will provide up to date information about the prevalence of mental health problems in our homes and communities, including current statistics that illustrate how commonly mental illness occurs and how serious the impact can be. Participants will learn how they can be prepared to intentionally assist youth and adults in practical, proven ways to meaningfully intervene and potentially save lives. Time for questions and group discussion will be included. Entire staffs at Christ Church-Lutheran-Phoenix, Christ Lutheran School-Phoenix, Valley Lutheran High School-Phoenix, Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church and School, Yuma Lutheran School, Bethany Lutheran Church and School-Long Beach and Trinity Christian Academy have already been trained. Come and learn and make the connections to bring Youth Mental Health First Aid training to your church and school.

Jeff Mallinson (Concordia University - Irvine, CA) *Thur., 3PM, Camelback Room*

**Moloch Then and Now: Why religious people keep sacrificing their children in the name of God**

Readers of the Old Testament are often shocked to learn of the prevalence of child sacrifice, performed even by God’s people, to the underworld god Moloch. While this literal practice has ceased, this session will outline ways in which youth in the church are inadvertently being crushed by well-intentioned but cruel forms of religion. First will be a brief explanation of what was going on with the Moloch cult in ancient Israel. Second will be the longer exploration of how this can shed light on the religious situation of young people today. This session will be based partly on Mallinson’s two decades of experience with young people, first in youth work, and then as a professor. It will conclude with a suggested path toward reconnecting young people with the delight of Jesus’ way: the reversal of things where God puts an end to our sacrifices through His once and for all sacrifice.

Kent Schlichtemeier (Concordia University - Irvine, CA) *Thur., 1PM, Maricopa Room*

**Motivating Students in Today’s Apathetic Society**

We live in a society where apathy abounds. This trend makes the job of teaching adolescents more challenging than at any other time in history. Teachers, coaches, and parents need to embrace their role as motivators of today’s youth. This seminar will present strategies to help leaders galvanize youth to become self-starters who strive to maximize their God-given talents.

Thomas Couser (Passing the Torch, TX) *Sat., 10:30AM, Room 14*

**Oh No! Now the Millennials are the Parents**

Millennials are those born in the last two decades of the 20th century. They have a reputation for rejecting traditional Christianity. Now many of them are parents and they are looking to connect with a church to help raise their children. This session looks at the needs and expectations they bring and what churches can do to minister to them.

Kevin Borchers, Mark Kiessling & Julianna Shults *Fri., 4PM, Room 22 (LCMS Youth Ministry, MO)*

**Resources to Rock Your Retention**

LCMS Youth Ministry’s 2017 Millennial Research gave great insight into what impacts retention rates. Come have a conversation and discover resources that will help your congregation to use what you have to retain children into adulthood.
Sanya Parson (Rebecca’s Garden of Hope, FL) **Thur., 3PM, Room 23**

*Where Have all the Millennials and Youth Gone? Here is One Way to Invite them Back*

Millenials and youth of all ages are looking for a place to belong. How can we start conversations that show we care? This workshop provides some effective solutions to help churches meet our neighbors, improve educational outcomes, build social and civic responsibility, and develop Christian discipleship in all youth served.

Matt Behrens (Calvary Lutheran/LINC Bay Area, CA) **Fri., 10:30AM, Room 32**

*Youth Ministry is Bigger (and Simpler) than Youth Group*

It’s easy to lament what we don’t have when we compare to the church across town or the “success” we knew 10 years ago (or longer?). Come and be encouraged to take a fresh look at the resources God has already given your church. Most churches focus on one or two contexts for discipling youth. Learn about five contexts for discipleship, and use this new lens as a springboard for conversation, dreaming, and discipleship back home.

Donald Stubblefield (Casas por Cristo, TX) **Sat., 8:30AM, Camelback Room**

*Youth Ministry Strategy and Steps*

Trusting you is something I choose, proving me right is your choice! Youth Workers need to communicate a ministry strategy that parents and others can understand day one. Can you articulate why you are doing what you are doing?

Kristopher Whitby and Team (St. Paul, IL) **Sat., 10:30AM, Room 4**

*Chapel Rescue*

Would you like to have chapels that Jr. High students would run to see and school alumni would come back for year after year? Join the creative team of Saint Paul, Mt. Prospect, IL as we share the concepts, ideas, and “how to’s” of chapels that have been 10 years in development. You’ll leave with resources that will engage children and adults in Christ-centered, faith-building, and fun chapels!