

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS LIST



**Monday**

**101**

## **THEY CAN KNOCK YOU DOWN, BUT NEVER LET THEM KNOCK YOU OUT - REV. PAUL AND JENNIFER FERGUSON**

---

Join us for an insightful and candid discussion as we navigate the complex world of ministry. Having seen the impacts of church life from multiple perspective, Paul and Jen will share what they have learned and how it has impacted them and others along the way.

We will explore the unique challenges faced by pastors' families and church workers, shedding light on the often-overlooked struggles they endure. The discussion will address the need for support and the emotional toll of ministry life.

Paul and Jen will provide real-life examples from their experiences, highlighting common issues that may resonate with others in ministry. This session aims to foster a supportive environment for discussing these challenges and exploring potential solutions to better support those who serve in ministry.

## **INTEGRATING BIBLICAL VIDEO - DR. TOM ZELT**

---

**102**

How can you make the reality of what God has done for us be just as real to those we teach? How do we help people be in touch with the biblical world so they understand what God did in a deep and life-impacting way? One simple way is to integrate short videos, filmed on location in Israel, that provide the setting or a cultural nuance that greatly enhances life-changing, faith-building insights in a way that affirms the reality of the Scripture. This session is highly applicable for the classroom, the pulpit, or any teaching or worship setting.

**103**

## **RE-IMAGINING RIGOR- TEACHING FOR TRANSFER - MR. AARON EISBERG**

---

In the rapidly evolving 21st century, the ability to engage in complex problem-solving is a crucial skill for students to develop. The world we live in presents us with multifaceted challenges that require creative and analytical thinking, as well as the ability to synthesize information from various sources. In this session, re-imagine how we approach academic rigor in the classroom and build authentic application of content knowledge by teaching for transfer.

## **HUMBITION - THE PARADOX OF 21ST CENTURY LEADERSHIP - REV PAUL SCHULT**

---

**104**

Humbition is a word that captures the paradoxical character traits of humility and ambition, the critical mark of an effective 21st Century leader. There are six practices that work together to make a humbitious leader. These six practices will challenge, inspire and bless you to grow in Christ-like character, and to be a more effective leader for God's mission.

**105**

## **FINDING THE BALANCE IN THE SEASONS OF MINISTRY - REV. MIKE AND KRISTI LANGE**

---

Mike and Kristi will share honest reflection upon truths that we have learned and "are learning" in our life together through the many seasons of life over 36 years of pastoral ministry and family life . The Word, (written and incarnate), is our strength and foundation. Growing through challenges and failures result in meaningful teaching moments we would like to share. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness. This session will combine presentation and testimony with group questions and interaction.

## **A LUTHERAN SCHOOL IN A POST-CHRISTIAN, PLURALISTIC CULTURE - REV. MIKE SCHMID**

---

**106**

The majority of students in most Lutheran schools are not Lutheran. In fact, in many cases, the majority of students come from non-Christian homes with diverse values and lifestyles. How do we welcome and serve all students and their families while maintaining an authentic Lutheran identity?

**107**

## **LUTHERAN SCHOOLS: A REFUGE FOR ALL - MR. JOSH SALZBERG**

---

The LCMS presides over the largest protestant school system in the U.S. and its student enrollments are increasingly diverse. Lutheran schools are blessed with faithful teachers, faculty, and administration who care for each child individually and cultivate classrooms where every student feels loved, seen, and valued as images of God.

In this session, we will discuss strategies to encourage classrooms that are safe havens for all students. This session will be accessible and meet conference participants where they're at, whether new to the conversation or educators with years of experience in multiethnic classrooms. All attendees will leave with an attainable action plan of next steps to help them to continue fostering compassionate and engaging classrooms.

## **DAILY SPIRITUAL TOOLS THAT HELPED ME OVERCOME ANXIETY - LINDSAY HAUSCH**

**108**

Maybe you read that title and rolled your eyes. That was where I was five years ago. Any spiritual talk that smacked of helping me with my diagnosed anxiety made me cringe. My solution was simple: if I stuck to 100mg of Zoloft daily, then my anxiety was under control. Until it wasn't. While my anxiety was manageable, my body started showing signs that my anxiety was manifesting in new ways with tension headaches and chronic neck pain. What I thought was just anxiety was actually a lot of past hurt and resentment that I was trying to mask and ignore. Then I met a pastor who taught me about radical forgiveness, prayer journaling, and other practices that are as old as they are biblical and that I had neglected, just as I was neglecting my broiling resentment, weariness, and tamped down emotions. Life in ministry is hard, and it can take a toll on our emotional and spiritual health. However, I thought that my dwindling faith, explosive emotions, and spiritual apathy were things I should fear and avoid rather than indicators that I needed to pay attention to, confess to other Christians, and bring to Jesus for healing and transformation. Being leaders in ministry doesn't mean that these struggles disqualify us but that we get to go first. We are all a work in progress, and the Bible offers tools that can transform us and bring healing.

**109**

## **USING AI IN THE CLASSROOM - KARI PERNA**

How can you use AI in your classroom tomorrow? A look at tips and tools for using AI as a teacher as well as with your students. Workshop format, so bring your ideas for using AI for helping students and giving you more time as a teacher.

## **WORKING GENIUS: A TOOL FOR CREATING HEALTHY & EFFECTIVE TEAMS - COREY GARRITY**

**110**

Patrick Lencioni and The Table Group created an incredible tool that helps people grow in self-awareness and team-awareness. Corey is a trained and certified Working Genius facilitator through Table Group, and will do a deep dive into the tool and how you can immediately implement it on your teams and in your organization. The Working Genius is similar to a personality assessment, but unlike others, it has more to do with productivity and work style. It is 80% productivity and 20% personality. You will learn what gives yourself and your team energy, joy, and fulfillment to leverage their gifts and avoid burnout. This tool will bring a common language to your team and bring clarity where it often lacks.

**111****FROM DISENGAGED TO LEADING: A SIMPLE STRATEGY TO RAISE UP NEW LEADERS IN MINISTRY - REV. JAY REED**

---

How do we find, engage and raise up new leaders for ministry? This simple strategy will help you spot the leaders already in your midst and create a plan to develop their leadership capacity.

**TOOLS FOR COMMUNICATION IN A DIGITAL WORLD - MATT MOLINARI**

---

**112**

As ministry leaders, we have a lot to communicate in a short amount of time. Take a closer look at a number of powerful digital tools to elevate your communication game and save you time. This session will cover website publishing, church database systems, mass email marketing, graphic design and MORE!

**113****CULTIVATING TOMORROW'S LAY LEADERS: BUILDING YOUR CONGREGATION'S LEADERSHIP BENCH - REV. JONATHAN PRIEST**

---

Want to grow in serving your church and community? Check out Mission Training Center. Through our online platform and network of LCMS instructors students grow in knowing what they believe and why, as well as develop a wide variety of skills to enhance their service to their local church and witness to the community.

Students serve in a variety of roles such as congregational board members, elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, evangelists, etc. Anyone who is looking to serve apart from becoming a professional church worker is an ideal candidate for MTC classes. Mission Training Center is also proud to partner with the education ministries of the Pacific Southwest District (PSD), the California-Nevada-Hawaii District (CNH), and the Northwest District (NOW) to launch Foundations of Lutheran Teaching! Our mission is to support and equip school professionals for ministry in Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) schools.

**LEVERAGING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING IN SCHOOLS - JACKIE MELCHER**

---

**114**

Attendees will explore how to integrate social emotional learning into the daily operations within their campus culture. Teachers will explore specific strategies to implement immediately in the classroom, councilors can level-up mental health interventions in small group settings, administrators will sample research based SEL programs, and spiritual leaders will be inspired to integrate biblical teachings along side evidence based practices as a comprehensive approach to promote teaching of the WHOLE child.

# BREAKOUT SESSIONS LIST



Tuesday

201

## SO MUCH TO CHEW ON: HOW TO READ HEBREW MEDITATIVE WISDOM LITERATURE - MS. SARAH SALZBERG

Have you ever tried swallowing a steak whole? Maybe not literally, but that's how most Christians approach reading Scripture, especially the Old Testament. Psalm 1 tells us to meditate on Yahweh's Word, yet we don't often take the time to truly chew on it. Like savoring a delicious meal, not only do we need the time to really digest and enjoy reading Hebrew meditative wisdom literature, but we also need to set the table with the right tools to do so.

## THE BIG SPIRAL STORY - REV. DAVID JUNG

202

Being a Christian is about more than just going to heaven after your funeral. In just 60 minutes, this breakout session will unpack the profound yet understandable big story of God, from Genesis to Revelation. As you delve deeper into the grand, unfolding story of God, you'll be filled with awe at His work and gain greater clarity on the purpose of your story, both in life and ministry.

203

## RE-IMAGINING RIGOR- TEACHING FOR TRANSFER - MR AARON EISBERG

In the rapidly evolving 21st century, the ability to engage in complex problem-solving is a crucial skill for students to develop. The world we live in presents us with multifaceted challenges that require creative and analytical thinking, as well as the ability to synthesize information from various sources. In this session, re-imagine how we approach academic rigor in the classroom and build authentic application of content knowledge by teaching for transfer.

## SABBATH: REST, RESTORATION, AND THE IMAGE OF GOD - REV. ANDY JONES

204

Sabbath is a gift from God. God weaves rest into the very rhythm of His good creation. God highly values rest for His people. Many of the cultures around us highly value work, productivity, and hustle.

This session seeks to help church workers and teachers establish or enhance their practice of Sabbath rest. We will explore what Sabbath is, why it is important, what gets in the way of Sabbath, and what Sabbath might look like for you.

**205****TEACHING THE FAITH AT HOME - DR. DAVE RUETER**

---

We love young people! We want young people to love Jesus for a lifetime. As much as we have influence in their lives, research has consistently shown that parents have the largest influence over the faith lives of their children. Author of the CPH book Teaching the Faith at Home, Dr. Dave Rueter, unpacks the impact of parents and how to empower and encourage them to partner with your ministry to disciple the young people in your congregation.

**WHAT DOES THE GOSPEL MEAN IN A CULTURE THAT HAS NO LAW? - REV. MARC ENGELHARDT**

---

**206**

Without knowing who God is, why would someone today care about the law or the consequences of not following it? We will consider the question of "what do we mean by Law and Gospel?" as well as explore what it means to evangelize to an increasingly agnostic culture.

**207****DEMYSTIFYING AI: A SCHOOL MINISTRY CRASH COURSE - WILL VANN**

---

An introductory crash course to Artificial intelligence for administrators. Understanding AI and all the different types will help us understand its importance as a disruptive technology, how it will impact education, and how it all works. Once we demystify AI we can properly engage with what it actually is and how we can use it to leverage our productivity.

**COMPARISON: THE THIEF OF JOY - REV. JOE ROBB**

---

**208**

There is no room for the negative spiritual condition brought on by competition and comparison that has become a big issue in our church. Connection and collaboration among workers, congregations, and schools are a vital part of the church's futures. Strengthening relationships with others will make the church stronger and united moving forward.

**209****BUILD YOUR MINISTRY BLUEPRINT: LINC'S MISSION  
ACCELERATOR - AARON PUTNAM**

---

Do you have a calling and passion to impact your community with the Gospel, but feel stuck? Then this workshop is the one for you! We'll introduce you to our Mission Blueprint, a tool designed to help you clarify your ministry ideas and provide direction for next steps in building your mission venture. As a bonus, we promise not to bore you and you'll have a good time hanging out with our crew!

**WORKER'S WIVES DEVOTION AND PRAYER  
TIME - KRISTI LANGE****210**

If you are the WIFE of a Pastor, DCE, Principal, Teacher, Music Director or any other Called Worker of the CNH, please join us as we spend time encouraging and supporting one another! Meet a new friend, make a new connection, rekindle an old friendship....share time together for devotions and prayer time!

**211****BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE TO ACCELERATE MINISTRY -  
DON YOUNG**

---

Utilizing and applying business skills and tactics to improve the operations and efficiency of our ministries. Identify ways to reduce costs without sacrificing services and to generate additional revenue to support our overall mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ, as we strive to be, make, and grow disciples of Jesus. Sharing ideas that have helped our Ministry (Church, School, and Preschool) over the past five years and facilitating a discussion where Best Practices can be shared so that attendees walk away with new thoughts and ideas to consider implementing.

**FINDING JOY - KENDRA MCNATT****212**

Between TED talks and Hobby Lobby signs, we hear a lot about joy these days. I love some good distressed wood signage as much as the next person, but what could joy actually look like in the realities of our ministries and our classrooms, in our mountaintop moments and our valleys? I'll be sharing some habits and ideas that I use as well as some stories to encourage you as you find the strength that comes from God's joy.

**213****TEACHING JOHN'S GOSPEL WITH BILL WEINRICH'S  
COMMENTARY - REV. MARTIN NOLAN**

---

William C. Weinrich, Professor of Early Church and Patristic Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana has recently published two volumes out of three/four volumes in the "Concordia Commentary Series" by CPH. After discussing the proper use of commentaries in general, and this series in particular, we will look at what Weinrich does with the text, its exegesis, and application in light of his extensive knowledge of Jewish, Christian, and Classical texts in the patristic and medieval periods.

**BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LITTLE ONES - SIERRA DAY****214**

Teaching the Bible is so different depending on your age groups. Join me as we discuss some strategies on how to teach kiddos about the love of God. We will talk about the whole scope of early childhood from the early ages of infants to the older Pre-K. We will discuss different resources including media, extension materials, and some fun ways to keep your students engaged and excited for Bible time. I will be sharing practical advice that has been tested and used daily in our growing School. There will also be time for group discussion and idea sharing as we work together to become better and learn from each other about teaching God's words to His little Lambs.