

Tuesday

8:00a Registration
9:00a Divine Service
10:00a President's Address
10:45a President Elect's Address
11:30a Break
12:00p Lunch
1:00p Conference Business and Introduction to New Format
1:45p Working Group Slot 1
3:00p Working Group Slot 2
4:15p Vespers
4:45p Working Group Slot 3
6:00p Banquet, Dan Gard-Speaker
7:30p Compline
8:00p Social Hour

Wednesday

8:00a Breakfast
9:00a Matins
9:30a Working Group Slot 4
10:45a Conference Business
11:00a Itinerarium

Group A – Slots 1 & 2

Apologetics - Seth Clemmer; Matthew Rosebrock
Confirmation/Youth Ministry – Mark Buetow; Peter Imlah
Pastor's Devotional Life & Self-care – Bill Ryden; Ralph Tausz
Preaching - John Holyer; David Seabaugh

Group B – Slots 3 & 4

School Ministry - Allan Buss; Erik Gauss
Sexuality and Gender Issues - Hans Fiene; Leonard Payton
Stewardship - Scott Bruzek; Mark Bussert
Urban Ministry - Vernon Wendt; Joshua Gale

Here are the bios and the descriptions of the working groups. All of this information has been confirmed:

Apologetics: The Christian Faith is being challenged from many different angles. How can we best address contemporary challenges to Christianity in our preaching and teaching as well as equip the members of our congregations to defend the faith within their vocations?

The Rev. Seth Clemmer is Associate Pastor of Bethany, Naperville

The Rev. Dr. Matthew Rosebrock is Pastor of Risen Savior, Byron

Confirmation/Youth Ministry: The Junior and Senior High School age years are a vitally important time of faith formation. How can we best provide pastoral care to these young people and their families?

The Rev. Mark Buetow is Pastor of Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, McHenry

The Rev. Peter Imlah is Specific Ministry Pastor of St. Johns, Lombard

Pastor's Devotional Life and Self Care: In the midst of caring for others, too often we neglect our own spiritual life. This group will share devotional resources and discuss how to seek further assistance in addressing personal struggles.

The Rev. Bill Ryden is Pastor of Hope, Shorewood

The Rev. Ralph Tausz is Pastor of Apostles, Melrose Park

Preaching: Preaching is at the heart of the pastoral ministry. In this group we will consider both crafting the content of a faithful sermon and the best means to deliver it to our hearers.

The Rev. John Holyer is Pastor of Trinity, Lansing

The Rev. David Seabaugh is Senior Pastor of Immanuel, Elmhurst

School Ministry: Lutheran schools and preschools provide valuable opportunities for reaching out into our communities and imparting the faith to the next generation. How can pastors of congregations with schools coordinate with the school staff and families for effective ministry?

The Rev. Allan Buss is president of the Northern Illinois District-LCMS.

The Rev. Erik Gauss is Senior Pastor of Cross, Yorkville

Sexuality and Gender Issues: General opinion on the nature of sexuality and gender has undergone a dramatic shift over the past decade, particularly among the young people of our nation. How do we give witness to the biblical truth, and at the same time provide compassionate pastoral care for those individuals and their families affected by homosexuality and transgenderism?

The Rev. Hans Fiene is Pastor of River of Life, Channahon

The Rev. Dr. Leonard Payton is Pastor of St. John, Forest Park

Stewardship: God gives us instruction and guidance in Holy Scriptures regarding our use of the financial resources with which He blesses us. How do we lead our congregations in faithful stewardship and management of these gifts?

The Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek is Senior Pastor of St. John, Wheaton

The Rev. Mark Bussert is a former parish pastor, and currently Director of Stewardship at Trinity, Burr Ridge; St. Luke's, Montgomery; and St. Peter, Schaumburg

Urban Ministry: Serving in urban and inner city contexts presents a variety of challenges and opportunities. How do we bring the love of Jesus to these communities?

The Rev. Dr. Vernon Wendt is Pastor of Messiah, Chicago

The Rev. Joshua Gale is Executive Director of Lutheran Church Charities

The Rev. Dr. Daniel Lee Gard serves as the eleventh president of Concordia University Chicago since its founding in Addison, Illinois in 1864. Gard previously served as Professor of Exegetical Theology and Dean of the Military Chaplaincy Programs at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, where he had taught since 1989.

Ordained by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in 1984, Gard previously has served as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Mishawaka, IN. He also has held several administrative positions at the Seminary including Dean of the Graduate School, and is an accomplished author and speaker. His experiences are broad and range from ministering to civilian and military personnel to teaching Hebrew to future LCMS pastors, and from comforting grieving families on 9/11 to providing spiritual guidance to his parishioners.

Nominated by U.S. President Barack Obama in 2013, Gard served as Rear Admiral (Lower Half) and Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Matters in the U.S. Navy. In these roles, Gard was responsible for overseeing military chaplain operations in Navy, Marine and Coast Guard Reserve units around the world. He retired fully from military service in October 2016. During his time in the military, Gard notably served during the 9/11 Pentagon recovery operations in Washington, DC during Operation Iraqi Freedom and most recently at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In addition to his various military awards, Gard received the St. Martin of Tours Award in 2008 from the former LCMS Board for Mission Services, for his exceptionally meritorious service.

Gard was awarded his B.A. in history from Carthage College, Kenosha, WI, and his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary. He earned both his M.A. in Hebrew Bible and Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible/Judaica with minors in New Testament and Liturgics from the University of Notre Dame.

He and his wife Annette Kay Scheumann Gard have three children: Caleb, Rachel and Hannah, a recent graduate of Concordia-Chicago.