

Minnesota State Pastoral Conference
May 15-17, 2017

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS
(Monday at 3:15 p.m. and Wednesday at 10:30 a.m.)

1. *Luther and the Lutherans: Rejoicing in the Hymnody of the Lutheran Reformation* - Rev. Dr. Jon Vieker

Lutherans invented hymnals. They also revived the singing of hymns among the laity in both church and home. How did this happen, and why was it so important to the spread of the Reformation Gospel? This presentation will provide a broad overview as to how it all got started with Martin Luther and others in the 16th century, and what it means for the church today. Come prepared to sing!

2. *Loving the Neighbor: An Overview of Our Public Policy Efforts in Minnesota* - Rev. Fred Hinz

In this session you'll be given current status of our LCMS efforts related to the life issues (abortion and doctor assisted suicide), matters of marriage, family and sexuality, and religious freedom issues, including parental choice in education. There's a lot going on in each of these areas and our intent is to give you and your people the information and insights needed to be a good steward of your citizenship.

3. *Luther on the Care of Souls* – Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford

This session explores how Luther approached the care of souls, and how Pastors today can benefit from the classic model of soul care utilized by Luther with children, adults, barbers, butchers and princes alike. This session will consider how Luther recognized there was more to our sin than simple moral infractions, but how spiritual contamination and a bad conscience can darken and destroy a soul in sinister ways. Centered on the remission of sins, we will explore how pastors can apply and enact the remission of sins in a variety of settings for the precious care of souls today.

4. *Comfort of Certainty in a World of Choice* – Rev. Dr. Karl Weber

Even when we go shopping we are at times overwhelmed with the choices we have. And being overwhelmed we may in frustration hesitate at our purchase. Such is life in a consumer society. However, in regards to salvation there is good news, great news! With the Blood of Christ there is no need to be overwhelmed because Christ purchased us. Salvation is a certain promise sealed in the blood of Jesus and our knowledge of salvation is as sure and certain based on the Word of God. This good news brings comfort, ease, and settling down of the blood pressure and pulse when the nights are long and we are faced with our transgressions. This is our comfort in a world of choice because Jesus chose to save you!

5. *The Luther(an) Home* - Rev. Dennis & Sheila Heiden

What does life look like in the 16th and 21st century Luther(an) home? This session is an interactive look into the parsonage of Pastor Luther(an), his marriage and family. What is it like to be married to a Luther(an)? What is the experience of the sons and daughters who are raised in a Luther(an) home? We will share some of the habits and practices that nurture a healthy family of Luther(an)s.

6. *Preaching the Text* – Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy

Participants will look at ways to fully engage the Biblical text in preaching. What are the benefits to the hearer of strong textual preaching? How do we intentionally make sure that the language and meaning of our scriptural text drives our preaching? The presentation will include references to Luther as a textual preacher. The session also provides an introduction to the “Preach the Word” Project, newly released online as a part of Synod’s 500th anniversary celebration of the Reformation.

7. *Luther as Apologist: Context, Priorities, Themes, and Cautions* – Rev. Dr. David Lumpp

A consideration of Martin Luther as an apologist poses some special challenges. He was a premodern reformer with a robust eschatological consciousness, whose preoccupation and vocation were understanding, confessing, and communicating the gospel of Jesus Christ. In pursuit of these objectives, he nevertheless was attentive to the apostolic instruction to be ready to defend and give an account of the hope that was in him (1 Peter 3:15). In that spirit, we will set Luther in his intellectual and theological context; review those evangelical priorities and themes that impinge on the substance and content of his apologetic, to the extent that he thought in those terms; and also offer some suggestions and cautions for pastors and parishioners who seek to communicate the gospel today in an utterly different social, intellectual, and theological setting.