



FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

September 13-16, 2026

Deuteronomy: Remembering Our Way into Hope *with Dr. Michael Chan*

The book of Deuteronomy speaks with remarkable urgency to our present moment, offering a theology of hope rooted not in optimism, but in remembrance. Throughout Scripture, and especially in Deuteronomy, the future of a people depends upon the truthfulness of their memory. In an age of competing national myths, cultural polarization, and historical amnesia, the book calls communities to reject both triumphalism and despair in favor of honest remembrance—to recover what our divisions have dismembered and to tell the whole story of who we have been. It is no accident that Deuteronomy was among the biblical books most frequently cited during the era of America's Founders; its vision of covenant, responsibility, and collective memory has long shaped public imagination. Just as Israel could not cross the Jordan until it had reckoned truthfully with its past, neither can any people hope to flourish without remembering both the gifts they have inherited and the failures that demand repair. This series explores Deuteronomy and related biblical texts with the conviction that remembrance always precedes promise. Hope grows where memory is tended, where courage overcomes amnesia, and where communities commit themselves to preserving what is good, repairing what is broken, and crossing together into a more fruitful future.

About Dr. Michael Chan

Dr. Michael Chan serves as Vice President for Mission and Inclusion at Concordia College. He originally joined the Concordia College community in June 2022 as the executive director for faith and learning. Prior to that, he was associate professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He joined Luther Seminary after completing his Ph.D. at Emory University and a year of research and teaching at the University of Helsinki. He is a graduate of Luther Seminary (M.A. in biblical theology) and Pacific Lutheran University (B.A. in elementary education).





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Introducing our Event Chaplain: Deacon Beth Anderson

Over the past 20 years, Deacon Beth Anderson has accompanied people of all ages - youth, young adults, & young-at hearts - as they discover and discern who they are called to be and strive to live out that calling with integrity and authenticity. She is convinced that every person is created with unique gifts, talents and characteristics, claimed by a God who loves them, and called to share their fullness with the world in community. Equipping and empowering ministry leaders has been central to her previous roles on synod staff, in campus ministry, and as a youth director, and she continues that work as the founder of Centered Growth Coaching and Spiritual Direction. Trained as both a spiritual director and coach, Beth understands the complexity, joys, & challenges of ministry and life. Like you, she tends a variety of vocations including parent of 2 young adults, spouse, daughter, friend, community member and more, all while seeking to incorporate practices that keep her rooted, grounded, and grateful to be on her own journey of centered growth.



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