



In HIS Image:

Navigating Christian Sexuality in a Post-Christian Culture

With the legal redefinition of marriage, there is much confusion regarding gender identity and sexuality. Christian parents, teachers, pastors, singles & couples, and parents all are looking for guidance in navigating these sensitive areas.

The 10 local congregations of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LC-MS) will be hosting an **In HIS Image** Convocation September 13-14 at Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, to be presented by DOXOLOGY, a service organization of the LC-MS. DOXOLOGY is dedicated to equipping people with tools to speak constructively and to live confidently amid the current confusion.

Harbor Shores will be providing a meal Friday evening; continental breakfast, snacks, & lunch available on Saturday. The convocation will conclude with a wine and cheese fellowship hour Saturday. The registration fee is \$10.00. **The deadline to register is Friday, August 30.** Below is a listing of our schedule and the topics to be presented.

Held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 609 Court St. St. Joseph, MI

Seminar for Pastors/Church Leaders, Friday, September 13, 2024

- 12:30 Registration
- 1:00 Pastoral Care for Those Who Cohabit (Rev. Fleming)
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 Making Referrals with Confidence (Dr. Yahnke)
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 Pastoral Support for Families of Transgender Children (Rev. Fleming)
- 4:30 Closing Prayer Office
- 5:00 Dinner and Reception

Saturday, September 14, 2024

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:00 Prayer Office
- 9:45 Wonderfully Made: Christian Worldview and Sexuality (Rev. Fleming)*
- 10:45 Break
- 11:15 GPS Essentials for Difficult Conversations in Classroom, Home, and Church (Dr. Yahnke)*
- 12:30 Lunch
- 1:30 Mental Health and the Church (Dr. Yahnke)*
- 2:30 Break
- 3:00 Sectionals
 - A. Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture (Rev. Fleming)
 - B. Caring for the Child who Identifies as “Transgender” (Dr. Yahnke) *
- 4:00 Q&A
- 4:15 Closing Prayer Office
- 4:45 Gemütlichkeit (wine and cheese fellowship reception)

**sessions Recommended especially for teachers*

Session Descriptions

Saturday, 9:45 - Wonderfully Made: The Christian Worldview and Sexuality*

We benefit when they can discuss with confidence human sexuality from the perspective of a Christian world view as opposed to the culture’s toxic representation of sex. This session explores biblical teachings on sexuality, God’s design for sex within the context of marriage, the importance of chastity and respect for one’s own body, the sanctity of sex in marriage. The role of forgiveness, grace and healthy boundaries is underscored.

Saturday, 11:15 - GPS Essentials for Difficult Conversations in Classroom, Home, and Church*

Maintaining relationships throughout conversational minefields is a challenge faced by pastors, teachers & parents. Unfortunately, we don’t always navigate our way through these conversations in the most helpful ways. This presentation carefully looks at the anatomy of such conversations, outlines personal strategies for maintaining control and respect while reducing anxieties to achieve the best possible outcomes for all.

Saturday, 1:30 - Mental Health and the Church*

How can the church and school respond to specific mental health issues – anxiety, depression, related behavioral issues - that are becoming more prevalent? Beginning with an engaging PowerPoint presentation, clinical and spiritually informed action plans to take home and implement with confidence.

Saturday, 3:00 A - Light in the Darkness: Christian Responses to Conflict in a Sexually Toxic Culture

Unhealthy sexual behaviors promoted and popularized in our culture cause polarization and conflict in our hearts and homes. It’s essential to manage conflict with wisdom, confidence & patience. More importantly, we need to look beneath the surface to see the spiritual issues that are involved in this battle. As Christians, we need to insure we remain grounded in the judgment and mercies of Christ.

Saturday, 3:00 B - Caring for the Child who Identifies as Transgender: Understanding the Big Picture*

This topic reviews competing perspectives & recommendations in caring for transgender children. Candid views on biology, gender dysphoria, myths/realities are offered as we examine what care/despair looks like for child, parent, school and church. Highly recommended for all who love children.

Friday, 1:00 - Pastoral Care for Those Who Cohabit

Every pastor is challenged by couples who cohabit. Often viewed as a private matter for the couples involved, cohabitation in reality burdens consciences of parents, grandparents, & church members, as well as the pastor. This session emphasizes the need to confront worldly values with the Christian invitation to a “more excellent way”.

Friday, 3:30 - Pastoral Support for Families of LGBT Children

The need to support families of LGBTQ+ children is become increasingly clear to pastors. This presentation explores how pastors and parishes may be able to become places of refuge and support for family members, and includes resources that have been used effectively to support family members.

Friday, 2:15 - Making Referrals with Confidence

This session focuses on useful tools to help pastors and teachers determine when circumstances call for referral. When are referrals appropriate? By whom, and under what circumstances? How will referrals be received? .What about issues involving gender dysphoria and transgenderism? Useful strategies that address these questions are provided.

Presenters

Rev. David Fleming is DOXOLOGY’s Executive Director for Spiritual Care. A 1986 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN, he served as Senior Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids from 1993-2019 and currently, as part time Associate Pastor. He is a member of the Concordia University Wisconsin Board of Regents. an often-requested presenter for district and regional conferences, and has served missionaries and pastors throughout the US and the world. He has authored a variety of articles and the Concordia Publishing House Advent resource, “God Loves me Dearly.” Fleming and his wife, Jo Marie, are blessed with three children and several grandchildren.

Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke is a clinical psychologist serving as the Executive Director of Christian Counsel for DOXOLOGY and on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, IN.

During her 25 years in private clinical practice, she provided care for church workers and their families. She has also served as Department Chair and Professor of Psychology at Concordia University Wisconsin where she was named “Faculty Laureate”. Her work with DOXOLOGY has focused on providing pastors, teachers, and church workers with opportunities for renewal and advanced training. Dr. Yahnke has written numerous articles about psychology, education, and faith. cator. conferences. She also serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.



The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (www.lcms.org) with nearly 2 million members in some 6,100 congregations coast to coast, is a mission-oriented, Bible based, confessional Christian denomination headquartered in St. Louis MO. Through acts of witness and mercy, the church carries out its mission worldwide to make known the love of Jesus Christ.

The ten local congregations of the LC-MS sponsoring this convocation are Trinity Lutheran Church, *Berrien Springs*; Immanuel Lutheran Church, *Bridgman*; St. Paul Lutheran Church, *Buchanan*; St. Paul Lutheran Church, *Cassopolis*; Salem Lutheran Church, *Coloma*; Trinity Lutheran Church, *Glendora*; St. Paul's Lutheran Church, *Niles*; Trinity Lutheran Church, *St. Joseph*; Trinity Lutheran Church, *Sawyer*; and Christ Lutheran Church, *Stevensville*. Our previous joint project raised \$50,000 for LifePlan, a Christian pro-life agency with offices in Benton Harbor, Niles and South Bend (www.lifeplan.org).

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- 1. MAIL FORM BELOW & \$10 FEE TO TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, 619 MAIN ST, ST. JOSEPH MI 49085**
- 2. CALL 269-983-500 (church office) TO REGISTER BY PHONE & PAY AT DOOR**
- 3. USE THIS QR CODE AND PAY ONLINE AT [Circuit Convocation](#)**



Registration Form (Deadline August 30th)

Name _____ Email _____
Title (Rev/Dr/etc) First Name Last Name

Home Congregation _____
Name City Denomination

Position (if applicable) _____
Pastor/Teacher/DCE/etc

LCMS only: Are you Rostered? Yes No (Circle One)

Check meals that you will attend:

- ____ Friday evening with Doxology
____ Saturday Continental Breakfast
____ Saturday box lunch
____ Saturday wine and cheese (fellowship)

Check Sessions you will attend:

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| ____ Friday 1:00 | ____ Saturday 11:15 |
| ____ Friday 2:15 | ____ Saturday 1:30 |
| ____ Friday 3:30 | ____ Saturday 3:00 A |
| ____ Saturday 9:45 | ____ Saturday 3:00 B |