



Michigan District, LCMS presents West Pastors' Conference May 18, 2021 | Virtual Conference

Speakers

Dr. Korey D. Maas is an associate professor of history at Hillsdale College. Previously he served as a professor of theology at Concordia University Irvine, and as an associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cambridge, England. He and his wife Kate live in Hillsdale, Mich., with their five young children.





Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz is the Executive Director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty (LCRL) in Washington, D.C. Prior to this position, he served as the Speaker of the Lutheran Hour®. Before that, he served as professor of Theology and Director of the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif.; Executive Director of Life's Journey Ministries; founding pastor of Church For All Nations in New York City; starter of a mission church in Dallas, Texas; and pastor of a large congregation in Tampa, Fla.

Agenda

Tuesday, May 18, 2021

8 a.m.	Zoom Opens / Fellowship		
8:30 a.m.	Worship		
9:30 a.m.	Session 1 - Debating Religious Liberty, from Classical Antiquity through Christendom Dr. Korey D. Maas		
10:30 a.m.	Breakout Rooms		
10:40 a.m.	President's Report Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier		
11:25 a.m.	Church Extension Fund (Video) Mr. Andy Sohn		
11:30 a.m.	CUAA Report (Video) Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson		
11:40 a.m.	Announcements / Table Prayer / Lunch Break		
12:40 p.m.	Session 2 - God at Work: 2KG Theology and Exercise in the American Context Rev. Dr. Gregory Seltz		
1:40 p.m.	Breakout rooms		
1:50 p.m.	Q & A		
2:20 p.m.	Regional Business & Closing Prayer		
2:25 p.m.	Adjourn		

CONFERENCE SURVEY

What did you think about this year's conference? Please tell us! A survey will be emailed to you following the conference. Please be sure to complete it and share how you have been encouraged, enriched, and refreshed. Thank you!

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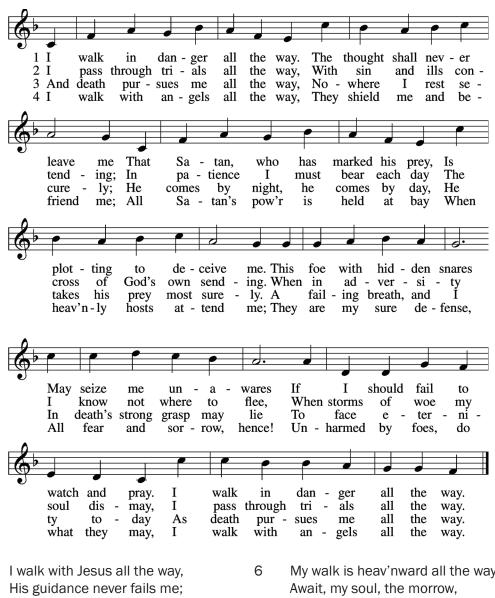
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OPENING HYMN

I Walk in Danger All the Way

LSB 716



- I walk with Jesus all the way, His guidance never fails me; Within His wounds I find a stay When Satan's pow'r assails me; And by His footsteps led, My path I safely tread. No evil leads my soul astray; I walk with Jesus all the way.
- My walk is heav'nward all the way; Await, my soul, the morrow, When God's good healing shall allay All suff'ring, sin, and sorrow. Then, worldly pomp, begone! To heav'n I now press on. For all the world I would not stay; My walk is heav'nward all the way.

Text and tune: Public domain

OPENING VERSICLES

Pastor: O Lord, open my lips,

All: and my mouth will declare your praise.

Pastor: Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

All: make haste to help me, O Lord.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

HYMN

SCRIPTURE READING

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

Daniel 3:8-28

All: Thanks be to God.

Entrust Your Days and Burdens LSB 754 1 En - trust your days and dens To God's most lov - ing bur 2 Re - 1 yior And God your Sav on _ find your life se -3 Take heart, have hope, my it, And not be dis spir do 4 Leave all His di rec tion; His wis - dom rules for to you while He The hand: cares for rul ing your foun Make His work That cure. da tion mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri al And you In ways to rouse your won der At • d' the the land. For He sky, sea, who guides the dure. No anx ious thought, no your work may en -A makes you un а fraid. wait His time with all His Soon He, His prom - ise love can do. 20 Will pests Α long their thun - d'rous ways tem wor No self tor - ment - ing care Can ry, est hours of pa tience Through dark night Un -Will keep ing, With won _ der - work - ing pow'rs find all your days. for you a path way And guide you win your Fa - ther's fa vor; His heart is moved by prayer. til the sun you hoped De lights ger sight. for your ea spir - it What ban - ish from your gave you trou - bled hours. 5 6 O blessèd heir of heaven, Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen; You'll hear the song resound With joy our spirits bless Of endless jubilation Until we see the ending When you with life are crowned. Of all our life's distress. In your right hand your maker And so throughout our lifetime Will place the victor's palm, Keep us within Your care And you will thank Him gladly And at our end then bring us With heaven's joyful psalm. To heav'n to praise You there.

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SERMON "Smoke, No Mirrors, Faith, and Faithfulness: Even if He Does Not" | Daniel 3:8–28 Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

KYRIE

Leader: O Lord, All: have mercy. Leader: O Christ, All: have mercy. Leader: O Lord, All: have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER Matthew 6:9-13

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ♠ everlasting. Amen.

VERSICLES

Leader: Hear my prayer, O Lord; All: let my cry come to You. Leader: In the day of my trouble I call upon You, All: for You answer me. Leader: Hide Your face from my sins, All: and blot out all my iniquities. Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, All: and renew a right spirit within me. Leader: Cast me not away from Your presence, All: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Leader: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, All: and uphold me with a willing spirit. Leader: Because Your steadfast love is better than life, All: my lips will praise You. Leader: For You have been my help, All: and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy. Leader: Teach me Your way, O Lord, that I may walk in Your truth; All: unite my heart to fear Your name. Leader: I give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with my whole heart, All: and I will glorify Your name forever. Leader: May all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You. All: May those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" Leader: Save Your people and bless Your heritage! All: Be their shepherd and carry them forever. Leader: Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; All: listen to my plea for grace.

COLLECTS

Leader: O God, Your Son protected faithful Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fiery furnace of the king. Grant us protection in our time of testing that we would boldly confess Your name, reject all false worship, and live and die in confidence, knowing that we are safe in Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. All: Amen.

All: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that you would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Leader: Let us bless the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **All: Amen.**



Public Domain

Debating Religious Liberty, from Classical Antiquity through Christendom Korey D. Maas

- I. Pre-Christian Precedent
 - a. The Greek World: Sophocles and Plato
 - b. The Roman World: Bacchants and Jews
- II. Persecution and Persuasion in the Early Church
 - a. Repression's Rationale
 - b. The Invention of Religious Liberty
- III. Constantine and Confusion
 - a. The Edict of Milan: Principle and Practice
 - b. Church Fathers and Fatherly Discipline
 - c. Law(s) and Gospel
- IV. Christendom's Controversies
 - a. Dyarchy, Development, and Dissent
 - b. What's at (the) Stake?
- V. Conclusion: Coming to Terms with Terms

Dr. Korey D. Maas

God At Work: 2KG Theology and Exercise in the American Context Concerns, Victories, Trends, Futher Engagement Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz

I. Introduction

- a. Being a public Christian from a 2KG perspective
- b. The Uniqueness of the American Context
- c. Opportunities and Challenges to be the Church for Others in this Country
- II. The Two-Kingdom Voice in Culture
 - a. It differentiates God's actions which put politics in its proper place
 - b. Good politics can't save us, but bad politics can destroy us
 - c. 2KG principle: Reformation restraint seeking truth/justice ... calm in the storm
 - d. God's created order; His moral ordering of the world is a beautiful thing
- III. How Does God ENGAGE the world
 - a. In a sinful/rebellious world ...
 - b. God engages the world to preserve and to save
- IV. Solution God Acts to Preserve and to Save
 - a. Matthew 22
 - b. John 18
 - c. Romans 13
 - d. 2 Corinthians 5:17–20
- V. Public Policy, Public Issues What Kind of Questions are They?
 - a. Are they WWJD questions?

Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz

- b. Are they WWFD questions?
- c. Are they WWJRD questions?
- VI. The Main Role of Government American Polity for a Civil Society
 - a. Protect God-given rights
 - b. Declaration of Independence We holds these truths to be self-evident
 - c. Limited government, "enumerated" powers
 - i. 3 branches
 - ii. American citizen (not subjects)
- VII. Religious Liberty and the New Usurpation
 - a. "Live and let live" vs. "The weaponization of politics"
 - b. Annihilating legitimate moral differences by law
 - c. Usurpation of representative government through judicial fiat
- VIII. Challenges and Opportunities for Being a PUBLIC Christian ... Legal Cases for our Corporate Concern.
 - a. Meyer v. the State of Nebraska, 1923
 - b. WAM, the Lutheran Hour, and the FCC
 - c. Hosanna Tabor Lutheran School v. EEOC
 - d. Trinity Lutheran Church v. Comer, Columbia, MO
- IX. Present Day Realities
 - a. Culture war in the US
 - b. Virtual blackout of the Christian Worldview in our cities, schools, universities
 - c. The political movement to politicize, demonize, even criminalize the Christian worldview

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- X. The Challenge ... Must we face it?
- XI. Engage for the Sake of Mission
 - a. Engage the world as God engages ... to preserve and to save
 - b. Fight for religious liberty without politicizing the Gospel
 - c. Exercise our temporal liberties for the sake of sharing the eternal liberties of Christ
- XII. Challenges and Opportunities for PUBLIC Engagement ... the Legal Cases for our Corporate Concern
 - a. Masterpiece Cakeshop Jack Phillips
 - b. NIFLA
 - c. HHS Mandate LCMS, the Little Sisters of the Poor
 - d. The Equality Act
 - e. SOGI Laws
 - f. Christian faith "disqualifies a person for public service?"
- XIII. What's the Point of Public Engagement
 - a. Defensive? To some degree
 - b. Speak the Truth in Love
 - c. Always be ready to give an account
 - d. Left-Hand Kingdom "pre-evangelism"
- XIV. Conclusion

Calendar of Events

MAY 2021

- 25 Board of Directors' Meeting Immanuel, Grand Rapids
- 26-27 Intentional Interim Spring Conference Michindoh Conference Center, Hillsdale

JULY 2021

23-25 En Gedi Music Festival En Gedi Resort, Leonidas

AUGUST 2021

- 2 4Principals' Conference **Higgins Lake**
- 10 Early Childhood Directors' Conference Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
- 11 Early Childhood Conference Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
- 15-16 Board of Directors Retreat Location TBD
- 31-9/1 Circuit Visitors' Conference Ann Arbor

SEPTEMBER 2021

- Emeriti Conference 7-8 Frankenmuth
- 19-21 Best Practices Conference Frankenmuth
- 24–26 Church Extension Fund Conference Auburn Hills
- 27-30 Intentional Interim Fall Conference Michindoh Conference Center, Hillsdale

OCTOBER 2021

- 10-13 All Pastors' Conference Shanty Creek Resort, Bellaire
- 19 Board of Directors' Meeting Ann Arbor

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Campaign Goal: \$10 million Campaign Progress: \$8.83 million (as of April 14, 2021)

Participating Congregations: 168 (46.9%)

Individual Contributors: 1,388

Bible verse: Psalm 71:17–18

"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

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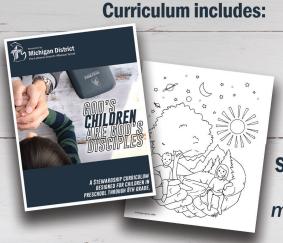
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