

#miLCMSpastors

*"But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are his,' and, 'Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity'" (2 Timothy 2:19).*

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# FAULT LINES

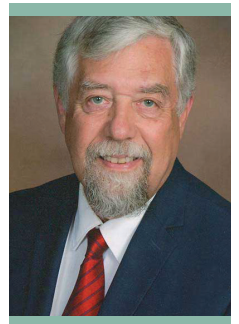


Michigan District, LCMS presents  
**South & East Pastors Conference**  
May 3–4, 2022 | Frankenmuth, Mich.

Hotel Wifi is complimentary and open. Tag us on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook:  
**#miLCMSpastors**

## Speaker

**Rev. Fredric G. Hinz** serves as Public Policy Advocate for both Minnesota North and South Districts of the LCMS. As such, he represents the LCMS in matters pertaining to life issues (abortion and doctor-assisted suicide), issues related to marriage, family, and sexuality, as well as issues related to religious freedom, including parental choice in education. A graduate of Concordia University Nebraska, Chicago State University, and Luther Northwestern Seminary, Hinz has taught biological science at both the high school and college levels, owned and operated retail shoe stores, and served as a parish pastor in St. James, Minn. and Gaylord, Minn. In addition to active engagement in the public policy matters of the Synod, Pastor Hinz also advocates for the advancement of intelligent design theory. Hinz and his wife, Rachel, have three married children and 10 grandchildren. They reside in Gaylord, Minn.



**Rev. Dr. Todd A. Jones** grew up in the Dallas, Texas area. He is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL). In addition to serving parishes in South Dakota and Arkansas, he worked as a church planter in Southern California and as a mission developer of several new starts in Northwest Arkansas. He also assisted in church planter training in India, Bangladesh, Tanzania, and Nigeria. In the summer of 2013, Jones received a call to join the faculty in the practical theology department of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. Besides teaching, he was the director of the Residential Field Education program, the Summer Vicarage program, and the Mission track. In 2018, Jones completed his Ph.D. in Intercultural Training. He currently serves the Michigan District as the assistant to the president for continuing education and new start development. God has blessed him and his wife Susan with two wonderful children and five grandchildren.

Note: All sessions & meals will be in Composer Rooms  
Exhibits and Breaks will be held in the Composer Rooms' Lobby

## Tuesday, May 3, 2022

9-10 a.m.	Registration and Coffee/Juice – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
10-11 a.m.	Divine Service – St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Registration – Composers Rooms' Lobby – Bavarian Inn Lodge
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Lunch
12-6 p.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
12:30-12:45 p.m.	Welcome   Rev. Bryan K. Schindel / Devotion   Rev. Daniel A. Potts
12:45-1:45 p.m.	<b>Session 1 – Rev. Fredric G. Hinz   An Historical Overview of Critical Theory and Its Modern Manifestation – CRT</b>
1:45-2:00 p.m.	Church Extension Fund   Mr. James R. Saalfeld, Mr. John H. Bates, & Mr. Andrew O. Sohn
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Break
2:15-3:15 p.m.	<b>Session 2 – Rev. Fredric G. Hinz   CRT: A Militant, Alien Theology and Suggested Responses to It</b>
3:15-4:15 p.m.	President's Report   Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
4:15-4:30 p.m.	Break
4:30-4:35 p.m.	CUAA/CUW   Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson
4:35-4:40 p.m.	Wellspring   Mr. David M. Gehm
4:40-5:40 p.m.	<b>Session 3 - Rev. Dr. Todd A. Jones   Unintended Consequences in Pastoral Ministry</b>
6-10 p.m.	Bar Open   Sponsored by Michigan District Church Extension Fund
6:30 p.m.	Dinner and Gemütlichkeit

## Wednesday, May 4, 2022

7-8 a.m.	Breakfast
7-11 a.m.	Exhibit Hall Open
8-8:15 a.m.	Morning Devotions   Rev. David M. Mews
8:15-9:15 a.m.	<b>Session 4 – Rev. Fredric G. Hinz   Understanding and Applying Two Kingdoms Theology in the Modern American Context</b>
9:15-9:20 a.m.	CAN Council   Hannah Naples
9:20-9:30 a.m.	Break
9:30-10:30 a.m.	<b>Session 5 – Rev. Dr. Todd A. Jones   Sin and the Mission of God</b>
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Panel Q & A with Rev. Fredric G. Hinz & Rev. Dr. Todd A. Jones
11:30 a.m.	Itinerarium/Closing Devotion   Rev. Bryan K. Schindel & Rev. Daniel C. Howard

\* The 2022 South & East Pastors Conference will be supporting the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region with their ingathering donations and worship offering.

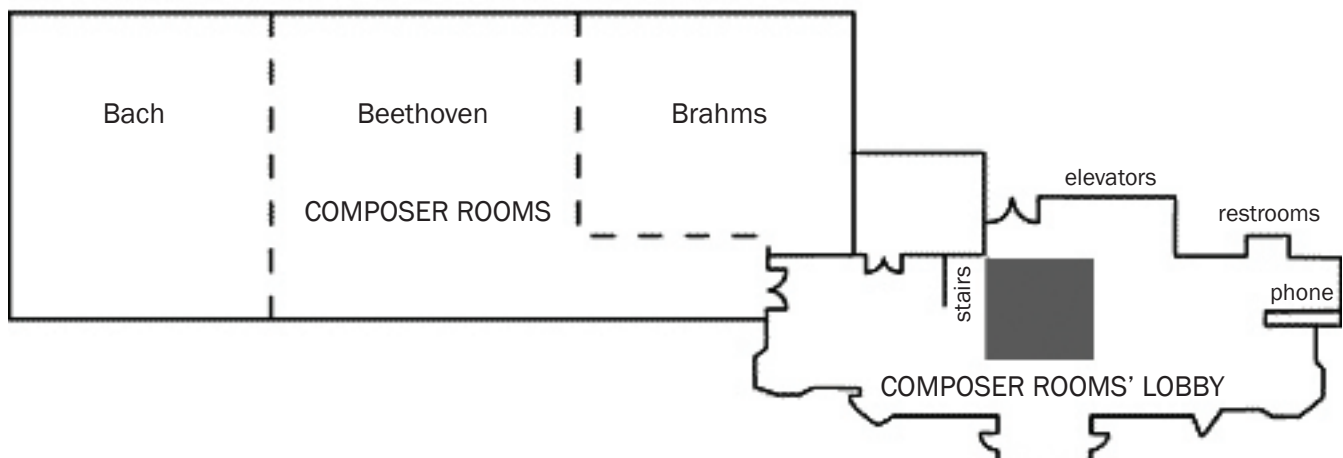


## CONFERENCE SURVEY

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!

## Bavarian Inn Floor Plan

## #miLCMSpastors



## One Voice for Public Policy Minnesota Districts

April 2022

### Parental Empowerment: A Culturally Unifying Issue

We all know polls can be deceiving; they can just as easily be used to distort reality as to clarify it. And so, we're rightly cautious about reading too much into polls in general and any one poll in particular. But sometimes there are polling results that are simply too compelling ... too important ... to be ignored. The results of just such a poll were released on March 17, 2022\* and they bear directly on one of the four main public policy issues the LCMS speaks: namely, that form of religious liberty called parental choice in education.

This particular poll was aimed at helping us better understand the magnitude of support (or lack thereof) for the greater empowerment of parents by allowing them greater control over their children's education. And what did it reveal? Well, in a nutshell, it revealed that Americans have largely reached consensus in favor of doing what it takes to reestablish parents as the primary authority in the educational lives of their children. That is, there is now a general agreement that state-collected education dollars should be allowed to follow children to the school of the parents choosing, whether that school be secular or religious. Now that, in itself, is an important outcome, though, frankly, polls have consistently shown this was the majority opinion for the past 20 years. What's more impressive, however, is the magnitude of this majority and its consistency across all major political and demographic boundaries. For example, fully 75% of respondents now agree "parents should be in charge of decisions regarding their child's education," including 86% of Republicans, 65% of Democrats and 74% of Independents. More specifically, 77% of all respondents support the establishment of Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), a mechanism by which parents gain direct control over the dollars which the State has already allocated for their child. This includes 75% of Democrats, 85% of Hispanics and 84% of black voters. (See the attached infographic. These are truly remarkable numbers.

Now, why should the Church take an interest in such polling? We take an interest in it because we are also well aware the content of a child's education plays a critical role in that child's future life of faith. The Bible certainly attests to this when it says, "*Train up a child in the way he is to go and when he is old he will not depart from it*" (Proverbs 22:6). Not only that, a recent secular study also powerfully documents the negative effect on religious commitment that occurs when secular governments are allowed to maintain a monopolistic control of education. Specifically, in an extensive 2020 study by the American Enterprise Institute\*\*, researchers concluded that "expansions of government service provision, and especially increasingly secularized control of education ... account for virtually the entire increase in secularization around the developed world. [Further,] the decline in religiosity in America is not the product of a natural change in [peoples'] preferences, but an engineered outcome of clearly identifiable [educational] policy choices in the past."

So, what does all of this mean? What does it mean to have public opinion align so favorably with Scriptural wisdom? Well, of course, it does not mean the Church's mission and ministry should, henceforth, be controlled by either polls or academic studies. What it does mean is the Church and Christian parents have been given a tremendous opportunity to significantly impact and improve the way we educate our children by making it clear that parents, not governments, are the real "customers" to whom education providers are most accountable. It means there is now a real possibility of changing public policy so it becomes clear to all "stakeholders" that parents are the ones to whom the system must defer, and parents not only have the right, but the obligation to consider the impact of their child's education on *the whole child* ... body, mind and soul.

It is in response to this opportunity that we in the LCMS MN Districts have been working with many partners to help pass legislation that will allow for the empowerment of parents, not school systems, as is currently the case. It will allow for the empowerment of parents, not judges, as would be the case with a new proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution (the Page Amendment). In particular, we are advocating for the passage of legislation that will bring Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) into being in Minnesota as soon as the next legislative session in 2023. ESAs are our primary focus because they will offer parents, all parents, the means to control their children's education, either by giving them the financial ability to actually move their child to a non-public school which more

closely aligns with their faith and values, or by giving them the “leverage” they need to strongly encourage public schools to be more responsive to parental concerns and preferences. Both for parents wanting to remain in a new, more responsive public system and for parents who prefer a non-public school, ESAs are the “tool” all parents need to better carry out their rights and responsibilities. In short, at a time when society is fractured in so many ways, ESAs represent a great opportunity for healing as they bring all parents together, regardless of what type of school they ultimately choose for their child.

And so, while this is surely a challenging time for both the Church and the nation, it is also a time brimming with promise; the promise of parents, once again, being shown the respect their high office deserves, as they are set free to choose the school which best serves the temporal and eternal needs of their child, and therefore, the good of society as well.

\* Poll by the American Federation for Children and Invest in Education, March 17, 2022

\*\* “Promise and Peril: The History of American Religiosity and Its Recent Decline, American Enterprise Institute, April 2020

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# Empowering Parents: Education Savings Accounts

## Empowering Parents

Parents truly know what is best for their children and that is especially true when it comes to choosing an educational setting for their child. It is important, therefore, for families to have the financial ability to act on those choices. ESAs give parents that ability.



## What are Education Savings Accounts (ESAs)?

Education Savings Accounts allow parents to directly control the dollars the State has already allocated for their child's education.



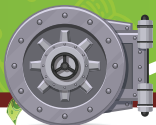
## Dollars Follow Scholars

ESAs allow education dollars to follow the child to the school of the parents' choosing, be that a charter, private or religious school.



## How It Works

ESAs will make dollars, roughly \$10,000 per year per child, accessible in monthly installments through a "virtual wallet" to pay for approved education related expenses, i.e. tuition, tutoring, etc.



## Excess Funds

Because actual costs in non-public schools are typically lower than the amounts allocated for public schools, the dollars which remain unspent roll-over in the student's account from year-to-year and can be used to pay for post-secondary education expenses.



## Making it Clear Who's in Charge

Allowing parents to control the dollars sends a clear signal that schools are first and foremost accountable to parents. This applies to public schools as well, as it reminds boards and administrators that parents can now "vote with their feet".



## Making ESAs a Reality

This can all be possible for Minnesota families as it already is (in some form) in eight other states, if we pass legislation enacting ESAs. To lend your support to this effort, go to Opportunity for All Kids (OAK) at [opportunityforallkids@gmail.com](mailto:opportunityforallkids@gmail.com)

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**“Ministry in the Fog of Theory”  
Session 1**

**I Truth vs. Reality**

**A Philosophic Framework**

1. Modernist
2. Post-Modernist
3. Theorist
  - Truth is defined by:

**B The Theorist**

**C The marks of the theorist movement**

4. Blurring the \_\_\_\_\_
5. The Power of \_\_\_\_\_
6. Cultural \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Loss of the \_\_\_\_\_

**II CRT and Ministry**

**A My ministry framework:**

1. The ultimate aim of our ministry is to form God's people so they -
  - Jesus Christ - John 20:21
  - CFW Walther - the aim of our joint work, the saving of souls.
  - M. Luther - German Mass
2. Why is this important?
  - It provides a \_\_\_\_\_
  - It attends to cross -
  - It is a \_\_\_\_\_ approach to ministry

## 3. Missionary Formation Targets

- 
- 
- 
- 

## B Example

## 1. Children's Ministry Goals:

- 
- 
- 

## 2. Vulnerabilities

- Children \_\_\_\_\_ Easily
- Children are \_\_\_\_\_ Thinkers
- Children notice \_\_\_\_\_

## 3. Opportunities:

- Reinforce the
- Encourage a culture of
- Practice \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ formative experiences



**“Ministry in the Fog of Theory”  
Session 2**

CRT and Ministry Examples

I Junior Confirmation

A Goals:

- That children
- That children

B Vulnerabilities:

- Students are searching to
- Students are searching for
- Our hyper-sexualized culture binds \_\_\_\_\_ to sexual \_\_\_\_\_.

C Challenges: Many public schools approach the mental and sexual health of students with the following assumptions:

- Identity is intimately tied to \_\_\_\_\_.
- Gender is a \_\_\_\_\_ of a repressive \_\_\_\_\_.
- The full discovery of one’s identity requires
- A child’s mental health is \_\_\_\_\_ when society assigns a moral value to their choice of \_\_\_\_\_ identity.


In most cases, the content of a traditional Confirmation class provides  
\_\_\_\_\_ to questions the students are not \_\_\_\_\_.

D Opportunities:

- #1 Approach faith formation by starting with
  - Presenting Concerns
    - Freedom to develop a self-identity
    - Hate \_\_\_\_\_
    - Racism and \_\_\_\_\_
    - The right to sexual \_\_\_\_\_

- The \_\_\_\_\_ to health care and higher education
- \_\_\_\_\_ concerns
- Biblical Response #1
  - All Are Created in God's Image, therefore we attack God's creation when:
    - We are \_\_\_\_\_ at others
    - We \_\_\_\_\_ to others
    - We use others for \_\_\_\_\_
    - We do not \_\_\_\_\_ those
- Biblical Response #2
  - We were created to be \_\_\_\_\_ of God's Creation, therefore,
    - We care for the \_\_\_\_\_ and all God's creatures.
    - We provide \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are in need.
    - We use the gifts given to us by our creator to \_\_\_\_\_ others.
- #2 Approach topics using an apologetics format.
  - Example 1 - Justice
 

**Individualism** **Collectivism**



Libertarian      Liberal      Utilitarian      Postmodern
  - Example 2
    - Address \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ feelings at an early age.
    - Because you have been reinforcing the Word of God as the source of truth:
      - Discuss the concept that God created people to be either male or female
      - Discuss the concept of \_\_\_\_\_ within \_\_\_\_\_.

## II Adult Instruction Key Competencies

### A. Knowledge

- 1.
- 2.

B. Emotional \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_ Builder

D. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Faith

E. Personal \_\_\_\_\_

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*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

In the morning, O Lord, You hear my voice;  
**in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for You and watch.**

My mouth is filled with Your praise,  
**and with Your glory all the day.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth will declare Your praise.**

**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.**

*A hymn, canticle, or psalm may be sung or spoken.*

### **Reading Exodus 7:8-13**

Then the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "When Pharaoh says to you, 'Prove yourselves by working a miracle,' then you shall say to Aaron, 'Take your staff and cast it down before Pharaoh, that it may become a serpent.'" So Moses and Aaron went to Pharaoh and did just as the LORD commanded. Aaron cast down his staff before Pharaoh and his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh summoned the wise men and the sorcerers, and they, the magicians of Egypt, also did the same by their secret arts. For each man cast down his staff, and they became serpents. But Aaron's staff swallowed up their staffs. Still Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the LORD had said.

### **Devotion - Rev. David M. Mews**

*A portion of the Small or Large Catechism may be read.*

### **Apostles' Creed**

**C** 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.**

### Lord's Prayer

**C** 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.

*Prayers for others and ourselves*

*Concluding prayers:*

Almighty God, merciful Father, who created and completed all things, on this day when the work of our calling begins anew, we implore You to create its beginning, direct its continuance, and bless its end, that our doings may be preserved from sin, our life sanctified, and our work this day be well pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

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.

Let us bless the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Then go joyfully to your work.*

Acknowledgments

Morning from Lutheran Service Book

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## Calendar of Events

### May

4-5	Circuit Visitors Conference	Frankenmuth
9-11	North & East Pastors Conference	Lewiston
14	Floor Committee Meetings	Ann Arbor
15-17	West Pastors Conference	Traverse City
25-26	IIM Conference	Hillsdale

### June

3-5	Junior High Youth Gathering	Frankenmuth
26-28	Michigan District, LCMS Convention	Ann Arbor

### July

9-13	National Youth Gathering	Houston, TX
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### August

1-3	Higgins Lake Principals Conference	Higgins Lake
1-5	Special Friends Camp	Fenton
9	EC Directors Conference	Frankenmuth
10	EC Conference	Frankenmuth

### September

11-13	Deacons Conference	Camp Arcadia
18-20	Best Practices Heartland	Frankenmuth
24-25	CEF Conference	Auburn Hills
26-29	Intentional Interim Conference	Hillsdale

### October

2	Farewell Dinner for President and Pat Maier	Lansing
9-12	All Pastors Conference	Boyne Falls
14-16	Lutheran Adult Gathering	Mackinac Island

### May 2023

9-10	South & East Pastors Conference	Frankenmuth
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Ann Arbor, Michigan

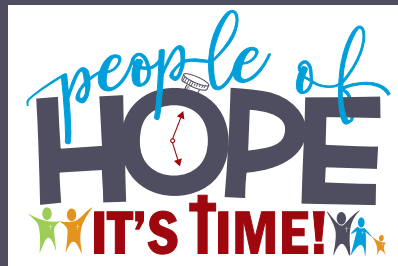
Thank you to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth for hosting the worship service.

## Please Note:

Hotel check-in is 3 p.m. Check-out is 11 a.m.

Cell Phones - Please don't forget to turn your cell phones to silent during sessions.

Evaluations - You will receive an email asking you to fill out an online evaluation following the conference. Thank you for your feedback!



## IMPORTANT DATES

May 14, 2022	Floor Committee Meetings
June 26-28, 2022	Michigan District Convention

[michigandistrict.org/convention](http://michigandistrict.org/convention)

## IN HIS PRESENCE

*Throughout All Generations*

Psalms 90:1

### SPEAKERS

Rev. Matt Popovits

Dcs. Heidi Goehmann

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100 White Flags

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Lodging, meals,  
and gratuities at  
the Grand Hotel

**\$370**

per person based on  
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Michigan District, LCMS presents

**Lutheran Adult Gathering**

October 14-16, 2022 | Mackinac Island, Michigan

[michigandistrict.org/lag22](http://michigandistrict.org/lag22)

Cost: \$30/person plus lodging



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FOR EFFECTIVE GOSPEL MINISTRY

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