

#miLCMSpastors

# Insights for Preaching on Justification

*"Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1).*

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Michigan District, LCMS presents  
**West Pastors Conference**  
May 15-16, 2023 | St. Joseph, Mich.

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

## Speakers

**Dr. Mark Seifrid** is a senior professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. since 2015. He earned his Ph.D. in New Testament from Princeton Theological Seminary in Princeton, N.J. (1990) and both his M.Div. and an M.A. from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill. (1984). He taught New Testament interpretation at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ky., for more than two decades. He has published major works on justification in the New Testament and a commentary on 2 Corinthians, as well as numerous articles on Pauline theology and the doctrine of justification. His hobbies include running, water sports, cycling, cross-country skiing, and the German language and literature. He is married to Janice.



**Laura Scheer** has a bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri – Columbia and is an Accredited Financial Counselor® and a Certified Employee Benefit Specialist focusing on church retirement plans. She joined Concordia Plans in 2011, overseeing the administration of the Concordia Retirement Savings Plan 403(b). Now she engages directly with workers, using her financial coaching experience to help them build healthy financial habits and reach their financial goals. By educating workers about the important role their benefits play, she helps them improve their overall financial health.

## Monday, May 15, 2023

- 8 a.m. Registration/Hospitality
- 9 a.m. Divine Service at Trinity, St. Joseph
- 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Exhibits open – Waterside East & West
- 10:40 a.m. Introduction of Speaker & Conference Theme – Inn at Harbor Shores – Ballroom
- 10:45 a.m. **Session 1 – “What You Need to Know about Romans: An Overview | Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid**
- 12 p.m. Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. **Session 2 – “The Turn to Christ: Hope in Suffering for All” (Rom. 5:1-21) | Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid**
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:30 p.m. **Session 3 – “Baptism into Christ: The Reality of the New Life” (Rom. 6:1-23) | Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid**
- 3:30 p.m. Break
- 3:45 p.m. Church Extension Fund – Mr. James R. Saalfeld, Mr. John H. Bates, and Mr. Andrew O. Sohn  
CUAA – Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson | Wellspring – Mr. David M. Gehm
- 4:30 p.m. Break
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30–9:30 p.m. Gemütlichkeit – *sponsored by Michigan District Church Extension Fund*

## Tuesday, May 16, 2023

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8–11 a.m. Exhibitors – Waterside East & West
- 8:15 a.m. Daily Prayer – Morning
- 8:20 a.m. **Session 4 – “The Ongoing Encounter with the Law” (Rom. 7:1-25) | Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid**
- 9:20 a.m. Beverage Break
- 9:35 a.m. **Session 5 – “Life in the Spirit: Suffering and Hope” (Rom. 8:1-39) | Rev. Dr. Mark Seifrid**
- 10:35 a.m. District President’s Report | Rev. David Davis
- 11 a.m. Closing Devotion
- 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. Optional Session/Boxed Lunch – “I’m Ready for Retirement ... OR Am I?” – Laura Scheer  
*Sponsored by Concordia Plans in partnership with Michigan District Church Extension Fund*

\* The 2023 West Pastors Conference worship offering will be supporting LifePlan.

### ➔ CONFERENCE SURVEY

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



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Michigan District, LCMS presents  
**2023 Professional Church Workers Conference**  
November 19-21, 2023 | Grand Rapids, Mich.  
[michigandistrict.org/pcw23](http://michigandistrict.org/pcw23)

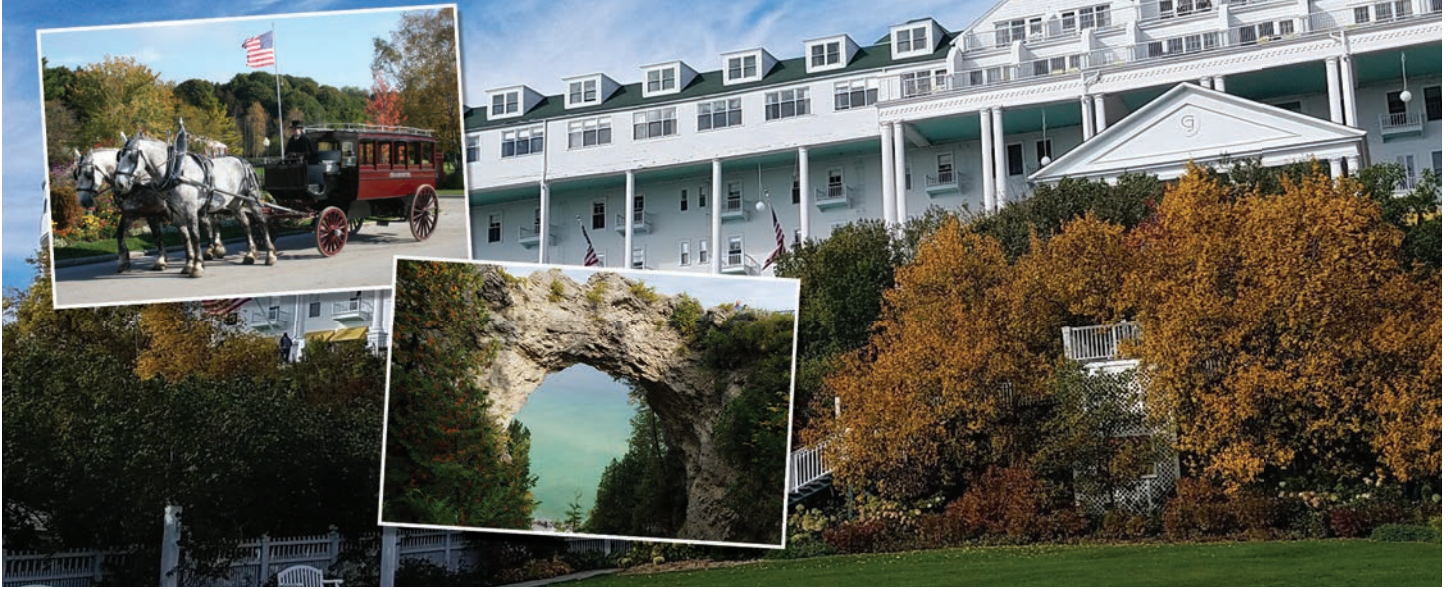


**ABID** *In Jesus*  
John 15:4-5





Lutheran Adult Gathering  
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**Church Worker Wellness Conference**

Concordia Plans, in partnership with CEF and the Michigan District, is providing a free, one-day workshop for active church workers (spouses are also welcome to attend!) to hear pertinent information about your CPS financial benefits (e.g., pension, 403(b), how to support your overall financial wellness), and ways to improve your physical and mental health. Lunch is included, along with attendance prizes!

You can also sign up to meet with a Financial Educator for a 30-minute one-on-one prior to the event or immediately following the event.

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
5589 Van Atta Road, Haslett MI 48840  
June 29, 2023 | 10 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
[michigandistrict.org/cww23](http://michigandistrict.org/cww23)



Stand

**Versicles**

**LSB 235**

- L: O Lord, open my lips,  
 C: and my mouth shall declare Your praise.  
 C: **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.**

**Venite**

**LSB 236**

- P: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. Let us come into His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise.  
 C: **For the Lord is a great God and a great king above all gods. In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also. The sea is His, for He made it; and His hand formed the dry land.**  
 P: O come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our maker. For He is our God, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.  
 C: **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.**

**Reading Romans 4:13–25**

- L A reading from Romans, chapter 4.

The promise to Abraham and his offspring that he would be heir of the world did not come through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law there is no transgression.

That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his offspring—not only to the adherent of the law but also to the one who shares the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. In hope he believed against hope, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, “So shall your offspring be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.” But the words “it was counted to him” were not written for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.

- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
 C: **Thanks be to God.**
- L: In many and various ways, God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.  
 C: **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**The Second Article**

*Redemption*

- C: **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.**
- P: What does this mean?  
 C: **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me**

from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

**Collect of the Day**

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God, as Your only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, ascended into the heavens, so may we also ascend in heart and mind and continually dwell there with Him, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Collect for Grace**

L: O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

**Lord's Prayer****LSB 241**

L: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

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.**

**Benedicamus****LSB 241**

L: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**Benediction****LSB 242**

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

**Acknowledgments**

Morning Prayer from Lutheran Service Book

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*Stand*

- L: This is the day which the Lord has made;  
**C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.**  
 L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- L: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
**C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**  
 L: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.  
**C: Teach me Your paths.**  
 L: Sanctify us in Your truth.  
**C: Your Word is truth.**
- L: From the rising of the sun to its setting,  
**C: the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- C: Glory be to the Father and to the  $\text{✠}$  Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
 as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Reading Romans 8:12-17**

- L: A reading from Romans, chapter 8.  
 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.
- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Reading Matthew 13:1-9**

- L: A reading from Matthew, chapter 13.  
 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

- L: O Lord, have mercy on us.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Responsory (Easter)**

**LSB 222**

- L: Sing to the Lord and bless His name, proclaim His salvation from day to day.  
**C: Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.**  
 L: Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that sleep.  
**C: Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.**  
 L: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.  
**C: Give to the Lord all glory and strength, give Him the honor due His name. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sermon**



Stand

## 940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name

sts. 1–5



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we  
 2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -  
 3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred  
 4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet  
 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,  
 above are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,  
 name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,  
 born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,  
 three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy  
 In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with  
 And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to  
 As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the  
 Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.  
 sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!  
 set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.  
 bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.  
 bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt.  
 Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna  
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**Kyrie**

LSB 227

**C:** Lord, have mercy;  
 Christ, have mercy;  
 Lord, have mercy.

**Lord's Prayer**

**C:** Our Father who art in heaven ...

**L:** O Lord, hear my prayer.

**C:** And let my cry come to You.

**Collects****Collect for Grace**

**L:** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

Stand

**Benedicamus**

LSB 228

**L:** Let us bless the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**Benediction**

LSB 228

P: The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
 C: Amen.

594 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized  
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized  
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized  
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized  
 5 There is noth - ing worth com-par - ing To this life-long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it,  
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong-er:  
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion,  
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness  
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing:



Gave my full re - demp - tion price. Do I need earth's  
 Je - sus' cleans - ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y  
 I am not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the  
 To in - her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in  
 E - ven there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a -



trea - sures man - y? I have one worth  
 con - science seize me Since my Bap - tism  
 font I've trav - eled, All your might has  
 dust and ash - es Faith's as - sur - ance  
 waits its rais - ing, Still my soul con -



more than an - y That brought me sal -  
 did re - lease me In a dear for -  
 come un - rav - eled, And, a - gainst your  
 bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the  
 tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free Last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!  
 giv - ing flood, Sprin - kling me with Je - sus' blood?  
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!  
 strength di - vine To make life im - mor - tal mine.  
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671-1756; tr. Robert E. Voelker, 1957  
 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695-1755, alt.  
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## Calendar of Events

### May

- 22 Board of Directors Listening Event MW Region  
St. Paul, Hamburg
- 23 Board of Directors  
St. Paul, Hamburg
- 24-25 Intentional Interim Ministry Conference  
Michindoh, Hillsdale

### June

- 2-4 Junior High Gathering  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 3 State Track Meet  
Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw
- 9-12 Synodical Convention Floor Committees
- 17 Synodical Delegates' Pre-Convention Meeting  
St. Luke, Haslett
- 19-21 FLAME  
Ann Arbor Regent, Ann Arbor
- 25-28 High School Gathering  
Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island
- 29 Church Worker Wellness Conference  
St. Luke, Haslett

### July

- 17-21 Special Friends Camp  
Camp Copneconic, Fenton
- 29-Aug 3 LCMS National Convention  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- 31-Aug 2 Higgins Lake Conference  
Ralph A. MacMullan Conf. Center, Roscommon

### August

- 8 Early Childhood Directors Day  
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 9 Early Childhood Educators Conference  
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

### September

- 5-6 Emeriti Pastors Conference  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 25-28 Intentional Interim Conference  
Michindoh, Hillsdale

### October

- 16 Board of Directors Listening Event Metro East  
St. John, Fraser
- 17 Board of Directors  
St. John, Fraser

### November

- 19-21 Professional Church Workers Conference  
DeVos Center, Grand Rapids

### May 2024

- 20-21 West Pastors Conference  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Rapids Airport

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