

#miLCMSpastors

Honest to God

Life in Reconciliation

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'"
(Galatians 3:13 ESV).



Michigan District, LCMS presents
South & East Pastors Conference
May 14–15, 2024 | Frankenmuth, Mich.

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

Speakers

Rev. Dr. Richard "Rick" Marrs is senior professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL). He earned an M.S. in counseling from the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kan. (1985); and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from Loyola University Chicago (1994). Marrs has been licensed as a psychologist since 1996 and has done counseling, clinical, and consulting work with a long list of agencies and counseling centers. He has served as professor of psychology and counselor in two universities and authored numerous books, book chapters, Bible studies, blogs, articles, and training programs. Marrs received certification for pastoral ministry through the RAR Program and earned his M.Div. both from CSL (2001, 2008). He served Immanuel Lutheran Church in Junction City, Kan., first as vicar then as pastor. He joined the Seminary faculty in 2006.



Rev. Peter Bender has served as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Sussex, Wisc. since 1991. He is the founder and director of the Concordia Catechetical Academy and an adjunct professor in catechetics for the deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). He received his B.A. from Concordia University Chicago in 1983 and an M.Div. from CTSFW in 1987. In 1995 he led his congregation in forming Peace Lutheran Academy, a classical elementary school in the Lutheran and liberal arts traditions. He is the General Editor of *Lutheran Catechesis Series* and the author of a number of volumes in that series. He also served on the Agenda Committee for *Lutheran Service Book* and did extensive work on LSB's *Pastoral Care Companion*.

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

Tuesday, May 14, 2024

- 9-10 a.m. Registration and Coffee/Juice | St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 10-11:30 a.m. Divine Service | St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Registration | Composers Rooms' Lobby - Bavarian Inn Lodge
- 11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lunch
- 11:30-5:30 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 1-2 p.m. **Session 1 - Rev. Dr. Richard W. Marrs | Broken Hearts & Broken Spirits - Honest to Self**
- 2-2:30 p.m. Church Extension Fund - Mr. James R. Saalfeld, Mr. John H. Bates, & Mr. Andrew O. Sohn
 CUA - Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson | Wellspring - Mr. David M. Gehm
- 2:30-3 p.m. Break
- 3-3:15 p.m. Devotion | Honest to Self - Rev. Dr. Charles S. Y. Foster
- 3:15-4:15 p.m. President's Report | Rev. David A. Davis
- 4:15-5:15 p.m. **Session 2 - Rev. Dr. Richard W. Marrs | Broken Hearts and Broken Spirits - Honest to Neighbor**
- 5:15-9 p.m. Bar Open | *Sponsored by Michigan District Church Extension Fund*
- 6 p.m. Dinner and Gemütlichkeit

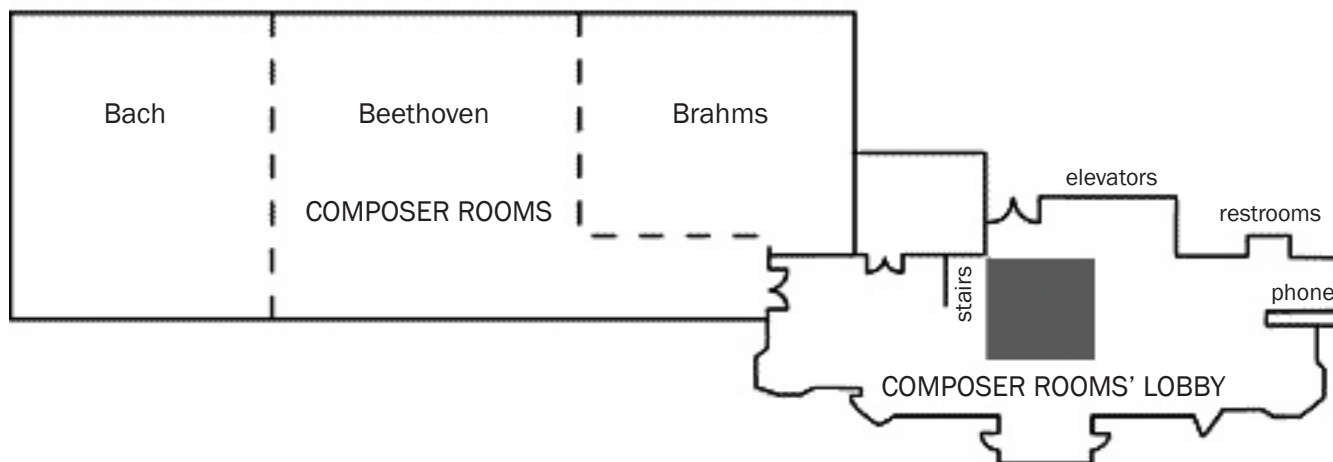
Wednesday, May 15, 2024

- 8-9 a.m. Breakfast
- 8-11 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 9-9:15 a.m. Morning Devotions | Rev. Richard A. Zeile - Honest to Neighbor
- 9:15-9:20 a.m. CAN Council | Compassion Ministry
- 9:20-11 a.m. **Session 3 - Rev. Peter C. Bender | Honest to God & End of Life Crisis**
- 11-11:15 a.m. Closing Devotion | Honest to God - Rev. Antonio C. Boos
- 11:15 a.m. Itinerarium | Rev. Bryan K. Schindel

* The 2024 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 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!



Broken Hearts and Broken Spirits – Honest to Self

Where Does the Brokenness in our World Come From?

Anfechtung and its Spiritual Questions – 2KR

Pastoral care to ...

Triad of Sin, Suffering, and Biopsychosocial Damage

Ask me About the No-Casserole Illness.

PTSD or HHOSTSW?

What of our own Brokenness as Soul Caregivers?

Interpersonal Neurobiology ... Anatomy of the Soul ...

The Burden of Caring for Others' *Anfechtung*

A Personal Development Plan? Seven Areas of Health ... Spiritual, Relational, Vocational, Emotional, Financial, Physical, Intellectual ...

Can Meditation be Christian?

Galatians 3:13 – “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written ‘Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree.’”

Ephesians 2:10

1 Corinthians 15: 58

Gospel for those who share the Gospel with Others ...?

Who is Your Pastor? Who is Your Father-Confessor?

References

Marrs, Rick W. (2019) *Making Christian Counseling More Christ Centered*. WestBow Press.

Goehmann, Heidi (2022). *Emotions and the Gospel*. CPH.

Koehler, Walter (1984, 2011) *Counseling and Confession: The Role of Confession and Absolution in Pastoral Counseling*. Concordia Seminary Press.

Thompson, Curt. (2010) *Anatomy of the Soul: Surprising Connections Between Neuroscience and Spiritual Practices That Can Transform Your Life and Relationships*. Tyndale; followed by (2015) *The Soul of Shame: Retelling the Stories We Believe about Ourselves*. InterVarsity Press; followed by (2021) *The Soul of Desire: Discovering the Neuroscience of Longing, Beauty, and Community*; followed by (2023) *The Deepest Place: Suffering and the Formation of Hope* with HarperCollins. Thompson, a Christian psychiatrist who is an elder in the PCA, also has an ongoing podcast about all these issues entitled *Being Known*.

Broken Hearts and Broken Spirits – Honest to Neighbor

Be Careful What you Pray for ...

Conflict Resolution or ...?

The Curse of Conflict throughout Scripture: Adam/Eve, Abraham and his sons, Joseph and his brothers, Moses and Israel, Judges, Saul and David, Prophets. What is our biggest conflict?

What are our Idols? James 4:1–2 “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask.”

Forgiveness: When, Why, How, Who?

Coaching and Mediation Training

Loneliness and the Body of Christ

People Fuel – Townsend

Our Sexuality ... Where do we go to With Questions, for Guidance?

References

Ambassadors of Reconciliation (2015). *Go and Be Reconciled: What Does this Mean?* Find at aorhope.org. Compare their other Bible studies: *Conflict Resolution vs. Reconciliation* (2015) and *Blessed are the Peacemakers* (2005) and *Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society*. Their new book *Unforgiveable?* by Rockenbach and Kober (CPH) continues that line of excellent resources about forgiveness and reconciliation.

Koehler, Walter (2011). *Counseling and Confession: The Role of Confession and Absolution in Pastoral Counseling*. Concordia Seminary Press. (CPH 1984).

Rosenau, Doug. *A Celebration of Sex: A Guide to Enjoying God's Gift of Sexual Intimacy* (2002). Thomas Nelson. Rosenau's (+) group has many additional materials & books by Michael Systma, Shaunti Feldman, & Clifford and Joyce Penner at secretsofsexandmarriage.com/about/ and intimatemarriage.org/category/dr-mike/ or Amazon. www.sexualwholeness.com for information about their sexual counseling options and certified therapists.

Jones, Stanton and Jones, Brenna (2007, 2019). *How and When to Tell Your Kids about Sex*. Nav Press.

Stanley, Scott; Trathen, Daniel; et al. (2013). *The Lasting Promise: A Christian Guide to Fighting for Your Marriage*. Jossey-Bass.

Townsend, John (2019) *People Fuel: Fill Your Tank for Life, Love, and Leadership*. Zondervan.

CTCR documents about confession/absolution and sexuality, including the most recent (2023), *Chaste and Decent*.

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Honest to God & End of Life Crisis

Introduction

What does it mean to be honest to God?

End of Life Crisis and the Dying Man's Consolation

- Psalm 130 – “If you kept a record of sins, who could stand?”
- “This man receives sinners and eats with them ...” (Luke 15)
- “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners ...” (1 Timothy 1:12–16)
- The Conflict: “The good that I would, I do not do ... O wretched man!” (Romans 7)
- The Empty Promises of Comfort without the forgiveness of sins.
- Sin is the Cause of Death; Only Forgiveness is the Source of Resurrection and Life
“I Am the Resurrection and the life ...” (John 11)
- “Surely, He took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ...” (Isaiah 53)
- “In the very midst of life snares of death surround us ...” (LSB 755, st. 1)
- Consolation at Death Depends on Receiving Consolation Now
- The Church's Song: “And when they had sung a hymn ...”
- “I am baptized into Christ ...” (LSB 594, St. 4)
- “Be of good cheer, I forgive you all your sins ...” – the Example of David
- “This is My body ... this is My blood given and shed for you ...”
- Pastoral Care when a Person is Unconscious.
- The Fear of Being Overwhelmed by Grief.
- “Lord, Thee I love with all my heart” (LSB 708)

Calendar of Events

MAY

- 15-16 Circuit Visitors Conference
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 20-21 West Pastors Conference
DoubleTree, Grand Rapids
- 21 Board of Directors & BOD Listening Event West Region
St. Matthew, Grand Rapids
- 22-23 Intentional Interim Ministry Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale

JUNE

- 1 State Track Meet
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 10-12 Next Generation Pastors
Shelby Twp., Spring Lake, Bay City
- 18-20 FLAME
Ann Arbor Regent, Ann Arbor
- 28-30 Michigan District LWML Convention
Amway Grand, Grand Rapids

JULY

- 15-19 Special Friends Camp
Camp Copneconic, Fenton
- 29-31 Higgins Lake Conference
Ralph A. MacMullan Conf. Center, Roscommon
- 30-Aug 1 Junior High Gathering
Kern Pavilion, Frankenmuth

AUGUST

- 6 Early Childhood Directors Day
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 7 Early Childhood Educators Conference
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth

SEPTEMBER

- 4-5 Circuit Visitors Conference
Peace, Ann Arbor
- 8-10 Deacons/Ministry Asst. Conference
Camp Arcadia, Arcadia
- 17 New Church Worker Conference (Tentative)
Great Lakes Bay Region
- 21 Community Worship Network Gathering
St. Lorenz Worship & Event Center, Frankenmuth
- 23-26 Intentional Interim Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale

OCTOBER

- 11-13 Lutheran Adult Gathering
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island
- 14-16 All Pastors Conference
Grand Traverse Resort, Acme
- 17 Board of Directors
St. John, Fraser

- 21-23 Ministry Specialists Conference
Camp Arcadia, Arcadia

NOVEMBER

- 5-6 Next Generation Pastors & Spouses (Tentative)
Graduate, East Lansing
- 24-26 Connections Educators Conference
Grand Wayne Convention Center
Fort Wayne, IN

MAY 2025

- 13-14 South and East Pastors Conference
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

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Church Extension Fund



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WISCONSIN

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.