

#miLCMSpastors



# Relationships & Reconciliation Lessons from Genesis

*"And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them" (Genesis 3:21 ESV).*



Michigan District, LCMS presents  
**West Pastors Conference**  
May 20–21, 2024 | Grand Rapids, Mich.

Hotel Wifi: HHonors, promo code: MEETING  
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## Speakers

**Rev. Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse** graduated from Concordia Seward, Neb. with a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1980. He earned an M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW) in 1984, an S.T.M in 1990, and a Ph.D. at the University of Durham, England in 2017.

Pulse served in the parish for over 22 years. In 2007, he was called to CTSFW and is currently serving as Full Professor of Exegetical Theology. He has also served as vacancy pastor at Shepherd of the City Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. for 13 years. Pulse has published four books, many articles, and has given countless presentations around the country and the world.



**Rev. John R. Rathje** has served in a variety of roles, from mission pastor and college professor to licensed therapist, youth director, elementary teacher, Army Captain, and barista. John wants everyone to trust that Jesus can restore lives. Restoring life through simplicity, boldness, and grace, is his life theme.

## Monday, May 20, 2024

- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship at Our Savior, Grand Rapids
- 10 a.m. Divine Service at Our Savior, Grand Rapids
- 11:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Exhibits open | Kentwood AB - DoubleTree by Hilton - Grand Rapids Airport
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch | Michigan Grand Ballroom
- 12:45 p.m. Welcome | Rev. Jason P. Peterson
- 12:50 p.m. Church Extension Fund | Mr. Jim R. Saalfeld, Mr. John H. Bates, Mr. Andrew O. Sohn
- 1:05 p.m. Wellspring | Mr. David M. Gehm
- 1:10 p.m. CUAA | Rev. Dr. Ryan R. Peterson
- 1:15 p.m. **Relationship and Reconciliation: Lessons from Genesis, Part 1 | Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse**
- 2:25 p.m. Break
- 2:50 p.m. **President’s Report | Rev. David A. Davis**
- 3:50 p.m. **Brokenness ... It’s also personal | Rev. John R. Rathje, LPC, NCC, SSCM**
- 5 p.m. Free Time
- 6 p.m. Dinner
- 7 p.m. Gemütlichkeit – *Sponsored by Michigan District Church Extension Fund*

## Tuesday, May 21, 2024

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 7:30–10:30 a.m. Exhibitors – Kentwood AB
- 8:30 a.m. Devotion | Rev. David L. Miller
- 8:40 a.m. Compassion Ministry Report – Pregnancy Resource Center | Mr. Jim Sprague
- 8:45 a.m. West Michigan Lutheran High School | Mrs. Kristine A. Angers
- 8:50 a.m. **Relationship and Reconciliation: Lessons from Genesis, Part 2 | Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse**
- 10 a.m. Break
- 10:35 a.m. **Lead with Compassion | Rev. John R. Rathje, LPC, NCC, SSCM**
- 11:45 a.m. Closing Devotion | Rev. Jason P. Peterson

\* The 2024 West Pastors Conference worship offering will be supporting PRC in Grand Rapids.

### ➔ 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!



**CONNECT WITH THE  
MICHIGAN DISTRICT ...**

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### The Hebrews and their God

When the Hebrews came before God they had certain feelings, assumptions, and expectations ...

1. God created Israel—they were “married” to one another.
2. Idolatry was equated to adultery.
3. The “Silence of God” was a problem for Israel.
4. They had the belief that God wanted to be motivated to change—the Hebrews had high expectations of God.
5. The pain of Israel was the pain of God—God could and did grieve.
6. Questioning God can be the greatest act of faith.
7. Sin, for the Hebrews, was a secondary condition and/or problem—relationship with God was primary.
8. When Israel prayed the “Laments” they were not certain how God would answer—but as a faithful lover He would answer.
9. Israel viewed their relationship with God as one of community.

\*\*some of this material was gleaned from a lecture of Dr. Murray Haar

Other resources: Floysvik, Ingvar. *When God becomes my Enemy*. St. Louis: Concordia Publishing Company, 1997.

Laytner, Anson. *Arguing with God: A Jewish Tradition*. New Jersey: Jason Aronson Inc., 1990.

# ידע

“to know”

<b>God</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Man/Creation</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Female</b>
<b>Husband</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Wife</b>
<b>LORD</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Israel</b>
<b>Bridegroom</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Bride</b>
<b>Christ</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Church</b>
<b>Pastor</b>	<b>→</b>	<b>Congregation</b>

Dr. Jeffrey H. Pulse

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*New Beginnings*  
**IN HIS PRESENCE**  
 Revelation 21:5

Lodging, meals,  
 and gratuities at  
 the Grand Hotel  
**\$390**  
 per person based on  
 quad occupancy.



**Lutheran Adult Gathering | Mackinac Island, Mich.**  
**October 11-13, 2024 | [www.michigandistrict.org/lag24](http://www.michigandistrict.org/lag24)**

**Speakers:**  
 Rev. Dr. Jeff & Renee Gibbs  
 Rev. Dr. Ryan Tinetti - Chaplain  
 Lizzie Boeck - Entertainment  
 100 White Flag - Music

**Cost:**  
 \$50 Registration + Lodging



## Relationship and Reconciliation: The Genesis Way

Framework: safety and belonging (Genesis 3 – sin, consequence, grace)

### Relationships

Will you work and keep ...?

### Brokenness

Did God actually say ...?

### It's also personal

Where are you?

### Grace: Lead with Compassion

### The Work

### Attitudes and Understandings –

Open Hand model of reconciliation!

\*Trauma care by pastors and churches (What can I do to help keep them safe?)

- Recognize – Respond – Resist – Rest

Habits – Caring pastorally toward reconciliation: \*Build relationship (= care over time builds trust)

- Listen first (L-I-S-T-E-N) – ask about ... – note the realities – offer grace – continue to support

Go Forth ... the Genesis Way - AAH!

Attitude - a LIFESTYLE

Alone? - a DISCIPLINE

HABIT!

Proximity AAH!:

- Those Close - Those Near - Those Distant

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## Calendar of Events

### MAY

- 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

- 6-7 West Pastors Conference  
TBD

## Thank You to our Sponsors



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**Thank you to Our Savior, Grand Rapids for hosting our Divine Service.**

### Please Note:

Hotel check-in is 4 p.m. Check-out is 12 noon.

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!