



SOUTH WISCONSIN DISTRICT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

We are thrilled to extend a special invitation to you and your congregation to participate in the upcoming *Family Life Conference* under the theme “Passing on the Faith.” This transformative event is designed to equip families with the tools and resources needed to strengthen bonds and pass on their faith in today’s ever-changing world.

Event Details:

- June 8, 2024 @ Concordia University Wisconsin (Mequon, WI)
- Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann
- Break-out sessions covering a wide range of topics relevant to family life and faith

Publicity Blurb:

In an effort to strengthen family bonds and instill lasting values, the South Wisconsin District’s upcoming *Family Life Conference* under the theme “Passing on the Faith” aims to provide attendees with invaluable insights and resources. Scheduled to take place on June 8, 2024 at Concordia University Wisconsin, the conference will feature keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann and several break-out sessions geared towards equipping families with the tools needed to navigate life’s challenges while staying grounded in their faith. Whether you’re a parent, grandparent, or guardian, this event offers a unique opportunity to connect with fellow believers and reaffirm your commitment to fostering a strong faith-based foundation within your family.

**Learn more about the conference and register to attend at
www.swd.lcms.org/FLC before May 20.**

(The conference fee is \$5/person. But church and school groups are invited to take advantage of a group discount, so please be prepared to enter the name and email address of each registrant.)

By registering your members to attend this conference, you’ll be providing them with a unique opportunity to:

- Gain insights into effective communication and conflict resolution within families.
- Learn practical strategies for passing on religious traditions and values to future generations.
- Connect with like-minded individuals from across the Lutheran community.
- Renew their commitment to nurturing a strong faith-based foundation within their families.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Cody

Assistant to the President for Schools, Youth & Family



Passing on the Faith

*Confessing Christ
for the Next Generation*





FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Passing on the Faith

Agenda

8:00 Registration (*Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship*)

9:00 Plenary Opening (*Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship*)

- ◆ *What's Family Discipleship and Why It Matters* — Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

10:30 Sectional 1: *Passing on the Faith* (*Chemnitz*)

- ◆ *Leading Devotions in a Busy Family* — Chad Janetzke
- ◆ *Teaching our Kids to Think Biblically* — Mark Newman
- ◆ *Parenting Adolescents* — Dr. Brad Alles

11:45 Lunch (*Terrace Room in Albrecht*)

1:00 Sectional 2: *Issues in the Family* (*Chemnitz*)

- ◆ *Digital Citizenship in an Age of Social Media* — Sarah Mayer
- ◆ *A Parents' Guide to Understanding and Responding to Post-Christian Sexuality* — Dr. Bev Yahnke
- ◆ *Time to Mourn; Time to Dance* — Mike Zimmer

2:15 Plenary Closing (*Concordia Center for Environmental Stewardship*)

- ◆ *Right Priorities for Strong Families* — Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

3:15 Dismissal

— *Optional Events and Activities* —

Enjoy Concordia University Wisconsin

Please join us for a light reception and stick around to explore the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin.

6:35 Lakeshore Chinooks vs Wausau Woodchucks (*Kapko Park*)

Gates open at 5:35pm. Tickets must be purchased separately.





FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Passing on the Faith

Plenary Speaker

Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann



What's Family Discipleship and Why It Matters

Matt. 28:18-20 provides us with the LORD's powerful blessing and guidance for godly families to walk in Jesus' perfect love (as summarized in Eph. 5:31-32). A simple definition of Family Discipleship and easy-to-remember illustration of perfect love will empower you!

Right Priorities for Strong Families

Eph. 5:31-32 provides us easy-to-remember teaching on right, Jesus-centered priorities to guide and bless ALL of life, esp. as we pass on saving faith to our family and the world under the grace and power of Jesus and His church.

Dr. Biermann (married to Heather Stange of Frankenmuth, MI in 1995) has always had a passion for fostering marriages and families in God's way. This has been true in his role as a parish pastor of the LCMS for 33 years (most recently at Faith Lutheran, Grand Blanc, MI), in his international ministry with Heather, *Life in God's Way*, and now as they both are working with *Concordia Center for the Family (CCF)* out of Ann Arbor, MI. Dr. Biermann's educational path (BA at Concordia University Nebraska, MDiv at Concordia Seminary St. Louis and DMin at Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne) along with a wide array of speaking, teaching and field experience has prepared him for his role as the Executive Director of CCF, which he was called to begin in February 2024. He rejoices in the privilege to promote family discipleship, empowering every family to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ by daily receiving His gifts in the home with church support. Learn more about Dr. Biermann and CCF at www.concordiafamily.org.

Break-Out Presenters

Dr. Brad Alles



Parenting Adolescents with the 3 C's of Strong Faith

There are 3 characteristics of young people with vibrant faith--convictions, care-takers, and community. If you are raising or teaching adolescents, learn more about these 3 attributes and how they contribute to faith development. In addition, discover what attitudes and activities hinder and help spiritual growth.

Dr. Brad Alles is an Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin, and in his 36th year of teaching. He has won the Concordia Nebraska Outstanding Student Teacher Award, the Milwaukee Lutheran HS/Heartland Funds Teacher of Merit Award, the South Wisconsin District Teacher of the Year Award, and the CUW Master Educator Award. Besides speaking nationally in 25 states, Brad has two books: *Life's Big Questions, God's Big Answers* and *Starting at the End*. He also has a DVD called *Big Questions, Biblical Answers* which is also available on Vimeo. You can visit his website which focuses on apologetics and worldviews at www.bradalles.com.





FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Passing on the Faith

Break-Out Presenters (cont.)



Chad Janetzke

Spiritual Habits for the Busy Family

“Devotions?!?! Who’s got time for that?” For so many families in our congregations, the effort of daily schedule planning could rival the planning of the invasion of Normandy! So where do we fit in the faith formation or the training of spiritual habits outside of our regular worship? Come hear some ideas of how it has been encouraged through other ministries and bring some of your own ideas to share that it might edify others!

Chad Janetzke has been a teacher in Lutheran Schools in Minnesota, Texas, and Wisconsin for the last 20 years. He currently serves as the Theology Department Chair at Martin Luther High School in the Milwaukee area. Chad was a Bible study leader at the last two LCMS Youth Gatherings and emcee for the LEA Convocation last fall. He is the son of a DCE, the oldest of seven siblings, blessed to be married to Erin, and father to Maddie, Emma, and Lilly.



Sarah Mayer

Teaching Digital Citizenship in an Age of Social Media

Our children are growing up in a world of social media, apps, gaming, and digital learning. How can we teach them to live by the same values online and offline? Let’s talk about guiding them to create a positive presence in the digital world.

Sarah Mayer currently serves in the School of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin, working with graduate students who are seeking initial licensing in teaching as well as the outreach efforts of the SOE. She also serves as program director and adjunct faculty in the Instructional Leadership master’s degree program. Mrs. Mayer holds a bachelor’s degree in elementary and secondary education, master’s degree in music education, and is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership and educational psychology. She resides in Menomonee Falls with her husband, two children, and three dogs.



Mark Newman

Helping Our Children to have a Biblical Worldview

I define “Thinking Biblically” as the following: Thinking about what the Bible teaches, and then striving to live according to those teachings. This is often times called a Biblical Worldview. This presentation will begin by looking at who/what are the biggest influencers in our children’s lives. Then strategies for the development of Thinking Biblically/Biblical Worldview will be introduced and discussed. This presentation will be useful and applicable for parents as well as teacher of children in any age range.

Mark Newman has served as a Lutheran School Educator for over 20 years. He currently serves as Theology Teacher and Spiritual Life Director at Lake Country Lutheran High School, Hartland. Mark and his wife (Amy) are raising their son (Isaac) in Oconomowoc, WI.





FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Passing on the Faith

Break-Out Presenters (cont.)



Dr. Beverly Yahnke

A Parents' Guide to Understanding and Responding to Post-Christian Sexuality

This presentation will provide a fast-moving overview of significant ways in which our post-Christian culture has attacked our children's understanding of traditional Christian sexuality. Parents will be invited to review the specific temptations, threats and tools used by the culture to confuse children with toxic impressions about gender and sex. Dr. Yahnke will offer recommendations for parents and grandparents to respond to such situations with confidence at home and within the context of our children's schools.

Dr. Beverly Yahnke is a clinical psychologist serving as the Executive Director of Christian Counsel for DOXOLOGY. During her 25 years in private clinical practice, she provided care for church workers and their families. She has also served as Department Chair and Professor of Psychology at Concordia University Wisconsin where she was named "Faculty Laureate". Most recently, her work with DOXOLOGY has focused on providing pastors, teachers, and church workers with opportunities for renewal and advanced training. Dr. Yahnke has written numerous articles about psychology, education and faith, and is a frequently invited speaker for clergy and educator conferences. Concordia Theological Seminary, where she serves on the Board of Regents, awarded her with an honorary doctorate in recognition of her service to the church.



Mike Zimmer

Time to Mourn; Time to Dance

How does the joy of the Gospel help the Christian navigate the horrors of grief? This session will survey the wounds of broken dreams and give participants practical tips of "do's and don'ts" when you or those around you are faced with tragic loss.

Mike Zimmer retired in 2022 after 40 years of service to the LCMS as a Commissioned Minister. He served as teacher, administrator, congregational consultant, and district executive in education. He is married to a retired Lutheran teacher (Jenifer). They have two daughters (Amanda and Stephanie) who also serve as Commissioned Ministers. They have six grandchildren on this side of Heaven.

In 2000 Mike and Jeni's son, Jacob, was killed in a car accident. In 2018 they had two unborn grandchildren who passed away. Years of searching Scriptures, attending "grief groups", counseling and reading lots of books on grief, gives Mike unique insights on how the Christian can deal with personal tragedy while clinging to the assurance of eternal life.





FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE

Passing on the Faith

Campus Map


Concordia University Wisconsin's main campus is located 15 miles north of downtown Milwaukee on 155 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline at **12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, Wisconsin 53097.**



 **Parking** (Lots D-G)

 **Sectionals** (Chemnitz)

 **Registration & Plenary** (Environmental Center)

 **Lunch** (Albrecht)

