



Presented by

Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

#theological20



**LEGACY:
Reclaiming A Lost Generation**

Ephesians 4:1-3

Saturday, February 1, 2020
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing

President's Welcome



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so thankful to be able to welcome you to this year's Theological Conference presented by the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are blessed to have with us outstanding presenters who will share their unique perspectives on Reclaiming a Lost Generation.

My fervent desire is that the laypeople and church workers attending this conference will receive Spirit-led encouragement and practical/biblical insight into the desire of God's heart for our children and grandchildren, and how we can be instruments of His grace who *"tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power and the wonders He has done"* (Psalm 78:4). Beyond addressing the many challenges we face when seeking to pass on the legacy of faith in Christ, my prayer is that God will use our time together to better equip us *"for such a time as this"* (Esther 5:12-14).

A special thanks to Rev. Bill Wangelin and the wonderful members of Our Savior Lutheran Church for hosting the Theological Conference again this year. Without their hard work and efforts, this important conference would not be possible.

May God bless your travels to and from Lansing. I look forward to being with you at the Legacy conference.

In Christ,



Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Michigan District, LCMS



Keynote Speakers



Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton served as a missionary in the Philippines from 1977 to 1983. He then pursued graduate studies at the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Calif. While there, he assisted the Pacific Southwest District in developing a cross-cultural leadership training program.

Newton served as professor of world missions at his alma mater, Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Ind., from 1985 until 1998, when he accepted a call to serve as senior pastor to a multi-cultural congregation in San Jose, Calif. He served as president of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District from 2003 until his retirement in 2018. Newton and his wife Priscilla have 4 children and 14 grandchildren.



Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy

Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy is President Emeritus of the Minnesota South District. He also served as Vice President of the LCMS for 6 years. In the 90's, Nadasdy served as Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. (CSL). He currently teaches as an adjunct instructor in the D. Min. program at CSL. He also serves as a periodic guest preacher on *The Lutheran Hour*.

Nadasdy currently chairs the Board of Directors of *Feed My Starving Children*, a global hunger relief agency based in Minnesota. He is married to Susie and they are blessed with 3 children and 5 grandchildren.



Mrs. Heather L. Ruesch

Heather Ruesch is a well-respected life issues educator and author of *Sexuality Mentality, Creating a Culture of Biblical Integrity* (CPH). She is passionate about youth and being a voice of God’s truth in their lives, speaking nationally at conferences, youth gatherings, high schools, women’s events, and more. Heather lives in Kingsford, Mich. with her husband Matt and their 3 children.



Rev. R. Gabe Kasper

Rev. Gabe Kasper is the Pastor at University Lutheran Chapel at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Prior to his current role, he spent 5 years as a church planter in Austin, Texas. His passion for preaching and teaching has led him to speak across the country on a variety of theological and cultural topics. He is a graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. In his spare time, Kasper enjoys soccer, reading books, listening to punk rock, and co-hosting the *Pint Glass Preachers Podcast*. He and his wife Melissa have 3 great kids.

Schedule

2020 Michigan District, LCMS Theological Conference

Legacy: Reclaiming a Lost Generation

8:30 a.m.	Registration/Fellowship	
8:55 a.m.	Opening	Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
9:15 a.m.	Session 1	Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton
10 a.m.	Practical Lesson and Q & A	Rev. Randy Duncan
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Session 2	Mrs. Heather L. Ruesch
11:15 a.m.	Practical Lesson and Q & A	Rev. Randy Duncan
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	
12:15 p.m.	Session 3	Rev. R. Gabe Kasper
1 p.m.	Practical Lesson and Q & A	Rev. Randy Duncan
1:15 p.m.	Break	
1:30 p.m.	Session 4	Rev. Dr. Dean W. Nadasdy
2:15 p.m.	Practical Lesson and Q & A	Rev. Randy Duncan
2:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
3 p.m.	Final Comments	

→ Video recordings of all sessions will be available after the conference.
 You will be notified by email of their availability.
 → A conference evaluation will be emailed to you today; please take a moment to share your comments with us. Thank you.

Eternal Word, Changing Worlds

Rev. Dr. Robert D. Newton

- I. Introduction:
 - A. Eternal Word: Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, forever
 - B. Changing Worlds

- II. Christendom: The World We Knew
 - A. Christendom dominated the Western world for nearly 1700 years
 - B. The world of Christendom
 - C. Lutherans' place and role in Christendom
 - D. Impact on mission outreach to non-Christians
 - E. Impact on discipling our own children
 - F. Impact on Gospel proclamation
 - G. Impact on our assumptions about non-Christians

- III. Missionary Age has Re-dawned in the West
 - A. A cultural tsunami has wiped out the Christendom bridge connecting the world to the church.
 - B. Two observations
 - C. When the bridge is gone, it's time to recalculate

- IV. We begin recalculating by using the correct map
 - A. Recognize the Church/Mission Contexts in which we communicate the Gospel: Pre-Churched (Mission Field), Christendom, Post-Christendom (Mission Field)
 - B. These contexts operate like "street maps" in our community
 - C. Each ministry/mission context has its own set of cultural insiders and outsiders
 - D. Cultural insiders determine several factors that impact our ministry
 - E. The important mission/ministry question

V. Three Mission/Ministry Contexts

- A. Pre-Churched: Church has no shared history with the unchurched (pre-Christian) society.
- B. Churched: The church (as social institution) is an essential part of the community.
- C. Post-Churched: *The community around the church is increasingly unchurched, more and more reflecting the “pre-churched” context of ministry. At the same time, the church continues to operate with the assumptions of a “churched” society or context.*

VI. Church Responses to Post-Christendom

- A. Man-centered responses
- B. Response of confessing Lutherans
- C. Circling the wagons
- D. The Lutheran Confessions and God’s mission

VII. Lutheran Churches at the Crossroads

- A. Post-Christendom is a world between two worlds
- B. Note the differences

VIII. Christ in Charge

- A. Who’s in charge of the ministry of the Gospel in this world?
- B. Which road do we choose?
- C. Christ in charge with His first disciples
- D. Christ in charge with us, His 21st century disciples

You Matter. You've Always Mattered. And Jesus is the Proof. Re-Igniting a Culture of Worth

Mrs. Heather L. Ruesch

Tongue & Testimony: Our two greatest earthly resources.

Encouraging Context & Critical Thinking

Our views about sex and relationships have the power to affect our entire well-being. Why?

Components of our physiological make-up:

Where is your focus? What is the "blue dot" that is filtering the way you see and approach your physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual body? Is this affecting the way you also see and approach God and His role in your life?

Modern Propaganda _____ complicated issues or ideology for popular consumption, is always _____ and is geared to achieving a particular end. Propaganda generally employs _____, whether in _____, _____, or _____ forms, and plays upon and channels _____ toward a desired goal.

"The real danger of propaganda lies when competing voices are silenced—and unchecked, propaganda can have negative consequences." - United States Holocaust Museum


What are the lies of the culture that are destroying the Church today?

"It's just _____."

"It's just a _____."

"It's just a _____ _____."

Satan uses sexual propaganda to simplify what God has placed tremendous value on: His created order of family. Marriage is a microcosm of our relationship with Jesus Christ. Distorting sexuality adversely affects not just the individual's approach to family but the entire Christian Church.



Because Satan wants to twist and distort Christ's relationship with me, he will attack my sexuality.

Because Satan wants to mock Christ's relationship with me, he will attack my identity.

Because Satan wants to destroy Christ's relationship with me, he will attack my value.

**Because I am a child of the REAL. PRESENT. GOD,
I know that my identity is found in Christ alone.
What He did for me shows me the value of my life and the
power of my sexuality.**

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What's the Solution?

As LCMS Lutherans, we have the remedy. What is it?

Where do we receive It?

What comes from receiving It?

How can we bring others to It?

Together, we can re-ignite a legacy of worth in our families, our communities, and anywhere God places “neighbors” in our path.

In this order:

- *“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength”* (The Great Commandment, Mark 12:30).
 - o How do we do this? By receiving Him. In our Baptism, in the hearing of the Word, the eating and drinking of His Body and Blood, and in the forgiveness of our sins. Over and over and over. *All you need to get through this life comes from literally receiving Jesus Christ, given for you.*
- *“Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these”* (The Great Commandment, Mark 12:31).
 - o Make interpersonal relationships your priority. NOT changing other people’s behaviors. Share your stories and be available to listen to the stories of others. Seek to look beyond the behavior and into the experiences that have led us all to where we are today. Every one of us is God’s most priceless possession. When we live by this, it changes the way we see and approach ourselves—physically, mentally, emotionally, socially, and spiritually—and everyone else around us.
 - o What comes from receiving Christ over and over again? Fruit. The Holy Spirit, who comes from receiving the real and present Jesus, equips us with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. For our own healing and the healing of others by means of communion (relationship) with one another.

www.heatherruesch.com or hlruesch@gmail.com for follow-up questions or inquiries.

SAVE THE DATE

Best Practices Heartland

September 23–25, 2020 | Frankenmuth, Mich.

Lutheran Adult Gathering

October 9–11, 2020 | Mackinac Island, Mich.



Session 3 Notes

Moving From Dissatisfaction to Holy Discontent

Rev. R. Gabe Kasper

I) The problem(s) and possibility of our age

II) The problem(s) of dissatisfaction

III) The hope of holy discontent

- Conversation (Greek, ὁμιλέω, homiléo; Luke 24:14, 15; Acts 20:11; 24:26)
- Visual
- Story/Metaphor
- Heart
- Relationship
- Community Speak
- Breaking Open Biblical/Cultural Metaphors: Bound, Burdened, Broken
- Incarnation/Embodiment

4. Implications for Our Witness

Join a Ministry

The Michigan District welcomes volunteers on a regular basis at several ministries around the state. Take a look at our volunteer opportunities, complete an interest form online, and you will be contacted by someone from that ministry!



MEALS



PRE-NATAL CLINIC



TUTORING

Make a difference in another's life today!

michigandistrict.org/joinaministry

Save the Date
District All-Women's Retreat

*You Can't Pour from
an Empty Cup*

August 15, 2020

St. Lorenz Worship and Event Center
Frankenmuth, Mich.

Faith Family Reunion

Faith Family Reunion supports struggling families with loved ones who have left the faith.

We do this through:

- Seminars & Retreats
- Congregation & Small Group Bible Study Curriculum
- Online Resources

Visit with Dawn Mueller in the Sanctuary Lobby today to sign up to win a Small Group Curriculum!

faithfamilyreunion.com





Lutherans! Let's Love on Detroit!

June 21-27, 2020 | Camp Restore Detroit

Many volunteers are needed! Sign up today!

michigandistrict.org/camprestore

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FOR EFFECTIVE GOSPEL MINISTRY

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Michigan District blogs support the District's critical targets: Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Workers. The blog can be easily shared through social networks and email. We are always looking for authors; to submit your article visit michigandistrict.org/storybucket.

The Michigan In Touch supplement to The Lutheran Witness is the printed version of the blog. It also contains news and events. Discount subscriptions are available. For more information, visit michigandistrict.org/lutheranwitness.



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Support Michigan District ministries such as this conference. Contact:
Ray Zavada, Assistant to the President - Development; 734.904.2773



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