

2017 EASTERN DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKER CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS

GIVING GOD OUR BEST – Mark Schoepp

We are all called to serve! And we want to do it to the best of our abilities. But can we really do that if we don't take care of ourselves?

In our sessions, we'll explore the scriptural call to care for our bodies, but mostly we'll explore what current science tells us about how we are put together and how three simple things can help us "Give God Our Best". Simple – not necessarily easy!



Mark Schoepp served the church as a Director of Christian Education for more than 30 years in four congregations. Mark and his wife, Becky, also toured for 20 years as Fitz Family Ministries, a unique family ministry and entertainment/juggling troupe. For the past six years, he worked for Wheat Ridge Ministries as full time Director of Congregation Engagement. Mark now works freelance under the theme: "Realign to the Design - Healthy Leaders, Healthy Congregations, Healthy Communities" with an emphasis on church worker/church leader health, through gentle support groups and stronger nutrition.

THE MARTYRDOM THAT LUTHER FACED – Rev. Dr. Paul Maier

Many hazards confronted Luther and a genuine reformation effort. Some dangers included protesters murdered trying to cleanse the church. Luther himself barely escaped several plots against his life. How could Luther succeed when other prior reformers had failed?



Dr. Paul L. Maier is the Russell H. Seibert Professor of Ancient History at Western Michigan University and a much-published author of both scholarly and popular works. His novels include *Pontius Pilate*, *The Flames of Rome*, *A Skeleton in God's Closet*, *More than a Skeleton*, *The Constantine Codex*, *In the Fullness of Time*, *Josephus: The Essential Works*, and *Eusebius: The Church History*. More than five million of Maier's books are now in print in twenty languages, as well as over 250 scholarly articles and reviews in professional journals.

Dr. Maier lectures widely, appears frequently on national radio, television and newspaper interviews, and has received numerous awards. He has also penned seven children's books and hosted six video seminars dealing with Jesus, St. Paul, the early church and current Christianity.

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thursday, November 9th – 10:30 to 11:30 am

1A. Lutheran Schools: From Transactional to Transformational

Is your school your mission, or is it a vehicle to make disciples? Learn how a transformational school teaches, preaches and serves its students, families and congregations; and why it is the changing face of Lutheran education today. *Kathy Fretthold will be leading this workshop.*

1B. Teaching Creation Science in Middle School

Teaching creation science is absolutely essential in our current culture! Our students are bombarded with materialistic and evolutionary thinking. Ideas will be shared on curriculums, resources and activities, as well as a brief outline of the main points of creation science.

1C. The Faith Sharing Compass - “Navigating Conversations His Way”

Are you looking for a looking for a **Simple, Relational & Biblical** framework for learning to share the Gospel and equipping others? If so, come and experience the Faith Sharing Compass. This **highly practical session** will help you recognize and navigate the unique crossroads within faith-sharing conversations and journeys. **You will receive** a complimentary LHM flash drive with training videos, worksheets, graphics files and resources for congregational use. *Bruce Sutherland of Lutheran Hour Ministries will be leading this workshop.*

1D. Health Insurance – Now What?

In the never-ending world of health insurance changes, what should we anticipate happening next? How can we plan for what’s coming? How should we respond to what’s already happened? *Our Concordia Health Plans representative will be hosting this workshop* to give information and to answer questions that pertain to all of us.

1E. Connection, Community and the Church

Email...texting...social media...mass communication. More and more we find ourselves in a digital age of conversation, which is wonderful for efficient communication, but not necessarily for effective relationship building. Today, the Church has an ever-increasing opportunity to fill the void of face-to-face, one-on-one, personal community in the lives of others, especially in the younger generations. The face-to-face, one-on-one encouraging conversation you have with a student might be the only he/she has to hold on to. In “Connection, Communion and the Church”, *Nate Hartke* will help us take a look at the opportunities and challenges we now find in the digital age in which we now are living.

Thursday, November 9th – 1:45 to 2:45 pm

2A. Ministering to the Family through the Student

Can the impact of your school reach beyond just the student to their family as well? We will explore some simple and practical ways to bring the love of Jesus to the whole family as you disciple children in your Lutheran School. *Ann & Allen Werk will be the presenters.*

2B. Physical Education and Cafeteria Driving Academic Excellence

Mark Schoepp will help us as we explore in much more depth the implications exercise, diet and play have on a school, at every age level. Do you want to differentiate your school from the pack? And at the same time produce students who are better prepared for a demanding life as a

disciple in a challenging world? Exercise, diet and play are key factors we often ignore. You can significantly and measurably boost academic success (for every age and every achievement level) and mitigate disruptive behavior by paying attention to how our bodies work. We'll show real life examples, and explore your questions as well, to help you stand out from the crowd, but more importantly "Give God our Best".

2C. Reaching Out to the Unchurched in the Digital World – THRED.org

To fuel a movement for shaping the online narrative to share Jesus with the unchurched, Lutheran Hour Ministries launched a mission field in the digital realm. As an eco-system of material that provides opportunities for authentic, honest and respectful conversations about life, faith, Jesus and Christianity, we hope to engage with non-churched Gen-Xers and older Millennials in a genuine dialogue about the words and message of Jesus, and the impact of Christian belief systems in contemporary culture. Learn about THRED.org and the results we've seen since the February launch.

2D. Enhancing Your Creativity

Did you know that there are things you can do to enhance your creativity? *Jim Brese* will be leading this workshop helping participants learn what to do so that we can be more creative. Whether you're preaching or teaching, you don't want just to be in the "same old rut." Learn how to break out and get some fresh ideas – by enhancing your own creativity!

2E. Can You Afford to Retire?

As you look toward that day when you no longer are going to be working fulltime and receiving a paycheck, will you be able to survive financially? This workshop, *hosted by Concordia Retirement Plans*, will focus on what you can and should be doing NOW to prepare for that next phase of life. Concordia Retirement Plans is here to assist you and to give you the tools to succeed.

Friday, November 10th – 9:45 to 10:45 am

3A. Children in Liturgical Worship? You Bet!

Learn how a children's choir can participate in and lead the congregation in parts of the Lutheran liturgy and hymns. Members of the Holy Ghost Kinderchor will serve as a demonstration choir for psalm refrains, the Alleluia verse, hymn stanzas etc. *This workshop will be led by David Werth and Melissa Forsey.*

3B. Creative Funding Strategies for Churches and Schools

Most non-profits, including Lutheran congregations and schools, struggle from time to time with having adequate financial resources to achieve all that they want to do. *Pastor Kirk Duecker* of Hope Lutheran Church, Rochester, will lead this workshop to help participants gain some new creative strategies for overcoming this perennial problem.

3C. Educational Roundtables

This will be a designated time to meet with fellow educators at similar grade levels to discuss academics, special needs, best practices, etc. Table facilitators will record and share your ideas and insights.

3D. End of Life Issues: Finding Our Way Through a Spiritual, Ethical and Emotional Maze.

When the end of life draws near, those who serve the church are often found in the middle of very complex and often technical questions that easily cross between medicine and faith. *Pastor Matt Barry* will lead us to see how we in the church can speak in these critical moments with confidence and love.