



Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conference

2020 Vision: Focus on the Ministry

Sheraton Hotel

West Des Moines, Iowa

October 21-22, 2021

Our conference theme verse, Hebrews 12:2 reminds us where our strength and courage comes from in serving Him: *"Come let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

W*elcome!* During the last two years, we, as Lutheran educators, certainly were faced with more changes and challenges in our ministry than we ever could have imagined. As Hebrews 11 reminds us, "we are not the first faithful witnesses to encounter change and challenge." From creation to the time of the prophets, God's faithful people met obstacles they could not have foreseen as well. Like them, we step forward in faith, knowing who we serve and who walks with us. Our conference theme verse, Hebrews 12:2 reminds us where our strength and courage comes from in serving Him: "*Come let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*" As we grow in faith, by Word and sacrament, we are constantly being led to keep our focus on Jesus and the salvation He won for us on the cross. This leads us to grow in our ministry as well. Our Savior knows our needs and provides for us. So welcome to the Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conference, where this year we gather around the words of our theme, **2020 Vision: Focus on the Ministry**. May the presenters, the Bible study, the worship, and the time together serve to sharpen your focus on Jesus and inspire you to grow in your ministry. To God be the Glory!

by Pam Williamson, Chairperson of Conference Planning Committee

2021 Conference Planning Committee

Sue Barlow of Mt Olive, Des Moines, Conference Planning Committee Secretary

Lois Nord of Trinity, Cedar Rapids

Frank Parris of Central, Newhall

Sarah Popp of Iowa Great Lakes, Spencer

Cathy Sprengeler of Trinity, Boone

Pam Williamson of Central, Newhall, Conference Planning Committee Chairperson

Jan Doellinger, Assistant to the President - Schools, Iowa District East

Rhonda Mohr, Assistant to the President for Education, Youth, & Family Life, Iowa District West

THANK YOU!

We thank God for blessing this year's conference with these supporters:

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Sheraton West Des Moines

Presenters

Vendors

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Joel D. Biermann is the Waldemar A. and June Schuette Professor of Systematic Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

A faculty member since 2002, Biermann teaches doctrinal theology with a special interest and emphasis centered on ethics and the correct role of the Law in the life of the believer. He also is the faculty marshal.

A pastor's son, Biermann was raised in parishes in Nebraska and Michigan. After graduating from Concordia College in Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1983, he enrolled at Concordia Seminary and finished his Master of Divinity in 1987.

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji, Minnesota, and then St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Holt, Michigan, he served as a parish pastor for 11 years.

Biermann returned to Concordia Seminary in 1998 as a graduate student. He completed his Ph.D. in 2002 with a dissertation entitled, "Virtue Ethics and the Place of Character Formation in Lutheran Theology."

Outside of his Seminary responsibilities, Biermann serves local congregations as invited and has helped produce material for congregational small group Bible studies (Help for the Hurried Life, Questions About). He also has worked on similar study material through Lutheran Hour Ministries (Who Am I, What Am I Doing Here?, Fatherhood, We the People, A Man Named Martin) and provided discussion questions and answers for a series of men's Bible study books through Concordia Publishing House (Blessed is the Man).

He has authored three books: *Courageous Fathers of the Bible* (Concordia Publishing House, 2011); *A Case for Character* (Fortress, 2014); and *Wholly Citizens* (Fortress, 2017). He also has written a

Lenten/Easter sermon and worship series, Restored in Christ, published by Creative Communications for The Parish in 2014.

Biermann is a frequent speaker at district and congregational gatherings and conferences, where he covers a variety of topics especially those relating to issues of discipleship, Christian formation, vocation, and church and state issues.

Biermann and his wife, Jeannalee, have three adult children; Jasmine and Justine, both Master of Arts graduates of Concordia Seminary, and Jess, a current Seminary student; and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Joel Biermann

Keynote: 2020 Vision on the Ministry

Keynote 1: Thursday 9:45 am

What one sees depends almost entirely upon what one believes. Learning to see rightly the world and the Christian's work in that world must begin, then, with rightly understanding both the world and ourselves in relation to it. This task is accomplished by hearing again God's story of everything and learning to embrace the place we have within that story.

Keynote 2: Thursday 4:15 pm

Maintaining a clear vision of the race that is set before the Christian is not easy—especially when that vision is deliberately obscured by a host of forces set against God's story. While the threats to keeping a clear vision cannot be eliminated, recognizing them is a significant step in learning to meet and overcome what threatens to derail our work in the world.

Keynote 3: Friday 8:30 am

The joy set before Jesus was the redemption and restoration of God's creation. That work has been accomplished. The race set before us still waits to be run, and the course is long and often difficult. But, we run in the light of what Jesus has already done and so we run with joy as we urge one another on toward the goal.



Worship and Devotional Leader

Rev. Brent Hartwig – Our Redeemer, Iowa City, Iowa

Pastor Brent Hartwig began his ministry at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in June of 2008. He completed his vicarage assignment here, and was ordained June 21, 2009.

He has been married over 26 years and is blessed with five children. Pastor Hartwig was born, raised, and married in Pekin, Illinois.

After graduating from Illinois State University in 1993, he worked at Walt Disney World for a dozen years. Now, he is the Senior Pastor at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Iowa City, Iowa. In his career, he has gone from selling the theme park gates to selling the pearly gates.



Dinner Speaker

Rev. B. Keith Haney, Iowa District West Fort Dodge Iowa

An ordained pastor for 27 years, Rev. B. Keith Haney, Assistant to the President for Missions, Human Care, and Stewardship, has served multi-ethnic urban congregations. He started to write a blog to encourage believers in their faith journey and non-believers to explore difficult faith issues. The blog has over 5,000 faithful followers, over 1,500 of those are Millennials.

Pastor Haney's role in Iowa District West is to assist congregations with strategic planning, visioning, outreach to the community, cultivate a culture of generosity, and foster a climate of human care that connects faith to crisis situations. He is married to Miriam (Bickel) Haney and they have six children, Mitchell (27), Todd (25), Sharon (23), Jonathan (19), SaraGrace (14) and Zane (8). They have two grandchildren.

IOWA LUTHERAN *TEACHERS* CONFERENCE

Sheraton Hotel – West Des Moines, Iowa

October 21 & 22, 2021

AGENDA

DEVOTION AND WORSHIP LEADER

Rev. Brent Hartwig

Our Redeemer, Iowa City

SPEAKER AT DINNER

Rev. Keith Haney

Iowa District West

Thursday, October 21

- 9:00 Arrival
- 9:30 Opening Devotion – Rev. Brent Hartwig
- 9:45 Keynote 1 – Dr. Joel Biermann
- 11:00 Sectional 1
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 District Meetings
- 1:30 Sectional 2
- 2:30 Break, Snack
- 3:00 Sectional 3
- 4:15 Keynote 2 – Dr. Joel Biermann
- 4:45 Recognition, Years of Service
Presentation
- 5:00 Dinner
- 5:30 Speaker - Rev. Keith Haney
- 6:00 Send Off

Friday, October 22

- 8:15 Opening Devotion – Rev. Brent Hartwig
- 8:30 Keynote 3 – Dr. Joel Biermann
- 9:45 Sectional 4 – Servant Event
- 11:00 Closing Worship – Rev. Brent Hartwig

Name and City of School

**IOWA LUTHERAN TEACHERS CONFERENCE
REGISTRATION FORM**

October 21-22, 2021

Sheraton Hotel, 1800 50th Street, West Des Moines

MARK **Y/N** ATTENDING DINNER

NAME OF ATTENDEE (S) (INFO FOR NAME TAGS)	Y N	Teacher Email	#1	#2	#3
1.					
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Reserve your hotel. Register for Conference. Both registrations due by **September 24**, 2021.

Total School Staff Attending _____ X \$120 registration fee = Total Amount \$ _____

Retired/Emeritus Staff Attending _____ x \$60 registration both days _____

Freestanding Preschools staff _____ x \$75 Thursday/ _____ x \$50 Friday _____

Register online: at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IDW2021Teachers>

Make check payable to: **IOWA LUTHERAN TEACHERS CONFERENCE** and

Mail to: Iowa District West, 409 Kenyon Road, Suite B, Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Registration Deadline: September 24, 2021

Use the above worksheet to gather the information to complete "online registration."

HOTEL Reservations – Conference is held at the Sheraton Hotel, 1800 50th Street in West Des Moines.

Make your staff room reservations by calling the Sheraton Hotel at 515-223-1800 by **September 24, 2021**. Ask for the "Iowa Lutheran Teachers Conference" block of rooms. The cost is \$109 per night plus tax.

SECTIONAL DESCRIPTIONS

SECTIONAL #1 AT 11:00 AM

#1-01 RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF TEACHERS ADMIN. ALL
Dr. Cari Chittick, Concordia Irvine

Recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers is more important today than ever. With a national teacher shortage, it is essential for Lutheran schools to attract stellar teachers, while keeping them long-term. Discuss foundational principles to recruit and retain teachers in your church and school.

#1-02 DYSLEXIA SIMULATION ALL
Amy Dahlke

Dyslexia is the most common learning disability, impacting between 5-17% of the population. Dyslexia impacts student learning in every subject and can create difficulties with social-emotional growth. It can make school a very frustrating place to be. It is our hope that school is a joy for students, but for some children, it can be a cross to endure. This sectional allows you to participate in activities that simulate the experience of a student with dyslexia in the classroom. It will help you understand what it feels like to be a learner that struggles in the classroom. It is helpful for teachers and administrators of ALL ages.

#1-03 HOSPITALITY: DISNEY, THE CHURCH, AND YOU ALL
Rev. Brent Hartwig

A qualification of a pastor is hospitality (1 Tim 3:2), and by extension, the church is to be hospitable. Walt Disney World is known far and wide for their hospitality. With approximately 50 million visitors a year, how do they do it? Join Pastor Brent Hartwig in understanding the insights that the church and your school can gain from Disney hospitality. Being a lifelong Disneyphile, Pastor Hartwig has some stories to tell. So let us "practice hospitality" (Rom 12:13).

#1-04 DESIGNING DYNAMIC SCHOOL CHAPELS K-8 GRADES
Richard Schumacher

Learn tips that will help make your school chapel messages more impactful. Attendees will explore a process for developing unique chapel messages, and through a collaborative exercise leave with several ideas for chapels that can be used at your school.

#1-05 SOCIAL MEDIA Upper Elementary / Middle School
Kari Smith, Lutheran Family Service

Most of our students are well versed in social media but do not see the dangers. We will explore the most popular social media apps our students are using. We know that we can never unexposed them to what they are viewing so how can we educate them and their parents. We also know that a lot of drama is starting on their phones and we will address what we can do in the classroom.

#1-06 NASA MOTIF 5-8 GRADES
Zach Stier

Get creative with space! Join Mr. Z and learn how art can help students explore the Moon and Mars and why creativity is important for NASA missions. This session will include hands-on art activities including the use of virtual reality to see the Moon and Mars up close.

SECTIONAL #2 AT 1:30 PM

#2-01: BRIDGING THE COMMUNICATION GAP: THE POSITIVE COMMUNICATION THEORY ADMINISTRATORS
Richard Schumacher

One of the great mysteries of education is how parents and teachers can have the same goals when it comes to student success while at the same time struggle when it comes to working toward that goal. Discover research-based methods which have improved home-school communication in LCMS schools across the country.

#2-02 FORMING FOLLOWERS: THE POWER OF ROUTINE, THE IMPACT OF EXAMPLE
Dr. Rev. Joel Biermann **ALL**

Like the family, the church should have two complementary goals for children: that they know and follow Christ, and that they use the gifts they have been given for the good of those around them. Both of these goals are best accomplished not by the right curriculum but by the right teacher. This sectional will offer concrete ideas to increase your effectiveness in being the kind of teacher that shapes children for a lifetime of faithful following and serving.

#2-03 TEACHING AND LEADING WITH GRACE **ALL**
Dr. Laura LaSalle, Concordia Chicago

This session will explore ways in which classrooms can effectively support and address the complex challenges of meeting the diverse learning needs and levels of all students and examine principles of responsive classroom teaching. Participants will reflect on personal philosophies of teaching and learning and learn research-based practices to promote a positive learning environment and a community of learners committed to growth.

#2-04 DIFFERENTIATION: SUPPORTING ALL LEARNERS **K-8**
Dr. Cari Chittick, Concordia Irvine

Participate in conversations to enhance learning environments to engage students; equipping them to use essential knowledge and skills to achieve their potential by adjusting instruction and assessment. Learn to help your class reach their potential.

#2-05 VISION YOUR BENEFITS PORTAL **ALL**
Concordia Plan Services

The future is here and so is your Personal Portal with Concordia Plan Services. **Bring your device** and quickly learn how to navigate your benefit plans and keep track of the valuable benefits your ministry provides for you. You will quickly learn how to manage each of your benefits, check for proper family enrollment and beneficiaries. Your Portal has been available a couple years and will not be going away. It is the way now and will be in the future....so grab hold and get on board!

#2-06 BRINGING INNOVATION TO THE LUTHERAN CLASSROOM **ALL**
Dr. Samantha Lazich & Erika Jackson, Concordia Chicago

This session will explore success skills students of the 21st century need for today's world. Participants will explore different frameworks, philosophies and methods for bringing innovation into the Lutheran classroom.

Romona Satre

Makerspace is a movement that started on the coast and made its way into Iowa – formal and informal learning situations – within the last 6 years. Makerspaces are high tech/low tech learning situations that allow students to develop and use their creativity. It's an environment where we learn to fail. My students watch me fail during Makerspace. They observe the teacher not knowing the answer to a question! It's how everyone learns! Everyone is creative, but like any skill creativity has to be brought into the classroom and nurtured if it is to thrive in our students. Creativity and science has historically travelled hand in hand with discoveries and inventions. Let's continue this partnership!

DINNER SPEAKER – KEITH HANEY

Creating a culturally diverse environment. With all the events of the last few years, it has made us more aware of the diversity around us. How can we as educators create learning environments that are inclusive and honors diversity?

PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

DR. CARI CHITTICK

Dr. Cari Chittick, an Iowa native, is the Director of Lutheran Teaching Programs, Colloquy, and Placement and Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University, Irvine (CUI). Prior to CUI, Dr. Chittick was the Director of Special Education at Concordia University Texas. She is passionate about ministry, Lutheran schools, and supporting learners of all abilities.

AMY DAHLKE

Amy Dahlke obtained her bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education from the University of Northern Iowa and her master's degree in Education from Drake University. She holds a Master Educator License and a K-8 Reading Endorsement. Amy has taught at both the elementary and preschool levels. As a former Decoding Dyslexia Iowa board member, she played an active role in the group's legislative and policy efforts. She has also been a presenter at the IDW Early Childhood Conference and the Decoding Dyslexia Iowa Conference. Amy currently teaches graduate-level professional development on dyslexia. Her interest in teaching others about dyslexia is very personal, as she is both the wife and mother of someone with dyslexia.

TONI LARSON

Toni Larson, LISW, Director of Counseling, LFS has been a therapist for nearly 40 years, working with all ages in many different settings, including school social work. She has been with Lutheran Family Service for 12 years.

DR LAURA LASALLE

Dr. Laura LaSalle, an Assistant Professor Program Leader at Concordia Chicago, specifically program Leader for a Master's Degree in Differentiated Instruction and Gifted Education. Dr. LaSalle was a special education teacher, as well as an elementary and middle school principal. Her degrees include an EdD in Ed Administration, and Med in Ed Leadership, and BS in Elem. & Spec. Ed.

DR SAMANTHA LAZICH

Dr. Samantha Lazich is a faculty member in the College of Graduate Studies at Concordia University Chicago as an assistant professor in the Department of Literacy and Early Childhood Education. She teaches several graduate courses in literacy education. Dr. Lazich works closely with Concordia University partner, Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation, in their work with Lutheran schools.

RAMONA JOLLIFFE SATRE

Ramona Jolliffe Satre earned a BS in agronomy and a MS in education from Iowa State University. She has spent 37 years in Iowa public schools teaching middle and high school science, elementary and middle school special education, playing a role in ISU student teacher education, and leading a Heartland AEA staff development class. With a love for informal science education, Ramona has led a local 4-H aerospace club, and coached Lego robotic teams to state competitions. Ramona earned the Iowa Excellence in Science Teaching Award in 2017 for middle school/junior high science. She is also a member of the National Science Teacher Association, contributing as a reviewer of NSTA Recommends. In 2019, her sixth grade science classes were featured in NSTA Reports, NSTA newspaper, for the use of podcasting in the classroom. Philosophy: "Science is bigger than a classroom...it's math, technology, engineering and art...it's indoors and outdoors...it's citizenship and careers." With 37 years of teaching science at the K-12, my passion for science continues to lead me to seek new ways to integrate this subject through the school day.

RICHARD SCHUMACHER

Richard Schumacher has served as the Director of Programs and Services at LSEM since 2014. Prior to coming to LSEM, he served as a middle school teacher, athletic director, youth director, principal, and member of the School of Education faculty at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. Richard is a two-time graduate of CUAA, having earned his bachelor's degree (1994) as well as a master's degree in Educational Leadership (2008). Richard and his wife Linda live in Garden City, Michigan with their two children Wesley and Emma. In his spare time, he enjoys watching basketball, fishing, writing devotionals, and gardening with his wife.

KARI SMITH

Kari Smith graduated from Concordia Nebraska and started as a 3rd grade teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Davenport. She is currently serving as a "Whose UR" leader for Lutheran Family Service and is an adoption caseworker and pregnancy counselor.

ZACHARY STIER

Zachary Stier (Mr. Z) has been a children's librarian for over ten years and currently works at Ericson Public Library in Boone, Iowa. Since starting, Stier has redesigned the children's department to enhance opportunities for families to engage with each other. Stier is an active grant writer and has helped the library receive funding for a new LEGO space, STEAM programming including video game design class and virtual reality, a new coding program through Prenda, and early childhood initiative program that uses Facebook Live to enhance engagement opportunities to families, and helped to become 1 out of 75 libraries in the nation to be a NASA@ My Library site. Stier believes that storytelling provides power to elevate a learning experience. Stier holds a Master's in Education from Concordia University Portland and a Master's in Library and Information Science from Drexel University. He completed post-graduate work at Erickson Institute and Library Leadership in a Digital Age certificate from Harvard University. He is currently a doctoral candidate at Concordia University Portland. His research interests include children's librarian leadership, family engagement systems, creative learning, play based learning, immersive learning, and early literacy development. He is an active member on local, state, and national boards and committees including serving as a director for the Iowa Library Association Executive Board and Community Contributor for MIT's Public Library Innovation Exchange. In 2014, Stier founded "Mr. Z and Company" with a mission to harness the power of storytelling by engaging all learners to make learning fun.

ERIKA JACKSON

Academic Director, Chicagoland Lutheran Educational Foundation

OFFERING RECIPIENT

LEAD A CHILD

Lead a Child is an independent Lutheran Mission Agency, dedicated to sharing the news of Jesus' love with children throughout Christian education in countries where many children are unable to attend school. Their team of educators, pastors and lay people respond to project requests from pastors and missionaries serving abroad with educational scholarships for students, teacher training, curriculum resources and promotional materials at no cost to these ministries. All students hear of the love of Jesus for ALL people and find hope for the future and the certainty of salvation. Lead a Child projects can be found in the Middle East, Asia, West Africa, Central America, Guatemala and South America.