

# SPECIAL BREAKOUT SESSIONS

*In partnership with the Northern Ozarks chapter of Lutherans for Life  
the conference is pleased to offer these special breakout sessions.*

## **Rev. Michael Salemink**

### **Executive Director of Mission and Ministry, Lutherans for Life**



Pastor Salemink has served Lutherans For Life since 2015. His prior parish experience includes a decade at a large congregation with a vibrant day school and lots of catechism classes, chapel services, and Bible studies. A father of three boys, fan of sports and music, and avid runner, he writes regularly and speaks nationwide - including youth gatherings and teachers' conferences - equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.

## **Special Session #1**

### ***Still Here: Caring for a Post-Abortive Woman***

#### **Session 1 – Trinity Sanctuary**

Christian passion for respecting and protecting unborn lives sometimes overlooks the other victims of abortion. God's grace extends also and especially to those grieving their own involvement in such a sin. Mother and father are still here, even if baby isn't anymore. How can we let them know we're still here, with them in their hurting, and that our Father and Savior is still here, for them and their healing? We'll investigate six needs these neighbors of ours have and outline six gifts of the Gospel we can offer them from Jesus Christ.

## **Special Session #2**

### ***This Is My Body: Christian Compassion and Courage Concerning Sexuality and Gender***

#### **Sessions 2 – Trinity Sanctuary**

Our culture is wrestling with questions about sexuality and gender. Many of our communities, congregations, and families are struggling with these issues as well. How do our bodies reflect and confess the grace of God? For what privileges and responsibilities has He made us male and female? How does He safeguard these gifts? How can we incorporate and care for individuals experiencing suffering and temptation related to sexuality and gender? How may we speak truth and show love in such sensitive situations? We will be motivated by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will examine instruction from Scripture, engage observations of science, and explore opportunities for servanthood.

# BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

*Each breakout session will be offered twice, and will take place in the classrooms at the Lutheran School. A schedule of sessions, with their locations, begins on page 12.*

## **Breakout #1: Rev. Steve Andrews, Jr.** ***A Christian Use of the Internet and Social Media***

**Session 1 – Rm. #4; Session 2 – Rm. #4**

Many are familiar with the 3 T's of Stewardship: time, talent, and treasure. Perhaps at this point, it's worth adding a 4th T to the mix: technology. We live in a time where we have computers in our pockets and everyone seems to be glued to their screens all day, every day. That's definitely not how the Lord made us, but must Christians reject these things altogether? Or might we be able to use technology to serve our neighbor? We'll begin by looking at technology as a whole, and then zoom in on the subjects of the internet and social media. Pastor Andrews is the Associate Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Lee's Summit, where he and his wife Hannah are parents to four adorable children: Talia (7), Eliana (5), Eden (3), & Chara (1).



## **Breakout #2: Rev. Dr. Tyler Arnold** ***Parenting with Prodigal Children***

**Session 1 – Rm. #1; Session 2 – Rm. #1**

Join Pastor Arnold as he leads a study on Luke 15, especially the parable of the prodigal son. Participants will examine the son and his misdeeds; take a look at the father and his reaction; and consider the son who was lost, but ends up within the father's household. Pastor Arnold is Senior Pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Platte Woods, MO, where he and his wife Andrea live. They have two sons. He earned the Doctor of Ministry degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, and serves on the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO.



## **Breakout #3: Rev. Sean Kilgo** ***Talking the Talk: Lips that Honor Marriage...and Our Spouse***

**Session 2 – Rm. Sanctuary; Session 3 – Rm #1**

"Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me." While this might generally be true, what we say, especially about others, confesses something to the world, to the person, and to our own conscience. The Lord gives the 8th commandment for this reason, that we would guard the good name of our neighbor, and this is particularly important with our closest neighbor, our spouse. In this breakout we will consider how we should and shouldn't talk about spouse and marriage for the sake of our spouse, our conscience, and the world around us. Pastor Kilgo serves Redeemer Lutheran Church in Lawrence, KS. He has been married to his beloved bride, Michelle, for 15 years. They are blessed with two wonder children: Isaiah and Phoebe.



**Breakout #4: Rev. Andrew Preus**  
***Equity & Patriarchy: Taking These Terms Back***

Session 1 – Rm. #2; Session 2 – Rm. #2

We are dislocated people. Stuck between the “very good” of the original Eden and the perfection of the New Creation, we’ve become afraid of a little dirt, scrubbing grit from under our fingernails and blasting germs away with shots of Purell. How does getting our hands a little bit dirty confess both the goodness of creation and our hope for a real, bodily resurrection? What does our hope for resurrection mean for our every day vocations? Come to this session to find out! Pastor Hemmer is the pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Fairview Heights, IL, and is the author of *Man Up!* He and his wife Laura are blessed with six children.

**Breakout #5: Rev. David P. Ramirez**  
***The Gift of Friendship: Learning from David and Jonathan***

Session 1 – Rm. Sanctuary; Session 3 – Rm #2

As we age it seems that time goes faster and we accomplish less. May we “rest in peace” before we slip away from our families? No way! God promises that the highest quality of life is ours in Christ Jesus. Empty nesting, grand-parenting, and everything else that comes with aging is part of God’s design for us and our families! Pastor Hertwig is enjoying retirement with his lovely wife Jane. Together, the Hertwigs have four adult children.

**Breakout #6: Paul Schulz**  
***The Spiritually Blended Family***

Session 1 – Rm #3; Session 2 – Rm #3

Do you have family members who aren't Lutheran? Do you have family members that aren't even Christian? It's hard thing, but even Jesus warns about this possibility. How can we best "deal with" and most importantly, show love to those we are closest to but do not yet share the Biblical faith with? Pastor Schulz serves a dual parish: Trinity, Mallard, IA and Zion, Ayrshire, IA. He and his wife Clara are blessed with two children, Peter (5) and Sophia (4).



**Breakout #7: Rev. Nathan Sherrill**

***Music: God's Gift for Your Home***

Session 1 – Rm. #5; Session 3 – Rm. #3

Martin Luther is known for insightful and humorous quotations regarding music. While these certainly came from personal experience as a monk, professor and preacher, they also applied to his vocation as father and husband. In this session we will enjoy some good ol' fashion Lutheran singing, take in some classic Luther quotes and recall what a significant gift God has given us in our homes in the form of music that speaks of Him. Pastor Sherrill is Senior Pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, and Executive Director of St. Paul's Music Conservatory. He and his wife Tina make their home in Council Bluffs, IA, and are blessed to be the parents of seven children: Isaac (18), Lydia (17), Jeremiah (15), Naomi (13), Joel (11), Jonathan (9) & Isabella (6)..

