

2021 Men of His Word Session Descriptions & Speaker Biographies

1) Getting the Conversation Started!

David Scharf

It's easy to talk about the weather, sports, etc. But Jesus? In this workshop we will prepare ourselves for approaching people and broaching the subject of Jesus. We will discuss ideas for getting a conversation started with an unchurched person and turning it into a conversation about Jesus. Drinking in God's promises will give us the confidence to start spiritual conversations and keep them going.

Biography: David Scharf served as a parish pastor at Immanuel in Greenville, WI, and as coordinator for the Northern Wisconsin District Evangelism Commission from 2005-2016. He now serves as a Professor of Theology at Martin Luther College. He is a member of the Institute for Worship and Outreach and chairman of the Commission on Congregational Counseling. A graduate of Luther Prep (1996), Martin Luther College (2000), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (2005), Dave and his wife have six children ages 6-17.

2) Science, Scripture and Salvation

Dr Kevin Peil

We are surrounded with criticisms and doubts about what science has to say about many biblical topics of interest. Are we ready to respond? How are we to respond? This presentation will touch on a wide range of topics related to science and the bible and you will leave ready to defend your Christian faith against the onslaught of scientific assaults.

Biography: Dr Kevin Peil is lifelong WELS member and a PhD scientist with a long and successful career in research. Dr Peil has spoken throughout the country over the last 30 years on a wide variety of topics related to science and the Bible.

3) I'm no preacher or teacher. How can I serve, Lord?

Josh Schedler

"I don't have time. I don't know what I'm good at. That's the pastor's job. Who am I? I wasn't trained at the seminary, I could never do that. You don't want me, I don't have anything to offer. I'm too busy. I'm too busy. I'm too busy." Sound familiar?!? Well, these were just a few of my personal thoughts and objections to serving while attempting to balance my marriage, three kiddos and their activities, my hobbies, and a fast-paced career in the NBA, before realizing the many blessings of lay leadership. So, what does God's vision for your future as a lay leader look like?

Biography: Josh has served the current NBA champion Milwaukee Bucks for over 18 years. He began working with Bango, as mascot assistant, ran around the court throwing t-shirts to the crowd with the 'Hoop Troop', helped start the 'Rim Rockers' acrobatic dunk team where he was blessed to perform all across the world, and has now served in premium sales for over 12 years with the task of selling out the suites, lofts, and courtside seats at the Bucks new home at Fiserv Forum, while finding many ways to serve the Lord and others through authentic relationships along the way.

Josh 'married up' to his high school sweetheart, Jamie. With their 3 kiddos: Jackson, Juliana, and Josiah, they have now learned that the Zone D is no joke, but are beyond grateful for the many blessings found in their craziness. When asked what they think daddy is good at, Josh's kiddos replied, "wrestling and making pancakes". There could be worse things... In his other 'free time', Josh has volunteered across town at his alma mater Wisconsin Lutheran College, and at St. Marcus where he has served on the Board of Directors, coached 7th/8th grade hoops, and among other ministries, has led a weekly small group with Jamie for over twelve years.

4) Managing to Be a Dad: Our Stewardship of Christian Fatherhood

Karl Schultz

God has given all Christian fathers the awesome privilege and wonderful responsibility of bringing up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4). How does a man of God manage this area of his life in 2020? How will we continue to raise the children whom our Lord has graciously entrusted to our care? In this session we will (1) study the encouragement and direction that our heavenly Father gives us as fathers, and (2) exchange practical advice about being Christian dads in today's society.

Biography: Karl Schultz married his wife Jill in 1991. The Lord has graciously blessed the Schultzes with eight children, ranging in age from 26-13: Katie, Emma, Grace, Aaron, Luke, Sadie, Joe and Meredith. Since his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1994, Karl has served as the pastor of congregations in Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin. He currently serves First Lutheran Church in Lake Geneva, WI.

5) Resilience: Bend, Don't Break!

David Scharf & Karen Fischer

We know God is in control, but sometimes challenges seem overwhelming. Each of us will have difficulties, but some individuals have a greater propensity to recover. Can we discover what makes that happen, and can we implement these strategies? The answer is yes, and in this workshop, participants will learn the science of resilience and the traits of those who persevere as well as work to identify their individual resilience, strengths and weaknesses. They will develop an improvement plan to work on nine traits and bolster their ability to weather the storms of life while leaning on the promises of their faithful God.

Biography: David Scharf served as a parish pastor at Immanuel in Greenville, WI, and as coordinator for the Northern Wisconsin District Evangelism Commission from 2005-2016. He now serves as a Professor of Theology at Martin Luther College. He is a member of the Institute for Worship and Outreach and chairman of the Commission on Congregational Counseling. A graduate of Luther Prep (1996), Martin Luther College (2000), and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (2005), Dave and his wife have six children ages 6-17.

Biography: Karen Fischer is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Wisconsin and Program Manager for Christian Family Solutions. A graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran College and Concordia University – Wisconsin, she holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and a Master of Science in Education and Professional Counseling Psychology. She also finds it a privilege to serve as an Adjunct Professor of Psychology at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Previously she held several leadership positions in student affairs with Wisconsin Lutheran College as well as progressive roles in bringing intensive outpatient mental health programs to clinic sites for Aurora Psychiatric Hospital in Milwaukee. Karen believes that mental health skills are necessary for all people. Just as physical exercises strengthen the body, mental health exercises strengthen the mind and allow individuals to be the best stewards of their gifts and talents. Her belief and life's work is the integration of the Christian faith as the focus of mental wellness practice so that individuals can better take their thoughts captive and find the peace that passes understanding through the grace of God.

6) Who Am “I”? The Crisis Among Teens Today

Phil Huebner

This session will explore the souls so often lost in the mix and swallowed up by society. They are outwardly brash, bold, tough, and opinionated, but secretly they are dying on the inside. Teens are living in a critical time of world history, a time that is causing a crisis among their generation--a crisis of emotional, psychological, and spiritual health. In this session we will explore shocking statistics and anecdotal stories that will paint the picture of life for teens today. After analyzing the problem(s), we will move forward with clear strategies and solutions for serving teens today. The information for this session comes from careful research and intimate knowledge of teen life over years of ministry.

Biography: Dr. Phil Huebner was assigned to start a new mission church in Palm Coast, FL, in 2007. Over nine years Christ the King Lutheran Church and School was showered with blessings, growing to 300 members and 400 students. In 2016 he accepted a call as campus pastor at Wisconsin Lutheran High School where he now serves. Dr. Huebner holds a Master’s in Divinity and a Master’s in Systematic Theology from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and received his Doctor of Ministry in Mission and Culture from Concordia Theological Seminary in 2019. His thesis was on what to do with children in church. His entire ministry has emphasized outreach, children, teens, and families. Dr. Huebner and his wife Becky have two children, Noah and Gwen. In his free time he loves to travel and read and research more on the topics of families and teens.

7) Stop Living in the 20th Century...

John Parlow

Church members often think they are in churches that understand the current soul landscape, but when you scratch the surface, you see that many are not. The reality is many churches have discipleship and outreach in their rhetoric, but not in their reality. Countless strategic decisions must be made weekly to simultaneously better equip Jesus followers and still reach those within a nine-iron golf shot of your front porch who have no memory of the Gospel. Discover the latest insights for being a 21st century church with 1st century power, including a look at speaking out on the most pressing topics of our day.

Biography: Pastor John Parlow’s philosophy of ministry may be best summed up by the following: “When sharing the Gospel, you always need to be willing to think outside the box, because one day everybody is going to be in one.” Pastor Parlow has served congregations in South Dakota, Wisconsin and Asian Lutheran Seminary in Hong Kong. He is a graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and has continued his education at South Dakota State University, Concordia Theological Seminary and Denver Seminary where he earned his Doctorate. He currently serves as lead pastor at St. Mark Lutheran in De Pere, WI, a multi-site ministry including an 80-child Christian Childcare Center. He and his wife Lydia have three sons. His interests include the martial arts, the outdoors and pistol shooting.

8) Certain Faith in an Uncertain World (Psalm 23)

Jon Enter

It's so easy to feel overwhelmed, vulnerable and alone in this sin broken world. It's exhausting. Yet there is incredible, practical and lasting peace waiting for your soul in the undiscovered word-pictures of Psalm 23. You'll never see this psalm the same again and you'll gain a greater peace in Jesus being your always present, always faithful, always grace-filled Good Shepherd.

Biography: Jon Enter grew up in rural Minnesota and always wanted to be a doctor since he was a little child. While on a youth rally in Colorado, the Lord changed his pathway leading him to work on healing people, instead, using God's grace. Since 2004 he has focused on youth ministries to grow his mission church in West Palm Beach, Florida, which is now self-supporting, and added a second full-time pastor. Three years ago, he moved from the pulpit to the classroom and now teaches senior religion class at Saint Croix Lutheran Academy. He is married to Debbi and is drowning in pink and glitter with their four daughters: Violet, Lydia, Eden and Maggie. He also serves Jesus as a regular speaker on Time of Grace's video daily devotions.