

2024 Conference Sessions

1) Christian Apologetics

Michael Berg

How to defend the Christian faith with gentleness, respect, love, and a little bit of winsomeness.

2) Built to Help Those who Grieve

Kurt Ebert

Everyone faces griefs in their life, some mild and some severe. Many struggle with what to say to those who grieve. This session will help participants understand the heart of the grieving and apply God's comfort in ways that hurting people can appreciate.

3) Toward a Biblical Gender Identification

E Allen Sorum

A biblical perspective on gender identification that is also a clear Christian witness.

4) Built to Serve as God's Manager

Thomas Mielke

We hear the term "stewardship," but often assume it only addresses only our financial offerings. However, God, the Owner of all things, provides us with many gifts that he asks us to manage, including our time and our abilities, as well as our financial blessings. We are tasked with using all of them in service to the Owner, who provides Scriptural guidance in how we are to use those resources. This session will highlight the joyful responsibility we have in managing these resources which have been entrusted to us by our gracious Lord.

5) The Importance of Christian Mentoring

Tad Schubring

Helping people find their identity in Christ through Christian mentoring

6) From Pastor's Kid to Police Officer - Built to Serve as a Public Servant

Jeff Engelbrecht

At some point in their lives, Christians may struggle to see their role as the hands and feet of Jesus. While called workers such as pastors and teachers may have a more clearly defined purpose, it may be more difficult for others to see how their occupations and skills may fit into that role. During this breakout session the presenter, Jeff Engelbrecht, will discuss growing up as a PK (Pastor's kid), how that time influenced his career as a public servant, and how God's plan places you right where HE needs you to be.

7) Built to Serve . . . with a Healthy Habit Foundation

Greg Schmill

Building healthy habits will greatly enhance our own health and our ability to “serve one another humbly in love.” Our habits greatly influence our character, our resilience, and the energy that we bring to our service to others. NOW is the best time to develop a Keystone Habit for lives of service! This “Habits 101” session will provide vital insights on habit formation and lead to each participant identifying and locking in on a Keystone Habit. Ways to grow this Keystone Habit will also be discussed. Let’s work to be “Built to Serve” by building a healthy habit foundation!

8) Biblical Manhood: Built by the Father, Called by Christ

Luke Thompson

Our culture tells us a lot about what it means to be a man, from the woke deconstruction of gender to red-pill reactions. But how does the Bible define manhood, and what practices does the Bible give us for encouraging Biblically manly behavior? Join us as we develop a biblical philosophy of manhood and see how God turns our expectations upside and gives us more than we could ever ask for.

9) Love Your Neighbor

Ryan Kolander

Living in a global society has put unimaginable strain on our concept of "neighbor." You can fly to anyone in the world within hours and connect to anyone's suffering online in a matter of seconds. Our hearts are overwhelmed by the thought of loving our entire metropolitan area, and thus are paralyzed into inaction. Let's scale back today to the person next to you. How can we (and our congregations) meaningfully connect with the people right around us and connect them to Jesus? I hope to share some experiences and principles to help each participant and congregation to better serve their neighbor in any setting.

10) Youth group: do or do not resuscitate

Pastor Clark Schultz

There is no silver bullet when it comes to working with the youth, Pastor Clark will share a few wins from his youth program that may or may not work for your group. The group assembled can share their challenges and together we can ask the question of do we or do we not resuscitate our youth group program.

11) Every Member Evangelism: how to encourage and equip people in the pews to reach the lost

Eric Roecker

More congregational members witnessing to the unchurched means more souls being reached with the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's simple math. Twenty witnesses will reach more than ten. A hundred will reach more than twenty. A thousand will reach more than a hundred. But how do we mobilize the vast army of witnesses sitting in WELS pews each week? More specifically, how can your congregation encourage and equip your members to be ambassadors for Christ? Pastor Eric Roecker, the WELS Director for the Commission on Evangelism, will lead a discussion to help you shape a congregational culture that fosters an evangelistic attitude among your members.

12) Send Us Your Nuns???

Blain Parsons, Scott Krause, Bill Neubauer

Sadly, a growing percentage of our society identifies their religious affiliation as "none" - or "nun". Learn how 3 average laymen from Watertown have built a successful ministry to reach this group and how their original plan is far different from what has developed. We'll review some history of our community outreach, current ministerial concept to implementation, and all of the trials and tribulations in between. A breakdown of a weekly 3-hour session will be reviewed. You'll learn how easily you can start a ministry too!

13) More Than a Movement

Greg Lyon

The LGBTQ movement causes fears for many churches and schools. But while we work to address the movement and safeguard our churches and schools, sometimes we fail to see the souls right in front of us. With Christlike love and truth, we will consider not just the LGBTQ movement but the struggling individuals we walk with every day.

14) Built to Serve as Family Shepherd

Ben Berger

A shepherd cares for his sheep. A Family Shepherd cares for his wife, children and any others under his care. What does that mean? How does that look? What exactly does God expect of a Family Shepherd. Let's discuss the role of husband and father as the head of the household. We'll search for God's expectations in Scripture and then seek his guidance and strength to carry out this original, important role.