

2025 Lutheran Educators Conference

Keynote Session Descriptions

The Sole Goal of Education

Pastor Travis Ferguson - Monday, 11/24 8:30 - 9:15

Ever wonder what we're really doing here? Is our goal simply to churn out college-ready robots? Mathletes? Or maybe just people who can use their turn signals properly in traffic? (Let's be honest, that's a pretty noble goal in itself.)

This keynote explores a different, and perhaps even a little rebellious, idea of what education could be. Forget the textbooks for a moment and let's explore: if there's a "sole" to what we do, what is it, and how does it manifest in the everyday hustle of the classroom? We'll peek into some ancient wisdom (without getting too ancient, we promise) to challenge our assumptions and spark a lively conversation about the deeper impact we're striving for.

Target Audience: ALL

Practical Strategies for Reducing Anxiety and Challenging Behavior in the Classroom

Jessica Minahan - Monday, 11/24 9:30 - 11:30 AM

With up to one in four children struggling with anxiety in this country, overwhelmed adults are in need of a new approach as well as an effective and easy-to-implement toolkit of strategies that work.

Target Audience: ALL

Made to Lead Well...Especially Under Stress!

Dr. Wes Beavis - Tuesday, 11/25 8:30 - 9:15 AM

Description: Many of our schools have mission and vision statements that include aspects of service and active global citizenship. That goal - of helping our students become informed, thoughtful, reflective, and compassionate active global citizens - is so important. Digital storytelling can provide curricular entry points to build our students' awareness, intercultural understanding, and sense of vocation, as well as many opportunities for advocacy and digital citizenship. In this keynote session, we'll explore the "what", "why" and "how" of digital storytelling to inspire you to try this tech-for-good approach when you get back to your school. In addition, digital storytelling offers project-based strategies and innovative assessments, alongside a process-driven approach that is "uncheatable" in this era of accessible AI tools. The icing on the cake is the communication and interview aspect of digital storytelling... get ready to become an engaged and passionate digital storyteller!

Target Audience: ALL

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Breakout Session Descriptions - Monday, 11/24 1:00 - 2:00 PM

101- Increasing Student Engagement (PreK - 5th Grade)- Jessica Minahan

Through the use of case studies, humorous stories, and examples of common challenging situations, participants will learn easy to implement preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety, increasing self-regulation, accurate thinking, and self-monitoring in students. **Target Audience(s): PreK - 5th Grade**

102- Resilient Minds Mental Health Curriculum for Adolescents- Dr. Belinda Karge & Dr. Kara Bratton

This session includes teaching strategies for mental wellness. The presenters are co-authors of the Resilient Minds Mental Health curriculum that was just published through Concordia Publishing House. They will share ideas from the curriculum and provide hands on strategies you can use immediately with adolescents your work with.

Target Audience(s): MS, HS, Admin, Sped, DCE, anyone working with adolescents

103- Building Thinkers: Active Learning in the Mathematics Classroom - Trey Cox & Scott Adamson

Transform your math classroom into a hub of curiosity, collaboration, and deep thinking! This engaging session explores the Building Thinking Classrooms framework and how active learning strategies can ignite student engagement and mathematical reasoning. Discover practical ways to shift the focus from passive learning to problem-solving, perseverance, and rich mathematical discourse. Through hands-on activities and real classroom applications, you'll leave with actionable strategies to foster a dynamic learning environment where all students think, talk, and do math at high levels. Get ready to rethink how you teach and empower your students to become confident, capable mathematical thinkers!

Target Audience(s): MS, HS, Admin, Math Specialist

104- Improving Workplace Culture and Preventing Employee Burnout - Michelle Dwyer

How can school leaders improve workplace culture and prevent employee burnout? This presentation explores the results of a case study conducted in 2024 regarding the impact of emotional intelligence on workplace culture in Christian schools. Study findings show that faculty wellbeing is heavily impacted by the emotional intelligence of their colleagues and school leaders which can be improved through intentional training. Effective communication practices and intentional relationship building are especially important to teacher satisfaction, as well as the ability of leaders to prevent toxic workplace behaviors and provide necessary support for

employee well-being. Leaders will walk away with a better understanding of how to assess employee needs and implement practices to create a positive working environment. This presentation is based on my dissertation work to be defended in April 2025 for the fulfillment of my Doctorate of Educational Leadership. My case study involved five PSD Christian schools.

Target Audience(s): Admin

105- Sick of Leadership Silos - Jon Doyle & Kim Walton

Learn about a model of collaboration and camaraderie that works in our church and school.

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, Admin, Admissions

106- The PSD's AI Pilot Classrooms & Innovation Lab Schools: A Panel Discussion - Dr. Eugene Kim & Eun Chu Kim

This panel presentation is centered on real-life stories: from a high school student sharing how AI has reshaped her motivation and learning, a Lutheran teacher describing how AI tools superpower instruction and deepen student engagement, and K-8 principals revealing their school's strategic plan for AI-integration rooted in Lutheran values. This presentation is grounded in our shared Lutheran identity, equipping schools to reflect God's creativity, wisdom, and purpose in a world being shaped by rapid innovation. Whether you are educator, parent, or administrator, come hear real-life stories that will deepen your understanding of the practical potential of AI in education, inspire you to empower innovation in your schools and classrooms, and challenge you to lead with both courage and wisdom in order to enhance and not replace human connection and Gospel mission in Lutheran schools.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Sped, DCE

107- Supporting Faith Development Through Family Partnerships - Mary Wolfenbarger

The partnership between home and school is vital to the growth and success of every child. Research shows that when families are engaged, children thrive in all areas of development, including cognitive, social, emotional, and spiritual. This session will explore how intentional, Christ-centered collaboration with families can enrich children's faith formation and provide meaningful, lasting learning experiences. Together, we can nurture a strong foundation of faith for every child and family we serve. **Target Audience(s): ECE**

108- Put the Haiku to Work for You - Dr. Lori Doyle

A haiku poem is a short, yet impactful, three-phrase punch of information and can be used as a powerful tool to help students comprehend, summarize, reflect, restate, organize, and hopefully move more of what they are learning into long-term memory. This session will take the form of a workshop opportunity to experience, from both the instructor and student perspectives, the ways in which haiku poetry can be used as a teaching and learning tool.

Session participants should leave with some simple strategies for taking any lesson, resource, story, activity, or concept and multiplying the impact by exactly 5x7x5.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS

109- Kids on Stage! How to put on a great children's performance without losing your mind - Elena Fox

Everyone loves to see little children in Bible costumes re-tell the Christmas story and hear their tiny voices blasting Joy to the World. But for those of us on the other side of the stage this can be an intimidating project. But it doesn't have to be! Whether you are a seasoned pro or have no musical abilities at all you can put on a show! In this session I will share my time-tested system for creating and producing low-stress kid's programs that everyone in your school or congregation will love. Participants will leave with tons of practical ideas, tips, tools and templates to help make this year your Best Christmas Pageant Ever!

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, Arts

110- Bringing Stories to Life: Boosting Engagement and Comprehension with Reader's Theatre - Aaron Puls

Are you searching for an innovative way to boost student engagement, foster collaboration, and deepen comprehension – all while keeping the learning environment lively and interactive? Reader's Theatre might be the answer. In this session, you will discover how this powerful approach can transform any classroom by bringing text to life. Students actively engage as they prepare, rehearse, and perform selected pieces, promoting both critical thinking and confidence. Join us to explore practical strategies for integrating Reader's Theatre into your lessons, creating a classroom where learning becomes an unforgettable, shared experience.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS

111-Supporting Executive Functioning Across Grade Levels: Tools and Strategies for K-12 Educators- Elizabeth Heim

Executive functioning skills—like organization, attention, planning, and self-regulation—are essential for student success, yet they often develop unevenly and need explicit support. This workshop will explore the core components of executive functioning, what's developmentally appropriate across elementary, middle, and high school, and practical strategies educators can use to support students in the classroom. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Sped**

112- Promoting Connection Among Students, Staff, and Families Through Events and Activities - Tiffany Giles

Tiffany will present a variety of school-wide activities and events that foster meaningful connections among students, parents, and staff. These include the all-school Olympic Games

and a school-wide Dodge ball Tournament, along with other engaging ideas and activities. Tiffany will provide a detailed overview of both of these main events and provide a step-by-step plan on how to organize and execute them. She will also share additional ideas for sports-based student engagement-such as Volleyball and Corn Hole games at the School Picnic- and discuss innovative strategies that strengthen school community connections. **Target Audience(s):Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Admissions, DCE, Student Leadership**

113- A Tisket, A Tasket It's a Bible Time Basket! - Robin Davila

During this session I will share how to be prepared to teach Bible and present Chapel. Everything you will need to keep the children interested and motivated during Bible and Chapel are right in my one spot. **Target Audience(s): ECE**

114- The Transformational Impact of Teacher Coaching - AJ Amling

In this engaging sectional, AJ will explore the critical role of teacher coaching in driving school culture, improving instructional quality, and fostering spiritual and professional growth. Attendees will walk away with: A clear understanding of why teacher coaching is essential in Christian education. Practical strategies for how to implement effective coaching systems. Insight into the impact of coaching on school climate, staff morale, and student outcomes. **Target Audience(s):ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin**

115- Travel the World with Gospel Adventures - Ashley Bayless

Maybe you have traveled with LHM and Gospel Adventures to Peru or Thailand during National Lutheran Schools Week, and thought: "I wish I had more time!" Guess what? You do! Each year, Gospel Adventures offers five days' worth of activities, videos, games, and more. Dig into the Wild About Kenya curriculum and see how you can use this free curriculum throughout the year, and get a sneak peek at our 2026 location!

Target Audience(s):ECE, Elem, MS, Admin

116- TBRI®- Building connections and trusting relationships in the classroom - Darby Baldwin

Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) is a holistic approach that is multi-disciplinary, flexible and attachment based. It is an evidence-based practice that is specifically designed for children who have experienced hard things and have been exposed to trauma. This workshop will be a brief overview of TBRI® and will give you ideas on how to use the principles in the classroom. We will talk about the Connecting, Empowering and Correcting principles and the importance of building trusting and safe relationships with students.

Target Audience(s): All Audiences

117- Unlocking Potential: Best Practices for Supporting Gifted, Autistic, and Twice-Exceptional Students - Heather Churney

Students with exceptionalities, including those who are gifted, autistic, or twice-exceptional (2e), often face unique challenges that traditional educational approaches may not address. This session provides educators with research-based insights and practical strategies to support these learners effectively. Attendees will learn how to recognize both strengths and needs, create inclusive learning environments, and implement differentiated practices that promote academic growth, social-emotional development, and mental well-being. This session is designed for teachers, counselors, and administrators who are committed to helping exceptional students succeed in meaningful and lasting ways.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Sped

118- Phil's Friends: Hearts for Jesus Project - Phil Zielke

Join Phil Zielke, Founder of Phil's Friends, former LCMS school teacher, and author for an informative talk about how your schools can participate in the Hearts for Jesus project throughout the year. Phil will highlight ways in which you can inspire your students—no matter their age—to engage in this meaningful project, which will positively and spiritually impact individuals battling cancer, many who are children. You'll also hear Phil's story of surviving Stage 4 cancer twice, and how he was led by God to launch Phil's Friends, which sends free Care Packages, encouraging cards and prayer to cancer patients throughout the United States.

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Arts, DCE

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Breakout Session Descriptions - Monday, 11/24 2:15 - 3:15 PM

201- Increasing Student Engagement (6th - 12th Grade)- Jessica Minahan

Student disengagement and work anxiety and avoidance is on the rise. Despite widespread clinical awareness of the high rates of anxiety, school teams often overlook the connection between thoughts and behavior in their interventions, leaving a significant blindspot in student support. This workshop will offer easy-to-implement preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety, and increasing initiation, persistence and help-seeking skills. **Target Audience(s): 6th - 12th Grade**

202- Resilient Minds Mental Health Curriculum for Adolescents- Dr. Belinda Karge & Dr. Kara Bratton

This session includes teaching strategies for mental wellness. The presenters are co-authors of the Resilient Minds Mental Health curriculum that was just published through Concordia

Publishing House. They will share ideas from the curriculum and provide hands on strategies you can use immediately with adolescents your work with.

Target Audience(s): MS, HS, Admin, Sped, DCE, anyone working with adolescents

203- Math Masterminds: Collaborative Discussion and Strategies for 6-12 Math Educators - Robby Cherry & Kalen Baertlein

Join the Crean Lutheran Math Department for an interactive, small-group roundtable designed to foster collaboration among 6-12 mathematics educators. This session will focus on building a strong, vertically aligned mathematics foundation for students, ensuring a seamless progression from elementary concepts to advanced problem-solving. Participants will engage in meaningful discussions on key topics, including: Motivational Strategies – Inspiring a passion for math and overcoming learning obstacles. Effective Tools and Technologies – Leveraging digital resources to enhance student understanding. Faith Integration – Weaving faith-based perspectives into math instruction for a holistic learning experience. Retention and Mastery – Strategies for reinforcing key concepts and long-term retention. Pathways for Advancement – Supporting accelerated learners and challenging gifted students through math competitions. This session will provide you with practical insights and collaborative ideas to enhance your instruction. **Target Audience(s): MS, HS**

204- Improving Workplace Culture and Preventing Employee Burnout - Michelle Dwyer

How can school leaders improve workplace culture and prevent employee burnout? This presentation explores the results of a case study conducted in 2024 regarding the impact of emotional intelligence on workplace culture in Christian schools. Study findings show that faculty wellbeing is heavily impacted by the emotional intelligence of their colleagues and school leaders which can be improved through intentional training. Effective communication practices and intentional relationship building are especially important to teacher satisfaction, as well as the ability of leaders to prevent toxic workplace behaviors and provide necessary support for employee well-being. Leaders will walk away with a better understanding of how to assess employee needs and implement practices to create a positive working environment. This presentation is based on my dissertation work to be defended in April 2025 for the fulfillment of my Doctorate of Educational Leadership. My case study involved five PSD Christian schools.

Target Audience(s): Admin

205- Finding Sabbath Rest -- Sabbath Rest Finding You - Cindy Steinbeck

Personal rest is necessary! Discover ways to focus on rest that satisfy our deep longing. Cindy will use vineyard imagery to encourage you to grasp hold of rest as a gift.

Target Audience(s): All Audiences

206- Make Learning Fun! Leveraging Games and Activities to Foster Student Engagement and Learning - Carolina Espinoza

In today's fast-paced, digitally-driven world, engaging students in meaningful learning can be a significant challenge. With constant distractions and the allure of instant gratification, maintaining focus in the classroom requires innovative strategies. This session will explore how thoughtfully crafted games and interactive activities can transform the learning experience, capturing students' attention while reinforcing key concepts. Participants will discover practical methods to create dynamic lessons using resources they already have, fostering deeper understanding without additional costs. By the end of this workshop, attendees will feel empowered to integrate these approaches, creating an environment where students are so immersed in the learning process that they may not even realize they are mastering new skills.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS

207-Difficult Conversations - Mary Wolfinbarger

This presentation equips participants with the tools and techniques to navigate difficult conversations effectively based on techniques used in the book "How to Have That Difficult Conversation" by Townsend and Cloud. By exploring personal motives, essential conversation elements, and strategies to address resistance, attendees will gain confidence in tackling challenging situations with clarity, respect, and purpose. Practical exercises, including the use of a "Difficult Conversation Worksheet," will reinforce learning and provide hands-on experience for real-world application. **Target Audience(s): ECE, Admin, MS, HS, Admin**

208- Building Community through Family Literacy Events - Jennie Lovie

Unfortunately, this presentation is no longer available.

209- Technology for Teaching and Sharing Music - Elena Fox

Music has always been on the frontlines of technological change. From player pianos, to record players to CDs and mp3s, people have always been creating new ways to share music. In this session you will learn how to engage your students in musical learning through technology, both individually and as a whole group. Connect with music teachers and creators from around the world who are sharing new content every day. Learn practical ideas for putting technology into the hands of even your youngest students so they can become composers and creators themselves. Lots of apps and links will be shared in this session. Make sure to bring your iPad and some earbuds. **Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, Arts, DCE**

210- Fostering a Creative and Student-Centered ELA Classroom: Practical Strategies - Jessica Jaeger, Christina Ramirez & Keith Garton

Are you looking to transform your ELA classroom into a vibrant, student-centered space where

creativity thrives and learning comes to life? This session offers secondary educators a wealth of practical ideas for fostering student engagement, encouraging reflective thinking, and differentiating instruction. Participants will explore innovative strategies, including: Empowering Student Choice – Creating opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning. Literature Circles – Building a collaborative, discussion-rich environment for deeper literary analysis. Creative Expression – Integrating activities that spark imagination and critical thinking. Reflective Learning – Techniques to guide students in connecting personally with the material. Join us for this interactive session to connect with fellow educators, share best practices, and gain fresh insights and resources to elevate your ELA instruction.

Target Audience(s): MS, HS

211-Relational Coaching - Will McMinn & Kyle Rouse

Join us for an engaging session on Relational Coaching, designed specifically for coaches of junior high and high school athletes. Discover how to build meaningful, trust-based relationships that inspire growth, resilience, and teamwork in young athletes. Learn practical strategies to connect authentically, foster a positive team culture, and guide players to reach their full potential both on and off the field. Grounded in biblical principles, we'll explore how Christ's example of servant leadership—rooted in love, humility, and encouragement (John 13:34-35)—can transform your coaching approach. This session will equip you to nurture not just athletes, but disciples who reflect faith and character in every aspect of life. Perfect for coaches seeking to make a lasting impact! **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, DCE**

212- Leading the Selection and Implementation of Evidence-Based Reading Curriculum - Tracy Parker

The process of selecting and implementing an evidence based literacy curriculum can be daunting for any school - but it doesn't have to be! This session will focus on understanding the what, why, and how of making curriculum changes that best serve our students and teachers. We'll focus on the selection and implementation of literacy curriculum that reflects best practice in the Science of Reading. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, Admin, Sped**

213- Circle Time in a Basket!- Robin Davila

Come see what's in my Circle Time Basket. During this session I will share with you how you can have your group time that is prepped and ready the week. Providing a hands-on and interactive learning experience, that will keep the children entertained every minute.

Target Audience(s): ECE

214- Effectively Teaching English Language Learners: Empowering All Teachers for Student Success - Sarah Moyer & Joanna Abrantes

This presentation addresses the critical need for effective strategies to support English Language Learners (ELLs) in mainstream classrooms. Drawing from practical experience and research-based principles, we will provide actionable techniques that empower all teachers to create inclusive and supportive learning environments. The presentation will cover key areas such as understanding foundational concepts in teaching English to speakers of other languages, including key acronyms and terms, and the importance of recognizing the diversity within the ELL population, considering cultural backgrounds and individual learner differences. Participants will learn practical strategies for effective instruction, including teacher talk, setting the tone, grouping, explaining, scaffolding, and providing corrective feedback, as well as the importance of ongoing teacher reflection to improve instruction. We will also discuss resources and support systems that can be implemented at the school level to aid ELLs. By attending this session, educators will gain valuable insights and practical tools to effectively support ELLs, fostering their academic success and ensuring their access to a high-quality education. We will challenge participants to consider both short-term and long-term goals for supporting ELLs in their classrooms and departments.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS

215- Who Can Reach Gen Z with the Gospel? - Ashley Bayless

Who can reach Gen Z with the Gospel? The answer: Gen Z! Gen Z is ready and willing, even eager, to share life, faith, and Jesus with friends. Join LHM in conversation to learn how to help Gen Z have authentic spiritual conversations with their friends, pointing them to Jesus. LHM has developed a free resource especially for those who interact with Gen Z high schoolers through youth groups, schools, and families. Learn practical ways to equip Gen Z to share what's most important, with wisdom and grace. **Target Audience(s): HS, DCE, Youth Ministry**

216- TBRI®- Building connections and trusting relationships in the classroom - Darby Baldwin

Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI®) is a holistic approach that is multi-disciplinary, flexible and attachment based. It is an evidence-based practice that is specifically designed for children who have experienced hard things and have been exposed to trauma. This workshop will be a brief overview of TBRI® and will give you ideas on how to use the principles in the classroom. We will talk about the Connecting, Empowering and Correcting principles and the importance of building trusting and safe relationships with students.

Target Audience(s): All Audiences

217- Rooted Together: Cultivating Lutheran Identity Across Our Schools - Rev. Jonathan Priest & Dr. Christy Wood

Foundations of Lutheran Teaching, a collaboration across PSD, CNH, and NOW districts, equips non-Lutheran educators in LCMS schools to integrate Lutheran teaching into their

pedagogy. It fosters a consistent Lutheran ethos, enhances teacher employability, and strengthens school-church unity. Through practical, application-focused asynchronous learning and live online workshops, the program prioritizes spiritual self-care and serves as a stepping stone towards colloquy. **Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin**

218- Embracing Our Differences - Scott R. Dufresne, Rev. Tim Gerdes & Bonnie Sanchez

This session is an overview of how our diverse school site has helped bring families, staff and community together in very intentional ways. We will share a variety of tools which will help enhance your approach to managing expectations in your school.

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Admissions, Pastors, DCE

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Breakout Session Descriptions - Tuesday, 11/25 9:30 - 10:30 AM

301- Boundaries with Students: A Classroom Management Approach- Emma Taylor

Do you find yourself exhausted from solving student issues all day? Do your students argue with you? Do you feel that you're running out of consequences that work? What would it look like have boundaries that helped students become more independent, gave you more peace in the classroom, and helped students know you loved them. While by no means an expert on the topic, I'd love to share what I've gleaned from reading and implementing practices from the book, "Boundaries with Kids" by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. Though written more directed towards parents, there is a lot that can be learned and applied in our classrooms. These strategies will help teachers of any age level!

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin

302- Scientific Applications: Hands-On Math and Literacy - Aaron Mietzner

Lab activities do not have to be big productions. Using simple office supplies, engaging, hands-on experiments can be done, statistical analysis can be performed, and definitive, observational statements of truth can be produced. In this session, Aaron will go over several simple lab activities and the math and literacy components they employ. You will be asked to participate, and your feedback and experience will be sought! **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS**

303- Teaching the Masters of Art to young children - Jill Kusel

This session will give you ideas and an overview for an art curriculum that focuses on teaching various styles of art and the artists that were known for the styles. The session will include a hands on sample lesson along with an outline of how to use the program throughout the school

year. **Target Audience(s): PreK/TK, Elem**

304- NWEA Map Student Goal Setting - Anna LeBlanc & Randi Greder

Setting goals for NWEA MAP assessments helps students, families, and educators establish meaningful and realistic academic targets, fostering motivation, ownership of learning, and a clear path for growth and improvement. This session will explore NWEA Map data and graphs that will aid in communicating progress with students and parents, and setting goals with students for future MAP assessments. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS**

305- Cultivating Whole-Child Development Through Outdoor Classroom Collaboration - David Welch, [M.Ed.](#)

Discover how collaborative outdoor learning experiences can support all areas of child development- cognitive, physical, social-emotional, and spiritual. This session will highlight strategies for using outdoor classrooms to meet academic goals through hands-on activities in math, science, literacy, and the arts. Leave with practical ideas to turn your outdoor space into a dynamic environment for whole-child growth.

Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Teacher Mental Health, ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Sped, Arts, DCE, DCEs

306- Good Question! - Rev. Jim Henkell

Educators are usually more responsible for answering questions rather than asking them. This session will invite them to share their most interesting and pressing inquiries. (Place yours in the "Good Question!" box near the registration table.) It will also highlight five of the most impactful questions asked of a long-time school leader, including: "Why did this happen?" "How can I help a student and family in crisis (e.g. divorce, suicide, accident)?" and "Where does this fit into discipline?" **Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Admin, DCE**

307-Faith Made Visible: Using Creative Prayer and Visual Tools for Spiritual Growth in the Classroom - Kim Gilman

Discover how visual and tactile prayer practices can make faith more visible and meaningful in your classroom. Faith Made Visible invites educators to explore creative, hands-on approaches to spiritual formation that engage the heart, mind, and senses. Using simple stationery tools—no artistic skills required—participants will experience a variety of visual faith practices designed to slow down the pace, create space for the Holy Spirit, and deepen engagement with God's Word. These accessible techniques are joyful, reflective, and adaptable for learners of all ages. Whether you're looking to enrich your personal devotional life or equip students with tools for prayer and reflection, this session offers practical ways to nurture biblical engagement and a vibrant prayer life. Come ready to reflect, draw, and discover how faith takes shape through

creative expression. This is a hands-on session.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Sped, DCE

308- Move & Groove to Grammar: Fun, Kinesthetic Activities That Increase English Mastery - Dr. Wanda Phillips

This session focuses on effective strategies for teaching English through fun, kinesthetic activities—an essential component of mastery learning. By incorporating movement, songs, and interactive techniques, kinesthetic learning not only enhances engagement but also accelerates retention. Attendees will actively participate in memorable, hands-on experiences that help students learn up to 90% faster through “do and say” methods. The session also includes an overview of the prepositional approach, which simplifies language concepts and makes grammar instruction more accessible and effective. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS**

309- Rooted in the Word, Reaching the World: Scripture Engagement and Global Mission in Lutheran Schools- Jessica Albers & Kyla Rodriguez

In a world where students are constantly bombarded with competing narratives, how can we help them connect deeply with Scripture and see their place in God’s global mission? This breakout session will share recent research on Scripture engagement among youth in our country, revealing both the challenges and opportunities facing Christian educators today. We will introduce a dynamic, ready-to-use chapel series developed by Lutheran Bible Translators that equips schools to foster meaningful engagement with God’s Word. These resources not only help students explore Scripture in fresh ways but also connect them to the real-world impact of Bible translation efforts around the globe. Participants will walk away with: Insights from current Scripture engagement research Practical tools for planning impactful chapel experiences Stories and media that inspire a global vision for mission Whether you’re a teacher, church worker, or school leader, this session will empower you to cultivate a generation of students who are both rooted in Scripture and reaching the nations.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, Admin, DCE

310- Living an Unoffendable, Non-Anxious Life - Rev. Kevin Bueltmann

In a world full of outrage, conflict, and constant pressure, how can we live with peace, resilience, and grace? This breakout session explores what it means to live an unoffendable life—one that lets go of bitterness, defensiveness, and pride—and how to cultivate a non-anxious presence in the face of stress and uncertainty. Grounded in Scripture and practical insights, we’ll unpack the habits and heart postures that help us respond with humility, compassion, and calm confidence in Christ. Whether you’re in ministry, leadership, or daily life with difficult people, you’ll leave with tools to guard your heart, breathe deeply, and walk in freedom. **Target Audience(s): All**

Audiences

311-Executive Function Skills and Their Impact on School-aged Children - Chelsea Peralta, CEO, Peralta Speech Therapy MBA, M.S. CCC-SLP

This session will address what executive function skills are and how the lack of specific skills impacts the ability for a student to successfully reach their academic goals. Further, we will dive into how to create a classroom environment that supports and strengthens executive function. We will talk about how to identify what specific skills are an opportunity for each child and how to teach and strengthen these necessary skills throughout the school year. **Target Audience(s): ECE, Elem, MS, HS, Sped**

312- Bringing the Bible to Little Hearts and Minds- Sierra Day

Teaching the Bible is so different depending on your age groups. Join me as we discuss some strategies on how to teach kiddos about the love of God. We will talk about the whole scope of early childhood from the early ages of infants to the older Pre-K. We will discuss different resources including media, extension materials, and some fun ways to keep your students engaged and excited for Bible time. I will be sharing practical advice that has been tested and used daily in our growing School. There will also be time for group discussion and idea sharing as we work together to become better and learn from each other about teaching God's words to His little Lambs. **Target Audience(s):ECE**

313- AI Readiness for School Leaders: Equipping Educators for the Future of Learning (Things Are About to Get Crazy!) - Ernie Delgado

Artificial Intelligence is no longer a futuristic concept—it's here, and it's transforming how we teach, lead, and learn. This session will provide teachers and administrators with a practical roadmap to becoming AI-ready. We'll explore academic applications of AI that enhance instruction, streamline classroom workflows, and prepare students with the digital skills they need for high school, college, and beyond. Designed with Title funding in mind, this session will empower your school to embrace AI with confidence, clarity, and purpose—because things are about to get crazy (in the best way possible)!

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Admin, Sped, Admissions, Arts, DCE

314- Tips, Tricks, and Strategies to Support all Students - Tracie Salgado

Jimmy won't stay seated. Annabelle is so quiet. Marvin has such a hard time understanding simple math concepts but doesn't qualify for services. And then trying to meet the needs of all the other students. In this session, we'll discuss tips, tricks, and strategies to: * engage students in their learning at their level * create a welcoming classroom where students want to learn * classroom design for optimal participation * running whole-class and small-group learning

throughout the day * supporting students who learn differently * how to collect data when a student might need further testing * and more! **Target Audience(s): Elem, HS, Admin, Sped**

315- Missions—More than Trips: Equipping Students to Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus @Home and Around the World - Lisa Doring Baermann

At Orange Lutheran High School, Missions is more than a one-time experience—it's a journey of spiritual formation, cultural engagement, and active service. This year, over 500 students participated in global and local mission opportunities, including seven domestic and international trips, ongoing community outreach, and in three dedicated Missions classes. Rooted in a dynamic curriculum, our program equips students to live out their faith in real and impactful ways. Over four years, students explore themes such as Vocation, Social Justice & Ecological Sustainability, Cultural Intelligence & Global Communication, and Community Development & Poverty Alleviation. These topics shape not just what students know, but how they see the world—and their role in it as Christ's ambassadors. Through immersive service experiences and meaningful relationships, students learn to listen deeply, love boldly, and share the hope of Jesus wherever they are. Join us to learn how Orange Lutheran's Missions Program is developing globally minded servant leaders—and how you can build or grow a similar vision in your own school community. We're excited to share all the tools, lessons, and stories that have shaped this impactful ministry. **Target Audience(s): MS, HS, Admin, DCE**

316- Bringing Ideas to Life - 3D Printing in the School Environment - Dylan Thompson

Discover how 3D printing can be integrated into your school as a club, elective, or hands-on learning tool that enhances student creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This session will provide practical ideas and examples of how 3D printing supports cross-curricular academic goals, fosters student engagement, and promotes innovation in both elementary and middle school settings. Whether you're new to 3D printing or looking to expand your current program, you'll leave with actionable steps and resources to bring 3D printing to life on your campus. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS**

317- Skills For Success: Supporting K-12 Wellness Through Small Group Curriculum- Alex Klenz & Janell Bridges

This session introduces a comprehensive Wellness Bundle created by school counselors and designed for any K–12 educator. The bundle provides everything needed to run impactful small groups, including guidance on group norms, consent, facilitation tips, six-week lesson plans, PowerPoint slides, handouts, and more. Covering three key topics—executive functioning, anxiety, and social skills—the curriculum offers ready-to-use resources to support student wellness. During the presentation, we will explore the bundle as a whole, share sample

materials, discuss practical applications, and answer participant questions.

Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, DCE, Counselors, School Support Staff, Academic Support Staff

318- Creative Pathways to Building Thriving Music Programs - Dr. Elliott Bark

Are you facing challenges with student retention in your music program? Do you find it difficult to sustain motivation and engagement among your students? This session will present innovative approaches to fostering strong, sustainable music programs. Discussion topics will include repertoire selection, concert and travel planning, pedagogical strategies, and more—considered from the perspectives of educators, students, parents, and school administrators. **Target Audience(s): Elem, MS, HS, Arts**