



“Theology is an active aptitude”

AZ-CA District Pastors Conference

October 20-22, 2015; Green Valley Lutheran Church, Henderson, NV

Theologia est habitus practicus (theology is a practical aptitude) is an axiom of Lutheran theology. This means that theology is not simply a body of abstract truths, nor only the knowledge of these truths, but also the experience of these truths in life and the God-given ability to apply them to the Christian life (2 Corinthians 2:16ff, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Hebrews 5:14). Thus knowledge and faith, theology and piety, head and heart cannot be separated. The focus of this conference will be to study various aspects of this truth in carrying out faithfully the pastoral office.

Topics and presenters

Practical theology presentation - *“Practical apologetics – Giving a reason for the hope we have with gentleness and respect.”*

Session one: Christian Apologetics— a brief overview of the need and blessings of apologetics

Session two: The Caveats of Christian Apologetics— Keeping reason and Scripture in their proper place.

Pastor Jim Proeber, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, CA

Exegetical paper- *Exegesis of Colossians 1:24-2:5 – Paul’s description of his “active aptitude.”*
Pastor Bart Brauer, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ; Reactor, Pastor Joshua Stahmann, Salem Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ.

Historical Paper— *“The American Recension of the Augsburg Confession and its lessons for our pastors today.”* Pastor David Jay Webber, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ (Evangelical Lutheran Synod); Reactor, Pastor David Bostedt, Zion Lutheran Church, Torrence, CA

Doctrinal Paper - *What do we mean when we say that Baptism and the Lord’s Supper forgive sins? A Lutheran response to the Evangelicalism’s view of forgiveness of sins received in the sacraments.* Pastor Nate Kassulke, Grace Lutheran Church, Tuscon, AZ; Reactor, Paul Meitner, St. Paul’s First Lutheran Church, North Hollywood, CA

PROPOSED AGENDA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

- 10:00 Opening Service with Holy Communion
11:30 Call to Order
12:00 Lunch - Capriotti’s Subs and healthy sides or on your own
1:25 Call to assembly and prayer
1:30 **Practical theology presentation -** *“Practical apologetics – Giving a reason for the hope we have with gentleness and respect.”* **Session one:** Christian Apologetics— a brief overview of the need and blessings of apologetics; Pastor Jim Proeber, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, CA
2:15 Discussion of the essay.
2:45 Break
3:00 **Practical theology presentation -** *“Practical apologetics – Giving a reason for the hope we have with gentleness and respect.”* **Session two:** The Caveats of Christian Apologetics— Keeping reason and Scripture in their proper place. Pastor Jim Proeber, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Santa Barbara, CA
3:45 Discussion of the essay
4:15 Reports (Ministerial Education—Steve Hein; Commission on Adult Discipleship— Paul Schultz; Committee on Inter-Church Relations - Bart Brauer; Youth and Family Ministries—Jason Schmidt), announcements, elections
4:45 Afternoon Devotion (Phoenix Metro West)
5:00 Recess; Dinner on your own
7-10; Gemuetlichkeit at Khoury’s Fine Wine and Spirits.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

- 9:00 Morning Devotion (Phoenix Metro West)

9:15 Announcements (Steve Gabb - District Secretary)

9:20 **Exegetical paper-** *Exegesis of Colossians 1:24-2:5 – Paul’s description of his “active aptitude.”* Pastor Bart Brauer, Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ;

10:20 Reactor, Pastor Joshua Stahmann, Salem Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ.; open discussion of paper

10:50 Break

11:05 Extended discussion of Exegetical paper (if necessary); Reports (District Mission Board - Matt Vogt; Commission on Evangelism—Steve Hillmer; Special Ministries—John Sprain), announcements, elections

12:00 Lunch - on your own

1:15 Call to assembly and prayer

1:20 **Historical Paper—** *“The American Recension of the Augsburg Confession and its lessons for our pastors today.”* - Pastor David Jay Webber, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ (Evangelical Lutheran Synod);

2:20 Reactor, Pastor David Bostedt, Zion Lutheran Church, Torrence, CA; open discussion of the paper.

2:45 Break

3:00 Extended discussion of historical paper (if necessary); District President’s Report—Pastor Jon Buchholtz, Emmanuel, Tempe, AZ

3:45 - Reports (Synodical Council—Steve Hansen; Ministry of Christian Giving— John Stern; NPH—Mike Schroeder), announcements, elections

4:15 - Closing Devotion (Phoenix Metro West)

5:00 - Recess; Dinner on your own

7-? - Gemuetlichkeit at Craffthaus brewery

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

9:00 Morning Devotion (Phoenix Metro West)

9:15 **Doctrinal Paper** - *What do we mean when we say that Baptism and the Lord’s Supper forgive sins? A Lutheran response to the Evangelicalism’s view of forgiveness of sins received in the sacraments.* -Pastor Nate Kassulke, Grace Lutheran Church, Tuscon, AZ;

10:15 Reaction, Paul Meitner, St. Paul’s First Lutheran Church, North Hollywood, CA.; discussion of essay.

10:45 Break

11:00 Extended discussion of paper (if necessary); Reports, announcements, elections

11:15 Casuistry, Miscellaneous reports, unfinished business, selection of next site

11:45 Closing Devotion (Phoenix Metro West)

12:00 Adjournment