

GUEST SPEAKERS

Our leaders at Concordia are diverse and offer expertise on a wide variety of subjects. See the list below for just a small sample of the possible topics Concordia could come and present to your congregation.

Dr. Jacob Youmans, Assistant Professor, Director, DCE Program.

Invite Dr. Youmans to speak about the Director of Christian Education program at Concordia, or hear a presentation on one of his several books.

- In [TALKING PICTURES](#), Dr. Youmans teaches us how to use movies as a means and metaphor for communicating the Gospel. He argues that films are stories and every story can be connected to the ultimate story of God's redemptive work through Jesus.
 - In [ABBA DADDY DO](#), Dr. Youmans explores the bizarre and profound concept of childlike faith through the lens of the ordinary everyday life adventures he experienced with his own kids. This book will help you connect your stories to Jesus' story. And maybe encourage you to explore life through the eyes of a child.
 - In [MISSIONAL U and MISSIONAL TOO](#), Dr. Youmans shares his learnings from an extensive amount of short term mission trips all over the world. He explores ways that you can be a missionary every day in your life and how to develop a passion for the world at large.
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Dr. Grant Carey

- Sexuality in the Modern World – How did we get to where we are and where are we going? This session explores the various worldviews when it comes to sexuality and helps people shape a relational Biblical worldview in terms of issues like homosexuality, gender identity, abortion, and polyamorous relationships, and what the Church can do about the future of sexuality.
 - Apologetics in a Postmodern World - In a world with so many objective “truths”, do you know what you believe? Do you know how to communicate that in a loving way to those around you? This session will deal with relational apologetics that empowers you to ask great questions and help others see the Truth and power of Jesus Christ.
 - Pornography – According to George Barna, 47% of Christian families said that pornography is a problem in the Christian home. The average age a child first sees porn is 11. This session will address the brain science and dangers of porn head on, while showing a Gospel-centered way of dealing with this issue in the Church.
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Dr. Carl Trovall

Dr. Trovall has a variety of workshops to offer.

- Ethics and End of Life Care

- Physician Assisted Suicide
 - Immigration
 - Mexican-American culture and history
 - History and Culture of Mexico
 - World religions
 - Church-State Issues
 - Role of Technology in Human Life
 - Issues in Church History
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Reverend J. Brown

- **Strengthening Your Mission Muscle** – This interactive session on evangelism training will train you in practical ways to share the Gospel. You can be a more powerful witness of Jesus Christ to anybody, in any place, and in any situation. Learn key Scripture verses and find out about the true power of Conversion by the Holy Spirit. Strengthening Your Mission Muscle can be shared as part of a mission conference, breakout session, or Bible study. Customizable between 1 – 3 hours in length.
 - **Defeating the Enemy** – This Christian self-defense workshop teaches participants about achieving victory over both physical attackers and our spiritual enemies. Those in attendance will learn to build awareness and practice skills that will help beginners feel more confident about self-defense. Although the session is interactive, there is very low physical exertion. Appropriate for teens – elderly. Customizable between 1 – 3 hours of training. For more information go to www.SinBusting.com
 - **Breaking Barriers** – [As seen at the LCMS National Youth Gathering] This nationally-renowned presentation is both a demonstration of physical karate skill and a powerful proclamation of the Gospel. Allow J. Brown, karate master and Christian minister, to come and impact the lives of those in your group. He will share the secret to overcoming the obstacles which keep you from being victorious in battle. Through this message, hearers will learn the Good News of Jesus Christ which frees us all from the captivity of sin and allows us to never again be defeated by the enemy. This is ideal for school chapels, assemblies, Sunday school and Bible study groups, Youth groups, fellowship gatherings, and Outreach events. For more information go to www.SinBusting.com
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Dr. Philip Hohle

Dr. Philip Hohle offers sessions on a variety of topics.

- **Strategic Planning** - Bring the best of current organizational research; Dr. Hohle combines both solid theoretical perspectives and real-world experience on various church boards to provide a practical and inspirational workshop on strategic planning.
- **Technology in Worship Consulting** - Technology has changed worship in fundamental ways, but the effects are often subtle. At best, they are momentary distractions. At worst, persistent tech problems confound and handcuff the leadership. Perplexing tech problems can become a significant barrier to the mission of a church or faith-based organization. In many cases, it is not defective or outdated gear but a misguided philosophy of technology that most interferes with the core message. Dr. Hohle has helped many churches get the best out of high-tech sound and visual communication systems by re-

thinking their role in communication. Most importantly, he forwards a unique charge to technicians and worship leaders— helping them maximize the benefits of technology while preventing it from becoming the message itself.

- Church Board Governance - Certainly fire, wind, and termites can destroy the building, but it is conflict that will destroy the church. Dr. Hohle helps congregations walk through key decisions on how to set the norms for behavior and optimize the partnership between professional staff, lay leaders, and the assembly of voters. Dr. Hohle will help churches proactively fill the gaps in their governance that foster uncertainty, diminish efficiency, and invite mistrust. (Not intended to be remediation for deeply conflicted organizations.)
- Film, Religion, and Culture - Lately, Dr. Hohle has been busy helping diverse audiences unearth the religious themes inherent in popular cinema. Activities have included presentations before scholarly societies, published articles in international journals, and speaking on panels during film festivals like SXSW. Each spring, Hohle (along with Dr. Jake Youmans) take his signature Cinema and Religion course out to a local movie theater. No doubt, we are all religiously passionate about our favorite films, but we often overlook the religious implications found underlying the plot. Alongside our traditional Concordia students, Hohle helps the public participants recognize and examine the explicit and implicit religious ideas haunting these narratives. Dr. Hohle will bring a sample of this popular course to your Bible class or group.

Reverend Dr. Joel Heck

- C.S. Lewis - What is the impact of the twentieth century's most famous Christian writer and apologist? Explore the life and writings of C.S. Lewis with Dr. Heck on any of his significant writings, from *The Screwtape Letters* to *Mere Christianity* to the *Chronicles of Narnia*. Or explore how Lewis moved from nominal Christianity to atheism and back to the Christian faith.
- Old Testament/New Testament – What are the message, context, and modern application of one of the books of the Bible? Dr. Heck gives an overview and summary of any given book of the Bible, engaging participants in some of the key texts of that book, whether Daniel or Revelation, Genesis or Ephesians.
- Martin Luther – Dr. Heck explains who Martin Luther was, what his impact was on the sixteenth century, and how that impact continues to this day.

Rev. Paul E. Muench Ph.D.

- College: Liberal Arts
- Departments: Communication, Social Science, Religion
- Email Address paul.muench@concordia.edu
- Phone 512-313-5411

- Area(s) of Expertise Intercultural Communication
Cross-Cultural Mission

History of Christian Mission
Communication in the Church
Diffusion of Innovation
Communication Theory

- Degrees Ph.D. Intercultural Studies, Masters of Theology in the Study of Mission, Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary

- Mission - A Master degree in the study of mission and a Ph.D. in Intercultural study team with experience as a missionary in Papua New Guinea and Russia as well as time served as executive director of Lutheran Bible Translators qualify Dr. Muench to speak about mission. Dr. Muench continues his mission experience by teaching in a Lutheran Seminary in Ethiopia in May of this year.
- Communication in the Church - As a professor of communication at Concordia University Texas Dr. Muench looks at the Bible from the perspective of modern communication scholarship and concludes, "God is a good communicator!"
- Missionary Anthropology - With more than 20 years of teaching anthropology at the college level and teaching Missionary Anthropology as an adjunct at our seminaries, Dr. Muench has many examples develop insights into the study of culture and outreach. As America has become very multicultural, these insights are needed in our churches.
- Nonverbal Communication in the Church - Before we have an opportunity to talk, potential Christians already are getting messages from us. Will those nonverbal message aid or hinder our speaking the Good News?
- History of Christian Mission - Many wonderful lessons for the church lie in the history of Christian Outreach. Dr. Muench has often taught the History of Christian Mission and can tell many interesting and helpful stories from that history.

Reverend Dr. Curtis Giese

Allow Dr. Giese to speak to your congregation on the books of 2 Peter, Jude, or James. See below for descriptions of his primary publications.

Commentary on 2 Peter & Jude in the Concordia Commentary series (2012): These two concise epistles confess a rich theology of the end times. They warn against libertine heretics who condone promiscuity as an acceptable expression of the Christian life, and who scoff at Christ's second coming because of his apparent delay. These inspired books of Scripture recall OT events such as the fallen angels' rebellion, the sexual abomination and destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, and Balaam's seduction of Israel. God's earlier acts of judgement and salvation guarantee that he will indeed act again. Christ will return, destroy the present corrupted world, raise all baptized believers, and bring them into the new creation characterized by

righteousness. The final day is also the time of severe judgement against the false teachers. This message about the downfall of evildoers provides Gospel comfort to the church, which will be vindicated.

Commentary on James in the Concordia Commentary series (forthcoming 2019): The theme of James, centered on 1:17-18, is “The Gifts of God and the Use of These Gifts.” God generously grants blessings pertaining to all articles of the Apostle’s Creed. One can recognize Christians by the fact that they reflect these gifts and use them as God intends. The first chapter of James serves as the thematic core of the entire epistle. Subsequent chapters echo the topics from chapter one. When considering the apparent disagreement on faith and works in James versus Paul, one must indeed note that James addresses a different context and application of divine revelation compared to Paul. In prominent texts of Romans and Galatians (e.g. Rom 3:21-31, 4:13-17, Gal 3:10-14), justification in Christ is at stake. Therefore, Paul’s starting point involves a defense and articulation of justification. On the other hand, in James, sanctification in Christ is at stake. James details the doctrine of sanctification that flows from justification. According to James, a justification that shows itself in good works is truly justification in Christ.

Patricia Fick, Can-Do Missions Director

Pat has the privilege of directing Can-Do Missions and accompanying mission teams to many domestic and international sites. Mission trips focus on sharing Jesus love in practical ways: VBS, building projects, evangelism, and medical/human care opportunities. She would be happy to come and share information about past trips, or help your congregation/school/group get connected to an opportunity to serve on a future mission trip.

Pat also enjoys singing and speaking about Jesus in the context of retreats, mission festivals, or school chapels!