

Fall Theological Conference
 Northeastern Minnesota Synod
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Information

- + This event is open to all rostered leaders (pastors, associates in ministry, deaconesses), synodically authorized ministers, seminarian interns, and directors of youth & family ministry in our synod.
- + Please look over the enclosed registration form for costs and other lodging information. Note especially the information regarding commuters, spouse and children, Cancellation/ Refund Policy, and directions for indicating or requesting a roommate.
- + We are sorry we are unable to provide child care for this event. Please take time to enjoy the resort, the waterfront, and meals with your family!
- + If you have questions about lodging, please contact Ruttger's at 800-450-4555.
- + Register by filling out the enclosed form and sending it directly to Ruttger's. You will receive reservation confirmation and a map from Ruttger's.
- + You pay for housing and meals only. Program costs are covered through the synod budget and special grants.
- + Be sure to check out the books and other resources, as well as the opportunities for golf while at Ruttger's!



Tentative Conference Schedule

Sunday, September 25

4:00 - 6:00 pm Registration - Alexander Foyer
 6:00 - 7:00 pm Evening Meal - Dining Room
 7:15 pm Worship *followed by* welcome, introductions, and social time

Monday, September 26

7:00 - 8:30 am Breakfast - Dining Room
 8:30 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Session I
 10:30 am Break
 11:00 - 11:15 am Tamela Wahlhoff: Director of Lutheran Advocacy - Minnesota
 11:15 - 11:30 am Paul Daniels: Region 3 ELCA Archives
 11:30 - 11:45 am Synod Staff Updates
 Noon Lunch - Dining Room
1:00 - 2:30 pm Session II
 2:30 - 3:00 pm Bishop Aitken: Synod Update
 3:00 - 6:30 pm Free Time
 6:30 pm Evening Prayer
 7:00 pm Evening Meal - Dining Room

Tuesday, September 27

7:00-8:30 am Breakfast - Dining Room
8:45-10:00 am Session III
 10:30 am Worship: Holy Communion
 Following Check Out

Faith & Firearms

This year's theme is a timely one. *Faith and Firearms* will be presented by Dr. Michael Chan, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary. Dr. Chan's presentations, along with our conversation, will assist leaders in practical and biblical ways of listening and engaging our people in difficult conversations regarding faith, firearms, and politics.

*The Rev. Thomas M. Aitken
 Bishop of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod*

Talking through tough social issues as Christians means respectful yet passionate dialogue from the perspective of the faith they share. Together they seek to understand and clarify the issue, its causes, dimensions, and consequences. They take into account their personal and community experiences of the issue, as well as Scripture, church tradition and teachings, human knowledge and reason.

*Talking Together as Christians about
 Tough Social Issues*

We finally meet one another - not in our agreements or disagreements - but at the foot of the cross where God is faithful, where Christ is present, and where by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are one in Christ.

*The Rev. Mark S. Hanson
 Former Presiding Bishop of the ELCA*



**Evangelical Lutheran
 Church in America**
 God's work. Our hands.

Program Synopsis

America is in a fight over its guns. And, as is often the case in American society, religion factors into the dispute.

Although offensive to some, for many “gun enthusiasts,” it is quite natural to weave together, “God,” “faith,” “church,” and “Jesus” in the same sentence as “guns,” “firearms,” and “weapons.” For others, faith provides a rich resource for critically addressing gun violence issues in society. It is no surprise that guns have been integrated in to discourses about faith, for guns, like religion, deal with the profound human realities of life, death, will, power, and freedom.

The conversation around guns in America, however, suffers from a lack of deep listening productive conversation, especially when it comes to talking with those on the “other side.” As people of faith, it is all the more important that we learn how to engage in contentious conversations in ways that are respectful, loving, and productive. As leaders in the church, we have an obligation to ask what this means for us as theologians of the cross.

In these presentations, we will examine qualitative research, and will seek to use that research as a starting point for conversations among ourselves about the role of guns in American society and the Church. Finally, space will be made to think about what it means to be a Christian in a country whose history, mythology, and significant tragedies are shaped by guns.

Presenter

Michael Chan joined the Luther Seminary Bible Division in July 2013. Prior to this appointment, he spent a year at the University of Helsinki, Finland and in many of the world’s greatest museums.

Chan has taught in many settings, congregational and academic. He served as youth pastor at Grace Lutheran Church (Kingman, AZ) and Van Nuys Korean United Methodist Church (Van Nuys, CA). He and his wife were also responsible for campus ministry at Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma, WA). In college, he served as a chaplain in Glacier National Park as part of A Christian Ministry in the National Parks. Chan has also taught numerous courses at Emory University, the University of Helsinki, and North Central University.



In addition to teaching, Chan has also published numerous articles, essays, reference entries, and reviews in journals. Currently, Chan is co-editing with Brent Strawn a volume of Terence Fretheim’s essays: *God, World, and Suffering: Collected Essay of Terence Fretheim* (Siphrut: Literature and Theology of the Hebrew Scriptures; Grand Rapids; Eerdmans, forthcoming.) He is also co-author with Eric Barreto of the book *Exploring the Bible*, Fortress Press due out in August 2016.

Dr. Chan and his wife Katherine are the proud parents of a beautiful daughter, Eden.

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Faith & FIREARMS

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September 25-27, 2016
Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge
Grand Rapids, Minnesota