



## 2023 Pastors' Conference

Monday, October 30 – Thursday, November 2, 2023  
Calvary Lutheran Church, St. Paul MN

The Theme of Our Conference is

### *Equipping the Saints for the Work of Ministry*

Based on Ephesians 4:11-13

*“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

**Introduction:** Equipping the saints in the 21st century involves providing them with the necessary tools, resources, and guidance to live out their faith in a rapidly changing world. In our ever-increasing secular society, Christians face numerous challenges that require a strong foundation in Scripture and Christian doctrine, spiritual growth, and willingness to engage with the culture. In our zeal to serve Christ Jesus' sheep, are we training and equipping them for the priesthood of all believers, or are we repressing the princes and princesses of the Kingdom of God from the very work that our Lord has assigned them?

This year's conference will focus on the called pastor's responsibility in training and equipping the saints for the Christ-assigned role which they enjoy as members of the priesthood of all believers and co-workers with us in the proclamation of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. With Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa as our keynote speaker, we will examine that which is distinctly Lutheran of what the sainted Rev. Dr. Guido Merckens called “the holy strategy of the church...built around this central principle of a dynamic laity led by a serving ministry, a ministry that ministers to the ‘priests,’ so that the priests can evangelize and hold the world for Christ. (Organized for Action, Rev. Dr. Guido A. Merckens, CPH, 1959)”

#### **Keynote Speaker Presentations by The Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa**

Session 1: Faith That Sees Through The Culture – The Lutheran Lens and the Priesthood

Session 2: Faith That Engages The Culture – The Lutheran Engagement and Evangelism

Session 3: Faith That Shines in The Culture – The Lutheran Distinction and the Two Estates

Session 4: Q & A with discussion

The Rev. Clark Brown will serve as our Pastors' Conference Chaplain

# 2023 Pastors' Conference Schedule

## MONDAY, OCTOBER 30

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM Check-In/Registration  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner – Calvary Lutheran Church  
6:45 PM Evening Worship - Calvary Lutheran Church

## TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast – Hampton Inn  
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Morning Devotions – Rev. Clark Brown  
8:45 AM - 10:15 AM **Session I – Faith that Sees Through The Culture – The Lutheran Lens and the Priesthood**  
**Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa**  
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM Break  
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM **Session II – Faith that Engages The Culture – The Lutheran Engagement and Evangelism**  
**Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch – in Meeting Room  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **Presentation: Angry Men and the Gospel**  
**Rev. Dr. Cary Larson**  
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Free Time  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner – Calvary Lutheran Church  
6:45 PM Evening Worship – Calvary Lutheran Church

## WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast – Hampton Inn  
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Morning Devotions – Rev. Clark Brown  
8:45 AM - 10:15 AM **Session III – Faith that Shines in The Culture – The Lutheran Distinction and the Two Estates**  
**Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa**  
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM Break  
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM **Session IV – Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa – Q & A with discussion**  
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Lunch - in Meeting Room  
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM **ALTS Report – Rev. Dr. Jordan Cooper and Rev. Dr. Curtis Leins**  
2:00 PM - 2:45 PM **Dr. Larson meets with the Emeriti**  
2:00 PM - 5:00 PM Free Time  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner – Calvary Lutheran Church  
6:45 PM Evening Worship – Calvary Lutheran Church

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM Breakfast - Hampton Inn  
8:30 AM - 8:45 AM Morning Devotions – Rev. Clark Brown  
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM State of the Church and Q&A – Rev. Dr. Cary Larson  
10:15 AM Safe Travels Home