

2025 Pastors' Conference – The Lutheran Pastor's Understanding of Good Works

“But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine... in all things showing yourself to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity, reverence, incorruptibility, sound speech that cannot be condemned, that one who is an opponent may be ashamed, having nothing evil to say of you.” Titus 2:1;6-8

Our confessional Lutheran understanding of good works stands in clear distinction from both the erroneous merit-based approach and the heretical stance of antinomianism, which undermine the importance of good works. We affirm that good works are the necessary fruit of faith, while steadfastly maintaining that they play no role in justification. This tension creates unique pastoral challenges as we shepherd our congregations.



As we explore this topic, we'll examine how Article IV of the Augsburg Confession and the Formula of Concord shape our understanding. We'll discuss practical approaches to preaching and teaching about good works in ways that neither diminish their importance nor elevate them to a means of salvation. Most importantly, we'll consider how to guide our people toward active love of neighbor while keeping their eyes fixed on Christ Jesus' completed work.

Throughout our sessions, we'll address common pastoral situations: How do we encourage service without creating guilt? How do we inspire stewardship without legalism. How do we preach sanctification without obscuring justification? How do we celebrate our members' good works while maintaining proper theological focus?

Looking forward to seeing you this fall and discussing this important topic!

Save the date!

2025 The AALC Pastor's Conference

Calvary Lutheran, St. Paul, MN

October 20-23, 2025