

CONNECTED IN CHRIST



2023 Pacific Southwest District Pastors' Conference Keynotes

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Theology & Practical Use of Artificial Intelligence

Over the last few months, there has been a lot of discussion of Artificial Intelligence in our society. In this session, we will zoom way out to explore the theology, philosophy and ethics of this phenomenon. After this general exploration, we will explore a few potential uses of AI in parish ministry, not to replace the servants of the Word but rather to assist them in their vocation. We will also talk about how to transparently use this tool in order to serve and teach Christ's sheep. Finally, a review of a few major platforms and best practices for writing prompts will be shared.

Tapestry of Preaching

In this session, we will review Concordia Seminary St. Louis' homiletical framework called the Tapestry of Preaching. We define good Lutheran preaching as embodying four key things: the authoritative preaching of the Church's theological teachings, normed by the Scriptures, centered in the evangelical (Law/Gospel) proclamation of Christ's death and resurrection, for the benefit of the hearers. After a brief overview or refresher of these four components of preaching, the presenter will facilitate large and small group conversations that lead participants to identify areas of growth for their own preaching.