

“Leadership in a Time When Everything Has and Hasn’t Changed”



Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

2021 Fall Theological Conference
Oct. 11-12th - Zoom Gathering

Conference Schedule:

Monday, October 11th

10:00-10:45 a.m. ...Welcome and Worship

10:45-12:00 p.m. ...Speaker: Terri Elton, Ph.D. Professor of Leadership, Luther Seminary

Finding Dynamic Stability in Wilderness Times

We are living in a season of uncertainty and ambiguity. Today the past is not a good predictor of the future; our “way of doing things” has (and continues to be) disrupted, and contextual factors increasingly add complexities to the challenges we face. Just like Google Maps has replaced Rand McNally’s paper atlases, leaders need “GPS-like” capacities for faithfully navigating the ministry that provides dynamic stability.

12:15-1:00Lunch Break

1:15-2:30Speaker Michael J. Chan, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Old Testament, Luther Seminary

Promise and Adversity

Ancient Israel frequently found itself in dire straights, due to famine, military conflict, sin, economic troubles, etc. In the thick of these challenges, the prophets were called to speak words of both demand and promise, and to help orient Israel toward Yhwh’s faithfulness. In this session we will explore these topics in Isaiah 36-37, where Isaiah helps King Hezekiah navigate a life-or-death crisis.

2:30-3:15Ministry Information

3:15-6:30Open Time and Time for Dinner

6:30-7:30Joint Presentation: Dr. Michael Chan & Dr. Terri Elton

Lament, Promise, and Neighbors: practicing our way into the future

In times of uncertainty, practices ground and guide our lives. This session will introduce three distinct practices that, faithful to the past, provide meaning in this moment, and propel us into the future.

7:30-8:30Bishop’s Time: Rev. Dr. Dee Pederson

Tuesday, October 12th

8:30 a.m.Gather

8:45-10:15Joint Presentation: Dr. Michael Chan & Dr. Terri Elton

Living a Paradox

We’ve been here before. This is true in many ways. At the same time, we’ve never been here before. A life of faith is always a paradox. What do we need to keep in mind as we lead in this time and place?

10:15-10:45Break

10:45-11:15Ministry Information

11:15- 12:00 p.m. ..Worship

12:00Sending

Speakers:

Dr. Terri Martinson Elton is Professor of Leadership at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN. Terri is interested in congregational leadership, innovative ministry, and reimagining faith formation. Her writing includes a contextual approach to forming faith (*Journeying in the Wilderness: Forming Faith in the 21st Century*), research on confirmation ministry (*Cultivating Teen Faith: Insights from The Confirmation Project*), and discovering new organizational structures for congregations and nonprofits (*Leading Congregations and Nonprofits in a Connected World: Platforms, People, and Purpose*, a book she co-authored with Rabbi Hayim Herring).

Terri is a member of the ELCA and has served in various roles at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Burnsville, MN and as an assistant to the bishop in the Saint Paul Area Synod. She is married to Eric, and they have two young adult daughters, Jordan and Elizabeth. For more see her website: terrielton.com.

Dr. Michael Chan is Associate Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. He holds degrees from Pacific Lutheran University (B.A.), Luther Seminary (M.A.), and Emory University (Ph.D.). He has authored numerous books and articles related to the Old Testament and is a sought-after adult educator, leader, and group facilitator. His research and teaching focus on theological interpretation of the Old Testament for the sake of the church. In addition to his teaching and research, Chan is deeply involved in a variety of innovation initiatives at Luther Seminary.