

September 4, 2024

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Our Fall Pastors' Conference is set for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, October 7-9, 2024, at the Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Event Center, 2111 N. Lacrosse St., Rapid City, SD 57701. We are excited to work our Greek muscles, as Rev. Dr. John Nordling leads us in a discussion about St. Paul's Letter to Philemon.

Dr. Nordling serves as professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne. He is a graduate of Concordia University, Portland (A.A., 1977), Valparaiso University (B.A., 1980), and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (M.Div., 1985). Nordling has completed two academic degrees in Classics: the first, at Washington University in St. Louis (M.A., 1985), and the second, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (Ph.D. dissertation: "Indirect Discourse and Rhetorical Strategies in Caesar's *Bellum Gallicum* and *Bellum Civile*," 1991).

From 1990-1994 he served as pastor at Grace English Ev. Lutheran Church and School in Chicago, Illinois. He taught in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at Valparaiso University (1994-1999) and in the Department of Classics at Baylor University (1999-2006).

Dr. Nordling developed *Lutheranism & the Classics*, a biennial conference wherein pastors, classicists and educators consider how the classical languages have influenced Lutheranism in the past, and how Greek and Latin are poised to enrich Church, academy and culture in the future.

He has written the Philemon commentary for the Concordia Commentary Series (CPH, 2004), *Religion and Resistance in Early Judaism: Greek Readings in 1 Maccabees and Josephus* (CPH, 2010) for the Concordia Peer Reviewed Series, and a number of academic articles on the Pauline epistles (Philemon, Philippians), slavery and social issues.

Drawing on his expertise, Dr. Nordling will be taking us through the Book of Philemon and give us an authoritative understanding of this seminal Epistle.

Pastors attending the conference are asked to bring a copy of the Lutheran Service Book for devotional use as well as your Greek New Testaments. Dr. Nordling also encouraged the pastors from the beloved South Dakota District to bring their Philemon Commentaries (from the Concordia Commentary Series) with them as he will be referring to it during the lectures, as well as would be willing to sign them as the pastors requests.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The District Office has reserved a block of rooms for us at Best Western Ramkota Hotel and Event Center at the rate of \$84.00 + tax. An on-line reservation process for

the rooms was emailed by the District Office to all pastors and other church workers on Friday, August 16.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE and ON-LINE REGISTRATION: The registration fee of \$125 is required of all active, called pastors and vicars, even if they are unable to attend the conference. Emeritus pastors may attend with no registration fee. Attending DCEs and deaconesses carry a \$75 registration fee. Conference registration forms can be found on the South Dakota District website: <https://sddlcms.org>.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS (CEU): 1 CEU will be available for \$10 through Concordia Theological Seminary. Please sign up for the CEU via the on-line registration form.

DIVINE SERVICE AT PEACE, RAPID CITY: On Monday, October 7, at 6:30 p.m., we will gather for a Divine Service to partake of Christ's Body and Blood as a family in Christ. This service will be held at Peace Lutheran Church, 219 East Saint Anne Street, Rapid City, SD 57701.

Godspeed in your travels to the marvelous Black Hills!

Your fellow servants in Christ,

Rev. Ryan Drevlow, Conference Chairman (pastordrevlow@gmail.com)

Rev. Kurt Laskowsky, Conference Secretary (kurt.laskowsky@ctsfw.edu)