

August 29, 2025

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus!

Our Fall Pastors' Conference is set for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, October 6-8, 2025, at Zion Lutheran Church, Rapid City. We are excited to have international speaker, author, reconciler, and consultant Ted Kober presenting to us this year.

Ted Kober serves as Senior Ambassador Emeritus for Ambassadors of Reconciliation (AoR). Since founding AoR in 2004, he served as President through May 2015. A Certified Christian Conciliator™ since 1992, he consults and conciliates in cases ranging from personal disputes to lawsuits and church conflicts.

Ted has published articles, Bible studies, devotions, training manuals and books including Confession & Forgiveness (CPH, 2002); Built on the Rock: The Healthy Congregation (2017); Reconciling Under the Cross: Resolving Conflict and Restoring Relationship Using the Bible (AoR, 2023); and Unforgivable? How God's Forgiveness Transforms Our Lives (co-authored with Mark Rockenbach; CPH 2023).

He develops training courses from 8 hours to 120 hours. His written work has been translated into more than a dozen other languages. He has taught on six continents in congregations, church-worker conferences, schools, universities, and seminaries. He has equipped church body leaders from more than 40 countries.

In 2021, Concordia Seminary awarded him a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, for his writing, teaching, and impact to the Church around the world. Prior to reconciliation work, he owned or managed more than 35 different companies and resolved fifty-nine legal disputes in one estate. He has served on more than 50 boards of directors, including for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

A lifetime member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Billings, Montana, he occasionally plays organ for worship. Ted lives in Billings, and Sonja, his wife of 45 years, lives in heaven. They have one son and two grandchildren.

ACCOMMODATIONS: The District has blocks of rooms set aside at two separate hotels at special rates for the conference (Mention South Dakota District LCMS Pastors' Conference for special rates):

- GrandStay Residential Suites (605) 341-5100. 20 One-bedroom studio suites at \$99 per night. 5 Two-bedroom studio suites at \$119 per night. (reservations must be made by 9/22/25).

- Best Western Ramkota. (605) 343-8550. 20 rooms (various types) available at \$114 per night (reservations must be made by 9/15/25).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE and ON-LINE REGISTRATION: The registration fee of \$75 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 \$30 registration fee. Conference registration forms can be found on the South Dakota District website: <https://sddlcms.org>. Please note: There is now an option to pay with ACH from checking or savings account with a 1% service fee compared to the 2.9% fee using a credit card.

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 OUR REDEEMER, RAPID CITY: On Monday, October 7, at 7:00 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 Our Redemer Lutheran Church, 910 Wood Ave, Rapid City SD, 57078.

FELLOWSHIP TIME: There will be an opportunity to gather for Fellowship at Murphy's Pub and Grill, 510 9th Street, Rapid City, SD on Tuesday, October 7 at 7:30 p.m. Appetizers will be provided, however any beverages are "on your own."

RESOURCE SHARING TABLE: Looking to thin out your library? Do you have books that you don't reference anymore and would like to share with others who would benefit? We will have a Resource Sharing Table at the conference for you to unload/share your unused books.

Godspeed in your travels.

Your fellow servants in Christ,

Rev. Jake Bobby, Conference Chairman (pastorbobby.stjohnsyankton@gmail.com)

Rev. Matt Bless, Conference Secretary (pastor@lcmsvermillion.org)