

Dear Brothers and Sister,

“And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.” — Jeremiah 3:15

We are excited to see each and every one of you at the pastors' section of the Rocky Mountain District Professional Church Workers Conference. Our conference committee has been operating with three primary goals.

First, that each and every participate would be nourished by God's Word. We pray that this is a time for you to be refreshed as we receive God's Word in the Divine Service, meditate and pray God's Word in the morning devotions, and study God's Word in Jeremiah with Dr. Lessing.

Second, that we would be encouraged by the mutual fellowship of those who share similar responsibilities and burdens that come with professional church work and pastoring in particular. We have long break times, shorter days and space to be in fellowship. Fellowship among us is not a nicety, but a necessity. The ministry carried out here in the RMD is unique to us, and we should support and uplift one another as allies in the church.

Third, that we would learn and grow to be better pastors, deaconesses, DCE's and teachers. Every profession has continuing education as a core element for performing at the highest levels. This is part of our mandatory continuing education, especially as pastors. We are blessed to learn from the amazing talent and knowledge we have in our church body and district.

Our learning will be led by Dr. Reed Lessing, based upon Dr. Lessing's most recent CPH book. This year's fall pastors' conference will not only discover how Jeremiah survived and overcame multiple Babylonian sieges and deportations but also apply the book's truths to our lives and the people we serve. Each session will be a mix of Old Testament history, exegesis, interpretation, Christology, and application. Follow the link to buy a copy of Dr. Lessings book ahead of time. <https://books.cph.org/overcoming-lifes-sorrows>

But wait, there's more! Our learning comes from one another. The conversations we have with the other men in our circuit and district who faithfully serve along side of us are deep wells of knowledge and wisdom. May we all be blessed with the humility to learn from one another as we strive to be those shepherds who are after God's own heart and will feed the flock with knowledge and understanding . We can't do this without you. Our conference is something less when you are not present.

The conference is less than a month away. Sign up at the district web site <https://rm.lcms.org/pastors-conference/> . We pray that our time together in Breckenridge will refresh and equip you to be a better pastor. See you there.

In His Service,
Jonathan Kern
Eli Lietzau
Jason Rust