

2025 FL-GA District Pastors Conference - Breakout Schedule

	1:00 - 1:45 pm	2:00 - 2:45 pm	3:00- 3:45 pm
FLAGLER A	Rev. Dr. Greg Walton <i>Don't Forget Your Life Jacket!</i>	Rev. Dr. Greg Walton <i>Pastors and Leaders Rowing Together. Navigating and Strengthening Partnership.</i>	Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff <i>The Holy Spirit Will Lead You into All Truth</i>
	A Simple Checklist for staying Spiritually healthy as the Waters Rise! In this session we will consider some useful ways to maintain personal and family wellness in the midst of an often-hectic ministry pace of life. Isaiah 43:2a reminds us, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; abd through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you..." God has provided us wisdom for caring for ourselves and our families. God's Spirit cares about our faith life, but He also cares how we protect the temple of God and the precious gift of family He has given us.	In this session we will consider how strengthening the partnership between pastors and lay leadership can strengthen a ministry. Building on Ephesians 4:11-12, "And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...", we explore how stronger partnerships build stronger, healthier ministries when waves threaten to swamp the boat. This includes strengthening relational wellness, emotional maturity, and teaching spiritual principals for equipping lay leaders with healthy tools for ministry and life in the Spirit while navigating the storms that often face us	Have ears to Hear: Too often Scripture stops "speaking to us" because we filter what we hear through what we've always been told a particular text means. This breakout will challenge and equip the participant to allow the Holy Spirit to use the text and context of Scripture to give us new insight with power to shift our paradigms. "Let them who have ears to hear, hear."
FLAGLER B	Rev. Dean Pfeffer & Rev. John Cobos <i>Shepherding in Times of Fear. Standing with Immigrants Amid ICE Raids</i>	Rev. Jeffrey Webb <i>3 D Discipleship</i>	Rev. Tom Eggebrecht <i>Rubble to Rebuilding</i>
	In recent months, many Latino immigrant families in the Plant City and Tampa areas, have been living under the constant shadow of ICE raids. Fear has gripped our communities. Parents are afraid to take their children to school. Workers are afraid to go to their jobs. Some brothers and sisters in Christ no longer feel safe coming to church. This is not only their struggle, but also our calling as the Body of Christ. When part of the Body suffers, we all suffer. As Lutheran pastors and leaders of Anglo and Hispanic ministries in Florida, we have a responsibility to understand these realities and to respond with the heart of the Good Shepherd. This presentation will share stories from the frontlines of ministry, reveal the spiritual and emotional toll of this climate of fear, and invite us to consider how we, together, can be a refuge, an advocate, and a light for our immigrant brothers and sisters. We will explore practical steps for our congregations Anglo and Hispanic to stand in solidarity, to proclaim the hope of the Gospel without fear, and to embody Christ's love in tangible ways, so that no member of His flock is left to face the valley alone.	Discipleship in the family, in the congregation, and in the community	Turning the chaos of ministry into a well-executed plan that aligns resources and moves ministry forward. This session will walk through putting together a three- to five year Ministry Plan that gets clergy, leaders, and laity moving in the same direction using people resources, campus resources, and financial resources.
FLAGLER C	Rev. Stephen Carretto <i>Festivals in John's Gospel for your neighbor</i>	Rev. Dr. James Tino <i>Mission Principles for the Local Church</i>	Rev. Jay Winters <i>Gen Z: The Next Generation of Adults Thirsting for More</i>
	Coming from John chapter 7 which introduces the Festival of Booths (Succoth) that Jesus was teaching at, this breakout will walk you through the Festival of the Booths, the traditions, rituals and celebrations to help you minister to your Jewish neighbor, friend or family member and help introduce conversations from the Gospel of John to the Jewish context. We will also (time permitted) investigate other festivals in the Gospel of John that can help in conversations with the Jewish community (Passover, Pentecost, Hannukah).	"Wrapped around the Axel": Is your church "stuck"? Five principles learned on the overseas mission field help to understand why and where your congregation is stuck, and what can be done to move forward in a healthy, joy-filled way.	For years, churches and ministries have been adjusting their strategies to connect with Millennials. But now a new generation is stepping into adulthood. Gen Z (today's 13-28 year olds) have grown up in a different world shaped by digital culture, pandemic disruption, rising anxiety levels, and shifting spiritual landscapes. Join us as we explore who Gen Z really is—their values, challenges, and spiritual questions—and how to engage them in ways that offer them the water of life who is Christ.
Grand 6	Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies <i>How to Find Yourself in a Secular Age</i>	Rev. Dr. Chad Lakies <i>The Spiritual Conversation CURVE: A Practical Tool for Reluctant Witnesses</i>	Rev. Dr. Leo Sanchez <i>A Strange Witness: Luther's Countercultural Narrative's for Today</i>
	Every person tells a story to themselves about themselves—THIS is who I am. We're encouraged to live authentically, to find ourselves, to become who we are, and to stand out. We've been told (and often tell others) that you can be whatever you want to be if you desire it strongly enough. What if this path is a false form of freedom? What if becoming who we are is rooted in the gifts given by our creator? What if seeking to distinguish ourselves from others in our own authentic uniqueness actually means relying on others, recognizing our inter-dependence? What if identity is not a journey of becoming who we are but a movement of recognition and realization that our callings and relationships always already establish who we are? This presentation will offer an alternative vision for understanding authenticity and identity in our secular age.	St. Paul encouraged all Christians to discern wisely "how to answer" each non-Christian in their life (Colossians 4). But how exactly do we do that in an age where many non-Christians have experienced "church hurt" and don't show any interest in Jesus at all? Learn the simple but revolutionary tool developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries that can help you and your congregation discern how to talk with the non-Christians in their lives.	What does the Christian life look like in a North American culture consumed by individualism, nationalism, and tribalism? This session will explore insights from three of Luther's writings that invite us to think, feel, and act in ways that are strange in North America today. Yet such a strange witness makes Christians stand out from the crowd, opening a door for others to ask further questions about Christians or the church and even consider their own lives in view of the Christian story
Grand 7	Rev. Andy Ritchie <i>Alaska River Fishing and Your Community</i>	Rev. Paul vonWerder <i>Becoming Elders while Becoming Older</i>	Rev. Ron & Barb Pennekamp <i>Holistic Discipling</i>
	Alaska boasts an abundance of river fishing opportunities, but not all river waters are equally productive. You have to read the river to be successful. As church workers, we must read our "cultural river" in light of where God has called us. God has placed us in waters that have people in the pew and also people in our community. Understanding your "river" helps you to see and to fish better the "river" in which God has placed you.	Let's help people embrace their role as elders (male and female) to the younger generations. We will look at the importance of being rooted in Christ and in a community in order to develop relationships that provide discipling opportunities. These are the most potent discipling years. Step up.	How do we learn to drink deeply from the rivers of living water, and how do we lead others to do the same? We will look at how our heads, hearts, hands and habits are transformed by the Spirit of God and how we as "Spiritual Parents," are called to invest in the lives of people. We will look at how couples and individuals can work together to lead others to maturity in Christ.
Grand 8	Rev. Dr. Victor Belton <i>Living Stones: Building with the Remnant</i>	Rev. Scott Gress <i>Turning up the Faucet - Addressing the Starting Place for Church Health</i>	Rev. Scott Gress <i>The Living Water of Biblical Transformation and Leadership</i>
	Keep the Main thing the Main Thing:The Covid pandemic gets blamed for a lot of the challenges congregations are facing in this day. The reality is that many of our congregations were in trouble long before that because our focus was on something other than the main things, training, equipping, and discipling. This workshop will help pastors refocus their energies and give some strategy to focus their 'remnant' in keeping the main thing the main thing.	"Making the Shift: Turning up the Faucet of Revitalization" Drinking Deeply With Five Shifts and Three Realms.The starting place for turning up the flow of rivers of living water is not in a world class preacher, music program, youth minister or other silver bullet. If church or ministry feels stuck, it is much more likely that something more foundational needs attention. In this breakout we'll celebrate the resilience and grit of God's people while breaking down the common rubble to make the shift to turn up the faucet.	Messages of approval and disapproval come at us in ministry. Our inner dialogue hears, reacts or responds and may even behave in ways that are not Christ like. Join us for a cool drink of living water where Christ transforms us by His grace to first lead ourselves well that we may in turn lead others to the living waters of Christ.
OceanView	Barb Pennekamp, Martha Rockey, Anette Shanks, Sally Wesche <i>Living Water Flowing in us and Through Us</i>		
	Pastors' Wives, you are invited to meet together for a time of food, fellowship and study on Tuesday afternoon. We will enjoy a luncheon buffet in the beautiful Ocean View room. After lunch we will spend time sharing and discussing "Living Water Flowing in us and Through Us" as we meditate on John 4 and the woman at the well. As we share with our table groups we will also get creative and paint rocks as a memory of our time together and for you to share with others. You are welcome to come for one or all three of the break-out sessions times. The intention of this time together is to build relationships and provide support for each other as pastors' wives.		