



BACK TO THE **BIBLE** SUMMIT

EMPOWERING YOUR CHURCH
THROUGH SCRIPTURE

PARTICIPANT GUIDEBOOK
SEPT. 30, 2026



Welcome to the Back to the Bible Summit!

Today, you join pastors, educators, and ministry leaders who share a desire to help people engage more deeply with God's Word. We pray these conversations encourage you, challenge you, and offer practical ideas you can carry into your church, school, or ministry.

At Lutheran Bible Translators, we see lives and communities transformed when people encounter God's Word in the language they understand best. Yet here in the United States, regular Scripture has been in decline for years. The challenge before us is not simply to put the Bible within reach, but to help people rediscover it as the living and active Word of God, filled with hope, truth, and life for every generation.

Thank you for joining us. May God use this time to renew your love for His Word and equip you to invite others into it.



Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske
CEO | Executive Director
Lutheran Bible Translators

Summit Schedule

- I. Welcome / Keynote
- II. Panel 1: Scripture Engagement
- III. Break
- IV. Panel 2: Discipleship
- V. Break
- VI. Panel 3: Practical Tools
- VII. Closing Remarks

Meet The Moderator



HEIDI GOEHMANN

Heidi is a licensed clinical social worker, mental health provider, and theological thinker. She loves walking with people to find the ways God has built restoration into our bodies and souls. She provides therapy, writes, and creates resources about mental health, genuine relationships, hope, and restoration at heidigoehmann.com. She loves her giant dog, Star Wars, hockey, adventures, and new ideas. She lives on the shores of Lake Michigan in Ludington, MI, with her husband, four amazing kids, and giant dog.

Scripture Engagement

GOD SPEAKS AT THE TABLE

God continues to speak through His Word, but the ways people encounter, engage, and respond to Scripture are changing. This conversation brings together leaders from a variety of ministry contexts to explore the opportunities and challenges of helping people engage with God's Word. Through shared experiences and thoughtful discussion, the panel will consider what is changing, what remains essential, and why there is reason for hope.

PANELISTS



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES | SPEAKER OF THE LUTHERAN HOUR

Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler has served as Speaker of The Lutheran Hour since 2018. Before becoming a pastor, he served as an aircraft maintenance officer in the U.S. Air Force, graduating from the Air Force Academy in 2001. He later earned his Master of Divinity and Ph.D. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.



Davis Powell

SEED COMPANY | CEO & PRESIDENT

Davis Powell became CEO of Seed Company in March 2024 after nearly ten years with the organization in roles including Chief of Staff and Chief Advancement Officer. He holds a bachelor's degree from Clemson University and a Master of Arts in Christian Leadership from Dallas Theological Seminary.



Rev. Seth Moorman

1517 | STRATEGY AND MARKETING EXECUTIVE

Seth Moorman works at 1517, connecting people to the good news of freedom in Christ through communication and creative planning. Before joining 1517, he served for 18 years as a parish pastor at Bethany Lutheran Church in Long Beach, California. He holds a master's degree in theology and culture from Concordia University Irvine.



Tyler Tollefson

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (TOMBALL, TX) | DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

Tyler Tollefson is in his 6th year serving as Director of Student Ministry at Salem Lutheran. He previously served at Lord of Life in Leawood, KS (2010–2020) and Our Savior's Way in Ashburn, VA (2007–2010). He graduated from CUNE in 2007 and holds a Master's in Executive Coaching and Consulting from CUI.

NOTES

REFLECTION

What's one insight you'll carry with you?

Discipleship

GOD SPEAKS YOUR LANGUAGE

Every disciple starts somewhere. The question is: how do we help people keep growing?

Discipleship is more than a program or Bible study, it's a lifelong journey of following Jesus. In this conversation, our panelists will explore how churches can intentionally walk alongside people at every stage of faith, creating cultures where believers are encouraged, challenged, and equipped to grow as they respond to God's Word in their lives.

PANELISTS



Dr. Bernard Bull

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, NEBRASKA | PRESIDENT

Dr. Bernard Bull serves as the 11th President of Concordia University, Nebraska. His work focuses on the philosophy and praxis of Christian education, futures thinking, and the intersection of education and digital culture. He has taught grades six through doctoral studies in Lutheran schools and universities. Bull is the author and editor of several books including *Faithful and Flourishing*, *The Pedagogy of Faith*, and *Digitized: Spiritual Implications of Technology*.



Rev. Matthew Gonzalez

TRINITY EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH / OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL, BRONX, NY | PASTOR

Pastor González is a Bronx-born pastor and Concordia College—NY graduate who returned home to serve the community that shaped him. He leads both Trinity and Our Saviour congregations as well as Our Saviour Lutheran School. He also serves as a District Board member for the Atlantic District of the LCMS.



Shelly Schultz

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL | PROFESSOR

Professor Shelly Schultz is Director of the DCE Program and Assistant Professor of Christian Ministry at Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP). She is a double alum from CSP with her DCE degree and a Master's in Creative Writing. She speaks, writes, and has served various roles for the LCMS Youth Gathering.



Chris Bellanger

LINC MINISTRIES | TWIN CITIES CITY DIRECTOR

Chris Bellanger is the City Director for LINC Twin Cities, a nonprofit ministry committed to empowering local grassroots leaders to reach their communities with the hope of the Gospel. Under Chris's leadership, LINC equips emerging leaders through coaching, training, strategic planning, and relational support, helping them launch and strengthen church plants, nonprofits, and Kingdom-minded businesses throughout the Twin Cities.

NOTES

REFLECTION

What idea do you want to put into practice?

Practical Tools

GOD SPEAKS EVERY LANGUAGE

We're surrounded by new ideas, new platforms, and a growing list of AI-generated solutions that promise to strengthen ministry. This panel creates space to slow down and ask a different question: What actually helps people engage with God's Word? Through an honest conversation, our panelists will share experiences, challenges, and practical examples that spark new thinking and encourage faithful ministry across churches, schools, and communities.

PANELISTS



Rev. Dr. David Kim

GLOCAL MISSION | FOUNDER

Rev. Dr. David Kim is the founding pastor of Glocal Mission with over 37 years of pastoral and missionary leadership. He has trained and mobilized believers across cultures and generations, from Ecuador to communities worldwide. His resources include Disciple Like Jesus 2.0 and From Catechism to Commission.



Rev. William Fredstrom

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (SEYMOUR, IN) | PASTOR

Rev. William G. Fredstrom is an Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church and an Adjunct Professor of Theology at Concordia University Chicago and Concordia University Wisconsin. He is finishing his PhD at Concordia Seminary and speaks and publishes widely on the intersection of Christian theology and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence.



Rev. Carl Grulke

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATORS | REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Rev. Carl Grulke has been a missionary with Lutheran Bible Translators since 2016. He loves exploring local languages and uncovering how they can reflect who God is. Carl currently serves as Regional Director for Southern Africa and Ethiopia.



Chad Kelly

KING OF KINGS (OMAHA, NE) | DIRECTOR OF STUDENT MINISTRY

Chad Kelly graduated from Concordia University Texas in 2025 and joined King of Kings in July 2025 as the Student Ministry Intern. He recently completed his DCE internship in June 2026 and brings a fresh, passionate perspective to his work with students and families.

NOTES

REFLECTION

What’s one step you’ll put into practice today?

THANK YOU

to Our Host Sites



LCMS TX District
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS
txlcms.org



**Immanuel
Lutheran Church**
SEYMOUR, IN
immanuelseymour.com



**St. John's Lutheran
Church**
WOODBURY, MN
stjohnwoodbury.org



**Interested in hosting the Summit
next year?**

Send Kyla an email: kyla.rodriguez@lbt.org



GOD SPEAKS

30-DAY BIBLE READING PLAN

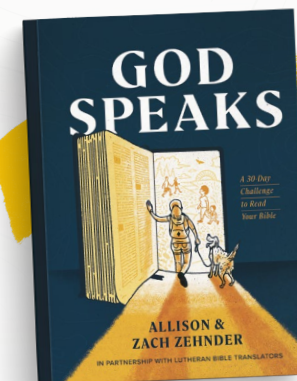
Each day's verse comes from *God Speaks: A 30-Day Challenge to Read Your Bible*. Read the selected verses each day, or go deeper by reading the entire chapter to explore the full story and context of God's Word.

Second Timothy 3:16–17 is our theme verse and will be repeated throughout the reading plan to help you learn it, remember it, and carry its truth with you.

DAY 1 – 10	DAY 11 – 20	DAY 21 – 30
1 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17	11 ☐ Isaiah 45:5	21 ☐ Psalm 24:1
2 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17	12 ☐ Matthew 20:13-16	22 ☐ Revelation 21:1
3 ☐ Jeremiah 29:11	13 ☐ Romans 8:1	23 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
4 ☐ Romans 1:19-20	14 ☐ Matthew 4:4	24 ☐ Ephesians 6:18
5 ☐ Matthew 22:37-39	15 ☐ John 4:6	25 ☐ Romans 10:14
6 ☐ 1 Corinthians 13:4-7	16 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17	26 ☐ 2 Corinthians 9:7
7 ☐ Isaiah 1:17	17 ☐ Romans 8:20-21	27 ☐ 1 Peter 4:10
8 ☐ John 11:25	18 ☐ Psalm 19:1	28 ☐ Colossians 3:17
9 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17	19 ☐ Genesis 1:1	29 ☐ Ephesians 4:12
10 ☐ Genesis 3:4	20 ☐ Colossians 1:17	30 ☐ 2 Timothy 3:16-17



**Do the challenge
with your church**
www.LBT.org/GodSpeaks



Progress in Translation

Lutheran Bible Translators removes barriers so people can access Scripture in the language of the heart. Through Bible translation, church partnerships, and multilingual ministry, we help more people encounter God's Word and its transforming power.

Numbers from the Field (2025)

78 PROGRAMS, 130 LANGUAGES

3,680

Chapters of Scripture completed –
across all translation programs

2

Milestone Publications
Komba Full Bible (Ghana)
Khwedam Panoramic (Botswana)

30+

TRANSLATION PROGRAMS

9

MISSION FUND INITIATIVES

15

SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMS

1

DOMESTIC / PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

11

CAPACITY BUILDING & COORDINATION PROGRAMS

Projects Nearing Completion:

MAAN OLD TESTAMENT (LIBERIA):	98.4%
DAN FULL BIBLE (LIBERIA):	98.5%
BANDI OLD TESTAMENT (LIBERIA):	82.4%

Crowds gathered in Northern Ghana to celebrate the dedication of the Komba Bible in November 2025.



Scan to watch the dedication

Projects like Dan and Maan are where focused generosity can help move Scripture from “almost there” into people’s hands.

LET THE
WORD of CHRIST
DWELL IN YOU RICHLY

COL. 3:16

Since 1839, Concordia Seminary has been equipping people for a lifetime of ministry.

As we begin our 188th academic year, our theme verse based on Col. 3:16 isn't just a slogan. It's an integral part of our ministerial formation programs that prepare pastors and deaconesses for a lifetime of service to the Gospel. If you know someone in whom you see the Word of Christ dwelling richly, encourage them to think about attending the Seminary.

YOUR MINISTRY JOURNEY STARTS *here*

 **800-822-9545**
 **CSL.EDU/ADMISSIONS**

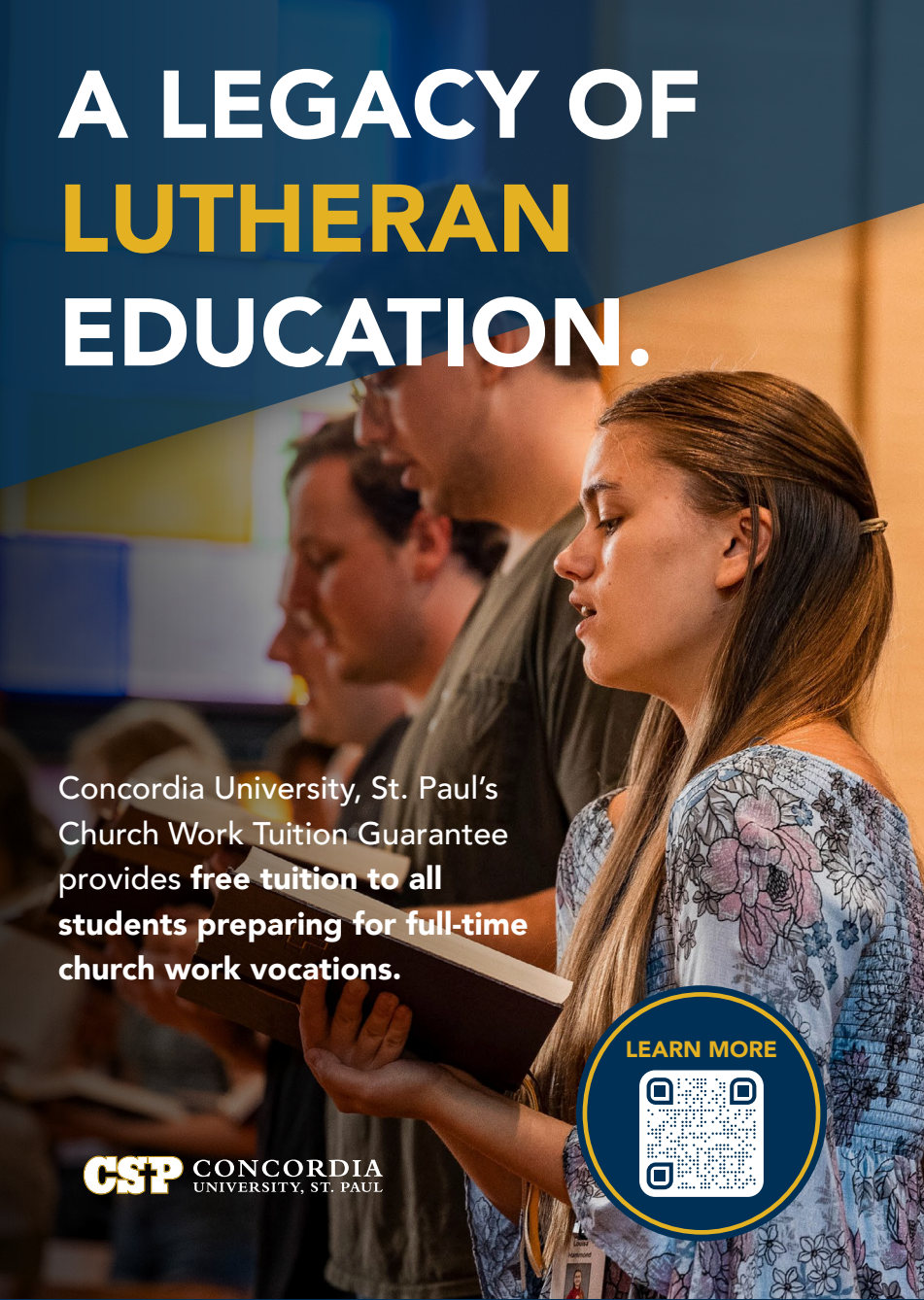


**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

Know someone
considering a career
in ministry? Scan
the code to request
more information!



A LEGACY OF **LUTHERAN** EDUCATION.



Concordia University, St. Paul's Church Work Tuition Guarantee provides **free tuition to all students preparing for full-time church work vocations.**

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GOD SPEAKS EVERY LANGUAGE

JOIN THE MISSION



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