



The Lutheran Convention for Seniors sponsored by the OWLS

## **“Called to be a Blessing”**

### **2023 Keynote Speakers**

Professor Kenneth Cherney, Jr.

#### **Through All the Changing Scenes of Life**

According to Luther's understanding of Christian "vocation," God calls every Christian to our own unique position in life, where he makes us channels through whom he pours out his blessings on others. This remains God's intention for us throughout our lives, although as we age the ways God uses us will certainly change. This presentation will focus on what Scripture says about the unique ways that God uses his "seasoned saints" to bless those around them. The autumn of life brings with it the special joy of looking back on many decades of God's grace, but in this session, we'll see how God asks us to stay alert and focused so that we can hear him when he calls us right here, right now.

Pastor Jonathan Hein

#### **The Next Decade and the Vital Role WELS Seniors Will Play**

The American Christian landscape has shifted drastically since the turn of the millennium. Increasingly, Americans find organized religion to have no value. In 2020, for the first time in history, church membership in America fell below 50%. Since 2020, WELS has declined by about 75,000 members. The next decade is going to be extremely important for the WELS as we try and meet the many challenges before us: stemming the loss of our young members, reaching out to communities that don't see the need for church, recruiting more people to enter the gospel ministry. Pastor Jonathan Hein, coordinator of WELS Congregational Services, will share the vital role WELS seniors are playing in meeting the challenges of this next decade.

Mr. Randy Breuer

#### **A Christian in the World of the NBA**

Randy Breuer grew up in Lake City, Minnesota. He led the local high school team to two state basketball tournaments in 1978 and 1979 and joined the Minnesota Gophers in 1979. After

being drafted by the Milwaukee Bucks, he also played for the Minnesota Timberwolves, Atlanta Hawks, and Sacramento Kings. Since retirement, Randy has been kept busy volunteering at his children's and grandchildren's schools and teaching safety training for heavy equipment.

## **2023 Workshop Presentations**

### **Never Invite God to a Pity Party**

*Pastor Jeff Samelson*

This workshop will offer attendees both a healthy Christian perspective on and information about life issues as we encounter them today. We—as individuals and as members of society—are facing changes and challenges that often leave us angry, nostalgic, confused, or even despairing, but when we are armed with faith, truth, and knowledge, we are more able to see these things as opportunities for growth, witness, and service.

### **New Technology – One Tool to Independence for the Visually Impaired**

*Lawrence Povinelli*

Do you want to help a family member or friend that is visually impaired become more independent in worship, in church life, at home? Come and find out how smartphones, electronic magnifiers, refreshable braille displays, computers, medical devices, appliances, etc. are becoming more accessible and opening the door to independence for someone with vision loss. Mr. Povinelli will bring real life insight to visual impairment and how one can be independent using current technology.

### **Ways to Support our Military on Duty and After Their Tour Ends**

*Brad Price*

Shoulder to Shoulder. A warrior's role in the military is clearly defined by their rank and jobs they perform. They get 'orders' defining their duties. For many veterans, being deployed is the best time of their lives. Things are simple. Friendships meld under fire and stress. Afterward, life can feel complicated and lonely. Just as God instituted a warrior's vocation during their military service, he promises he has purpose for Christian warriors beyond their service.

## **Seniors Exercising for Health and Mobility**

*Kelly Diersen*

Exercise is important at any age, but especially so as we age. Regular exercise is key to maintaining activities of daily living, mobility, and independence. In this presentation, Kelly Diersen (NETA Group Fitness Instructor & Personal Trainer) will discuss why exercise is so important as well as how much and what kind of exercise is recommended for seniors. She will then lead you through a moderate exercise routine that can be done at home with minimal to no equipment. All fitness levels are encouraged and welcome to attend.

## **One of These is Not the Other**

*Pastor Tim Mutterer*

I lecture on the presidents and first ladies, the stuff you didn't get in school. I don't necessarily touch on the politics but who they were as young people and what their general character was and the times in which they lived. A time frame from 1869 to 1923 brought seven men from Ohio to serve as president. Seven couples have much to offer for our appreciation and understanding of what true marital love looks like and what biblical humility is. They serve as role models for us as Christians in a country where we often undervalue and even forget the sacrifices of those who came before.