



“Support groups in our churches give survivors not only hope in their well-being, but also remind them of their spiritual hope for eternal life.”

Michelle Markgraf

Presentation: 9:00am—10:00am

When Christian Love Hurts

Michelle Markgraf

Family Services Director at Kingdom Workers

Michelle Markgraf is a graduate of Martin Luther College, and she spent several years in Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran (WELS) classrooms. The Lord’s words in Matthew 25, “Whatever you have done for the least of these...” led her to volunteer at the local rape and domestic abuse crisis center as an advocate in 2011. She then served on its board of directors and became executive director for the agency in 2015. In 2018, she became an adjunct professor for the University of South Dakota, teaching a Family Violence class. In 2019, Michelle brought this expertise to Kingdom Workers to start a program that helps both the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) churches support survivors of domestic abuse. She lives in New Ulm, MN, with her husband, Pete.

Approximately one out of three women and one out of THREE men experience relationship violence in their lifetime. This statistic does not include verbal or emotional abuse, which is harder to quantify. A popular myth is that abuse occurs less frequently in Christian homes; the reality is far different. Christians do not enjoy a special exemption from this sin, yet it is rarely addressed in faith circles.

During this session, participants will discuss what abuse is and how to recognize its signs. Galatians 6:10 tells us to “do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” Attend and find out how you can help someone in an abusive relationship. Learn how to extend God’s grace to the survivor while assisting him/her on the journey to safety and healing.



Presentation: 10:00am — 11 :00am
Reducing Victimization
In the Youth & Adult Community

Dr. Rebecca Siehr, Ph.D.

**Associates in Police Science, Bachelor's in Criminal Justice,
Master's in Sociology, and Doctorate in Criminology & Victimology**

Rebecca's background is primarily centered in Criminal Justice; She has volunteered in Juvenile Secure Detention and Victim/Witness programs. Rebecca has also worked as a researcher and Field Supervisor for the Neighborhood Crime Forum and Welfare Reform Project.

Additionally, Rebecca has operated her own Private Detective Agency, where she and her partner focused exclusively on the investigation of criminal cases, process serving, and security.

Rebecca has been a college professor who has taught for over 22 years.

She attends (and volunteers at) Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.



“I believe that God is the ultimate answer to the problems that human beings face. I want to be an instrument of God’s love to people in emotional pain and personal crisis. It is my goal to provide them with the mercy and forgiveness, the redemptive love and powerful peace God offers. I will be sensitive to the spiritual values of those I serve while also faithful to God’s guidance.”

Pastor Henselin

Presentation: 11:00am—12:00pm
Moral Injury—What It Is & Why it Matters
Frontline Worker Support

Pastor Philip Henselin

Institutional Ministries, Executive Director

After serving as a pastor in Mississippi, Connecticut, and Illinois, Pastor Henselin began to volunteer himself as a chaplain for the Rockford, Illinois Police and Fire Departments. He has chaplaincy credentialing through both Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) Chaplaincy and the International Conference of Police Chaplains. After seven years of chaplaincy service, he accepted the call to be the Executive Director of Institutional Ministries, a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) para-synodical.

Pastor Henselin is passionate about providing support for those who support our communities. This led him to a deeper study of compassion ministry. His classes include such topics as trauma and loss, death and dying, depression, post-traumatic stress, domestic violence, abuse, and addiction.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) holds a special interest to him because of his close relationship with individuals who are suffering from it, and because so many of the other topics above inter-relate with PTSD.

As a pastor focused on PTSD, his goal is:

- To bring understanding of the struggle through which the individual is suffering.
- To offer friendship and compassion, hope and strength at a time when one might feel empty, alone and without direction.
- To provide a vision of a brighter future to people who see little or none.
- To offer a quiet, compassionate safe haven to individuals who find that the trauma they so wanted to leave behind has come home with them.

Pastor Phil Henselin wants to clarify that he is not a trained therapist, not a licensed counselor, and not a psychiatrist. His acquaintance with the subject comes from three kinds of instructors: 1) licensed therapists who taught or offered advice. 2) survivors (not victims) who taught him through life experience and continued contact. 3) survivors whose recovery has progressed enough to be able to become teachers mentoring others back toward health.

His goal is to help you, your family members, your friends and your church:

- Better understand post-traumatic stress.



“After losing a friend to suicide in June, 2014, I made a commitment to myself and those within my community (and beyond) to break my silence of suicide ideation / survived attempt(s) and share my story.” Deeatra Kaifosz

Presentation: 12:30pm—3:00pm

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(QUESTION. PERSUADE. REFER.)



Deeatra K
Engaging.Mind-full.Change.

Deeatra Kaifosz
Professional Speaker and Trainer
Suicide Prevention and Whole Wellness

Deeatra Kajfosz is an award-winning suicide prevention disrupter, advocate, and educator, published author, and respected public speaker. She reaches audiences with her transparent account of hidden secrets, battle with mental illness, near fatal suicide attempt, and unexpected twist toward acceptance, healing, and hope for others. Deeatra dedicates her life to developing effective programs for the de-escalation of suicidal psychache, designed to fill gaps within the traditional prevention model. When not working within the fields of prevention and life emPOWERment, she takes to the stage as a fearless and colorful storyteller. By using research, best practices, and her personal journey, she connects with diverse audiences in highly personal and inspiring ways. Hers is an extraordinary tribute to the gift of adversity, the power to rise above it, and the ability to authentically share a life-saving message of hope and healing for others.