

## 2024 NWDTC Keynote and Presenter Information

Keynote Presenter	Biography	Topic
<p>Educational Keynote                      Jeffrey J. Loberger                      Title: School Culture                      Thursday, February 8                      10:40 AM</p>	<p>Born and raised in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, I learned to have strong Christian morals. My parents raised my four siblings and I to work for what we have and don't take anything for granted. After years of K-12 Christian education, I decided to pursue a teaching career of my own.</p> <p>I graduated college from Martin Luther College and started my teaching career in a 1-room classroom in Nebraska as principal and teacher. Over the next 15 years, I served as principal and teacher in Salt Lake City, Omaha, and even started a school in Florida. The experiences at different schools were certainly beneficial, but what stands out the most is the people I was able to serve and serve with, along with the students and families I had the privilege to impact.</p> <p>Now, I have a much larger, or different, role as President of a Christian high school. We are a growing high school with over 95 faculty and support staff and just about 750 students. We have projections that may see about 825 students in just the next 5 years and potentially the mid-900's in just 10 years. I am blessed to have this opportunity and challenge before me at this time.</p> <p>None of this could happen without my family. My wife and five children have been supportive of the relocations and startups I have been part of in schools. Without their</p>	<p>How often have you heard about or discussed at your school, the importance of school culture? My guess is if you have been in or around education for a few years, this is the topic of at least one in-service or faculty meeting. In my 20+ years of experience as a Principal or President of my own schools, as an accreditation leader or team member visiting other schools, or as a school consultant both formally or informally, I have heard this come up over and over again. This is and should be a topic of discussion, but through my experiences, it often comes as a reaction to an issue instead of an item that is proactively a key component to your mission.</p> <p>So how do you get there? That is everyone's question. Before we address some ideas on possible outcomes to a huge topic, we must establish sound reasoning for what it is exactly we want, and why exactly we want it. That is some of the hard work! I hope that through this presentation and further discussion, I not only give you an overview of the what and the why, but it impresses on you the how for your specific ministry setting and then create a passion for proactively creating positive change in your school culture.</p>

	love and support, this ride called life would have been very different – and much less exciting. No one knows what the future holds, but I simply pray that each day I can be a positive influence on all those I serve as they continue to grow to become the leaders of the future!	
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Spiritual Keynote Rev. Micheal Berg Title: Apologetics in our WELS Schools Friday, February 9 11:15	Rev. Dr. Michael Berg is an associate professor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College. He is the author of Vocation: the Setting for Human Flourishing (1517), The Baptismal Life (Northwestern), On Any Given Sunday (1517) and an upcoming book on the Theology of the Cross (Northwestern). He is also co-host of the podcast “Let the Bird Fly”. He is married to Amanda, a teacher at St. Philip’s Lutheran in Milwaukee. They have three daughters ages 20, 18, & 15.	Christians have been given the command to “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have” (1 Peter 3:15). But what does that look like in WELS schools as we both reach out to our students and prepare them to defend their faith? In this presentation we will explore the ways Christians have and can speak about their faith to the skeptic. How might a philosopher, a scientist, a lawyer, an historian, or even an artist look at the evidence of God’s existence and specifically the facts of Christ’s resurrection? Each has a unique vantage point about the same basic fact: Christ rose from the dead and defeated the devil for you and me.
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Melanie Giddings Topic:Alignment: Building the Next Lutheran Theology Curriculum February 8 and 9 Audience-All Teachers and Administrators	Melanie Giddings has served in WELS schools as a classroom teacher for thirteen years and as a curriculum director for nine years. She has earned her bachelor’s degree from Martin Luther College (STEP - Math) and	Description: Recently, many WELS schools and federations have put an increased emphasis on building stronger curricula in the secular subject areas. How does this process look as

	<p>master's degree from Wisconsin Lutheran College (Curriculum &amp; Instruction). Since 2017, Melanie has served as the curriculum director for the 17 Lutheran elementary schools that partner together and form Fox Valley Lutheran Schools in northern Wisconsin. In addition to currently serving FVL Schools, she was extended and accepted a split call to join the Lutheran Schools team as Curriculum Coordinator for WELS schools. Melanie resides in Appleton, WI with her husband, John, and three children: Faith (13), Samuel (11), and Thaddeus (8)</p>	<p>we move beyond the ChristLight program into a new WELS theology curriculum for our Lutheran schools? Melanie Giddings, the theology curriculum project lead, will share why there is a need, how the process is being structured and what components are being designed as this project moves forward.</p>
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<p>Rachel Blum  Topic:PBIS &amp; SEL in Christ-Centered Schools: Positive and Consistent Systems and Practices that Help Schools Thrive  February 8: Two Single Sectionals  Audience- All Teachers and Administrators</p>	<p>I graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College in 2009. I then taught 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade for 7 years in a West Allis Public School. During my time there, I joined the PBIS team, focusing on whole school and classroom implementation. I also organized our Academic Response to Intervention team and framework so that we could meet more student needs as a school. I worked with the Rtl Center of Wisconsin to discuss how other schools could implement our schoolwide intervention plan and spoke at multiple Rtl Conferences. After staying home with my kids for a couple years, I received a call to teach 1st grade and Spanish at St. Paul, Green Bay. We began implementing the PBIS framework my second year at St. Paul. I am now our PBIS coach, one of our extended learning teachers, and I teach 6th grade ELA and 7th &amp; 8th grade Spanish. I am blessed to be teaching and serving in this way and I love</p>	<p>Do you want to help staff members work together and communicate effectively? Do you want a system that helps meet the needs of all your students: littles, middles and bigs? Do you want to like and appreciate your older students just as much as you like and enjoy the little ones in your school? There are no perfect schools, but there are schools that have systems and practices in place that engage students in a positive learning environment, support educators as they learn and grow alongside each other, and use data to problem solve in teams and communicate through challenges and opportunities. In a school where PBIS and SEL are successfully implemented together, both students and staff learn and grow, school and classroom</p>

	growing alongside my students and colleagues!	communities build connections and thrive, and families embrace the love and high expectations that surround their children each day. Join me in learning, discussing and embracing change as we strive to meet the needs of our students, staff, and families, while sharing the love of Jesus!
Presenter	Biography	Description
Kate Tiefel Topic: Presto! Music for Busy Classrooms February 8: 110 minute sectional Audience- Prek, Kindergarten, Primary, and Elementary	Kate Tiefel is the director of music at Emanuel, New London, where she teaches PK-8 music. She holds a BS in music education and a MM in choral conducting from Michigan State University. She has 20 years of experience teaching music in public and parochial schools and is a founding member of the Lutheran Institute for Music Education.	How does a busy classroom teacher teach music if they feel limited by time, training, or materials? This session will share a joyful, play-based approach to teaching music in the lower elementary grades (PK-4). We'll start with a simple music lesson plan outline you can use again and again. Then, get ready to sing, move, and play instruments, as we build a grab-bag of fun, foundational music activities that you'll be excited to use right away in your classroom.
Presenter	Biography	Description
Ann Wilson Topic: Wisconsin State Licensure through ABCTE online February 8 Audience- All Teachers and Administrators	I currently teach 3rd grade and 3-8 art and music at Immanuel Lutheran in Manitowoc. This is my 28th year of teaching, with experience in preschool through 8th grade. This year I added a Therapy Dog to my classroom.	Did you graduate from DMLC or MLC without your state teaching license? This online program through the American Board for the Certification of Teaching Excellence is your solution. No student teaching or portfolio required. Title funds can even be used to pay for it. Come learn how this is your solution!
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Daryl Johnson	My name is Daryl Johnson. I am a 1995 Michigan Lutheran Seminary graduate. I am	I have been using YouTube for educational content for a few years now. During the

<p>Topic: Creating Content and Playlists on Youtube February 8: Two Single Sectionals Audience- All Teachers</p>	<p>also a 2000 Martin Luther College graduate. From 2000 - 2004, I taught at Lord of Life Lutheran Church and School in Friendswood, Texas. In 2004, my family moved to Trinity Lutheran Church &amp; School in Brillion, Wisconsin, and we have been there ever since. During my time in Brillion, I have mostly taught 5th &amp; 6th grade. We have been using Google in our school for over 10 years now. I wouldn't call myself the Tech Director of our school, but when people need technology help, they usually head to my room.</p>	<p>Covid-19 pandemic, I was forced to create more content and/or playlists to help my students learn from more than just my words. This section is for those people looking to create their own content or create a collection from the limitless content found on YouTube. I will show you what I use in the hopes it may help you get started or improve what you are already doing. Please feel free to come with your own ideas and techniques to share as I am sure my way is not the only way to create content. I would encourage anyone coming to my sectional to bring a device that can access YouTube as well as having some sort of webcam attached. It will allow you to try to create a sample piece if time permits.</p>
<p>Presenter</p>	<p>Biography</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Chuqee Fletcher Topic: So You're Interested about Cultural Competency? February 8: Two Single Sectionals Audience- All Teachers and Administrators</p>	<p>Chuqee Fletcher serves as the Senior Principal at Shining Star Christian Schools in Milwaukee. He graduated from Martin Luther College in 2012 and Wisconsin Lutheran College in 2017, receiving his MA in Education with an emphasis in Leadership &amp; Innovation. He is currently a student at Concordia University of Wisconsin pursuing his Doctor of Education. His passions and joys in ministry include cultural diversity, outreach, sports, and youth development. He and his wife Erika, who teaches at Garden Homes Lutheran School, live in Milwaukee and have four children; Cali, Carter, Cairo, and Camia.</p>	<p>This abbreviated workshop will engage participants in the authentic processing of culture and its impact on their own culture, equipping leaders and teachers to better serve a diverse group of students and families. The outcome will ultimately help all participants to be able to work better with multicultural, diverse environments. The presenter will provide a multimedia presentation and skillful facilitation to inspire meaningful discussion &amp; reflection amongst the group. The overall goal of this presentation is to provide all participants with deeper knowledge in the area of culture and ethnic relationships to deal with the impact of racial preferences. In the full scope of the larger series of workshops, participants will walk away with a tool bag of actions and</p>

		items that can be directly applied in a ministry and school environment.
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Amy Larson Topic: MDP's Easy and Simple February 9: Two Single Sectionals Audience- All Teachers and Administrators	Amy is currently teaching 5th grade at Riverview in Appleton.	Bring your ideas and a computer and we will get to work on creating your own.
Amy Larson Topic: Reading and Writing Workshop February 8: Two Single Sectionals Audience- Primary and Elementary	Amy has taught in Appleton at Riverview since 2002. This year is the first year she is teaching something other than 1st grade.	Teaching Reading and Writing Workshop with Lucy Calkins can be fun. This presentation will talk about the good, the pitfalls, and the things you need to supplement to make sure everyone is learning.
Presenter	Biography	Description
Rachel Griener Topic:Tackling Tough Topics with Youth February 8: Two Single Sectionals Audience- Middle School Teachers and Administrators	Rachel Greiner strives to live the motto, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." Her pro-life experience and passion for empowering others have led her to speak across the US and in South America. She has also been featured on national radio and podcasts. In 2023 she presented to thousands of students and adults in the Midwest about beneficial life choices.	Gain insight into the issues teens face in today's ever-changing culture. Learn to tackle topics like sexual activity, drugs, and pornography through a Christian-worldview lens from an experienced prevention educator. Embrace the success sequence and go beyond a "just say no" message. You'll leave with the strategies and resources to be the adults teens need. Handouts, discussion, and candy included.
Presenter	Biography	Description
Jeremiah Hoffmann Topic:Developing a Christian Culture in Athletics & Developing Christian Athletes February 9. Two Different Sectionals	Director of Sports and Recreation Management Master's Program - WLC I am a big believer in culture. Culture is as important as skill development. My experience includes coaching high school basketball and golf, junior college basketball and college women's	These sectionals will pair well together. The overall theme of the presentations is developing young Christian athletes. Strategies and perspectives on how to use athletics as a tool to strengthen personal accountability, team work, commitment and

	golf. I have my masters in Sports Administration from Ohio University.	how to transfer these skills to other areas of their lives.
Presenter	Biography	Description
Lori Elke Topics:1: Art and Worship(February 8) Trending in Art Education (February 9) Single Sectionals Audience- All Teachers	Lori Ehlke is an Art educator currently teaching K-4 Art at St. Paul's in Onalaska, High School Art at Luther High School, and adult art at her home studio. She has been an Artist and Art educator for 15 years and has enjoyed working with all ages and levels. She also teaches online art classes through Painting to Gogh and on YouTube	1. Art Educator, Lori Ehlke, will encourage you to use Art to connect students to their Savior, and connect the school and church relationship through Art.  2. Art Educator, Lori Ehlke, loves to follow what is trending in the world of Art Education and tries out a lot of the trends on the variety of students she teaches. In this sectional she will share with you some of the latest trends in the Art world and will even have you try one yourself!
Presenter	Biography	Description
Jeremy S. Bakken Topic:Using Christian Worship Hymnal and Psalter Devotionally in the Classroom February 8 and 9: Two single sectionals Audience- All Teachers and Administrators	Jeremy S. Bakken is Director of Worship and Sacred Music at Northwestern Publishing House. He served on the Hymns Subcommittee of the Christian Worship project and has presented on various hymnal and other music and worship related topics across the synod. He also serves as adult choir director and coordinator of the liturgical ensemble at Trinity in Waukesha. Additionally, Jeremy is a part-time member of WELS music group Branches Band, with which he has served over 500 WELS congregations. He holds music degrees from Wisconsin Lutheran College (2004), University of New Mexico (MM, 2013) and University of Southern California (DMA, 2022).	Christian Worship Hymnal and Psalter provide numerous resources that offer variety and flexibility for classroom devotions. Learn how these can be applied to make a rich, diverse, and participatory devotional life in your classroom, faculty meetings...even your own home.
Presenter	Biography	Description

<p>Daniel Henderson  Topic: Understanding the Right to Read Act  February 9: Two Single Sectionals  Audience- Administrators</p>	<p>Daniel Henderson is the Project Manager for the Wisconsin Council of Religious and Independent Schools (WCRIS). A Texas native, Daniel is interested in innovative school programs and has a passion for private school sovereignty. His expertise includes working with the school safety programs, school choice programs, busing and pandemic aid for private K-12 schools.</p> <p>He graduated from Marquette University with a degree in Public Relations and a minor in Advertising with a deep curiosity about public policy and political science.</p>	<p>WCRIS will present on the recently passed Right to Read Act. Attendees will learn the latest on what the Act means for your school. Expert staff from WCRIS will walk you through the Act, the requirements, and some of the unknowns the DPI will need to address.</p>
<p>Presenter</p>	<p>Biography</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Dr. Rhoda Wolle  Topic: Thrive Time- A Christ-Centered Social Emotional Curriculum  February 9: Two Single Sectionals  Audience- All Teachers and Administrators</p>	<p>Dr. Rhoda Wolle serves as the Vice President of Organizational Development for the worldwide mission organization Kingdom Workers. Her personal mission is the Great Commission and to help equip Christians to serve their neighbor with their God-given gifts. She is a former Dean and Professor at Wisconsin Lutheran College. As an educational psychologist, Rhoda has taught workshops on five continents and has spoken to thousands of educators, parents, and teens on the topics of student success and the science of thriving. She is the co-host of the podcast 5toThrive, and has authored multiple books. She has also designed a Christ-centered SEL curriculum for Christian schools called Thrive Time. She is a member of St. Marcus Lutheran Church in Milwaukee, WI. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, music, reading, walking, golf, and animals,</p>	<p>We intentionally teach students very important subjects such as reading, math, science, and history. How do we also intentionally teach them life skills such as thought and emotional regulation and critical thinking? How do we teach them about their identity in a way that honors who God created them to be? How can we talk about the skills of conflict resolution within the context of sin, grace, and forgiveness?</p> <p>Thrive Time was designed by Christian teachers for Christian teachers, and it will give you the tools to equip your students and their families to thrive socially, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Finally, lesson planning is minimal and there is no grading to complete.</p> <p>You will leave this sectional with tools to utilize in your classroom, even if you choose not to use the curriculum.</p>



	especially her dog "Smidge"! You can find her resources available at: <a href="http://www.doctorrhoda.com">www.doctorrhoda.com</a>	
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<p>Chuck Flunker  Topic: Progress not Perfection - Investing in Yourself...So You Can Invest in Others  February 9: Two Single Sectionals  Audience: All Teachers</p>	<p>Chuck graduated from MLC in 2009. He served as Tutor at Great Plains Lutheran High School for two years and one year at Immanuel Lutheran in Salem, Oregon. In 2012 he started working at Courthouse Club Fitness in Salem, Oregon, eventually serving as Vice President of the company for 4 years.</p> <p>Chuck has been teaching MOSSA workouts since 2012 and is certified to teach Group Power, Group Core, Group Ride, R30, Move30, and 3D30. He is also a National Trainer and Presenter for several Mossa Programs. Chuck holds a personal training certification through the National Academy of Sports Medicine.</p> <p>In 2022 he started his own health coaching business. He now coaches over 125 clients (25% of them being called workers) in nutrition, habit, mindset, and overall lifestyle coaching.</p>	<p>This interactive sectional is intended for any called worker looking to improve their physical or mental health or simply "feel better." Participants will have the opportunity to ask questions and take away resources they can use to develop or continue a healthy lifestyle.</p> <p>Chuck will cover THE PLAY or Seven steps he coaches all of his clients through which help whether you have over 100lbs to lose or simply want to feel better and have more energy.</p> <p>Topics that will be covered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Food is Fuel - Addressing common misconceptions regarding food as we answer the question - Is there a "perfect" Nutrition Plan?</li> <li>* Foundational Health - How our Gut Health &amp; Inflammation impact EVERYTHING</li> <li>* What is the BEST workout?</li> <li>* Other Topics will include - Tracking Food, Sleep, and Hydration</li> </ul>
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<p>Courtney Cummings  Topic: The Zones of  February 9: One Sectional  Audience: All Teachers</p>	<p>I graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran College in 2009 with a Bachelors in Early Childhood Education. In 2012, I went through the Residency In Teacher Education (RITE) Program through CESA 6, and received my Special Education License. I worked in the</p>	<p>All students have feelings and emotions. Every student reacts to their feelings and emotions in different ways; some expected, and some unexpected. The Zones of Regulation is a curriculum designed to help those students who struggle to control their</p>

	<p>Oshkosh Area School District for 11 years as a Cross Categorical Teacher. Last spring, I accepted the call to serve as the Special Needs teacher at Grace Lutheran in Oshkosh.</p> <p>I grew up in Oshkosh, and went to Grace Lutheran as a student. I attended WLA for high school, and graduated in 2003. After graduating from WLC in 2009, I started dating my husband, Christopher. We were married in 2012, and three years later we had our son Carter. He is in 2nd grade at Grace Lutheran. Our daughter Charli was born in 2019, and is currently in Preschool at Grace. We enjoy spending time together, building LEGO or watching movies.</p>	<p>behaviors and lack the self regulation skills needed when they are experiencing strong feelings and emotions. We will discuss some of the tools and strategies that can be used to help our students learn self regulation strategies.</p>
Presenter	Biography	Description
<p>Tim Mueller  Topic: Physical Education Best Practices Made Easy  February 9  Audience: K-8 PE Teachers</p>	<p>Tim Mueller has taught K-8 physical education at Erin School since 1992. He is a national presenter and was named the 2016 Wisconsin and 2017 SHAPE Midwest Middle School PE Teacher of the Year. He is an adjunct professor at Concordia University - Wisconsin, instructing the Methods of Teaching Elementary and Secondary PE courses. He facilitates teacher team-building training and assists teachers in creating positive learning environments for all classes. Tim is most passionate about Gospel outreach and he runs Path to Victory sports camps around the country every summer. He trains WELS churches to effectively use sports camps to reach families in their community with the good news about Jesus.</p>	<p>Are you looking for simple but effective ways to make physical education fun while still developing important movement skills for your students? This session will be an active session filled with activities that you can easily implement into your PE curriculum. You will leave with many new activities, along with best-practice tips and tricks to make your PE classes exciting and engaging for all students.</p>
Presenter	Biography	Description

<p>Tim Mueller  Topic: Moving to a Positive Classroom Environment  February 9  Audience: All Teachers</p>	<p>Tim Mueller has taught K-8 physical education at Erin School since 1992. He is a national presenter and was named the 2016 Wisconsin and 2017 SHAPE Midwest Middle School PE Teacher of the Year. He is an adjunct professor at Concordia University - Wisconsin, instructing the Methods of Teaching Elementary and Secondary PE courses. He facilitates teacher team-building training and assists teachers in creating positive learning environments for all classes. Tim is most passionate about Gospel outreach and he runs Path to Victory sports camps around the country every summer. He trains WELS churches to effectively use sports camps to reach families in their community with the good news about Jesus.</p>	<p>Do you want to develop a positive classroom environment, have more student engagement, and develop student leadership in fun and unique ways? This interactive session is designed for all K-8 teachers and will include "learning through movement" in classroom-appropriate ways. Participants will learn how to use brain break games and activities in the classroom to help develop character and empower students with hands-on application to faith. Come be inspired and leave with many character-building lesson ideas that you can implement right away!</p>
<p>Presenter</p>	<p>Biography</p>	<p>Description</p>
<p>Jena Winder  Topic- From Decoding to Understanding  February 8  Audience: Elementary and Middle School</p>	<p>Jena Winder started teaching in 2001. She taught high school English for 14 years, middle school and high school ELA for 7 years, and now she teaches 3rd grade at Riverview Lutheran. She lives in the Fox Valley with her husband Travis and two children.</p>	<p>The shift from decoding to comprehension. However, kids will enter the comprehension stage at various reading levels. This sectional will show you a variety of engaging strategies to teach reading comprehension as students read a variety of literature that is interesting to them. These methods work with any book and foster collaborative learning amongst peers.</p>
<p>Presenter</p>		<p>Description</p>
<p>Brittney Immel</p>		<p>Preschool Roundtable</p>
<p>Melissa Nolte</p>		<p>K-2 Roundtable</p>
<p>Dave Foulton</p>		<p>3-4 Roundtable</p>

Natalia Wild		5-6 Roundtable
Dave Lecker		7-8 Roundtable
Paul Ihde		Administrator Roundtable