

The Seventh Annual Apologetics and Worldview
Conference

Unsurpassed Christian Apologetists

Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN, June 18-19, 2025

WEDNESDAY evening, June 18

6:30pm I. The Legacy of John Warwick Montgomery (Craig Parton)

THURSDAY, June 19

9:00am II. The Legacy of C.S. Lewis, (Joel Heck)

11:00am III. The Legacy of Early Church Apologists (Adam Francisco)

11:50am Lunch break

1:00pm III. The Legacy of Early Church Apologists, CONTINUED

2:00pm IV. Table Talk with the presenters



Craig Parton is a trial lawyer and partner with Price, Postel & Parma LLP, the oldest law firm in the Western United States located in Santa Barbara, California. He received his Master's degree at the Simon Greenleaf School of Law, an institution devoted to the integration of Christian faith and legal reasoning. He earned his Juris Doctorate at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 1987, where he served as Executive Editor of the Law Journal, COMM/ENT. Mr. Parton has traveled to over 100 universities and colleges across the country defending the Christian faith through lectures and debates. Following in the footsteps of his colleague, John Warwick Montgomery, Mr. Parton now also serves as the Director of the International Academy of Apologetics, Evangelism and Human Rights in Strasbourg, France (www.apologeticsacademy.eu) where he taught and worked closely with Montgomery over the years. He has authored or contributed to numerous books on apologetics, including *The Defense Never Rests: A Lawyer Among the Theologians*, *Religion on Trial: Cross-Examining Religious Truth Claims*, *Objections Overruled: Answering Arguments Against Christianity*, and *The Art of Christian Advocacy* (co-authored with Montgomery).



Dr. Joel D. Heck serves as Interim President at Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. Over the years, he has taught courses on the Old Testament, the New Testament, the life and writings of C. S. Lewis, as well as teaching and defending biblical creation. He holds the Doctor of Theology in Exegetical Theology from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He is the author or editor of sixteen books, including several on C. S. Lewis: *Irrigating Deserts: C. S. Lewis on Education*, *From Atheism to Christianity: The Story of C. S. Lewis*, and *No Ordinary People: Twenty-One Friendships of C. S. Lewis*. His most recent book, *The Lion that*

Roared, a story in the tradition of Narnia, was co-authored with his daughter Brenda and released on Lulu.com in 2023. Of the 120-plus articles he has written, forty-two address the work of Lewis. Dr. Heck is also Associate Editor of *Sehnsucht*, the most important of the C. S. Lewis journals. He and his wife Cheryl own a home in Austin, Texas. They have three grown children and three grandchildren.



Dr. Adam S. Francisco holds a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Oxford where he studied the history of Christian apologetics and the truth claims of Islam. Adam has served on the faculty of several campuses of the Concordia University System as well as the Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He has authored, edited, or contributed to many books, including *Martin Luther and Islam*, *Making the Case for Christianity*, *Objections Overruled: Answering Arguments Against Christianity (I & II)*, and *The Resurrection Fact: Responding to Modern Critics*. He currently serves as Director of Academics and Scholar in Residence at 1517, as editor of *The Global Journal of Classic Theology* (a scholarly journal established by Montgomery dealing with apologetics and related issues), and on the board of Lutherans for Life. He and his wife, Rachel, along with their children live in Wheaton, Illinois.

- **Conference format:** This conference follows the format known as a “free conference.” Participation in the conference is intended for academic discussion in a setting outside of the framework of fellowship. The presenters and participants are understood to speak for themselves, and the viewpoints they share do not necessarily represent CAW, the ELS, or some other church body.
- Please **silence your phones** during the presentations. Thank you.
- **Restrooms** are located in the lower level.
- **Lunch:** Numerous restaurants are a few minutes away by vehicle. Please ask for directions.