

Schedule, Presenters, Info

2026 Apologetics and Worldview Conference ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

June 24-25

Trinity Chapel, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato MN



Schedule

WEDNESDAY

- I. 7:00pm-8:30pm* *AI Explained: How does it work? What can it do and not do? What are its benefits and obvious dangers?* Rev. Jonathan Conner

THURSDAY

- II. 10:30am-12:00pm* *A Deeper Look (A): Anthropology, dehumanization, and AI's impact on a Christian liberal arts education* Rev. Dr. Adam Brasich

12:00pm-1:30pm Lunch break

- III. 1:30pm-3:30pm* *A Deeper Look (B): Anthropology, companion bots, transhumanism, and what lies ahead* Dr. Brandon Steenbock

* Each time period includes presentation, panel discussion, and Q & A

Presenters

Rev. Jonathan Conner (husband to his beautiful and wise wife, Rebecca, and father to his six children, five of



whom are boys, meaning everything he owns... is broken) is Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church in Manning, Iowa. He loves questions and enthusiastically welcomes them in the church. Since being ordained in 2004, he has answered (in person, in writing, online, through conferences, and over the air) thousands of questions. In order to sharpen his question-answering skills, he obtained a master's degree in Christian Apologetics from Biola University in La Mirada, California in 2014. Since 2023 he has partnered with Lutheran Family Service as an itinerant educator in order to bring solid, Biblical answers to those with a genuine desire to learn and grow. Few things bring him more joy than sharing God's Truth with people who have a hunger to know. One of his great hopes is for the

Church to welcome, encourage, and inculcate a culture of questions where our curiosity drives us closer to Jesus by studying the answers He provides in His Word and stamps on His creation.

Rev. Dr. Adam Brasich earned his B.A. at Wabash College (Crawfordsville, IN), studying religion, political



science, and Ancient Greek language. He then attended Florida State University, where he received his M.A. and Ph.D. in American religious history. Sensing a call to ministry, he matriculated to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. He served Resurrection and Our Savior Lutheran Churches (Winter Haven and Lakeland, FL) as a vicar and pastor from 2020-2023. He has served as the pastor of Hope Lutheran Church (West Jordan, UT) since 2023. He has published scholarly articles in *The Journal of Mormon History*, the *John Whitmer Historical Association Journal*, and *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. He frequently reviews books in *The Journal of Mormon History*, *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* and *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. Since 2025, he has served on the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Dr. Brandon Steenbock serves as Family Minister at St. Mark Ministries in De Pere, Wisconsin, where he works with individuals and families to build spiritually grounded homes and marriages. He also serves as an adjunct instructor at Martin Luther College, where he has the privilege of helping shape the next generation of church workers — a role he finds quietly humbling and occasionally terrifying. His scholarly work sits at the intersection of biblical anthropology, the *imago dei*, and the theological challenges posed by advancing technology — which is a fancy way of saying he thinks carefully about what it means to be human in a world that is increasingly confused about the answer. He is currently pursuing that work through writing and conference-level teaching, and this presentation represents some of that ongoing research. Brandon holds a Bachelor of Science in Ministry from Martin Luther College (2006), a Master of Arts in Family Life Education from Concordia University — St. Paul (2013), a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Martin Luther College (2021), and a Doctor of Ministry in Pastoral Theology in Practice from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (2024). He is married to Nikki, and they have two sons, Athan and Paladin. When he's not reading or writing, you'll most likely find him hiking, roasting coffee, or rewatching *Lord of the Rings* for reasons he is prepared to defend theologically.



Info

- **Conference format:** This conference follows the format known as a “free conference.” That is, participation in the conference is intended for academic discussion in a setting outside of the framework of church 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.
- **Lunch**, from noon to 1:30, is provided in the college dining center. If you did not register for a lunch, there may be extras. The lunch is provided at no cost but a free-will offering of \$10 would be appreciated (you can pay at the dining center by cash, CC, or a check made out to Bethany Lutheran College). There are also numerous restaurants within a short drive (directions are available at the registration table).
- Please **silence your phones** during the presentations. Thank you.
- **Restrooms** are located in the lower level.
- The conference is being **live-streamed and recorded** (www.apologeticscenter.org/events/2026-conference/)
- **Display tables** for the **Center for Apologetics and Worldviews** and **Bethany Lutheran College** are in the narthex. Browse and help yourself.

