2024 JUNIOR THESIS PRESENTATIONS
JUDGE BIOS

(*by alphabetical order*)

ANNA EMISON

Anna Rask Emison graduated with a Biblical and Theological Studies degree from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul and currently works there full-time as an Assistant Professor of the Old Testament. She has a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and a Master of Theology in Old Testament from Luther Seminary. She is a Ph.D. Candidate at Union Theological College in Belfast, Northern Ireland. She is researching the wilderness complaint narratives in Exodus and Numbers. She has been married to her husband, John, for 2 years and lives in Roseville.

REVEREND DR. BOB GEHRKE

Rev. Dr. Robert Gehrke was born in Duluth, MN and grew up in Eagan, MN. He graduated from Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights in 1974. As he pursued his calling to serve as a pastor in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod he attended Concordia College (now University) in St. Paul, MN and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. In 2015 he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Concordia Seminary. He has been married to his wife Lynn for the past 43 years. She is the chair of the Teacher Education Department at Concordia University. They have 2 sons who are married and are serving in churches. In addition, they have 6 grandchildren. He has served 3 congregations in the past 39 years. He has been Senior Pastor at South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church on South Shore Blvd and Bellaire Ave in WBL since June 2002 and truly enjoys serving the Lord and sharing His love with all ages. He is active in the White Bear Lake Rotary Club and enjoys exercising, reading, playing games, and more. One of his favorite Bible verses is Ps. 118:24. He also enjoys singing the song "This is the day the Lord has made" with the responses. He also enjoys sharing a number of his father's favorite quotes. The one most quoted is - "a problem is an opportunity dressed in work clothes."

PASTOR MIKE GRAHAM

Pastor Mike Graham grew up in Roseville, graduated from Mounds View High School, and then from the University of Minnesota with a major in Zoology. While at the U of M, Mike came to Christ his sophomore year of college through a young woman whom he met on a college retreat. That young woman and he have been married now for 43 years! Later, Mike attended seminary after receiving what he thought was a call to the overseas missionary field, but eventually discovered he was to be a pastor in the U.S. through the United Methodist Church. Pastor Graham has been in vocational ministry now for 30 years and is currently the campus pastor of Calvary Church, White Bear Campus. His wife is a medical social worker, and they enjoy time with their son and his wife, who moved four doors down just last August.

DAVID HANN

David Hann is a graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College with a degree in Religion and did graduate study at the University of Chicago Divinity School. He volunteered for service in the U.S. Army while in college and served a tour in Vietnam. After completing his education, he had a long career as a senior executive for a food manufacturing and distribution company. He was elected to three terms on the Eden Prairie School Board and served four terms in the Minnesota State Senate. While in the Senate, he served on the Education Committee, the Judiciary Committee, the Finance Committee and was the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee. He was elected by his peers in his last term to serve as the Senate Minority Leader where he led the Republican Caucus to the Majority in the 2016 election. He served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Association of Townships for two years after he left the Senate and was elected to be the Chairman of the Minnesota Republican Party in 2021.

DR. MARK KOSCHMANN

Rev. Dr. Mark Koschmann is Vice President of Faith and Ministry and chair of the Department of Theology and Ministry at Concordia University, St. Paul. Previously, he served as an Associate Pastor at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran in North County, St. Louis. He has a B.A. in Philosophy from Valparaiso University, a M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and a Ph.D. from Saint Louis University. His scholarly research on twentieth-century religion, race, and urban history examines how Protestant and Catholic congregations adapted to the changing urban environment from the post-World War II era to the present. Currently, he is researching how Christianity thrived in urban contexts in the New Testament and early church. He also speaks frequently on topics related to the challenges and opportunities of Christian higher education.

FATHER T.J. MCKENZIE

Fr. T.J. McKenzie has been the pastor of the Church of Saint Pius X since the summer of 2019 after having previously served at two other Catholic Churches. He is currently the chaplain and a board member for Frassati Catholic Academy in White Bear Lake and has been the chaplain at the Convent of the Visitation School in Mendota Heights. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood on May 30, 2015, and earned his Masters of Divinity from the Saint Paul Seminary that same year. He is also a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, located in the Holy Land. His favorite theologians are Joseph Ratzinger, John Henry Newman, and Hans Urs Von Balthasar. His favorite place to pray is at the Basilica of Saint Francis of Assisi in Italy.

DR. LEVI SECORD

Dr. Levi Secord serves as the Lead Pastor of Christ Bible Church in Roseville, Minnesota. He graduated from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary with a Doctorate in Educational Ministry. He has numerous publications including, Calvinism as the Foundation for Liberty, in the book, Virtuous Liberty. He also serves as a Fellow for Pastoral and Cultural Theology for the Center for Cultural Leadership. Levi and his wife, Emily, have four children whom they love and spend their time slaying dragons with.

DR. MICHAEL SEUFERT

Dr. Michael Seufert is the Pastor of Mission Orthodox Presbyterian Church, in St. Paul, MN, where he has ministered for the past two years. He and his wife, Samantha, grew up in the south suburbs of Chicago. They have been married for 13 years and have four children, Maisie, Michael Lawrence, Olivia, and Emma. Prior to St. Paul, they lived in Washington, D.C. Pastor Seufert enjoys games and puzzles with his family, along with reading novels and running.

PASTOR SHAWN WINTERS

Coming Soon…