

# THE PASTOR'S MANUAL

## Theological Conference

Luther Academy in cooperation  
with Lutherova společnost  
(The Luther Society, CZE) and The Lutheran Church –  
Missouri Synod, Office of International Mission, Eurasia

**15–17 April 2024, BRNO (CZE)**

Accommodations: Hotel Jacob, Jakubské náměstí 7, Brno

Venue: Sál, Opletalova 6, Brno

Application deadline: **22 February 2024**

Conference fee: 180 EUR

The organizers will support 20 participants from so-called  
Eastern (post-communist) Europe by paying  
2/3 of the fee, i.e. these participants will pay 60 EUR

Your application should be sent to:

**[martin@luther.cz](mailto:martin@luther.cz)**

You will receive a confirmation of your application  
and further information (payment, transportation, etc.)



## PROGRAM

### Monday 15 April

- 12.30-13.30 **Housing check-in and conference registration**  
13.45-14.00 Opening of the Conference  
14.00-15.15 **Jon Bruss – Modern Christology and Preaching in the 21st Century, Part I**  
15.15-15.45 Break/refreshment  
15.45-17.00 **Jon Bruss – Modern Christology and Preaching in the 21st Century, Part II**  
17.00-17.30 Discussion  
18.00-18.30 Vespers (Červený kostel)  
19.00 Dinner

### Tuesday 16 April

- 07.15-07.45 Matins (Červený kostel)  
08.00-08.45 Breakfast  
09.00-10.15 **Darius Petkunas – The Relationship Between Lutheran liturgy and Lutheran Identity**  
10.15-10.45 Break/refreshment  
10.45-12.00 **James A. Krikava – Liturgy, hymnody and church music, under the cross**  
12.00-12.30 Discussion  
12.30-13.15 Lunch

and Alexis (who is enrolled in the International Bachelorette program at the International School of Riga in Latvia).

**Jaroslav Vokoun** is a professor of fundamental and ecumenical theology at Faculty of Theology, University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice. He graduated in Russian and German studies at Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague and in theology at Protestant Theological Faculty, Charles University in Prague. Currently he engages mainly in the interdisciplinary theology of tradition, the spirituality of theosis in western Christianity and the theology of history. He is married and has four adult offspring. He is helping out as a pastor in ECCB (Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren) congregations in Pilsen region and in ECAC (Evangelical Church of Augsburg Confession in the Czech Republic) congregation in Prague.



**Darius Petkūnas**, habil. doctor of theology, pastor and member of the Presidium of the Consistory of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania and chairman of its liturgical commission, docent at the University of Helsinki, senior research fellow at the University of Klaipėda, author of nine monographs and several dozen articles on liturgy, theology of the Lutheran Reformation and church history.

**Cory J. Rajek** currently serves as the Executive Director, Office of International Mission (OIM) and Regional Director, Eurasia for The Lutheran Church— Missouri Synod (LCMS). As Regional Director, Dr. Rajek is responsible for LCMS work, personnel and partner church relationships throughout the Eurasia region. As Executive Director, he oversees all OIM operations throughout the world. Dr. Rajek received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry/Theological Languages from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, WI, and his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He also has a Master of Arts degree in Servant Leadership from Viterbo University, La Crosse, WI, an Executive Certificate in Business Administration from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, IN and a PhD in Educational Leadership from Cardinal Stritch University, Milwaukee, WI. Before becoming a missionary, Dr. Rajek served as a parish pastor for over 21 years. Together, he and his wife, Jennifer, have two daughters, Emiley (currently attending Concordia University–Nebraska)

13.30-14.45 **Cory J. Rajek – Recovering Poimenics: Checking Modern Pastoral Leadership Theory with the Confessional Writings of the Lutheran Fathers**  
 14.45-15.00 Discussion  
 15.00 Free time to rest or wander about Brno (Supper is on your own, not provided by the conference fee)

A special lecture open to all interested parties  
18.00-19.30 **Jaroslav Vokoun – Confessio Augustana as an ecumenical confession**

**Wednesday 17 April**

07.15-07.45 Matins (Červený kostel)  
 08.00-08.45 **Break: check-out of hotel**  
 08.45-09.30 **Breakfast**  
09.45-10.30 **Martin Damašek – Catechesis as a pedagogical challenge in the postmodern era**  
 10.30-11.00 Break/refreshment  
11.00-11.45 **Martin Damašek – Vocatio of the Lutheran priest as a martyrism (or the impossibility of directly communicating the mystery of the Godman)**  
 11.45-12.15 Discussion  
 12.15-12.30 Closing of the Conference  
 12.30 Lunch  
 Departure

## SPEAKERS

**Jon Bruss** is associate professor of systematic theology, has taught at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, since 2022. He earned the B.A. in 1989 at St. Olaf College (classics magna cum laude), the M.Div. in 1994 at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary (ELS) in Mankato, Minnesota, and the M.A. and Ph.D. in classics and philosophy from the University of Minnesota in 1996 and 2000 respectively. From 1991 through 2002 he served on the faculty of Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, and thereafter at St. Olaf College, The University of the South, and the University of Kansas. From 2013 through 2022 he served as pastor at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas. Dr. Bruss has been a contributing translator to the CPH Luther's Works supplement, most notably the Annotationes in Matthaem, and was a director of the Concordia University System from 2019 till 2022. He and his wife Kristine have one adult child.

**Martin Damašek** was born in Prague in 1981. He completed his bachelor's degree at Charles University in Prague, followed by a master's degree at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. His hobbies include traveling and Kierkegaard's philosophy and theology. He is currently serving as an auxiliary parish priest in the English Speaking Congregation in Prague ECAC in the Czech Republic. He is married and lives in Prague with his wife Shirley.

**James A. Krikava** is the Associate Executive Director for Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Office of International Mission (OIM). He also serves as a Regional Teaching Fellow to Europe for Luther Academy, USA, an independent institute for the promotion of Confessional Lutheran Theology in mission fields throughout the world through publications, conferences, and other educational endeavors. Ordained in 1983, Rev. Krikava was a member of the ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) until 2014, when he became a member the LCMS ministerium through colloquy in order to take up the position of OIM Regional Direct for LCMS mission in Eurasia. In January his current position. A native of rural Glenville, MN, he has served as an instructor of religion and music at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, MN (1980-84), where he taught religion and served as a preacher in the chapel program. He established an instrumental music program for the college and served as conductor of the Concert Winds and Percussion, Jazz Band, Brass Quintet, and Choir. After his tenure at Bethany, he served as the pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Brewster, MA (1984-90), as a missionary at large in the Czech Republic and other parts of Eastern Europe (1990-2006), and again at Trinity Lutheran from 2006.-2014 before returning the mission field. Pastor and Peggy have been married 47 years and have two daughters, a son, their spouses, and 10 grandchildren.

