

Virtual Conference Planning Guide

Your One Stop Shop for a successful VC

You have options.

The first ever Higher Things Virtual Conference: Watermarked will be running synchronously on Thursday and Friday, August 6-7, 2020. Read on to find out suggestions for running the conference at home, at church, or in a cabin in the woods. Consider renting space at your local Lutheran camp to support them this year. You have options! Reference the VC Schedule to help you plan.

Gather your group(s).

Set the 6th and 7th aside for time to come together for a mini-conference! Think about lodging arrangements (rent a cabin; everyone can head home at night; stay at host homes; have a lock in at church!).

Plan meals, organize break activities (HT virtual competitions or internal Tetramorph competitions), and plan through your schedule.

Set up a viewing area to stream the content. Think through AV, planning on a projector or TV large enough. How's the WIFI?

Will you be utilizing the streamed worship materials or running it completely offline? Will you have an organist on site or use our hymn videos provided? You and your pastor can choose!

Hang out at home.

Join in the stream and release of videos as you're able. Make sure to brew some great coffee and have comfortable clothes ready!

You'll be able to worship completely offline by praying each Prayer Office, or by listening to the provided sermons to add to your personal devotions.

What you need to know.

Accessing the Conference

We will provide exact instructions on August 1st which will give you plenty of time to test out the learning module style of content release. Need the content early so you can run it without internet access? [Let us know](#) by **July 20th!**

Worship

There will be seven (7) worship services planned for the VC: Matins (2), Daily Prayer: Noon (2), Evening Prayer (1), Compline (2).

A worship booklet will be provided with all the services included. You can run everything offline utilizing that resource. For the two Matins and one Evening Prayer services, we will release sermon videos, outlines, and manuscripts, as well as hymn videos and audio to use if you wish. Read the letter from our Dean of Theology for some great thoughts about this!

Daily Prayer: Noon will be completely offline with propers, hymns, and a Daily Reflection devotion included in the worship book. Compline will be prayed the same way, much like it is at in person conferences.

Everyone, individually and in groups, is invited to participate in the first ever **Higher Things Virtual Choir!** We'll be singing together from afar this year's conference hymn, "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying."

Entertainment

Reference the Entertainment Guide to find out about the three virtual competitions. You have from August 6th to August 15th to submit your art, photos, videos, and talent!

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Catechesis

HT will release videos for all eighteen (18) of these sessions according to the schedule.

- Three (3) plenary sessions:
 - Rev. Harrison Goodman (Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX)
 - Rev. George Borghardt (HT President and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, LA)
- Two (2) Breakaway sessions with 15 (fifteen) classes:
 - Rev. Duane Bamsch
 - Rev. Mark Buetow
 - Rev. Bradley Drew
 - Rev. Dr. Alfonso Espinosa
 - Rev. Aaron Fenker
 - Rev. Joel Fritsche
 - Rev. Harrison Goodman
 - Rev. Chris Hull
 - Dr. Scott Keith
 - Mrs. Sandra Madden
 - Rev. Gaven Mize
 - Rev. Todd Peperkorn
 - Rev. Dr. Matt Richard
 - Rev. Brett Simek
 - Rev. Randy Sturzenbecher
- The sixteenth (16th) class is left open to be taught by the local pastor or adult leader if they are interested.

Food...Have some!

We've found that it's a good idea to feed hungry teenagers from time to time! Congregation members are usually happy to donate needed items. Plan a menu and estimate how much of each item you'll need and provide a sign-up sheet a few weeks in advance asking for food/beverages to be brought to the church the day before the VC. Consider supporting local restaurants that have struggled after COVID, too! Here are some ideas to help you get that menu plan started:

Breakfast

- Muffins, rolls/doughnuts, bagels
- Cereal - cold or hot
- Pancakes & Sausage
- Breakfast sandwiches
- Fresh Fruit
- Juice (orange, apple, cran)
- Milk
- Don't forget the coffee!

Lunch

- Sandwich bar: variety lunch meats, cheeses, toppings (lettuce, tomato, onion, pickles) mayo/mustard
- Taco Bar: taco meat, shell options (bag of Doritos or Fritos, hard shell, soft shell), cheese, lettuce, tomato/salsa, sour cream, olives, onion, taco sauce
- Fresh fruit & veggies
- Lemonade, iced tea, water
- Chips
- Cookies/bars
- Coffee here, too? We are Lutheran, after all.

Dinner

- Burger/Brat bar: grill them if you can! Buns, cheese, toppings (lettuce, tomato, sliced onion), side options (baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, fries, chips)
- Pizza - support your local pizza joint and have them deliver! Or you can always bake up some frozen.
- Fresh fruit & veggies
- Lemonade, iced tea, water
- Chips
- Cookies/bars

Snacks

- Trail Mix & Granola Bars
- String Cheese
- Fruit (grapes, cuties, etc)
- Ice Cream Sundae bar

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