

South Regional Pastoral Conference

Starved Rock Lodge & Conference Center, Utica, Illinois

22-24 September 2026 featuring:

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky

Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Seminary-St. Louis

Chaplain: Rev. Cory Estby

Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, NID Vice President-South Region.

Presentation: The Nicene Creed

Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky



Dr. Joel Elowsky is professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is the director of the Seminary's Center for the Study of Early Christian Texts and is a researcher for the Center for Early African Christianity at the Oden House in New Haven, Conn. He has been a faculty member at Concordia Seminary since 2014.

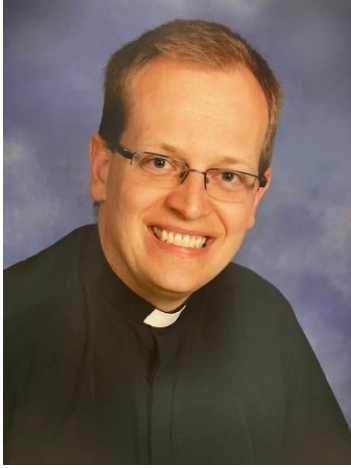
His interests and areas of expertise include early church studies, the history of exegesis, mission work and African Christianity.

Since 2004, he has been part of the ecumenical group Evangelicals and Catholics Together. He has served as a participant in dialogues between evangelicals and the Vatican, delivering a paper in Vatican City on Scripture and tradition in 2010. He also is a board member of the China Academic Consortium and a member of the International Association of Patristic Studies and the Society of Biblical Literature. He serves as president of the Institute for Classical Christian Studies, which has ties with Yale University. He has lectured extensively in Africa on behalf of Concordia Seminary as a researcher and lecturer for the Center for Early African Christianity.

He helped initiate two series — the five-volume *Ancient Christian Doctrine* and the 16-volume *Ancient Christian Texts* (InterVarsity Press) — as well as *Ancient Christian Devotional: A Year of Weekly Readings* (InterVarsity Press, 2007).

Elowsky's wife, Joy, has played organ for chapel services at Concordia Seminary. She also is the full-time director of music at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Collinsville, Ill. The Elowskys have two sons: Christian, a software developer in Wisconsin, and Luke, pastor at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in East Brunswick, N.J. Luke is pursuing a Ph.D. in the area of early church history and exegesis at Concordia Seminary and is married to Julianna (Pfeiffer). When not traveling or teaching, Elowsky likes to spend time sailing in northern Michigan.

Chaplain: Rev. Cory Estby



Pastor Estby is the sole pastor serving at Zion Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL since June 2005—continuing to minister at the parish he was first divinely called to serve. A graduate of Ball State University (Muncie, IN) with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Education, he was previously employed as a general elementary music educator for two years in Wabash, IN (1999-2001) prior to entering seminary. He received a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN in 2005.

Within the Northern Illinois District over the last twenty years, he has served as a South Region Pastoral Conference officer, a General Pastoral Conference Nominations Committee member, a Circuit Visitor, NID Nominations Committee member, and currently the NID South Region Vice-President {1st VP}. He was appointed as the NID District Life Coordinator back in 2021.

His current/past activities and community involvement include: Grant Park Festival committee member, Meals on Wheels volunteer driver, Fortitude homeless shelter advocate, Special Fathers Network mentor, Gift of Adoption speaker/promoter, onstage actor and singer with Beecher Part-Time Players, PPMD & Cure Duchenne advocate/parent.

He is married to Christena Estby {celebrating 27 years} and blessed with four children: Gabriel (23), Kaleigh (21), Samuel (12), and Josiah (11).