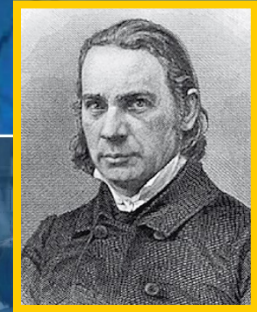


Imagining Church Anew – Rooted and Open

Kirche neu denken – verwurzelt und offen

6th Conference of the International Loehe Society
27-30 July 2025 · Neuendettelsau, Germany



Sun, 27 July 2025

Arrivals & Registration beginning at noon

2:00pm **Guided Tour for early arrivals: On Loehe's Footsteps**
(Matthias Honold)

4:30pm **Opening session** (Thomas Schattauer)
with publication display

6:00pm Dinner

7:30pm **"Being a Spiritual Brand: Impulses from Loehe for
the Image-Work of the Church in the Imagination
Society"**
(Konstanze Kemnitzer, Wuppertal)
Presentation, response and discussion

9:00pm Sociable evening

Mon, 28 July 2025

8:30am Morning devotion

9:00am **"Diverse and Cosmopolitan—Being Church in a
Global World"**
(Hanns Hoerschelmann, Neuendettelsau)
Presentation, response and discussion

11:00am **"A Church with Enthusiasm, Tradition, and Open-
ness"**
(Anne Stempel, Starnberg)
Presentation, response and discussion

12:30pm Lunch

2:30pm **Presentation of papers**, discussion groups

4:30pm **Business meeting**

6:00pm Dinner

7:30pm **"Multi-Hybrid and In-Between: On Contemporary
Diakonia in Germany"**
(Christine Siegl, Neuendettelsau)
Presentation, response and discussion

9:00pm Sociable evening

Tue, 29 July 2025

8:30am Morning devotion

9:00am **"Colonization in Loehe's Mission Theology"**
(Martin J. Lohrmann, Dubuque, Iowa)
Presentation, response and discussion

11:00am **"The Neighborhood Diakonia: Gotong Royong Cul-
ture of the Neighborhood Mutual-Helping System
and Christian Mission in Malaysia"**
(Karthik Sibanyanam, Malaysia)
Presentation, response and discussion

12:30pm Lunch

2:30pm Departure to Heilsbronn

3:00pm **Guided tour of Kloster Heilsbronn**

4:30pm **Reception at Dekanat Windsbach**

6:30pm **Festive Dinner & Celebration**
*Celebrating 20 years of the International Loehe
Society*

Wed, 30 July 2025

8:30am **"Making the Invisible Visible: Loehe's Vision for
the Church in the North American Wilderness"**
(Mark Loest, Frankentrost, Michigan)
Presentation, response and discussion

10:00am **"Belonging, Believing, Worshiping: The Holistic
Perspective of Loehe's Theological Thinking"**
(Konrad Müller, Nürnberg)
Presentation, response and discussion

11:30am **Summary
Devotion**

12:30pm Lunch

Farewell and Departure

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The Conference 2025

Numerous institutions in Europe, North America and Australia are still associated with Wilhelm Loehe (1808-1872) today, even though he lived as a simple village pastor in Franconia (southern Germany) two hundred years ago. Loehe experienced first-hand the European crisis that created immense need and drove millions of people to emigrate across the Atlantic. He struggled with an unresponsive and rigid church. In response, Loehe participated in efforts for the renewal of the church in Bavaria. He organized help for those in need at home and support for the young emigrants, who were going through a painful process of dislocation and change. They wanted to face the new situations openly and at the same time not lose their roots. They had to realign their Christian faith and build up the church in the new context—imagining church anew.

Loehe proved to be a pioneer of how the church can and must be renewed through confession and pastoral care, education and liturgy, diakonia and mission—and not least through suitable structures. The conference will discuss the extent to which his ideas and the debates within the churches in Germany and North America are also relevant for today's difficult transformation processes.

Contacts

USA: Thomas H. Schattauer tschattauer@wartburgseminary.edu

K. Detlev Schulz detlev.schulz@ctsfw.edu

Europe: Christian Weber acweber@aol.com

Matthias Honold Matthias.Honold@diakoneo.de

Venue

Tagungshaus Lutherrose
Friedrich-Bauer-Str. 5
91564 Neuendettelsau, Germany
Tel. +49 9874 68937-0
www.haus-lutherrose.de

Rates

- 260 € Regular conference fee with meals and shared room (290 € single room)
- 160 € Reduced rates for students with meals and housing
- 150 € Conference fee, with lunch and dinner
- 65 € Accommodation per night for early arrivals and late departures, with breakfast

Payment upon arrival.

The conference is made possible with support from:

- Dekanat Windsbach
- Diakoneo, Neuendettelsau
- Gesellschaft für Innere und Äußere Mission, Neuendettelsau
- Mission EineWelt, Neuendettelsau

Registration

Please register as soon as possible, at the latest until May 25, 2025

▶ on www.iloes.net

▶ or per e-mail to info@iloes.net



Neuendettelsau in the 19th century



Neuendettelsau on a poster at Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa



Prof. Dr. Konstanze Kemnitzer

Professor of Practical Theology at the Protestant University Wuppertal, Germany

2004-2007 doctorate studies and parish pastor in Munich. 2007-2015 research assistant to Prof. Dr. Klaus Raschzok and since 2013 private lecturer at Augustana Theological Seminary, Neuendettelsau. 2016-2017 senior pastor in Wassermungenau (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria). Her dissertation was titled *Der ferne Nächste. Zum Selbstverständnis der Aktion ‚Brot für die Welt‘* (Stuttgart 2008), her habilitation *Glaubenslebenslauf-Imaginationen. Eine theologische Untersuchung über Vorstellungen vom Glauben im Wandel der Lebensalter* (Leipzig 2013). Since 2018 Chair of Practical Theology at the Protestant University Wuppertal. She was Vice-Rector there from 2018 to 2020 and Rector from 2020 to 2022. With her paradigm "Imagination of the Gospel" she researches the entire thematic breadth of practical theology.



Pfr. DMin Hanns Hoerschelmann

Direktor Mission EineWelt, Centrum für Partnerschaft, Entwicklung und Mission der Evang.-Luth. Kirche in Bayern

Vicariate in the German-speaking community in Geneva (2001) and pastor in Bayreuth. 2004-2015 in Hong Kong, Director of Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Hong Kong, responsible for supervising international students and managing scholarship programs. He also coordinated theological education and training programs for the Mekong Mission Forum in Southeast Asian churches. He reflected on the latter in an academic paper entitled *Continuing Education Program for Alumni. An approach to a supportive model of theological education in Cambodia*. From 2010 pastor of the German-speaking Protestant community in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Since 2015, together with his wife, Rev. Dr. Gabriele Hoerschelmann, he has headed Mission EineWelt.



Pfrin. Dr. Anne Stempel

PfarrerIn an Gymnasien in München

Theological studies in Bochum, Bielefeld/Bethel and Heidelberg, practical training in a parish in Ohio, USA, accompanying studies in music and Latin. 1992-1996 research assistant at the Chair of Historical and Systematic Theology at the University of Bamberg. 1998 doctorate in Erlangen on *Das diakonische Wirken Wilhelm Löhes: Von den Anfängen bis zur Gründung des Diakonissenmutterhauses Neuendettelsau (1826-1854)*. 1999 pastor at the Apostelkirche Neuburg/Donau, founding member and board member of the Neuburger Tafel. 2017 joint pastoral position at the Reformed Chiesa Cristiana Protestante in Milan, Italy. 2020 pastor in the Starnberg parish and head of the Diakonie Starnberg. Since 2022 pastor in school service at high schools.



Pfrin. Dr. PD Christine Siegl

Research assistant at Augustana Neuendettelsau and at Ruhr University Bochum, Germany

Studied Protestant theology in Tübingen and Berlin. Pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Württemberg. Doctorate on the practice of churches in rural areas at the Eberhard Karls University of Tübingen. Habilitation with an ethnography on railway mission and their social diaconal work at the Ruhr University Bochum. Main areas of research: Empirical religious research, church theory, diaconal studies. Research assistant at the Chair of Practical Theology at Augustana Neuendettelsau and lecturer in practical theology at Ruhr University Bochum.



Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann

Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa

Dr. Lohrmann teaches courses in church history, missiology, the Lutheran Confessions, Luther's catechisms, and theology and art, among other topics. He is the author of several books and essays, including *Stories from Global Lutheranism* (Fortress, 2021) and *Book of Harmony: Spirit and Service in the Lutheran Confessions* (Fortress, 2016), co-editor of *Teaching Reformation: Essays in Honor of Timothy J. Wengert* (Fortress, 2021), volume co-editor of *1-2 Samuel, 1-2 Kings, 1-2 Chronicles* in the Reformation Commentary on Scripture series (IVP Academic, 2016), and the translator of *The Early Luther: Stages in a Reformation Reorientation* by Berndt Hamm (Eerdmans, 2014).



Rev. Karthik Sibyanam

Ordained pastor of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia (ELCM)

Pastor of Lutheran churches and diaconic manager in a social care service organization since 2001. With the Scholarship from Mission EineWelt, he is currently doing a Ph.D. program with the Institut für Diakoniewissenschaft und Diakonienmanagement (IDWM, Bethel) of the University Bielefeld, titled *Gotong Royong Social Management*. Rev. Karthik is married to Rosanna and they have lived with their two sons in Neuendettelsau since July 2018. He believes that Christians should be informed of the "priesthood and diaconia of all believers." Our neighborhoods are one of the overlooked mission fields (from the Malaysian Christian/Church perspective).



Rev. Mark Aden Loest

Senior Pastor, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost, Michigan

Graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana. He attended the *Lutherische Theologische Hochschule*, Oberursel, Germany (1985-1986). Pastor Loest has served churches of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. 1996-2003 Assistant Director for Reference and Museum at Concordia Historical Institute, St. Louis, Missouri. For the past 21 years he has served as Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Frankentrost. Publications on topics of church history, including Martin Luther's Lectures on Genesis, the establishment of the Lutheran colonies by Rev. Wilhelm Loehe, and the founding of the Missouri Synod. Pastor Loest is married 37 years to his dear wife, Malinda. They are blessed with five children.



PD Dr. Pfr. i.R. Konrad Müller

Private lecturer at the Augustana-Hochschule Neuendettelsau, Germany

Theological Studies in Erlangen and São Leopoldo, Brasil. Three years assistant to the Chair of Historical und Systematic Theology in Bamberg (Prof. Horst Weigelt). In 1990 he began to work as minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria (ELKB) at the Materialstelle für Gottesdienst. In 2000 he became Deputy head of the newly-founded Gottesdienst-Institut, in 2017 its director. In 2023 he retired. His doctoral thesis deals with the question of meaning and understanding in preaching: *Wort und Wirkung. Zur Grundlegung der Predigt* (Leipzig 2015). In 2020, he habilitated on the confession of sins: *Das Confiteor. Studien zu seiner Gestalt und Funktion im Gottesdienst sowie im Leben der Kirche* (Leipzig 2020). Konrad Müller is married and has two children.