

# Great Lakes Christian Educators' Convention

October 2 – 3, 2025 at Radisson Hotel & Conference Center, Kalamazoo, MI  
Established, Strengthened and Settled for the Cause of Christian Education... I Peter 5:10

## DAY 1 - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration & Visit Exhibits
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
9:45 a.m. - 10:35 a.m.	General Session I – Pastor Jeff Redlin, Pensacola Campus Church
10:35 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
11:00 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Workshop I
11:50 a.m. – 12:10 p.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Workshop II or Lunch Break
1:00 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	Lunch Break & Visit Exhibits
1:20 p.m. - 2:10 p.m.	Workshop III or Lunch Break
2:10 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
2:30 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.	Workshop IV
3:20 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
3:40 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Workshop V
4:30 p.m. – 4:55 p.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
4:55 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Welcome & Announcements
5:00 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.	General Session II – Pastor Jeff Redlin, Pensacola Campus Church

## DAY 2 - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025

Time	Activity
8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Pastors' & Administrators' Breakfast - Pastor Jeff Redlin, Pensacola Campus Church
8:15 a.m. – 9:05 a.m.	Workshop VI
9:05 a.m. – 9:20 a.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
9:20 a.m. – 10:10 a.m.	Workshop VII
10:10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Workshop VIII
11:20 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Break & Visit Exhibits
11:45 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.	Welcome & Announcements
11:50 a.m. - 12:40 p.m.	General Session III – Pastor Jeff Redlin, Pensacola Campus Church
12:40 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Closing Announcements & Prize Drawings

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## Workshop Listing

These room assignments are subject to change.  
Changes will be posted in the Whova App

## Thursday, October 2

**8:00 AM-9:30 AM - Registration, Arcadia Foyer**

**9:30 AM-10:35 AM - General Session I - Dr. Jeff Redlin, Arcadia Ballroom**

### **11:00 AM-11:50 AM - Workshop Session 1**

Confronting Cultural Issues: Gravity or Speed Limits? - Jeff Walton, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Rewards of Relationships - Jeff Redlin, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
Raising Peace in an Anxious Generation: Biblical Wisdom for Teaching in the Age of Technology-Kim Plew, Stone Theatre  
The Mystery of Girls: More Than Just Feelings - Holly Varnum, Meadows  
How to turn online visitors into enrolled families. - Marc Hyde, Fields  
Telling the Story of Our Nation: Principles and People in U.S. History - Ashlee Oropeza, Great Lakes 1  
Arithmetic Concepts: Dividing the Dread - Maranatha Sweet, Great Lakes 2  
Free Science Apps that Enhance Learning - Brad Batdorf, Great Lakes 3  
Dealing with Angry Students - Bruce Meyer, Great Lakes 5  
ADHD - Megan Haynes, Glens 1  
Book Club for Teachers - Rebekah Schmig, Glens 2  
Teaching Writing in a World of Artificial Intelligence (Grades 6-12) - Joaquim Remelgado, Glens 3  
Getting Students to Get It Done - Judylynn Walton, Prairies 4  
Maximizing effectiveness in your ministry - Mark Davis, Prairies 5  
What is the Posture of Your Heart? - Laurie Beachell, Prairies 6  
Philosophy of Drama - Diana Harney, Flats  
Illinois Board Meeting - , Gilmore Boardroom

### **12:10 PM-1:00 PM - Workshop Session 2**

State Board Luncheon - , Morning Dish  
Always, Only Good: a journey of faith through mental illness - Shelly Hamilton, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Saving Truth in a World that has Lost it! - Juan Valdes, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
Living for Christ in the Digital Age - William Felderman, Stone Theatre  
"This is too hard!": Combatting Learned Helplessness - Megan Haynes, Meadows  
The FLOURISH Culture - Damian Ahrens, Fields  
My Expectation - Judylynn Walton, Oaks  
Fashioning Femininity - Edy Gies, Great Lakes 1  
Arithmetic Concepts: Multiplying the Math Skills - Maranatha Sweet, Great Lakes 2  
Planning and Hosting a Trip Off Campus - Stephen Carlson, Great Lakes 3  
Sharing the Gospel with Children - Lee Atkinson, Great Lakes 4  
Fruit to Root Diagram - Bethany Atkinson, Great Lakes 5  
Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, and Dyscalculia: Understanding/Supporting Students with Learning Differences-Dana Huss, Glens 1  
What Reading is Appropriate? - Brenda Needham, Glens 2  
When Traditional Phonics Isn't Working - Pam O'Shaughnessey, Glens 3  
Managing the "Middles" - Pamela Litzenberger, Prairies 4  
Supercharged Learning Centers - Cindy Dickinson, Prairies 5  
Breaking the Silence on SSA: Understanding and Ministering with Grace and Truth - Bruce Meyer, Prairies 6  
ALIVE: Deeper Discipleship through Drama - Adam Davis, Flats  
Secretary Swap Shop - Linda DeGroot, Parfet Boardroom

### **1:20 PM - 2:10 PM - Workshop Session 3**

The Doubt Virus - Juan Valdes, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
How to Engage Gen Z and Gen Alpha - Josh Hershberger, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
A.I. in the Classroom - David Warren, Stone Theatre  
The Wonder of Boys: Wired and Ready for Action! - Holly Varnum, Meadows

### **1:20 PM - 2:10 PM - Workshop Session 3 (cont.)**

Fundraising and Financial Stewardship in the Church and School: Building Sustainable Support - Joseph Huss, Fields  
The Proficiency-Based Foreign Language Classroom: What does it look like? - Amos Kasperek, Oaks  
From Questions to Conversations: Bringing History to Life - Ashlee Oropeza, Great Lakes 1  
Yes! You Can M.A.T.H. - Cindy Dickinson, Great Lakes 2  
Approaching Elementary Science from a Biblical Worldview - Faith Earnest, Great Lakes 3  
Incentives - Managing and Motivating your classroom - Dawn Baggech, Great Lakes 4  
Brokenness in Scripture - Bruce Meyer, Great Lakes 5  
Accommodations for Struggling Readers: Practical Strategies and Dyslexia Support - Dana Huss, Glens 1  
The Science of Reading in Action - Rebekah Schmig, Glens 2  
Helping Students Develop Strong Writing Skills (Grades 6–12) - Joaquim Remelgado, Glens 3  
Words for the Weary - Mark Davis, Prairies 4  
The Prepared Teacher - Prepared in all areas of professional life. - Jean Zimmerman, Prairies 5  
Ask the Hard Questions! - Jeff Walton, Prairies 6  
Tips and Tricks for Teaching Beginning Band - Angela McCroskey, Flats

### **2:30 PM-3:20 PM - Workshop Session 4**

Wife, Mother, Teacher; Oh My! - Jacklyn Gunner, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Trauma Integrating students with trauma into your teaching environment. - Timothy McPhillips, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
The New Childhood - William Felderman, Stone Theatre  
Secondary Classroom Management - Maintaining a Positive Learning Environment - Jean Zimmerman, Meadows  
History Alive: Lower School History that will make a Mark! - Emma Austin, Fields  
The Story Starts Here: Yearbook Theme Development - Heather Robertson, Oaks  
Where Time Meets Place: Blending History and Geography - Ashlee Oropeza, Great Lakes 1  
Hands-on, Minds-on Math - Katie Borud, Great Lakes 2  
Making it Real: Tips for Bringing Science to Life - Brad Batdorf, Great Lakes 3  
Anchoring Our Gifted: Why Creative Students Are More at Risk - Ben Everson, Great Lakes 4  
The Gift of Work...Or Is It a Curse? - Maranatha Sweet, Great Lakes 5  
Teaching and Delighting: Making Literature Both Educational and Fun (Grades 6–12) - Joaquim Remelgado, Glens 1  
A, E, I, O, and You Can Teach Phonics and Reading! - Cindy Dickinson, Glens 2  
Science of Reading What do I do now? - Nicole Zirkle, Glens 3  
Five Learning Strategies for STEM Students - Rebecca Weier, Prairies 4  
The Teacher's Power, Strength to Lead - Lee Atkinson, Prairies 5  
Teaching Teens - Pamela Brown, Prairies 6  
Breathing Exercises and Voice Care for Junior High and Senior High Choirs - Laurie Beachell, Flats  
The School Secretary: Expectation vs Reality - Linda DeGroot, Parfet Boardroom  
Building a Sustainable Financial Model: - Brandon Allen, Gilmore Boardroom

### **3:40 PM-4:30 PM - Workshop 5**

Dealing with the Deconstruction Epidemic - Juan Valdes, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Multi-grade Classrooms - Judylynn Walton, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
Free Apps that You Can Use Today! - David Warren, Stone Theatre  
Does Anybody Hear Me? - Ann Rill, Meadows  
Changing Paradigms in Foreign Language Education - Amos Kasperek, Fields  
Thinking Outside the Book - Heather Robertson, Oaks  
Teaching Historical Thinking using Standards and Fallacies - John Beck, Great Lakes 1  
When M+A+T+H = Anxiety - Heidi Malmanger, Great Lakes 2  
Science Fairs: Trial or Triumph? - Brad Batdorf, Great Lakes 3  
A Day with Miss Frizzle - Jamie Humphreys, Great Lakes 4  
Legal Challenges in Christian Education - Josh Hershberger, Great Lakes 5  
Unveiling the Mystery: Mastering Inferences in the Classroom - Christina Rosario, Glens 1  
Leading Students to Love Literature - Bethany Atkinson, Glens 2  
Syllabication: Small Steps to Big Rewards - Tamara Green, Glens 3  
Help! My Students Are Already Out of Control! What Can I Do? - Mark Stupka, Prairies 4  
Beyond Grades: Building Scholars of Integrity - Kim Plew, Prairies 5  
Setting an Administrative Anchor Watch: How to Hold Fast to Our Distinctives - Maranatha Sweet, Prairies 6  
Sing, Move, and Memorize... the Bible - Amie Winingham, Flats  
Stop Death by PowerPoint: Making Science Memorable! - Kelly Hawkins, Prairies 5  
Writing Workshop: How to Get Your Students Excited About Writing - Jennifer Talladay, Prairies 6  
Staying Accredited: Following Through on Your School's Improvement Plan - Dr. Phil Alsup, Flats  
Branding Your School for Excellence - Tony Nash, Parfet Boardroom

### **4:55 PM-5:50 PM - General Session 2 - Jeff Redlin, Arcadia Ballroom**

## Friday, October 2

### 8:00 AM-9:30 AM - Pastor's & Administrator's Breakfast - Jeff Redlin, Meadows

### 8:15 AM-9:05 AM - Workshop Session 6

How to Have Good Fights - Josh Hershberger, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Effective Teacher or Master Teacher: Which Are You? - Pamela Litzenberger, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
Tech Talk - Katie Borud, Stone Theatre  
Taking Elementary Spanish from ¡Hola! to ¡Olé! - Heather Robertson, Oaks  
Historicity of the Book of Jonah - John Beck, Great Lakes 1  
Employee Engagement for Christian Schools - Greg Zirkle, Great Lakes 2  
Demos for Dummies - Brad Batdorf, Great Lakes 3  
Teaching Inductive Bible Study Skills to Bible Students - Bruce Meyer, Great Lakes 4  
Middle School: The Vital Transition - Joseph Cain; Julie Case, Great Lakes 5  
Teaching Literature with a Biblical Worldview - Ashlee Oropeza, Glens 1  
Watch Me Grow! Understanding and Cultivating Preschoolers' Developmental Skills - Julie Madsen, Glens 2  
Beyond the Box: Seeing Students Through the Lens of Grace - Kim Plew, Glens 3  
Confronting Cultural Issues: How Important Are the Words? - Jeff Walton, Prairies 4  
The Case for Christian Education - Adam Morgan, Prairies 5  
Turning Worksheets into Wow! Less Grading, More Learning - Heidi Malmanger, Prairies 6  
Developing Musicianship through Movement - Janet Tschida, Flats

### 9:20 AM-10:10 AM - Workshop Session 7

How to Respond to the Transgender Movement - Josh Hershberger, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Head of School Round Table Discussion - Damian Ahrens; David Warren, Fields  
Optimizing the Mind by Upgrading How We Think - Josh Hubbard, Oaks  
Games and Activities for History Classes - Jeff Walton, Great Lakes 1  
Hands-on, Minds-on Science - Katie Borud, Great Lakes 3  
4 Attitudes of a Learner - Rebecca Weier, Great Lakes 4  
From Museums to Mars: Exploring God's World Through Virtual Field Trips - Karen Thacker, Great Lakes 5  
Easy Ways to Differentiate Instruction - Jacklyn Gunner, Glens 1  
Beating the Clock - Ann Rill, Glens 2  
Science of Reading - Just what is it and is it important to Christian education? - Nicole Zirkle, Glens 3  
Turn Off the Water - Bethany Atkinson, Prairies 4  
Emotions: Helping Students Sanctify Their Feelings - Bruce Meyer, Prairies 5  
The Four Dials: Why Christians Disagree About Music (and How to Stop Fighting About It) - Ben Everson, Prairies 6  
Prepare—Present—Practice - Janet Tschida, Flats  
The Ministry of ASSISTING: Stewarding Your Role with Excellence - Nichole Fitzgerald, Parfet Boardroom  
The Artificial Intelligence Dilemma: Historical Perspectives on AI - Amos Kasperek, Stone Theatre

### 10:30 AM-11:20 AM - Workshop 8

Proceed with Caution - Jeff Redlin, Arcadia Ballroom 1  
Christian Culture - Lee Atkinson, Arcadia Ballroom 2  
School Safety Best Practices - Dr. Joseph Borders, Field  
Shaping Minds for Eternity: Biblical Worldview Formation in Christian Education - Les Wallace, Oaks  
Everyday Women, Enduring Legacy - Edy Gies, Great Lakes 1  
Tips for Managing the Classroom of Little Learners - Julie Madsen, Great Lakes 2  
Easy Differentiation for Engaging the Gifted and Talented Student - Melissa Whitcher, Great Lakes 3  
The Teacher's Role as Discipler - Pamela Brown, Great Lakes 4  
Balancing Ministry and Mastery: Guiding Christian Students in Fine Arts Competitions - Ben Everson, Great Lakes 5  
The Very Hungry Kindergartener - Rebekah Schmig, Glens 1  
Getting Students to Grasp Grammar - Bethany Atkinson, Glens 2  
R | E | A | D | I | N | G - Judylynn Walton, Glens 3  
Keeping First Things First - Mark Stupka, Prairies 5  
Do parents really care? Navigating difficult parent-teacher relationships - Timothy McPhillips, Prairies 6  
What are our kids listening to? - Brenda Needham, Flats  
Being Human in a Digital World - David Warren, Stone Theatre

### 11:45 AM-1:00 PM - General Session 3-Dr. Jeff Redlin, Arcadia Ballroom