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## RALEIGH EVENT GUIDE

### EVENT SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

#### **MONDAY- April 27, 2026**

**Event Times:** 2:15 PM to 9:00 PM (Eastern Standard Time Zone)

- 11:00 AM-2:00 PM – New 2 Ministry Pre-Conference
  - Register for this as part of your YPS Registration. Lunch is provided. \*\*Space is limited.\*\*
- 2:15 PM – Registration
- 2:30 PM – Doors Open
- 3:00 PM – Mainstage Session Block One
  - [Dr. Kathy Koch](#), 8 Great Smarts: Seeing Students the Way God Does
  - Worship with Luke Clevenger Band
  - [Kate Downing](#), Courage Over Fear: Leading with Faith When Fear Is Loud
- 5:15 PM – Dinner break on your own
- 6:30 PM – Mainstage Session Block Two
  - Worship with Luke Clevenger Band
  - [Brent Crowe, Ph.D.](#), Crossroads: Leading with Clarity When Every Decision Shapes a Generation
  - [Justin Knowles](#), Leading the Team That Leads the Next Generation
- 9:00 PM – Conference Dismissed

#### **TUESDAY- April 28, 2026**

**Event Times:** 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM (Eastern Standard Time Zone)

- 8:00 AM – [Youth Ministry Booster](#) Coffee Fellowship for Early Risers
- 8:30 AM – Registration/ Doors Open
- 9:00 AM – Mainstage Session Block Three
  - Worship with Luke Clevenger Band
  - [Joshua Broome](#), The Who You Are Created to Be
- 10:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session A
- 11:40 AM – Leadership Lab Session B
- 12:30 PM – Lunch provided by event sponsors
- 1:15PM – Mainstage Session Block Four
  - [Dr. Joel Muddamalle](#), Ethical Gospel Leadership in a Rapidly Shifting Culture
  - Worship with Luke Clevenger Band
  - [Bryan Loritts](#), God's Mission: the Winds of Revival
- 3:30 PM – Conference Dismissed

## TUESDAY LEADERSHIP LAB DESCRIPTIONS

### 10:40 AM Leadership Labs

#### Lab 1 in Auditorium

**Dr. Kathy Koch**, *Founder of Celebrate Kids*

**Evangelism and Discipleship Through the 8 Great Smarts and 5 Core Needs:** A practical and transformative lab equipping leaders to disciple every student more effectively by understanding their unique God-given design and creating environments where identity, belonging, and spiritual growth come alive.

#### Lab 2 in Studio 4

**Zac Workun**, *Student Ministry Specialist for Lifeway, Co-Founder of Youth Ministry Booster*

**Organized for Success: Making Much of the Weeks, Months, and Years of Ministry:** There is more work to be done in youth ministry than any one leader can possibly accomplish, so what do we do? Like actually, what do we do? Let's talk about how to best steward our limited time, energy, and attention without burning out or drifting from what matters most? This breakout is for youth pastors that want to move from reactive busyness to intentional leadership. We'll explore how to organize ministry around priorities instead of pressure, how to think in weeks, months, and years (not just in days or events), and how to build simple systems that serve your people faithfully. This session is for anyone who feels overwhelmed but still deeply called.

#### Lab 3 in Studio 1

**Steve Cherrico**, *Executive Director of First Priority Middle Tennessee & Regional Manager with First Priority of America*

**The One Thing:** Stop guessing how to reach your community, learn how to intentionally build meaningful bridges between your youth ministry and local schools to create real, lasting impact.

#### Lab 4 in Studio 3

**Dr. Jonathan Denton**, *Professor of Christian Studies/Student Ministry at CSU*

**3 Principles for a Disciple-Making Strategy:** A clear and practical framework to help leaders move beyond attendance-driven ministry and build a disciple-making strategy that produces real, lasting

### 11:40 AM Leadership Labs

#### Lab 1 in Auditorium

**Dr. Jeff Wallace**, *CSO of SLU*

**The Leadership Ecosystem:** A strategic deep dive into creating a healthy leadership culture where vision, values, people, and systems align to develop and sustain thriving leaders.

#### Lab 2 in Studio 4

**Daniel Rose**, *Student Ministry Strategist for NC Baptist*

**Turning the Moment into a Movement:** Big Events create momentum, but only if leaders know how to steward them. This lab shows how to leverage camps, conferences and retreats as intentional discipleship pathways that lead to lasting spiritual growth, not just emotional highs.

#### Lab 3 in Studio 1

**Bill Newton**, *Next Gen and Discipleship Strategist at Arkansas Baptist*

**The Gender Identity and Sexuality Conversation:** A timely and practical lab equipping leaders to navigate today's most sensitive conversations with biblical clarity, pastoral wisdom, and Christlike compassion, as they help students encounter truth in a way that is both faithful and transformative.

#### Lab 4 in Studio 3

**Chris Brown**, *Brand Owner & Content Editor, Lifeway*

**Beyond Discussion: Growing Gospel-Centered Small Groups That Form Students:**

A practical and vision-driven lab equipping leaders to transform small groups into gospel-centered environments where students are known, challenged, and shaped through meaningful, Christ-centered conversations.