

PROGRAM — *ANNUAL CONFERENCE*

— Saturday, September 11th, 2021 —

10:00 AM — In "**Small Numbers, Large Impact**" Dr. David Zersen will explore the heritage of the Sorbs/Wends in Europe and the impact of their descendants in Australia and the U.S. Special focus will be placed on the legacy of Jan Kilian and Mato Kosyk.

Dr. David Zersen is President Emeritus of Concordia University Texas. He also holds clergy status in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. His background includes doctoral studies at the University of Goettingen, Germany, Bethany Theological Seminary (D.Min.) and Columbia University, New York City (Ed.D.) He is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Zersen is the premier U.S. researcher on the poetry of the Sorbian poet, Mato Kosyk, and he has done significant writing in the fields of Texas Wendish history as well as adult learning theory and religion and art. He and his wife, Julie, live in Wauwatosa (a Milwaukee suburb), Wisconsin.

12 noon — **GTHS BUSINESS MEETING**

1:00 PM — "**Drei edle deutsche Pioneerfamilien in Texas**"; a brief look into the lives and motivations of three German-Texan noble families by Jon Todd "JT" Koenig.

JT Koenig is the Sr. Fiduciary Team Manager for the Personal Trust Service Teams of Fiduciary Management Services (Wells Fargo FMS) in Austin, TX, covering the Southwest and Southeast regions. He also manages the Texas On-Site Operations team.

JT graduated from the University of Houston with a Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Psychology while minoring in Communications. He also holds a Juris Doctorate (JD) from St. Mary's University School of Law as well as a Masters Law degree (LLM) in Taxation from the University of Houston Law Center.

JT enjoys genealogy and history; He serves as a Director with the German-Texan Heritage Society and is a board member on a number of local historical associations. He also enjoys traveling and visits Germany regularly, where much of his family resides. JT resides in Austin and La Grange, Texas.