



# The Lutheran Beacon



*Let your light shine . . .*

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October 2017

## ***Dr. Doug's Disaster Corner***

Doug and Nona Schipull, SELC-DDRCs

***As I write this article on Monday, 09/11/2017, I am watching TV news programs covering the 911 events of 16 years ago, Hurricane Harvey in Texas a few weeks ago, and the latest disaster of Hurricane Irma thrashing its way through Florida. Then we have the dictator on North Korea rattling his cage for attention. Also, there was an 8.1 earthquake in southern Mexico just last week. This reminds me of the passage in Holy Scripture (Luke 21:10-11) where Jesus reminds of all kinds disasters that can befall us.***

We will be representing the SELC District at the LCMS National Disaster Response Conference in Fort Wayne later this month where we will hear reports from all the disasters that LCMS responded to in the past year. This reminds me of the purpose of "Dr. Doug's Disaster Corner"—preparedness.

Let us focus on the Hurricane Irma event. We have our Southern Circuit of the SELC District right in the middle of Hurricane Irma. The congregations and our retirement center affected are:

Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL  
St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL  
Faith "Viera", Rockledge, FL

Hope "Viera", Melbourne, FL  
Family of Christ, Tampa, FL  
The Lutheran Haven, Oviedo, FL

We need to keep these congregations and their members in our prayers because the hurricane covered the whole Florida peninsula, and, in one way or another, these congregations and fellow Lutherans were affected. If the District, congregations, and/or individuals would like to help with the recovery efforts, I would recommend working through the following organizations:

1. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: Visit their web site ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)) to find information on how to help with the relief work at the national level.
2. Lutheran Church Charities: Visit their web site ([www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org)) to find information for you to participate in their relief efforts for both Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.
3. HARP Ministries: This is a disaster relief organization ([www.harpcaldwell.org](http://www.harpcaldwell.org)) in the Ohio District. It is directed by Mary Bates who was the LERT trainer for the Eastern and Western Circuits. She spoke at our PCWC a few years ago (some of you may remember her). She was also the guiding hand in establishing the SELC's disaster response program.

# Gender Stewardship

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

## Transgenderism

Transgenderism is the manipulation of biological birth gender - the decision of a male or female to make a change from their birth gender to the opposite sex. On May 13, 2016, a federal directive was given to public schools in the US to allow students to use whichever restroom or locker aligned with their chosen gender change. In July, 2016, the ban on transgender military personnel was repealed. A Rand Corp. study, commissioned by the Pentagon, indicated that there are currently well over 2,500 transgender people in the military. On Aug. 20, 2017, Defense Secretary James Mattis announced a panel will be established to provide advice on how to handle the controversial transgender military personnel issue.

### Abnormality of Gender Change

Statistically, a very, very small minority struggle with their gender identity known as "Gender Dysphoria" or "Gender Identity Disorder" (GID).

There is no evidence that this disorder, as well as same-sex attraction, have genetic components. People are not born with GID. Actually, it is impossible to change one's birth gender. Even gender surgery is only cosmetic; hormones will have to be taken for the rest of one's life. In some cases, gender change has gone to the extreme of Felisgenderism, the inherent feeling of being a cat.

### Biblical Views about Gender

God created human beings male and female. (Gen. 1:27) Not only did He create distinct genders, the creation process of each was different. Genesis 2:7 states that He formed man from the dust of the "ground" (Hebrew "ha-a-dam", most likely a reddish clay). Adam was named after the ground from which he came. Eve was created differently from the rib of Adam. (Gen. 2:21-22) As their genders, so their roles were also different. Man was entrusted to be the major provider, protector and preserver and woman his "helper" in those functions. (Gen. 2:18) Men and women are different. Thank God! Solidified in the pleasant bond of love, a husband and a wife complement each other in a beautiful fulfilling way. A woman is not independent of man, nor is a man independent of woman. For as a woman came from a man, so a man is born of a woman.



## Gender Stewardship

Christian stewardship essentially involves the management of life according to God's will. It includes sexual stewardship. In their state of perfection Adam and Eve felt no sexual shame. (Gen. 2:25) When they sinned, their perfect life was disrupted and their sinful nature perpetuated. Sin invades the nooks and crannies of our lives every day in many forms, including gender identity. Gender bending is not something new. Deuteronomy 22:5 opposes "Androgyny" (gender ambiguity): "A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man women's clothing, for the Lord, your God, detests anyone who does this." 1 Cor. 11:11-16 also encourages mores regarding manliness and womanliness. As sexual stewards, Christians should delightfully celebrate their God created biological sex gender according to His guidelines for human sexuality.

### Solutions for Gender Dysphoria

Those, who suffer with the feeling their gender is different from their anatomical sex, need compassionate spiritual care to help overcome the disorder. Spiritual therapy begins with the awareness that the Scriptures are the very words of God given in love for mankind's good. Repentance and the reception of God's Gospel forgiving love produce an empowering love for God in the battle to overcome whatever sin. It would be wrong for us to turn away in disgust from anyone struggling with Gender Dysphoria. God loves sinners without approving their sins. So should we. The Church has the responsibility of lovingly sharing God's Law/Gospel message to our terribly confused culture. Christianity emerged in a Roman world far more debauched than ours today. God's Law, relentlessly pointing out sin, and Christ's Gospel, lovingly declaring forgiveness, transformed the Roman world and can do so again today. Currently, Dr. Gregory Seltz, former Lutheran Hour speaker, directs the LCMS Lutheran Center, Washington, DC regarding issues such as transgenderism, same sex marriage, abortion, religious liberty and conscience.

#### RELATED RESOURCES

[www.selc.lcms.org](http://www.selc.lcms.org) - Stewardship - Government

"Same Sex Marriage Issues"

"Stewards of the Unborn"

*Don't forget about your leaders who taught you God's message. Remember what kind of lives they lived and try to have faith like theirs. Jesus Christ never changes! He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Heb. 13; 7,8*

## Meet Rev. Kenneth M. Ballas, EM

Both born in Cleveland (Pastor George Daniel Pivan who was featured in the last issue of the Beacon) and emeritus Pastor Kenneth Michael Ballas have much in common. The latter born on May 1, 1935, to Michael and Anne (Rados) Ballas. Pastor Ballas received God's gracious washing of regeneration in Holy Baptism in the Slovak language on May 26, 1935, at Sts. Peter and Paul LC (now Grace), in Lakewood, OH. It was there that he was also confirmed in his baptismal faith on June 19, 1949, and ordained into the holy ministry on June 24, 1962. Married to Lois Predoehl, RN on September 3, 1960, the Ballases were blessed with a son, Michael, daughter Kirsten, and grandchildren Daniel Ballas and Haley, Chris and Abby Chute.



In addition to having been blessed with selfless Christian parents, consecrated Sunday School teachers and pastors, caring friends and, though not realizing it at the time, as a still growing baptized child of God, Pastor Ballas is not the first among citizens of various nations who owe in part reason for preparing for the Gospel ministry the inspired musical compositions of Johann Sebastian Bach some of which he has also been privileged to sing or play on the piano, chapel organ, oboe, or, most recently, tenor recorder.

Pastor Ken remains one of relatively few life-long members of the former Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church (Synod) and current SELC District of the LC-MS. His Slovak connections are due in no small measure to his maternal grandfather's speaking to him only in his beloved Slovak language as well as Grandpa Rados' daily habit of singing Slovak hymns for at least a half hour at 6:30 a.m. every morning on the Rados family farm. This was most helpful to this young pastor's preaching in Slovak and English every Sunday, midweek and holiday service (as well as funerals) at his first parish, Ascension LC in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. and again (though increasingly more often in English after nearly a decade as professor of Greek & New Testament studies at Concordia Theological Seminary in Springfield IL) after returning to parish ministry at St. Paul, Byram (Greenwich CT) during which time he periodically taught at Concordia College Bronxville, NY.

While serving in the eastern circuit, he was also a member of the former Doctrinal Unity Committee when SELC parishes were still a separate synod and for 25 years as board secretary at our SELC District's Lutheran Haven in Slavia (Oviedo), FL. Retiring to Ohio in 2003, he continues to learn how better to serve as central circuit visitor.

As is also true of a number of other SELC District brother-pastors, he was privileged to mentor (and learn from) more than two dozen vicar-interns from both LC-MS seminaries. Over the years "Prof. Ballas" was invited to teach or give conference presentations outside the SELC District on such biblical writings as the Book of Acts, Gospel according to Mark and epistles of Peter and, more recently, conduct inter-generational "catechism refreshers" on the practical genius of Luther's Small Catechism. He also thanks God for the present opportunity to witness to his Lord in a secular setting having been invited to teach a number of non-credit classes related to the Scriptures at the 2000 member Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) at neighboring Baldwin Wallace University in Berea, OH.

Having been blessed with what might be termed "the best of both worlds" (preaching and teaching), Pastor Ken was also privileged to bear witness and teach God's saving Word on more than a dozen youth and adult canoe trips in the beautiful BWCA (Boundary Waters Canoe Area wilderness) along the Minnesota-Canadian border. Freely sharing his love for the Creator's handiwork and accumulated field knowledge of God's birds continues to blend nicely with the Lord's gift of music as related to hearing (and learning) a wide assortment of bird song, a natural consequence of his rural upbringing. Friends still attest to having been afflicted with Pastor Ken's at times unusual but ever harmless sense of humor in claiming, for example, that his interest in birding resulted in part from the natural setting and undeniable challenge of the game of golf while searching for errantly struck golf balls in habitats Daniel Boone (or even John James Audubon) never saw! Nature walks, canoeing and all too infrequent family travel were pastimes that helped recharge Pastor



Ken's batteries after weekly (often daily) hospital or shut-in visits. A current joy and unbridled passion of his 55+ years of ministry in furthering our Lord's unfinished mission has been in the Ballases' home Bible studies often based on his former college and seminary roommate, missionary David Schneider's devotional classic Arrows of Light as well as the poetic writings of St. Louis seminary professor, Martin Franzmann, among others.

Summarizing the richly varied life of Pastor Ballas this side of heaven could well include words like baptized believer, family man, witness, still struggling writer, missionary, congregational singer (often with Lois), pastor, friend and, last but not least, forgiven sinner who knows God's very best gifts are yet to come because of our living and loving sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ. To Him belongs the glory!

## BITS & PIECES



**The earthly life of Vera Fabry Plvan has come to an end. Her life with the Lord has begun.**

At 2:15 on the 18th day of July in the year of our Lord, 2017, Vera joined the host before the Lamb and was received into His waiting arms. Even as these words are being written she is singing Halleluja and Hosanna together with all the redeemed. She has been given the crown of life. To God be all the glory!

On Saturday, July 29, 2017, family and friends of Vera Fabry Plvan gathered at St. John Lutheran Church, Emporia, VA to praise and thank God for the faith and life of this child of God, now resting in the arms of Jesus.

Knowing that many who would have liked to be present were unable to do, so arrangements were made to have the event videotaped. It will be made available to anyone interested either by going to YouTube where it will be posted as soon as possible. Or, you may request a CD of the service by contacting the undersigned.

Anyone wishing to offer monetary memorials to Vera are invited to give their gifts to whatever agency, church or benevolence they choose.

Thank you. Your fellow servant of Christ - George Daniel Plvan

† † †



**Ronald Roby**

**May 15, 1936 - July 24, 2017**

Our deepest sympathy to Susan Roby and family on the passing into glory of her husband, Ron. He was a member of Trinity (Orlando, FL) for 35 years, where he and Susan taught adult Bible study for 26 of those years. While in Orlando, he also served on the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Haven Retirement Facility in Oviedo, FL for 20 years. When they moved to Fairview, NC, they became active members of Emmanuel LC in Asheville.

**The Congregations, Pastors and all Professional Church Workers of the SELC District are cordially invited to the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Service at Grace Lutheran Church,**

**13030 Madison Ave. in Lakewood, Ohio  
on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22ND AT 4 PM.**

Preaching for the service will be the Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, Emeritus Executive Director of Lutherans for Life. Clergy (active and emeritus) are invited to vest and wear a red stole.

A catered dinner will be offered after the service. Cost is \$13.50/person within Cuyahoga County and \$10/person outside of Cuyahoga County. Please have reservations for the dinner in by the week of September 10<sup>th</sup>.

Checks should be made out to Grace Lutheran Church with Reformation Dinner in the memo line.



**Feb. 3, 2018** ... Please save the date for the Ordination/Installation of E. Alan Mercer as SMP Pastor at Peace LC in Galloway, NJ.

The Ordination/Installation is scheduled for Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 11:00am at Peace Lutheran Church, 328 E. Great Creek Road, Galloway, NJ.

Formal invitation to follow as well as instructions for those who wish to participate in the Laying of the Hands.



**NOTICE!!! 9/13/2017**

**We have just been informed of the passing of Rev. Milan Babel EM. Information will be sent as soon as funeral plans have been arranged**



# One Big, Busy Weekend!

by Rev. James Douthwaite

*The weekend of July 15th and 16th was a hectic and joyous one for the folks of Saint Athanasius in Vienna, VA and a son of the congregation, George Fields.*



On Saturday, George was ordained into the Office of the Holy Ministry. Preaching for the service was Rev. Dr. William Weinrich from our Ft. Wayne Seminary, and participants included pastors from the SELC, Southern, Southeastern, and Indiana Districts. George will serve as Associate Pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Jackson, MS. He will be installed there on August 27th.



Then on Sunday morning, George was united in Holy Marriage to Deaconess Sara Schultz during the Divine Service at Saint Athanasius. Sara has been called to serve as Deaconess at Christ Lutheran in Jackson, MS along with George. Dr. Weinrich preached their wedding sermon as well.



*It is usually a big event for a congregation to host an ordination or a wedding, but an ordination and a wedding on the same weekend - and for the same person! - that is something special. And a weekend that neither George nor the folks at Saint Athanasius will soon forget.*

## Rev. Nagy Installed at Resurrection



L to R: Pastor Robert Hauter-St. Paul's LC, Kouts, IN; Pastor Jared Raebel-Faith LC, DeMotte, IN; Pastor Nathan Kramer-Trinity LC, Hobart, IN; Pastor Nagy; President Dzurovcik; Pastor Engel and Pastor Rick Boshoven of Trinity Memorial LC of Merrillville, IN.

Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church, Crown Point, IN, installed The Reverend Gary S. Nagy on Saturday, July 29, 2017. SELC District President, The Reverend Andrew Dzurovcik presided over the Rite of Installation. The Reverend Timothy Engel of Messiah Lutheran Church of Houston, TX, was the preacher. Other LCMS pastors participated in the installation. Organist for the service was Mrs. Lynn Praschak, Resurrection's organist.

Following the worship service, the congregation and their guests enjoyed a celebration in the church fellowship hall.

Pastor Nagy and his wife, Judy, have been married for 35 years and have two adult daughters: Jennifer Ciesielski (Jon) and Amanda Kankowski (Jason), both of Hobart, IN. They have four grandchildren, Ben, John, Walter and Hattie. Pastor Nagy served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hobart, IN. for 35 years, before retiring in 2014. He and Judy are excited to work with the wonderful members of Resurrection in the local "fields white unto harvest" (John 4:35).



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We have a lot of upcoming conferences that we would like you to add to your calendar. If you have any questions regarding any of these events, please contact the pastor listed under each event or Hope Alfieri at [SELCAssistant@outlook.com](mailto:SELCAssistant@outlook.com). More information will also be sent out in the future.

### Professional Church Workers Conference (aka GPC)

Dates: Monday, September 25th - Wednesday, September 27th, 2017

Location: Concordia, Macungie, PA

Host Pastor: Rev. Wally Vinovskis

Host Pastor Email: [wrvinovskis@gmail.com](mailto:wrvinovskis@gmail.com)

### Mission Conference

Date: Saturday, November 4th (in the afternoon)

Location: Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Alsip, IL

Mission Executive: Rev. Paul Hoyer

Mission Executive Email: [Paul@hclm.org](mailto:Paul@hclm.org)

A special 5 hour conference on spreading the mission of Christ in the community where you live.

This conference is for pastors and staff as well as key leadership in your congregation.

### SELC District Convention

Dates: Thursday, April 26th - Sunday, April 29th

Location: Grace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio

Host Pastor: Rev. George Hansell

Host Pastor Email: [grh61655@roadrunner.com](mailto:grh61655@roadrunner.com)

# The Impact of Charitable Planning

by Robin Paris, SELC District Gift Planning Counselor

It might seem difficult to quantify the impact of charitable planning, but when you think about generosity there are many benefits that come about when people seek to make the world better by giving of their blessings to benefit others.

Without charitable planning, hospitals wouldn't be able to continue their quest for healing by making use of the best technology or latest research. Without the gifts of generous people, the social service apparatus of our democratic society would leave untold numbers of people destitute and unable to receive sustaining care.

Without generous people who plan their gifts, Christian churches across the nation and the world would be less effective in proclaiming the good news of eternal life in Jesus. If there were no proclamation of the Gospel, people would live without hope.

How is the benefit of charitable planning measured? The impact of charitable planning is equivalent to the hand of God moving across the void to create a universe beyond comprehension. This is evidence that the true God has equipped the 'crown of His creation' to function as the very 'hands of God' within the world.

Charitable gifts, especially those planned to ministry organizations, boost the spread and power of the Word of God in an increasingly godless world. Such gifts overflow from God's Spirit residing in the giver's heart.

Not only will generosity make the world better, but charitable plans will forge redemptive history planned from eternity to immortality as all things are made new.

Have you thought about the spiritual impact of your own Lifetime Plan for Giving? The LCMS Foundation can help! Let's explore this together.

**Call Robin Paris at 937-477-9713 or email her at [Robin.Paris@lfnd.org](mailto:Robin.Paris@lfnd.org).**

Summer is almost over - we're back to monthly publication!

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome!

The Lutheran Beacon - Gail Peterson

email: [gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com)

Please submit articles as separate attachments in the program you write in.

[e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.], NOT as part of your e-mail.

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [NOT as part of your article--JPEG format preferred.] You may send multiple photos in one email.

***DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE IS OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup>***

## News & Notes from your LWML

by Sharon Roegge, SELC LWML President



A heart to represent the love and giving of nature of the members; a drop to symbolize the blood of Christ and a tear of compassion; and a cross above all else to proudly show purpose behind the efforts of the LWML. Through this identity, the hope is to empower members through deeper connections, tradition, and the desire to serve God.

Thanks be to God, and all of you who submitted applications for our 2018-2020 LWML SELC Mission Grants. *The SELC BOD and our Executive Board will need to narrow our list of 16 applicants, and \$33,775, to about half of that amount.* This last biennium our amount for our district mission grants was \$10,400. The delegates and elected officers will be voting on the remainder at our district convention May 18-20, 2018, in Norridge, Illinois, at Zion Lutheran Church. More information about the convention will be available after the first of the year.

*To date National LWML has received \$364,377.43 toward the 2017-2019 Biennial goal of \$2,075,000.* This income represents the 25% from districts from April 1 through August 31; the convention of Mites for Missions Walk, the Golf Outing, the Thursday night worship service; and other donations. Starting in November the grant recipients who have already sent in their forms for payment will be sent their money as the money is available.

*Applications for Director of Christian Education and Deaconess will be available by the end of next month.* This grant will be for those who would like additional funds to buy supplies or resources that are not covered under their churches budgets but would enhance their work. The total allocated for this grant is \$900.

*Zone Rallies* – Central Zone will be holding their fall rally on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> at St. Matthew's in Norton, OH. The theme is from II Timothy 1:7 – “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.” The Gifts of Love Ingathering will be for Akron City Schools 5<sup>th</sup> graders.

Western Zone will hold their rally on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Zion in Norridge, IL. The theme is ‘Steadfast in Grace, Faith, and Scripture’ taken from Romans 16:25. Emilie Stoller, our 2017 YWR and a deaconess student at Concordia Chicago, will share her experiences on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

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Check out our new logo - and the rest of *The Lutheran Beacon* in full color

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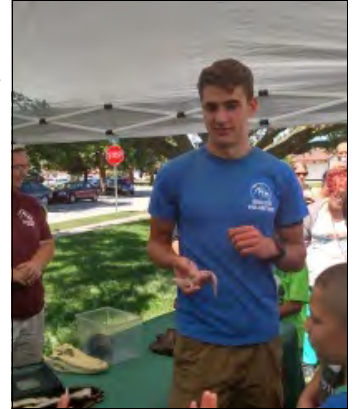
# Luther League 2017 Scholarship Recipient

by Tim Hasko

## ***We are proud to introduce our 2017 SELC District “Luther League” scholarship recipient!***

In 1953, the Luther League — the official youth organization of the SELC District — began a scholarship fund to encourage higher education for SELC youth with leadership potential. Thanks to generous donations from our SELC youth groups, scholarship alumni, and friends, the Luther League has awarded over 140 scholarships in the last 64 years!

**Cameron Wagner** – Pentecost, Racine WI: Cameron graduated from Racine Lutheran High School in 2015. He will begin his Junior year at the University of Wisconsin–Madison this fall with a major in Wildlife Ecology. After graduation he plans to attend veterinarian school. He intends to exhibit Christ’s love by being a good steward to God’s creatures by caring for them. Cameron has been an active member of his congregation’s youth group and has attended many Luther League summer gatherings and winter ski trips. He has been involved in his congregation as lay reader, usher, volunteer for grass cutting, and through youth Bible class. During the summer of 2017, Cameron was an intern with the Racine County Zoo.



Cameron exhibits a leopard gecko from the Racine County Zoo at his congregation’s Block Party in July

### 2016 Recipients:

Noah Balla – Zion, Clark NJ

Alexis Linback – Resurrection, Crown Pt. IN

Steven Steingass – Calvary, Parma OH

### 2015 Recipients:

Jeannelle Condame – St. Luke, Oviedo FL

Dan Hasko – Pentecost, Racine WI

Katie Kube – St. Lucas, St. Louis MO

If you would like to help support more young people like those mentioned above, please consider a gift to the Luther League Scholarship Fund! Due to demographics, we are expecting a higher volume of applications this year. Special thanks to all of our donors from last year!

Checks can be made out to: SELC District Luther League

and mailed to:

Pentecost Lutheran Church  
Attn: Luther League Scholarship Fund  
2213 Coolidge Avenue  
Racine, WI 53403

or you can contribute online through the Luther League website: [www.lutherleague.com](http://www.lutherleague.com)



A Sunday School teacher said to her children, “We’ve been learning how powerful kings and queens were in biblical times. BUT, there is a higher power! Can anyone tell me what it is?”

One child blurted out, “Aces!”

# SELC Youth Grow at Garden of Grace

by Tim Hasko

The 90<sup>th</sup> Luther League Youth Gathering brought youth from the Western and Eastern circuits to Fellowship Deaconry Camp in Liberty Corner, NJ. Since New Jersey is known as the "Garden State", what better theme to gather around than "Garden of Grace"? Based on John 12:24, the youth journeyed from the Garden of Eden, to the Garden of Gethsemane, and ultimately to the garden tomb where Jesus was buried and rose from the dead.

Pastor Joe Weatherell (Bound Brook and Raritan NJ) kicked off the gathering with opening worship that focused on the Garden of Eden and the Fall of Man. Adam and Eve were banished from the beautiful garden, and now the ground would produce thorns and thistles. But God did not leave Adam and Eve without hope, as we would hear in our closing devotion. A shoot would spring up from the stump of Jesse, the Savior promised to Adam and Eve in Genesis 3.15.

Following the opening devotion, the youth had a chance to get to know each other better through various icebreakers, including a cheerleading competition between the Tomatoes and the Cucumbers. The Tomatoes scored points for precision and repetition, but the Cucumbers prevailed due to their stunts and choreography.

On Friday morning, Pastor Nathan Grewe (Clark NJ) led our opening devotion on Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Although Jesus was greatly troubled, He prayed for God's will to be done. We can take our troubles to God as well, and learn from Jesus' example.

In true New Jersey fashion the group boarded the bus to go "Down the Shore". We had a beautiful day at the beach and boardwalk, enjoying the ocean, sun, food, and games.

Back at the camp, we held our business meeting where the following new officers were elected: Noah Barclay (Racine WI) President; Bethany Cumins (Bound Brook NJ) Secretary; and Rev. Joe Weatherell (Bound Brook and Raritan NJ) Pastoral Advisor. The group affirmed their mission commitment to brothers Vitor and Joao Paulo in Brazil. After the business meeting, we relaxed at the bonfire enjoying tasty s'mores.

Closing devotion was led by Tim Hasko (Racine WI) on the death and burial of Jesus. We were reminded that God put Adam in a garden to live forever, but Adam's sin brought death. Jesus was buried in a garden tomb, and rose in a garden tomb so we can live forever with Him in heaven.

Saturday morning the group traveled to the community garden at Trinity Lutheran Church, Somerset NJ. Luther Leaguers spent the morning removing weeds that grew up the surrounding fence, and putting down mulch to prevent future weeds. We were also excited to be joined by Pastor Matt Lytikainen (Hoboken NJ), an alumnus of the Western Circuit ski trips, now serving as mission developer in NJ.

Pastor Matt led us in our morning devotion focusing on the resurrection. While we don't know exactly in what tone Jesus said Mary Magdalene's name in John 20:16, we can be assured when He says our name it is with love, affection, and forgiveness. We were also treated to a download of his wife's original song, "Living Water" later that afternoon.

Saturday afternoon we had free time to use the pool, basketball & volleyball courts, and to play vigorous rounds of laser tag. Catching up on sleep was an option as well!

After dinner, the youth boarded our trusty bus to travel to the Somerset Patriot's baseball game. Although the game was called after four innings due to rain, the youth still enjoyed fellowship with each, **[continued on Page 11]**

## Garden of Grace



"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." John 12:24



Noah Barclay, Pres.; Bethany Cumins, Secretary; Rev. Joe Weatherell, Pastoral Advisor





## Garden of Grace-continued from Page 10]

fellowship with each other, even if it meant getting a little bit wet. Arriving back at the camp early also provided the opportunity to complete a few more fines for Kangaroo Court. And what a spirited round of Kangaroo Court it was! Noah Barclay was fined for pretending to know his way around New York City (AKA the “95 Degree Death March”); Katy Wagner for telling everyone to meet at the wrong door at the M&M store; Bethany Cumins for too many “up-downs”; multiple Racine leaguers for putting their nose on the subway pole; and Mason Wagner for trying to pay fines with an \$.89 Culvers gift card. There were several food infractions as well, including eating someone else’s food; eating a Cheezit off the floor; and eating bark off a tree. All proceeds from Kangaroo Court were split between the Mission Plan and Scholarship Fund.

On Sunday morning, Pastor Andy Dzurovcik (SELC President, Clark NJ) led a devotion on our theme verse, John 12:24. As he held up a packet of seeds, he explained that the seeds weren’t doing any good in the packet. Once they are planted in the ground and die, they produce fruits and vegetables with seeds many times over. The same is true with our faith; we need to let it out of the packet.

After morning devotions, the youth packed their belongings and took their bus over to St. John Lutheran Church in Bound Brook for Sunday worship led by Pastor Joe Weatherell on the parable of the weeds in the wheat.

Following the worship service, the youth were treated to lunch in the fellowship hall of St. John. The youth of St. John entertained the group with their musical talents on guitar, violin, bass guitar, and vocals.

We said good bye to our many new friends, praying that we would all grow and flourish in our faith over the next year. Plans are already underway for summer 2018’s SELC youth event in Florida!

Special thanks to Pastor Joe and Jennifer Weatherell, and the youth and congregation of St. John, Bound Brook NJ for hosting our SELC Youth gathering this year!

*“Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”*  
John 12:24



The Group at Community Garden  
Holy Trinity - Somerset NJ



The Group at  
St. John - Bound Brook NJ



*Celebrating our 24th consecutive season!*

**ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES 2017-18**

# Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

Saturday, October 21st | 7pm

*Eric Plays Haydn*

HAYDN — *Cello Concerto in D Major*

GREENSTEIN — *Flute Concerto in D minor*

ELGAR — *Enigma Variations*



Eric Jacobsen  
Conductor, Cello

*Free Admission and Parking!*



Colleen Blagov, Flute

Images: Courtesy of Orlando Philharmonic

A gift to the community from ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021 W. SR 426 Oviedo, FL 32765



St. Luke's Concert Series 2017-18 is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as support provided by Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc.

Visit: [stlukes-oviedo.org/concert-series](http://stlukes-oviedo.org/concert-series) to request emailed program updates this season. Info: 407/365-3408.







# Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, LC~MS

699 Stambaugh Avenue, Sharon, PA 16146

[www.stspeterandpaulcms.org](http://www.stspeterandpaulcms.org)



Pastor: Rev. Jacob Deal    Cell Phone: 724-977-1682    e-mail: [pastordeal@stspeterandpaulcms.org](mailto:pastordeal@stspeterandpaulcms.org)  
Office: 724-347-3620    e-mail: [secretary@stspeterandpaulcms.org](mailto:secretary@stspeterandpaulcms.org)    Little People Pre-school: 724-347-5655



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is excited to be hosting LERT (Lutheran Early Response Training) in conjunction with LCMS Disaster Response Saturday, November 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM – 3 PM.

LERT training addresses different types of disasters and what our response should be to disasters as members of the LCMS. The goal is to prepare congregations and individuals to be better prepared when disaster strikes in order to help them better respond within their own congregations and the greater community.

LERT training is open to pastors, lay leaders, and other congregation members. The training costs \$35 / person and covers a training manual, LCMS volunteer vest and lunch. Participants (18 years old or older and members of an LCMS congregation) will receive a certificate of participation and volunteer certification badge from LCMS Disaster Response and the LCMS Office of National Mission.

The demand for LERT training is very high! We anticipate that spots will fill quickly. If interested in taking part in this important training opportunity, please submit the attached registration form and payment (checks made out to Sts. Peter & Paul Ev. Lutheran Church) no later than October 28<sup>th</sup>.

If interested in staying in the area, we recommend the **Park Inn by Radisson, Sharon.**

[Address: 3377 New Castle Road, West Middlesex, PA 16159, Phone: (724) 528-2501]

God's Blessings,

Rev. Jacob T. Deal, Pastor  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**  
*“Reaching Up with faith, Out with love,  
and In with fellowship”*

# LERT Volunteer Training Event

## Training will be held at

Location: Sts Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, 699 Stambaugh Ave, Sharon, PA 16146

Date: November 11, 2017 Time: 9am - 5pm (3 pm)

## For more information, contact

Name: Rev. Jacob T. Deal

Phone: 724-977-1682 Email: pastordeal@stspeterandpaulcms.org

The registration fee is up to \$35, which includes a training manual, LCMS volunteer vest and lunch. You will receive your certificate of participation and volunteer certification badge from LCMS Disaster Response and the LCMS Office of National Mission.

*(Please fill out, detach, and send this form with your registration fee to the host congregation.)*

## Disaster Preparedness Training Event Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_



# Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) Training Coming to a church near you!



## Disaster Response

When disaster strikes, lives are turned upside down. Survivors often need food, clothing, shelter and spiritual care as they begin to cope with tragedy and loss. Responding to these hurting people is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). We show mercy and love to our communities because of the great grace and love that God has first shown to us.

Join a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) training event near you to learn how congregations and even individual members like you can be better prepared to show Christ's love to the community when a disaster strikes. Attendees will receive training in the following areas:

- The LCMS Disaster Response Program
- Christian Care in Times of Disaster
- Congregation Preparedness
- Engaging in Community Response
- The LERT Program
- Safety and Equipment
- General Volunteer Opportunities

Attendees also will receive an LCMS Disaster Response credential that will give them credibility as they enter disaster zones in a coordinated and collaborative effort to assist those in need.



**"We love because  
he first loved us."**

(1 John 4:19 ESV)

NOVEMBER 11, 2017 9 AM - 3 PM Cost: \$35  
Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
699 Stambaugh Ave., Sharon, PA 16146  
Registration & Payment due OCTOBER 28th  
Make checks payable to Sts. Peter & Paul  
Ev. Lutheran Church



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