



# The Beacon Online

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## The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com). Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com). Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions!

### **Reminder from District Secretary Rev. John Telloni 2021 Convention Delegate Submission Information**

The official 2021 SELC District Convention Packet, containing delegate credential forms and information about resolutions and nominations, including forms for the various offices and blanks for nominations.

Please note the first deadline of **November 16, 2020**, to submit your Pastoral, Lay and Alternate Delegates to the Secretary of the District. It is important that you send this information in a timely way because, from the list of delegates, President Vinovskis will be appointing people to serve on the various committees to serve at the convention.

Other deadlines coming up are **January 4, 2021**, for nominations for District President, Vice-Presidents, and Circuit Visitors; and for Resolutions (resolutions will be accepted up to March 16, 2021, but they will not be printed in the Convention Workbook); and **February 8, 2021**, for members of the Board of Directors and the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees.

It is important that you comply with the stated deadlines so that nominees can be contacted for their decisions to accept or decline; and if to accept, to submit bios and photos for publication in the Convention Workbook.

If you did not receive a packet, please contact the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com). The District Convention is scheduled for April 15-18, 2021, at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO. Thank you, and may the Lord bless your congregations and their deliberations over these matters for the good of our district and to the Lord's glory and honor.

## Being Challenge

Hey SELC District!

We have an exciting opportunity to team up in the Lenten season to do a deep dive into the life and habits of Jesus through our own SELC Pastor Zach Zehnder's *Being Challenge*. This is a 40-day experience that will help your congregation and all who participate learn and practice the 5 keystone habits of Jesus. In addition to the workbooks, *Being Challenge* comes with loads of FREE resources like small group materials, sermon manuscripts, graphics, and even kid's curriculum!

The workbooks are normally \$20 each but because we are doing this as a district they will only be \$10 to you!

SELC Pastor Chris Cahill of Christ the King Lutheran in Lodi, OH was in the first wave of churches that went through *Being Challenge* and had a great experience.

Stay tuned in the next Beacon as we will be inviting you to a special Zoom call to talk more about this district-wide offering with Zach Zehnder and Chris Cahill who will be able to discuss their church's experience and what you can expect.

In the meantime, if you have any more questions about *Being Challenge* or what this is all about, you can email their team at [hello@redletterchallenge.com](mailto:hello@redletterchallenge.com) or ask Zach in the Zoom call. Additionally, if you have questions on how best to implement a challenge like this in your church, their team has training videos here (<https://redletterchallenge.com/how-to-launch-a-church-challenge/>) that cover everything from kids and students, small groups, promotion/distribution, etc. It would be great to watch the videos that pertain to you before the Zoom call.

We are asking that you commit to this prior to the New Year so that we can effectively roll this out as a district and that Zach's team can get all the resources to us in a timely fashion. *Being Challenge* books will be shipped to each of the 4 circuit meetings in January to help expedite and streamline shipping (although you can request shipment to your specific church).

If you know you would like to be a part of this already, in an effort to have things organized, please fill out this short Google Form, and again, we are hopeful to have participation confirmed by end of 2020. Putting in estimates does not lock you in to that number, but gives us a helpful estimation as we move forward with this initiative to the district.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyyPQVmaoE\\_fbobjvHnFBiBypjyv\\_Gp-y2ngy8RocwPlxpQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeyyPQVmaoE_fbobjvHnFBiBypjyv_Gp-y2ngy8RocwPlxpQ/viewform)

Thank you so much!

## Setting Your 2021 SELC Budget Goal

*And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8*

Christ calls us to be witnesses of the Gospel throughout the whole world. One way

we do this together is through our partnership with district and Synod missions, supported by the offerings of our congregations.

Your congregation should have received a letter for you to indicate your plans to support district and Synod missions. As your congregations completes its budgeting process, please return this information by mail or email (preferred) by January 15 to;

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Chair  
7100 Morganford Rd, St. Louis, MO 63116  
[markclarson0341@gmail.com](mailto:markclarson0341@gmail.com)

Note that contributions should be sent directly to the District Financial Secretary: Larry Schultz, 1566 Bushkill Center Rd, Bath, PA 18014

## **2020 Congregational Treasurer Manual is Available**

The 2020 Congregational Treasurer's manual is now available. The manual includes information on Concordia Plans, information on housing allowances, and information for Lutheran Schools and Early Childhood Centers. The manual is available in 3 formats - print (limited numbers are available), CD, or a thumb drive. There are several important updates from last year's manual. Please contact Patti Smith at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) to request your Treasurer's manual. If you have any questions, please email the District Office or call us at 610-965-3265.

## **Call Update**

The SELC District announces three calls.

1. Rev. Joseph Leech from St. John's in Hazelton, PA has accepted a call to St. John Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Nebraska. He will be installed in the new year.
2. Kalli Wied, DCE at St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL has accepted a call to Hope Lutheran Church in Orlando, FL as an Outreach Minister LIVE, UCF in the FL-GA District. She will be installed on November 22, 2020.
3. Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Macungie, PA has extended a call to Rev. Nycholas Greig in Richmond Virginia to be the Associate Pastor.

We ask for your prayers for Pastor Leech and Kalli Wied as they accept their new calls. We also ask for God's guidance and support for Pastor Greig and his family as they prayerfully consider the call to Concordia in Macungie, PA.

## **Full Tuition Opportunity at Valparaiso for Senior High School Students in your District**

President Vinovskis can submit nominations of high school seniors, graduating in the Spring of 2021, for a full-tuition Lutheran Leader Scholarship and Intern Program at Valparaiso University. For the past 24 years, two Lutheran students have been chosen to receive this scholarship. The brochure is available through the link below.

## Lutheran Leader Brochure 2020

The nomination must be made by President Vinovskis to Valparaiso University. If you have students who you feel merit consideration for this scholarship, please send your nominations to President Vinovskis via email to our district email - [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) All nominations **MUST** be received in the SELC District office by **November 30, 2020** so President Vinovskis can submit the application. If you have any questions, please call the District Office at 610-965-3265 or via email at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com)

## **Soldiers of the Cross Funding is Available**

“If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together” (1 Cor. 12:26).

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), Lutheran Church Extension Fund, the 35 districts of the LCMS including our SELC District, and other entities are providing an opportunity for concerned, caring people to help those serving full- or part-time in LCMS congregations, schools, universities, Recognized Service Organizations and other organizations who have been confronted with ministry-disrupting personal crises.

Through the Synod’s long-standing “Soldiers of the Cross” (Soldiers) grant assistance program, which is administered by the LCMS Office of National Mission, a worker in crisis can apply for help with short-term financial needs through their district office. Workers in crisis are encouraged to contact their district office for an application and guidance.

Unlike traditional Soldiers grants, lay workers who are not on the Synod’s roster of professional church workers are eligible for these “amplified” Soldiers of the Cross grants.

This response initiative isn’t just about taking care of pastors and rostered teachers — important as that is. Other church workers such as church and school secretaries, administrators, bookkeepers and janitors can also apply for a Soldiers of the Cross Amplified grant to get through this crisis.

The application can be found at this link – <http://selc.lcms.org/mdocs-posts/soldiers-of-the-cross-application/> When you have completed the application, please submit it to the SELC District office at [selc.lcms@gmail.org](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.org)

## **Annual Submission of School Statistics**

The Office of National Mission, School Ministry understands that this year is unlike any other in recent history for our Lutheran schools, and that the constantly changing situation is having a detrimental impact on our annual statistics reporting. Understanding that schools will need more time to complete their statistics submission this year, they will be leaving the online submission process open through **December 31, 2020**. At that time the online process will be closed and the data that has been collected up to that point will inform the annual statistics reports generated from the School Ministry office.

## November 21, 2020 - Join LCEF for their Annual Update

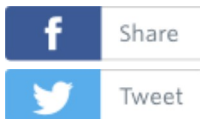
LCEF is hosting a virtual annual update on Saturday, November 21 beginning at 10 AM CST. This is a ZOOM update open to the public. There will be no official business so no roll will be taken or quorum needed.

Registration for the meeting is now open. Please register and invite any and all who would like to receive the update to also register.

The link is here: <https://lcef.org/annual-update/>

## New Call Documents

There will be new call documents to use beginning no later than December 1, 2020. Please contact the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) if you will be starting the Call Process so that we can be sure to give you the correct documents. Please delete any blank copies of the call documents you have previously used.



### **SELC District of LCMS**

2623 Brookside Road  
Macungie, PA 18062  
610-965-3265

Contact Us  
[selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com)

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