



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. 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. Please submit your articles in Word format. We look forward to sharing your submissions!

Reminder - 2021 Convention Delegate Submission Deadline is November 16, 2020

The 2021 District convention information has been sent to Pastors via email and U.S. mail. Please note the first deadline of **November 16, 2020** to submit your Pastoral, Lay and Alternate delegates. If you did not receive the packet, please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. The District Convention is scheduled for April 15 - 18, 2021 at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO.

SELC District Approved Mission Grants for 2020-2022

- Helping Appalachian Rural People (HARP) \$1,500
 - Direct client assistance for a family in need and for funding the servant event to do home remodeling for this family.
- Orphan Grain Train Maryland Branch \$1,500
- Funding "Luci Lights"
 - African countries and shipping costs for solar lights to people who don't have electricity and bringing the light of the Gospel to those who need to know Jesus.
- Concordia Lutheran Church Food Pantry, Youngstown, Ohio \$1,500
 - Funding to purchase food and for other expenses related to running the food pantry.
- Summer vicar for St. Stephens, Dickson City, PA \$1,500
- Mission church supplies for St. Athanasius, Vienna, VA \$900
- Green altar paraments, St. John's, Hazleton, PA \$750
- Parking lot lighting, Holy Trinity, Parma, OH \$1,000
 - Lighting is needed to provide safety and security for evening events.

- LED light for Zion, Clark, NJ \$1,500
- Spring flowers, Calvary, Parma, OH \$500
 - Bulbs will be planted on church grounds in the shape of a cross.

2020 Congregational Treasurer Manual is Available

The 2020 Congregational Treasurer's manual is now available. The manual is available in 3 formats - print (limited numbers are available), CD, or a thumb drive. There are several updates from last year's manual. Please contact Patti Smith at 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.

Richard H. Martin, Sr.

Richard (Dick) Martin Sr., a long time District member and servant, passed away on Tuesday, November 3rd, at The Renaissance Retirement Campus in Olmsted Falls, Ohio. He was surrounded by his family, including his wife of 63 years, Carol K. Martin, as well as their three children Richard, Jr. (Kay Birnbaum), Allison Eaton (Robert), and Katy Zetwick (James). Dick attended Calvary Lutheran Church for more than 50 years. He also served as Congregational Chairman for multiple terms. Dick also supported the broader Lutheran Church, serving on annuity and mission boards; the SELC District Board of Directors; and as a lay delegate to the National Synodical Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. His faith enabled both him and his family to approach his passing with confidence in the life to come, the greatest gift for which one could ask. A celebration of life will be held in 2021, likely in the summer.

We ask for your prayers for Dick's wife Carol, who required emergency surgery earlier this week. Her surgery was successful and she will be in recovery for the next 5 - 6 days. May God care for Carol and bless her with His healing.

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 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

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

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.

Join LCEF for their Annual Update

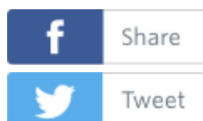
LCEF is hosting a virtual annual update on Saturday, November 21 beginning at 10 AM CST. This is a ZOOM update open to the public. There will be no official business so no roll will be taken or quorum needed.

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 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**

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