



# The Beacon Online

January 30, 2021 / Volume 2 / No. 4

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

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## Final Slate of Concordia Seminary St. Louis Presidential Candidates is Set

11<sup>th</sup> Seminary President to be elected February 6, 2021

The following two individuals have been named to the final slate of candidates to be considered for election and call as the 11th president of [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#):

- Dr. Thomas J. Egger
- Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer

These candidates were selected from the pool of nominees who gave permission for their names to stand in consideration for the call. The slate was established by the Seminary's Board of Regents (voting individually), the LCMS district president elected to the Seminary's Board of Regents (Dr. John Wille, LCMS South Wisconsin District), the president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Dr. Matthew C. Harrison) and the chairman of the LCMS Board of Directors (Dr. Michael Kumm).

The [original list of nominees](#) was announced Sept. 9. Presidential nominations, per the LCMS Handbook, were submitted by LCMS congregations, the Seminary's Board of Regents and the Seminary faculty.

On Saturday, Feb. 6, 2021, the electors will vote to select the candidate to receive the presidential call. Per the LCMS Handbook, in this vote, electors Wille, Harrison and Kumm each will have one vote, and the remaining members of the Seminary's Board of Regents will have one collective vote. A public announcement will be made at 2 p.m. CT that day following the election.

The announcement of the election results on the Seminary campus is open to the public; however, because of health and safety protocols in place as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, only limited seating is available and reservations are required. Those interested in attending in person must register and comply with the Seminary's protocols regarding physical distancing and mask wearing. To reserve a seat for the announcement, which will take place in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on campus, please complete the registration form at [csl.edu/election-announcement/](https://csl.edu/election-announcement/). The deadline for registration is Thursday, Feb. 4.

The announcement of election results also will be live-streamed at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live).

## Concordia College in Bronxville, New York is Closing

It is with a heavy heart I share the news that after 140 years of serving the church, Concordia College, NY will close at the end of the academic year.

Concordia has touched the lives of thousands of people over these years. Concordia has prepared pastors, teachers, musicians, church workers, nurses, social workers and so much more. Concordia has imbued the Christian faith upon which she was founded into the lives of those who have walked these halls. Yet Concordia is more than a collection of buildings.

Concordia is the people: faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, friends and more. It is these people experiencing and living out the faith we share in Jesus Christ and then engaging the world.

This loss will be felt personally, locally, throughout our district and across our church. Concordia is part of our lives together and shall be missed. The financial situation of the college, declining enrollment, and the global pandemic have all come together to prevent Concordia from continuing forward. The official announcement and other information can be found on the Concordia College website [Concordia-NY.edu](https://Concordia-NY.edu).

We mourn this loss now and yet look forward to the sure and certain hope we have in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. Derek G. Lecakes  
President/Bishop of the Atlantic District



## LCMS Convention Deferral Referendum Voting

**From Dr. John Sias, LCMS Secretary**

"Member congregations that have not yet received credentials or who need other assistance can email Rosters at [Rosters.Stats@lcms.org](mailto:Rosters.Stats@lcms.org) or call (314)996-1366 and staff will assist them.

We will be contacting, on a biweekly basis, congregations that have not yet registered a vote. The second of those notices is going out today. This email

is to update you on a weekly basis through the voting period so that each district, as it is able, may be able to monitor and encourage congregations to take the necessary actions to reach a determination on the question and to register their vote.

The response (for or against) of at least one-fourth of member congregations is necessary for the vote to have any effect. You will note that this "quorum" has now been reached, with 29.56% of congregations having voted. It is my hope that a much more commanding proportion of the congregations (to whom the conventions really belong) will engage this question and vote.

We encourage congregations to get their leader emails into LISN. The more emails we have for congregational leadership, the better the response rate we are seeing."

**The deadline for the congregational vote is [February 15, 2021](#).**



## **Mission Work at Resurrection Church in Crown Point, Indiana**

Resurrection in Crown Point, IN, began its food pantry in the fall of 2016. We are open one day a month. We have non-perishable food, personal and paper products, and, occasionally, other things. At first our members were the only donors. We served 30 people (five families) on that first day. Now we serve 30 families.

Thrivent Financial funded our fresh produce garden. This past Christmas, a local grocery store chain gave us 200 bags from their "feed those in need" campaign donated by their customers. Our members simply asked the managers if they could help and they certainly helped us and the families in a big way!

Until 2020 the people could come and "shop." We required an ID, but no proof of "need". We invite them to church, give them information about us, and about the God we love who first loved us. Several have come to church.

In 2020, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our distribution has changed. We bag the groceries and they are picked up outside. People understand why we are doing it this way for the time being.

We thank God for making this happen, members who donate and volunteer time, and friends of Resurrection who help. We are a small church (50 on a Sunday in our parking lot). We praise God for all the blessings bestowed on this outreach on account of Christ, which is our labor of love and joy.





## **Celebrating Pastor Paul Hoyer's Retirement after over 40 years of Service in Ministry**

Holy Cross in Lake Mary, Florida celebrated Pastor Paul Hoyer's retirement after more than 40 years of service in the ministry. Rev. Carl Krueger, along with Rev. Ron Meyr who concelebrated the service, led the celebration. since Pastor Hoyer began at Holy Cross in 1984, he served in many capacities in his community and within the Church. Some of his activities include chairing the board of The Sharing Center, the Shepherd's Hope free clinic and Leadership Seminole. He served on the board of Kid's House, the Thrivent regional board, and on the Habitat board. He built the Oasis homeless respite center and started Lake Care's food pantry.

Pastor Hoyer served outside the Lake Mary area including building the Medical mission in Amatitlan Guatemala and he led a school building mission in Panama. He built and grew Holy Cross Lutheran Academy along with his wife Betty. He has mentored mission building pastors within the network and beyond starting churches throughout Central Florida and he serves as Mission Executive for the SELC District.



Left to right: Paul, Meredith, Jacob, Sarah, Ben and Betty Hoyer



Left to right: Pastors Matt Wallis, Ron Meyr, Chris Johnson, Paul Hoyer, Jacob Hoyer, Carl Kreuger, Ben Hoyer



## Mission Work in India

Rev. Prince and his wife gave dresses to the poor and the marginalized children whose only income is from begging who are not accepted with dignity in society. We teach them and showed them the love of Jesus. They responded to the gospel and now teaching the biblical doctrines through SELC Lutheran catechism.





## Contemplate visitation event set for March 12

College-age and older men and women are invited to Contemplate, an online visitation event that gives prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#) and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor or deaconess. This free event will be held March 12.

During Contemplate, participants will engage in sessions that focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process, as well as learn about the academic program, field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid and housing. They also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and meet with the admissions team.

"Contemplate will give prospective students the opportunity to virtually 'travel' to St. Louis to experience Seminary life," said Rev. Micah Glenn, director of Recruitment.

"It's our hope that this one-day online event will help participants further discern whether Concordia Seminary – and a call to ministry – is part of their future."

The deadline to register is March 5. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at [csl.edu/contemplate](https://csl.edu/contemplate). A link to join the event will be provided to registrants before the event.



## Call for Nominations - LCMS Board of Directors

The LCMS Board of Directors has issued a Call for Nominations for regular appointments to the **Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans and Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services (the boards)** positions and **LCEF Members-at-Large** positions. These regular appointments will be made at the May 2021 LCMS Board of Directors meeting. The **electronic nomination form(s)** (*as well as the memo and qualifications document*) may be downloaded from the following webpage: [www.lcms.org/secretary/appointmentforms](http://www.lcms.org/secretary/appointmentforms).



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