



# The Beacon Online

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

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## LCMS Extends Congregational Statistics Report Due Date

The LCMS has extended the deadline to return your congregational statistics. The new deadline is **April 30, 2021**. If you have not submitted your statistics for 2020, you will be receiving a mailing from the Synod that includes your log in credentials.

It is vitally important to the synod to have this information. The synod wants to know how all of the Churches are doing and also have the up-to-date congregational contact information as we move toward the 2023 Convention.

If you do not receive your letter from the Synod, or you are having trouble logging in with the credentials you were sent, please contact Rosters and Statistics at [Rosters.Stats@lcms.org](mailto:Rosters.Stats@lcms.org) or call them at 314-996-1366.



## Call Day 2021 set for April 28

Students to receive ministry calls, assignments

Anticipation is building for **Call Day** Wednesday, April 28, when concluding **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** students will receive their first pastoral or diaconal ministry placements, and second-year students will receive their vicarage or internship assignments in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. All calls and assignments for service are to churches or ministries within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). Students who will serve a year as vicars or deaconess interns will receive their assignments at a worship service starting at 3 p.m. (CDT). Rev. Michael Lange, president of the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District, will preach.

At 7 p.m. (CDT), candidates for the pastoral and diaconal ministry will receive their first calls to serve as pastors, deaconesses, chaplains and missionaries in the LCMS. Seminary President [Dr. Thomas J. Egger](#) will preach.

“Entering the ministry this year will challenge all our students as churches adapt to the lasting effects of the pandemic. Yet we look confidently to the future because our vicars and interns, pastors and deaconesses, will go out with the grace and guidance of our Savior,” said [Dr. Glenn Nielsen](#), director of Placement and director of Vicarage and Deaconess Internships. “Indeed, the call to serve in the pastoral or diaconal office is a holy privilege because it comes from our gracious Lord through His church. So in the days leading up to Call Day, we pray the Holy Spirit will guide those involved in the call process as they work together to place a student in that sacred place, whether a congregation or institution.”

Due to capacity restrictions, in-person seating is limited to participating students and their guests, staff and faculty. All others are invited to watch the services at [csl.edu/callday](https://csl.edu/callday). Calls and assignments will be shared on Twitter in real time during both services. Everyone is encouraged to share their celebratory comments and photos with the hashtag [#CallDay2021](#) on social media.

Concordia Seminary will provide a free live stream of Call Day services at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live) and [csl.edu/callday](https://csl.edu/callday). The Seminary’s Help Desk will be staffed to handle support calls at 866-333-2064 and 314-505-7231. A test stream will be available before the event so viewers can test their devices.



## **2021-2022 LCMS School Ministry Yearly Theme Announced**

The LCMS School Ministry Office is excited to announce that the 2021-2022 Yearly Theme will be “**In All Things**” from Colossians 1:15-20 ESV. This is the same theme as the 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering, and will allow Lutheran schools around the country to utilize the same theme in the year leading up to the Gathering.

Be sure to share this information with your schools as they end their year and begin to plan for the upcoming school year. At this point, the *Chapel Talks* and *National Lutheran Schools Week* resources that are focused on this theme are scheduled to release in early May, and we are looking forward to being able to share them soon!

Please share the following LCMS School Ministry locations for additional resources:

**Facebook Post:** <https://www.facebook.com/LCMSschools/posts/4178944998795822>

**Twitter Post:** <https://twitter.com/LCMSSchools/status/1380479351943274499>

**Instagram Post:** [https://www.instagram.com/p/CNcXPk6F\\_6y/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CNcXPk6F_6y/)

**LuthEd.org Blog Post:** <http://www.luthed.org/2021/04/09/2021-2022-yearly-theme-announced/>

**LuthEd:** [School Ministry Yearly Themes](#)



## 'Under the Fig Tree' recruitment-focused podcast launches Content-rich resource aims to encourage future seminarians

Prospective students and those who refer them are encouraged to check out [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis'](#) new podcast, "[Under the Fig Tree](#)."

Hosted by Associate Provost [Dr. Benjamin Haupt](#) and Director of Recruitment [Rev. Micah Glenn](#), "Under the Fig Tree" launched March 5. With a focus on recruitment, the podcast aims to share meaningful content with men and women who are considering enrollment.

In the podcast's first episode, "[John 1:43-51 & Why We Went to Seminary](#)," Haupt and Glenn introduce and explain the namesake of the podcast.

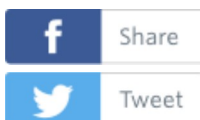
"The name comes from the scene in John's Gospel when Jesus says to Nathanael that he saw him 'under the fig tree,'" said Haupt. "As we discuss in Episode 1, Nathanael was there waiting for the promised Messiah. It struck us that here's a great description for the person contemplating a life in pastoral or diaconal ministry — waiting under the fig tree with all eyes on Jesus. We have plans to talk about theology, Seminary life, and how to know if studying theology is right for you. Micah and I are having a ton of fun recording these episodes, and we look forward to hearing from our listeners."

Additionally, the hosts discuss some of their own personal interests — showing how pastors are people too. They share their own journeys to the Seminary and how they were called into the ministry.

Future episodes will feature guests sharing insights about their own Seminary experiences and perspectives on pastoral and diaconal ministry post-graduation. Episode two, "[Growing in Wisdom and Stature with Jesus](#)," looks at Luke 2:41-52 and what it means to be in the presence of God.

The podcast aims to help listeners "figure out if this pastor or deaconess stuff is for you," as Haupt states in the podcast's [trailer](#).

"Under the Fig Tree" can be found on most podcast platforms including Spotify, Apple Podcasts and Google Podcasts and streamed on most devices. New episodes will be posted weekly each Friday.



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