



The Beacon Online

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

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The SELC District Convention is being held from May 12 - 15, 2022 in St. Louis at St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church. Watch for more information in future issues of the Beacon Online.



Rev. Ryan Schnake Ordination

Rev. Ryan Schnake, who was called as the Associate Pastor to Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA, was ordained on June 27, 2021 at the Chapel of Christ Triumphant in Mequon, Wisconsin. Pastor Schnake was ordained by District President Waldemar Vinovskis. Pastor Schnake's Uncle, Rev. Luke Schnake also participated in the ordination service as well as several other Pastors.



From left to right: Rev. Luke Schnake, Rev. David Paape, District President Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis, Rev. Ryan Schnake, Rev. Carl Krueger, Rev. Douglas Bender, and Rev. Glenn Meyer



District President Waldemar Vinovskis, Rev. Ryan Schnake and his wife Emily



Rev. Ryan Schnake with his Uncle, Rev. Luke Schnake





The campus of Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin is situated on Lake Michigan



The Basin and Towel Podcast

The **Central Circuit pastors** met via ZOOM and at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio, on June 15. In this conversation at The Basin and Towel podcast they talk about some new and interesting developments at their churches, related to the pandemic: <https://www.buzzsprout.com/1387516/8764214>. You can follow SELC District Ministerial Care Coordinator Chris Cahill's podcast "The Basin and Towel" on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, iHeart Radio, or your favorite podcast service.



The Nativity of St. John the Baptist, June 24

(a minor liturgical festival with major theological implications)

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Six months older than our Savior Jesus' maternal cousin, John the Baptist stands as the mysterious "inter-testamental bridge-prophet" who some three decades after their births would play a key role in our Triune God's divine blue-print of salvation (see Isaiah 40:3; Matthew chapter 3; 11:2ff.; Mark 1:4-13; Luke 1:36, 57-80; 3:1-23; 4:13; John 1:29, 36; 3:30; Acts 10:34-43; 1 Peter 1:1-2).

Owing in part to our far-from-perfect "track records" in our fallen human condition and resultant self-awareness of mortality, findings of a reputable survey should come as no surprise that many professing Lutheran Christians are honestly less than certain that God and Mary's incarnate Son was completely without sin. Despite the fact that any degree of doubt flies in the face of recurring evidence in both testaments of Scripture, Luther's Small Catechism and the Athanasian Creed which describes the second person of the Holy Trinity as being both perfect God and perfect Man, the seamless obedience of God's holy and righteous Christ remains an essential prerequisite for His being our needed vicarious, all-atoning sacrifice from the consequences of sin and eternal death.

Christologically speaking, any degree of doubt regarding the sinlessness of God's messianic Son including the necessity of His fully undergoing a "sinner's baptism" at the hands of His reluctant cousin followed by Spirit-driven episodes of His perfectly with-standing repeated temptations by the devil up to the final moments leading up to His intense voluntary passion were all required elements of His innocent substitutionary death on the cross and promised resurrection as the designated world's "Sin-bearer" (see 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 4:4ff. Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:24). It was necessary, therefore, that the sinless Jesus step down into the waters of baptism to "soak up" the world's sin in our behalf (CPH Pastoral Desk Diary for Epiphany season).

Stern wilderness preacher that he also was, with good reason John not only called many of the "most religious" yet sadly misguided critics of his day "a bunch of snakes" also spoke of "the axe being poised to strike at the very root of the tree little realizing that the sinless, spotless Christ Himself would also become that tree as He was "cut off" out of the land of the living (Isaiah 53:8; Acts 8:32-33).

St. John the Baptist becomes an increasingly less mysterious but no less important figure in our day also as we continue to heed this messianic relative and witnessing martyr's impassioned advice that "He (Jesus) must increase; I must decrease" (John 3:30) both with regard to viewing the seriousness of all sin and avoidance of improper uses of our sin-tarnished gift of human reason.

Hopefully, many TV watchers were blessed during the pandemic to have noticed an unedited "politically incorrect" spontaneous four-word comment by beloved genial "Jeopardy" host, Alex Trebek. Scant days before his death last Christmas in his brief but telling response to a contestant's correctly answering question regarding the kind of animal John the Baptist mentioned in describing Jesus (a lamb) Trebek quietly made it a point to add John's words "the Lamb of God" – dying or living, food for thought for anyone "having ears to hear" such an unforeseen beautiful Gospel witness!



Eastern District District Presidents meet at Mill Neck School for the Deaf

The Eastern Region District Presidents of the LCMS met at Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf. This school is part of the Mill Neck Organization in Mill Neck, NY. Below are the District Presidents using sign language.

Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf values the learning styles, communication modalities and cultures of each individual student. The mission of our programs is to cultivate the potential in every student to thrive as a contributing member of society and inspiring a love of learning through direct access to communication. We aim to challenge and empower students to determine their own path in life based on their unique skills and abilities through a variety of provided opportunities.





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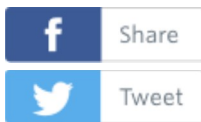
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Concordia Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School

Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA held their annual Vacation Bible School with the theme of God's Wonder Lab. Approximately 40 children participated and

Concordia is thankful for all of the volunteers who helped make this year a success. They celebrated being able to hold VBS in person as last year's VBS was done virtually.



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