



# The Beacon Online

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

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## **SELC Board of Directors and Central Circuit hold joint meetings**



The SELC Board of Directors met at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon, OH on September 13th and 14th. In addition, the Central Circuit met on September 14th and 15th at St. John's. On Tuesday the 14th, the Board and Central Circuit worshipped at a Divine Service. If you would like to view this service, please click on one of the links below. The Divine Service was held on *Holy Cross Day*.

Facebook: [https://fb.watch/822co4Bm\\_u/](https://fb.watch/822co4Bm_u/)

Vimeo: <https://vimeo.com/605877118>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/dOhjracCEzU>

Website: <https://www.stjohnlutheranmassillon.org/>

The Central Circuit and the Board of Directors also had a joint video conference with Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President of the LCMS and Rev. Christopher Esget, Fifth Vice-President of the East-Southeast Region. This was part of the triennial Synod and District joint visitation schedule.



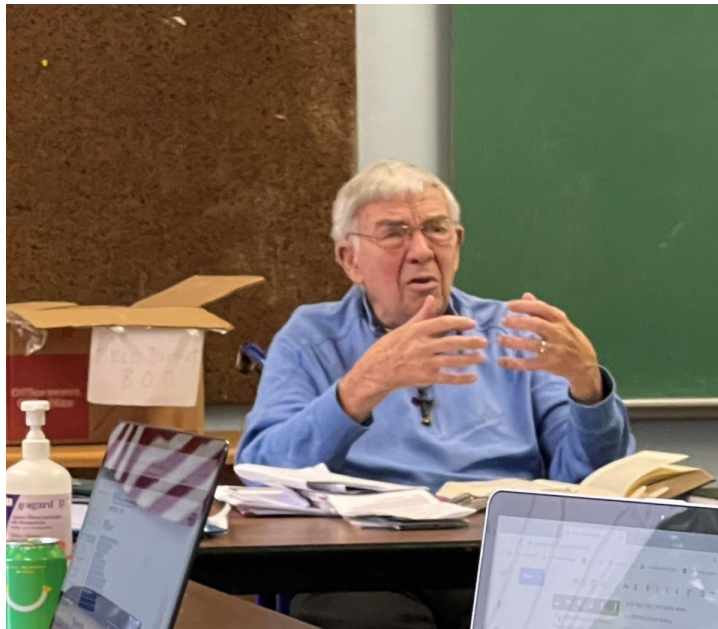
Pastor John Telloni, Senior Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio



SELC President Waldemar Vinovskis addresses the Central Circuit and the SELC Board following the Divine service.



The Central Circuit meeting on September 15, 2021



Rev. Kenneth Ballas participating in the Central Circuit meeting.



## **St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, PA schedules the celebration of its 100th Anniversary**

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hazleton, PA will celebrate its 100th anniversary on Sunday, November 7th at 3:30pm. Immediately following there will be a reception at a local restaurant.





## Disaster Response Information

We realize that many of you may have been affected by the disasters across our Country. ***Please notify the District Office if you have suffered loss because of any of these hurricanes or storms, or anything in the aftermath.*** The SELC District Office and LCEF can provide assistance to you.

[Click here for more information on LCEF's Disaster loan terms](#)



## 2021-2022 School Statistics submission process is now open

We received the notice from the School Ministry Office that the LCMS Office of Rosters, Statistics and Research Services that the 2021-2022 School Statistics submission process is now open! In the coming weeks, schools will receive an email or physical letter (depending on your contact information in the LISN system) indicating that it is time to update their information and submit their statistics.

If you do not receive it by the end of September, please check any spam or clutter folders which may have collected the email. As was the case in previous school years, schools will again log into the LCMS Information Support Network (LISN) website (<https://lisn.lcms.org>) to access and update their annual *LCMS School Statistics Report*.



## Suicide Prevention Month

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

With the month of September designated as Suicide Prevention Month, our SELC District second vice-president, Dr. Chris Cahill recently alerted Beacon readers to numerous example of potentially valuable resource material on an ever timely and sensitive subject that also may hit so very to home,

May the following devotional piece by sainted missionary David Schneider also serve not only as a sobering reminder to us, but also as a possible source of comfort to others than our own family, who not that many days ago laid to rest a beloved 23-year old who was a baptized believing child of God (taken from pages 148-49 of the author's Arrows of Light).

The Philippine *calachuchi* (also spelled with a “k”) is a simple flower. Its plain white petals are bordered by a gentle yellow that fades into a white edge. The branches have only a few dark, shiny green leaves, as if to allow the modest flowers to stand out. The wood is soft, so the trees never grow very strong or tall. They give gentle support for delicate beauty. How did such a lovely plant turn, for me, into a flower of death? I wish I didn't know.

“Mrs. D” was confused and ill. It must have been serious or her children would never have brought her 250 miles from her mountain home in North Luzon to a hospital in the Philippines' capital city. She was a Christian lady, but she didn't fit here in the big town, Only a few of the nurses could speak her *Kankanaey* dialect; and, besides, they were always busy. So to whom could she talk? Her children who lived in the Manila area could not be with her 24 hours a day, for they had jobs and school responsibilities. Hospital food had to be cooked to appeal to foreigners and to Filipinos from the Manila area. Perhaps it tasted strange to a little old lady with a lifetime of mountain cooking?

Why did Mrs. D roam the third story hospital corridors near her room that night? Was she too restless to stay in bed or in the soft chair beside it? Of course, any magazines or books around would be closed to her because they were not written in her language. Who knows what thoughts swirled in the sea of her disoriented mind – so far from the mountains – so far from home?

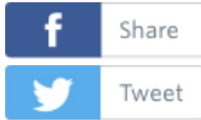
Why did she go near the outside railing? Did she fall over it because she lost her balance? Or did she – God forbid – climb up on it and jump off? What-ever the cause, her frail body was too much for the *calachuchi* trees below. They tried to catch the slim frame but didn't have the strength or bushy branches to break her fall. They could only donate a few of their broken flowers to decorate the heap of broken bones, crumpled in the hospital gown on the ground below.

Dear God, the tree of the cross had only one flower on it. May I call Jesus Your *calachuchi*? After He died, you raised that *calachuchi* back to life and gave Him even more beauty and strength than before to forgive and redeem and restore broken human lives. Lord Jesus, please decorate the fragile faith of every Mrs. D with Your beloved *Cala-chuchi*. Please, Lord!

Discussion Starters:

- Have you ever encountered a death that you were unsure about – which could have been an accident or “unintended suicide?” How did God comfort you?
- Is it conceivable to inject a strong, even joyful hymn verse into the tragedy of this devotion that helps remind us that death is not the only reality we deal with? The Spirit of God would remind us also of the truth of Christ's Gospel and His victory even in the face of death. Prayerfully think about it!

***Fair are the meadows, fair are the woodlands.  
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring.  
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;  
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.***



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