



# The Beacon Online

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

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A printed version of the newsletter is available on our website at [selc.lcms.org](http://selc.lcms.org) Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



Pictured above is Ronda O'Toole. She has been involved with St. Lucas's early childhood ministry for 20 years, welcoming children and their families and sharing the love of Christ. St. Lucas is the site of the 2022 SELC District Convention.



# One Solitary Life

James Allan Francis

Here is a man who was born in an obscure village as the child of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another obscure village.

He worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office.

He never owned a home.

He never had a family.

He never went to college.

He never put his foot inside a big city.

He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where he was born.

He never did one of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He had nothing to do with this world except the naked power of his divine manhood.

While still a young man the tide of popular opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

One of them denied him.

Another betrayed him.

He was turned over to his enemies.

He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed upon the cross between two thieves.

His executioners gambled for the only piece of property he had on earth while he was dying, and that was his coat.

When he was dead, he was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today he is the center of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.



## Setting Your 2022 SELC Budget Goal

Rev. Mark C. Larson, Stewardship Chair

As your congregation completes its budgeting process for 2022, please be sure to send in your SELC Budget Goal.

Christ calls us to be witnesses of the Gospel throughout the whole world. One way we do this together is through our partnership with district and Synod missions. These offerings are given in joyful response to the Gospel of Christ, trusting in its power with the prayer that new believers will be brought to saving faith in Christ.

Due to inflationary pressures in our economy, the Board of Directors at its September meeting recommended congregations increase their contributions by four percent for 2022.

Your congregation should have received a letter in October for you to indicate your plans to support district and Synod missions. Please return this information by mail or email (preferred) by January 15 to:

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Chair  
7100 Morganford Rd, St. Louis, MO 63116  
[markclarson0341@gmail.com](mailto:markclarson0341@gmail.com)

Please note that checks should be sent directly to the District Financial Secretary:

Larry Schultz 1566 Bushkill Center Rd. Bath, PA 18014



## Lilly Endowment Inc. awards grant for collaborative pastoral formation project

CSL, CTSFW to partner on groundbreaking initiative

**Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL)** and **Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW)**, the two seminaries of **The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS)**, will work in partnership to implement a recently awarded \$1 million grant from **Lilly Endowment Inc.** to establish the project, “Partnership for Pastoral Formation: Setting Our Course for Future Church Leadership.”

The pastoral formation project is being funded through Lilly Endowment’s Pathways for Tomorrow Initiative, a three-phase initiative designed to help theological schools across the United States and Canada as they prioritize and respond to the most pressing challenges they face as they prepare pastoral leaders for Christian congregations both now and into the future.

The main goal of the project is to increase pastoral formation student enrollment at both seminaries to address increasing pastoral needs within the LCMS, including increasing enrollment of students from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds as the institutions strive to better reflect the country’s population and changing demographics. Additionally, the project aims to strengthen the faculty pipelines at both seminaries and will include a focus on the development of coordinated post-seminary educational opportunities.

"I am grateful to Lilly Endowment for this generous grant and to President Rast and all of our friends at CTSFW for their commitment to this kind of collaboration," said CSL President Dr. Thomas J. Egger. "This grant application concept sprang from a meeting between our seminary administrations in May 2021, which identified the areas of student recruitment, faculty development and continuing education as ripe for team effort. These initiatives aim to provide more pastors and deaconesses for the church as we continue to strive for efficiency, excellence and ethnic catholicity at our seminaries. Just as importantly, I pray that increased collaboration, over time, will lead to even greater familiarity, mutual respect, trust and unity between our two seminaries and among our church's ministerium. Now is the time to be 'rowing together' for the sake of Christ's mission and His church."

"The Lord tells us that 'the harvest is plentiful.' We only have to look around us to know this is true. So many of our family, friends and neighbors are unchurched or unbelievers," said CTSFW President Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr. "Our Lord then goes on to say that 'the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest' (Matt. 9:37-38 ESV). In this project, we intend to heed our Lord's command to form more servants in Jesus Christ who can teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. Partnering in this work will maximize the limited resources of both seminaries and serve to advance the Gospel and global mission of the LCMS."

This award is one of 84 grants awarded to theological schools in the United States and Canada totaling more than \$82 million through the second phase of the Pathways initiative.

"Theological schools have long played a pivotal role in preparing pastoral leaders for churches," said Christopher L. Coble, Lilly Endowment's vice president for religion. "Today, these schools find themselves in a period of rapid and profound change. Through the Pathways initiative, theological schools will take deliberate steps to address the challenges they have identified in ways that make the most sense to them. We believe that their efforts are critical to ensuring that Christian congregations continue to have a steady stream of pastoral leaders who are well-prepared to lead the churches of tomorrow."

Lilly Endowment launched the Pathways initiative in January 2021 because of its longstanding interest in supporting efforts to enhance and sustain the vitality of Christian congregations by strengthening the leadership capacities of pastors and congregational lay leaders.



## **Pre-Lenten Workshop explores account in Luke**

One-day workshop for pastors set for Jan. 21

Pastors are invited to register for the **2022 Pre-Lenten Workshop**, "You Meant it for Evil, but God Meant it for Good: Sermons based on Luke 22:1-24:12," from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Jan. 21, held on the campus of **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**.

The annual one-day workshop helps pastors develop their worship resources for Lent. This year, Emeritus Professor **Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs** will lead participants through an exploration of the uniqueness of Luke's account of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection.

“Before moving toward homiletical applications, we will carefully read Luke 22:1—24:12 and open ourselves to insights and encouragement from God’s Word,” Gibbs said. “After that time of refreshment, we will consider the preaching task, with a focus on the Lenten series that has been prepared.”

The Pre-Lenten Workshop will be held in the Presidents Room on campus, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. Registration is \$50 and includes lunch. The deadline for registration is Jan. 7. Register online [here](#).

For more information, please call Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or email [ce@csli.edu](mailto:ce@csli.edu).

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

from all of us at Lutheran Church Extension Fund

We rejoice in the blessing of our Lord and Savior's birth during  
this special time of year.  
We wish you joy and hope in this new year ahead.

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
> where investments build ministry

**DANIEL LEPLEY**  
LCEF District Vice President | English and SELC  
317-402-9401 | [Daniel.Lepley@lcef.org](mailto:Daniel.Lepley@lcef.org)



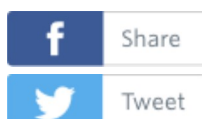
## Get \$23,000 to become a church worker in the LCMS!

Is God calling someone you know into church work in the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod? At Concordia University Irvine we value the formation of future leaders for our church. Therefore we are pleased to announce that, for the 2022-2023 school year, we are offering qualified LCMS church work students a guaranteed total of **\$23,000 per year** in institutional aid and an on-campus housing grant.

To learn more about the church vocations scholarship, who is qualified, and additional application requirements for church work programs, go to [www.cui.edu/churchworkscholarship](http://www.cui.edu/churchworkscholarship).

Ready to begin? To start the application process, go to [www.cui.edu/app](http://www.cui.edu/app). *Enrollment deposits must be received by May 1, 2022.*

Questions? Contact Carrie Donohoe at [carrie.donohoe@cui.edu](mailto:carrie.donohoe@cui.edu) or 949.214.3389.



**SELC District of LCMS**  
2623 Brookside Road  
Macungie, PA 18062  
610-965-3265

Contact Us  
[sclc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:sclc.lcms@gmail.com)

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