



The Beacon Online

January 14, 2022 / Vol. 3 / No. 2

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 Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



2022 SELC District Convention Registration is now open

We are pleased to announce that registration has opened for the SELC District Convention that is being held from May 12 - 15, 2022 at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. **Please share this information with your delegates.**

The Opening Worship Service begins at 7 PM on Thursday, May 12, 2022. We are honored to have the LCMS Synod President, Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, at the Opening Worship Service.

The Convention brochure and registration forms are located on the SELC District website. The overnight rooms are located at the River City Casino and Hotel in St. Louis. You must book your room no later than April 25, 2022 to be included in the room block.

Convention registration is online and can be completed on the SELC District website at this link - www.selc.lcms.org/convention

You can reserve your overnight room at this link - [River City Reservation Website](#) and refer to the promo code **SELD22A**.

The Convention Workbook will be posted online no later than April 1, 2022. There will be a link that you can click on to download the Workbook.

If you have any questions, please either call the SELC District Office at 610-966-3265 or email us at selc.lcms@gmail.com

Please note that at this time, face masks are required for the entire Convention except when eating. This is in compliance with the St. Louis

ordinances. If this changes, we will let you know.



The SELC District offers our deepest condolences to Rev. Robert Breitbarth and family on the death of his wife, Angeline Breitbarth on November 26th.

May God heal you in His infinite graces, and bless you with His love. May you find comfort in the presence of the Lord, your healer.



Kentucky Disaster Relief Effort in the SELC

Karen Ann Kowalczyk is a volunteer disaster person with the Maryland Orphan Grain Train (OGT) and a member of St. John's Hazleton, an SELC District congregation. Karen Ann is asking for your help from SELC District congregations with disaster relief effort for tornado victims in KY.

New England OGT and Maryland OGT are working to put together a truck load of supplies. We are collecting health kits, school supply kits, Bibles, baby diapers, and NEW winter jackets, gloves, and scarfs. They are not accepting used clothing at this time. Below is a list of items they need. All items are to be mailed to Karen Ann at the address below to be delivered by **January 21, 2022** so they can distribute the items to the tornado victims in Kentucky the week of January 24th.

Karen Ann Kowalczyk
221 Wilson Dr.
Hazleton, PA 18201
karenannkow@hotmail.com
570-582-6046 cell

Hygiene/Health Kits

- 1 Bath Towel & 1 Wash Cloth
- 1 Bar Soap 3 oz. or larger
- 1 Heavy Duty comb
- 1 Individually wrapped Toothbrush & 1 Toothpaste

6 Band Aids
1 Small pkg Tissues
1 Nail Clipper
1 Deodorant

Place in a 2.5 gallon zipper bag (bags can be purchased in the Dollar Tree store)

Bibles and prayer shawls

Infant/children various sizes **diapers**

NO USED CLOTHING

SCHOOL KITS

Back Packs or Drawstring bags (must be able to put the supplies in)
4 Notebooks & 4 Folders
1 Blunt Scissors & 1 Ruler
2 Pens & 4 Pencils
1 Eraser & 1 Pencil Sharpener
1 Box 24 Crayons

MISC ITEMS

Laundry Baskets & Laundry Detergent

CHILDREN'S

NEW Winter Jackets, scarfs & gloves

If you would like to make a financial contribution to the effort, please make the check payable to ***Orphan Grain Train Maryland*** -- on the memo line put: KY tornado and mail it to Karen Ann at the address above.

THRIVENT members can apply for an Action team grant to purchase supplies listed above. If you are so moved when filling out the form on the computer fill in 2021 TORNADO in the code section that helps speed the approval process.



2022 SELC Budget Goal Due Today!

Your response strengthens our partnership in the Gospel
Rev. Mark C. Larson, Stewardship Chair

If you have not done so already, we kindly request that you send in the budget goal of your congregation in support of district missions. The district Board of Directors meets at the end of this month and considers the input of congregations as the plans for our work together in 2022 is adopted.
Your congregation should have received a letter in October for you to indicate your plans to support district and Synod missions. However, you may simply indicate your budget goal by mail or email (preferred) to:

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Chair
7100 Morganford Rd, St. Louis, MO 63116
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



St. Luke's Concert Series

Friday, January 21, 2022
7 PM

Watch the Orlando Concert Band present the *Music of the American West*. Our Western frontier has been a focus of composers for 100 years, John Philip Sousa, Aaron Copeland, Morton Gould and even John Williams have captured musical portraits of the American West. [Watch online](https://silcs.org/concert-series) & invite your friends and family!



Send in Your 2022 SELC District Convention Delegate Information Now

If your congregation has not registered your pastoral and lay delegates for the SELC District Convention in St. Louis this May, please do so as soon as possible. If you need credential forms, please contact Secretary John Telloni at jlt3750@aol.com, and he will forward the necessary forms to you.



Virtual Workshop for Early Childhood Educators February 2, 2022 1 - 3 PM

Betty Hoyer, the SELC Education Executive announces a free, virtual workshop for Early Childhood Educators.

Our Preschools provide some of the best opportunities for sharing the Gospel message in our communities, so please join me in looking at ways we might increase our enrollment and retention of students. Specifics about the workshop are below. A zoom link to the meeting will be sent out closer to the event date.

To register, please email Betty Hoyer at bhoyer@thehcla.org

Recruitment and Retention Strategies and Practices in Early Childhood

Helping early childhood centers more effectively deliver and adapt marketing strategies is critical to sustaining and growing enrollment during these unprecedented times.

Learn common barriers and simple strategies that all early childhood centers can successfully employ.

This dynamic and interactive workshop will be led by Amy Knoepfel.

Aimee Knoepfel serves as the Director of Amazing Grace Early Learning Center

(AGELC) in Oxford, FL. She also travels around the country speaking on various Early Childhood Education and School Recruitment topics to teachers, directors, administrators, pastors, and parents.

Before coming to AGELC, Aimee served as the Director of Concordia University Chicago Early Childhood Education Center in River Forest, IL. Aimee also began a third ministry site for Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Early Childhood Center in Naperville, IL and previously served as an Admissions Director and Preschool Teacher in the Chicagoland area.

Aimee has served on and led several accreditation teams in the Northern Illinois District and in the FL-GA District and led the Early Childhood team at Concordia's ECEC through the NAEYC accreditation process.

Aimee enjoys a lot of coffee in the morning, chocolate throughout the day, reading several books at once, collecting children's hardcover books, group exercise classes (where the instructor makes you exercise), traveling and lazy days on the beach. She is married to Jim, mother to Jack and Alex, and step-mother to Jordan, Jared and Tyler.



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Don't Call God a Liar

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, EM

The January 3, 2022, Portals of Prayer article, "Imaginative", was exceptionally uplifting and well written by Jonathan Schkade, a freelance editor and writer in Fremont, Nebraska. The article is based on 1 Cor. 8:9:

"What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him."

Schkade called the hopes and aspirations of earthly life "junk", compared to the glories awaiting Christians in everlasting life. He writes: "What God has planned for

*us is soooooo much better . . . what God has planned for us after we see our own deaths defeated, well, that defies imagination.” Compared to Christ and salvation, St. Paul calls the material things of this world *rubbish* (garbage). (Phil. 3:8)*

Imagination! What a terrific gift from God. It enables us to dream of things pleasant and good. It is creative, visionary, full of hope. When things go bad, envisioned hope inspires us to look ahead for better things to come. To live without hope leads to a life shattered to the shreds of dejection, depression and God forbid, despair. However, humanistic hopes can quickly be destroyed. The happy anticipation of a great vacation can be shattered in seconds through a deadly accident.

The Scriptures, however, speak of a “living” hope.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In His great mercy, He has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”
(1 Peter 1:3)

“New Birth” is Baptism, the washing away of condemning sins. “Living Hope” is our certainty of eternal life to come. Because Jesus rose from the dead, we too will live with him forever. He said so: *“Because I live, you will live also.”* (John 14:19) To regard these words as untrue is to make a liar out of God. Jesus, God incarnate, is not a liar. Believe Him when He says: *“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day”.* (John 6:54)

After receiving the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion, be reassured your Baptism is valid and rejoice in the certainty of your resurrection to eternal life. The God-Man incarnate Christ has authorized pastors to pronounce absolution, the forgiveness of sins. (John 20: 21-23) Upon our confession of sins, how wonderfully comforting to hear the forgiving words from a pastor: *“In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”*

To reject absolution is to call God a liar. Our Lutheran Confessions declare in the “Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Article XII. Penitence: 62”: *“What else is the refusal to believe absolution but the accusation that God is a liar ... so it is written in 1 John 5:10, ‘He who does not believe God has made Him a liar.’”*

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The Holy Spirit comes to us through the blessed words of Holy Scripture. The Law reveals our sins and condemns us. The Gospel assures us of Christ’s forgiveness. Refusing to believe the Holy Spirit is the “unforgivable sin”. (Matt. 12:31-32). Believe the infallible Scriptures authored by God the Holy Spirit. God is not a liar.



LCMS Secretary Calls for Nominations

Dr. John Sias, Secretary of the LCMS Board has issued the Call for Nominations for the appointments listed below.

- Request nominations for appointment on the **LCMS Board for International Mission (BIM)**. The vacant position is to be a **INDIVIDUAL** (*rostered, Minister of Religion—Ordained or Commissioned*) member representing the **Central region** and as such all nominees for this position must reside within the boundaries of the **Central region**. The Central region includes the following regions of our Country in the following LCMS Districts - Indiana,

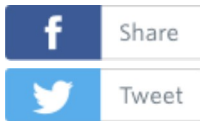
Central Illinois, Southern Illinois, Mid-South, Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

- **Call for Nominations** memorandum for the regular appointments to be made at the **May 2021** LCMS Board of Directors meeting. These regular appointments are for:

- **Board of Trustees—Concordia Plans and Board of Directors—Concordia Plan Services (the boards)**
- **LCEF Members-at-Large**

Please contact the SELC District office if you have people you would like to recommend for either of these opportunities at selc.lcms@gmail.com

The deadline to submit nominations is March 2, 2022.



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Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

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