



The Beacon Online

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

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2022 SELC District Convention Registration is 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 ends by noon following the 9 am worship service and brunch on Sunday.

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.



Resolutions for the 2022 SELC District Convention due March 11, 2022

We are requesting that any resolutions you would like to be discussed at the District Convention be sent to the SELC District Office. You can submit them by email to selc.lcms@gmail.com in Word. Please do not submit them in PDF format. They are due no later than **March 11, 2022** for inclusion in the Convention workbook,

If you prefer to submit a topic for consideration without it being in resolution format, please send your topic for discussion to the District Office.



Men's Retreat June 3 - 5, 2022

Save the Date - Sponsored by the Eastern District Lutheran Hour Ministries

The 2022 Retreat theme will be **"Render to Caesar: The Christian/Child of God in Relation to God and Government"**. This retreat is taking place at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center which is located on the beautiful Chautauqua Lake in western New York, 5013 NY-430, Bemis Point, NY 14712.

Rev. Arthur H. Baisch, speaker - German-born, Rev. Arthur H. Baisch came to the USA with his family at age 8, settling in Chicago. He received the B.S. in Education at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, IL in 1963, and then taught at Concordia, Bronxville, NY [1963-1965], and Concordia, Milwaukee, WI [1965-69]. In 1971 he received the M. A. at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. After further graduate studies at the University of Texas, Austin, he joined AAL, now Thrivent Financial, from 1974-1988, completing the studies for the CLU designation at The American College, Bryn Mawr, PA, while with AAL. Following studies at Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, IN, he was ordained to the LCMS Ministry in 1991, and awarded the M. Div. in 1993 by that Seminary. He has served the Lord as Pastor and Chaplain in churches and church-related ministries in Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Arkansas, retiring in December 2016. He and his wife Evelyn (Netz) Baisch currently live in Austintown, OH.

NOTE: The 2022 Men's Retreat is scheduled under COVID Precautions. All events subject to change. For further information, contact Lee Roseboom at LFRoseboom@gmail.com



Holy Lands Familiarization Trip - January 2023

Join SELC District President Wally Vinovskis and LCEF District Vice Presidents TJ Mattick, and Rev. Dan Lepley on an 8 day Holy Land Familiarization Tour, starting at \$2,198* from New York, NY or \$2,348* for spouses departing on January 4, 2023. Journey to places such as Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Mount of Olives, Jericho, Galilee, and much more!

This trip is open to all rostered workers and their spouses. Pastors Lepley and Vinovskis will be leading monthly Bible Studies to help you learn more about the trip and to help those who will be traveling to prepare for this trip to the Holy Lands. These sessions are offered at two different times to help those who may be in different time zones to participate.

The monthly Bible Study sessions are held once a month at two different times. The February sessions are listed below.

- February 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time
- February 15, 2022 at 9:00 PM Eastern Time

To view more about this amazing trip, please go to this website for more information - <http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/fh23010423I52755#.YaaF51XMLX4>



Registration opens for Multiethnic Symposium

Event set for May 3-4 *on campus and online*

With 70% of the world's population projected to live in cities across the globe by 2050, now is an exciting time for the church to "rise and go to the city." That's the thematic catalyst behind **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' 2022 Multiethnic Symposium**, "Rise and Enter the City: The Hopeful Church in the Multiethnic City," presented in partnership with **Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn.**

Set for May 3-4 on the Seminary campus, participants will explore the biblical, artistic and missional perspectives that emanate from diverse ethnic churches and communities, particularly in the United States.

The annual symposium brings together missional leaders including pastors, congregational lay leaders and others from across **The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod** (LCMS). The symposium explores what it means and what it will take to become a truly multiethnic church.

“The city is not only becoming the church’s most obvious mission field, but also the most visible expression of the church catholic proper and the launching pad for mission to the world in its own right,” said **Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.**, co-chairman of the symposium planning committee and the Seminary’s Werner R.H. Krause and Elizabeth Ringger Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries, professor of Systematic Theology and director of the Center for Hispanic Studies. “The 2022 Multiethnic Symposium at Concordia Seminary welcomes your participation and contributions toward a theology and practice of urban ministry today. Join us! All are welcome!”

Plenary speakers include:

- Dr. Mark Koschmann, Associate Vice President of Faith and Ministry and Chair of the Department of Theology and Ministry, Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn.
- Dr. Benjamin Looker, Associate Professor of American Studies, Saint Louis University

In addition, sectional speakers will share their perspectives and the multiethnic impact of their respective fields of ministry.

The symposium also includes the 16th Annual Lecture in Hispanic/Latino Theology and Missions, “A New Testament Theology of the City Through Hispanic Eyes,” presented by Dr. Alvin Padilla at 1:30 p.m. May 3 in Werner Auditorium. Padilla is dean of Latino and global ministries and professor of New Testament at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in South Hamilton, Mass. The lecture, sponsored by the Seminary’s Center for Hispanic Studies, is free and open to the public.

Two **registration** options for the symposium are available: on-campus is \$50 and includes meals; online is \$35. **Registration** closes April 8.

For more information, visit csl.edu/multiethnic or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu.



Missions Unpacked: Your global connection to mission!

Jan. 24–Feb. 20, 2022

Embark on a global mission experience and unpack how LCMS International Mission works without ever having to dig out your suitcase. Learn, sing, eat and pray with missionaries and local church members in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dive in solo or gather a group to learn together*. Whichever route you choose, watch for supplemental resources to help solidify your grasp of how the church is spreading the Gospel, planting Lutheran churches and showing mercy on a global scale.

*Extra credit for groups: [Check out the Media Kit](#), including social media graphics, poster, bulletin inserts, and more to spread the word about Missions Unpacked, and get your congregation and community involved.

Click here for more information and scheduling:
<https://international.lcms.org/missions-unpacked/>

Register here: <https://form.jotform.com/203175626437962>



Hidden in Plain Sight?

(Epiphany seasonal thoughts prior to our pre-Lenten Farewell to Alleluia)
Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you all according to my Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept hidden for long ages but now made plainly evident through the prophetic writings, according to the ordered arrangement of our eternal God for obedience of faith to be made known to all nations – to the only wise God through Jesus Christ to whom belongs the glory forevermore! Amen. (Rom.16:25-27)

With good reason, pastors and faithful lay members alike love the season of Epiphany. At the same time, we find ourselves already thinking ahead and looking forward to Lent and Easter as important as those seasons of the Church Year certainly are. This article is a gentle appeal for us all to take some time to enjoy and learn from this “bridge season” between the celebration of the nativity of God and Mary’s sinless Son come down to earth in human flesh that first Christmas and His earthly teaching and ministry of healing and related messianic ministry both to God’s ancient Hebrew people and Gentile culminating in His voluntary sacrificial death and victorious resurrection from the dead.

Because it is always the Word of God that best accomplishes the saving work of God, we do well to pay proper attention to the Gospel readings throughout this rapidly passing Epiphany season each of which should prompt, first of all, to ask,

- Who is this man who underwent in our behalf a sinner’s baptism, or
- Who miraculously turned water into wine for an unnamed bridal couple, or
- Who was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth for claiming to be God’s promised Messiah, or
- Who taught God’s Word with authority and healed a man possessed with an unclean spirit and healed Peter’s mother-in-law, or
- Who taught in parables about the kingdom of God, and
- Who was Himself the fulfillment of Deuteronomy 18:15 of the coming prophet like Moses to whom we were all obediently to listen?

Secondly, watch to see what else He came to accomplish for our salvation. Anything other than these two key interpretive questions is likely to be “wide of the mark” of what the Holy Spirit primarily ever intended for us privileged hearers and readers of the written Word of God 2000 years later. As each of the four NT evangelists give

clear and lasting answers regarding the uniquely qualified person and God-pleasing saving work of our Brother-Savior Jesus Christ in whom we firmly have God's blood-bought gift of eternal life!

Liturgically speaking, we note in the Epiphany season twin "book-ends" in which God the Father reveals His divine pleasure in His now incarnate Son, Jesus. First as He fully undergoes in our behalf a "sinner's baptism" and later on the Mount of Transfiguration in which we are reminded of the extremely important yet easily overlooked words of in Deuteronomy 18:15 regarding the coming of a prophet like Moses to whom we are to obediently listen (also note Acts 3:22 and 7:37). Rather than lament the fact that we weren't there to be personal eyewitnesses of His earthly ministry, we can be very glad that (also miraculously) we possess more ancient biblical manuscripts today than ever before with the result that we can honestly tell believers and unbelievers alike who may say, "If only I had been able to see or hear Jesus teach and do His miraculous deeds of love with my own eyes and ears, it would be so much easier to believe!" by sharing with them His infallible Holy Word and also perhaps recalling that many who actually were present in first century Palestine tragically refused to believe what they saw or heard (see John 20:28).

Doing a little serious prayerful digging to reminds us to keep our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus at the heart of our thinking and devotional life not only at Christmas or during the approaching Lenten-Easter season. Hidden insights from selected Scriptural teachings of this current Epiphany season are still just waiting to be revealed to us all. Biblical truths that can enable us to do a lot better than merely engage in shallow "moralizing" on Gospel texts that tend to focus primarily on our own feelings or occasional spiritual "mountain-top experiences" rather than on what JESUS has already successfully accomplished and continues to do for His Church on earth through His saving Word and Sacraments.

On Transfiguration Sunday or the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the 46-days leading up to Resurrection Sunday, an increasing number of congregations are now singing this meaningful transitional seasonal hymn also known as the "Farewell to Alleluia":

***Alleluia cannot always Be our song while here below;
Alleluia our transgressions Make us for a while forgo;
For the solemn time is coming When our tears for sin must flow.***

***Therefore in our hymns we pray Thee, Grant us blessed Trinity,
At the last to keep Thine Easter With Thy faithful saints on high;
There to Thee forever singing Alleluia joyfully.
(LSB , Hymn 417, st. 3 and 4)***

Nothing else in the history of our tragically broken world will ever begin to exceed in importance the voluntary sinless sacrificial death and glorious bodily resurrection of God's incarnate Son, our Brother-Savior Jesus Christ. In the meantime, this added friendly suggestion. Do yourself or those you know a favor *any time of the year* by checking out Italian-American composer Gian Carlo Menotti's delightful 1951 family friendly made-for-television one act opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors."



Year End Congregational Statistics are Due February 28, 2022

The LCMS Department of Rosters and Statistics sent out their annual request for the 2021 Congregational statistics. These statistics are to be filed by February 28th. If you do not have your congregation's login information, please contact rosters.stats@lcms.org or the LCMS Church Information Center at 888-843-5267.



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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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

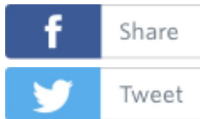
The deadline to submit nominations is March 2, 2022.



Epiphany Hymn Festival 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 6 in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

**Featuring Dr. Stephen Starke, commentator,
the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and
the Seminary String Ensemble**

Celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ with us this Epiphany season! Join us in person or via livestream at csl.edu/live. Find details on our **events calendar** and learn more about the **Concordia Seminary Concert Series**. **Watch here!**



SELC District of LCMS

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