



The Beacon Online

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

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! 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 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.



SELC District Convention Due Dates

Resolutions

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.

Delegate Information

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. **These are due by March 1, 2022.**

Convention Nominees - Resumes and Photos

The deadline for all nominees to submit their resume and photo for the Convention Workbook is **March 1, 2022**. Please send these to the SELC District Secretary, Rev. John Telloni to the address below. You can also send them by email to the email address below.

Rev. John Telloni
SELC District Secretary
St. John's Lutheran Church
1900 Wales Road, N.E.
Massillon, OH 44646
jlt3750@aol.com
(330) 837-4645



District Prayer Request

We ask for your prayers for Rev. John Milligan, Pastor at Holy Trinity in Parma, Ohio. He injured his rotator cuff and is in physical therapy. Surgery may be needed in the future.



From SELC District Ministerial Care Coordinator Rev. Chris Cahill

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has formed a Task Force on Mental Illness to respond to Resolution 3-04A from the 2019 convention. Currently the Task Force is engaged in an assessment process gathering information to prepare a comprehensive report of the resources that are currently in use throughout the LCMS.

The taskforce is seeking to discover resources related to:

- Pastoral self-care and family care
- Training of a minister’s care to congregations.

The Task Force has asked each District to send thorough information on the resources our district has developed, used or encountered before March 1. They note that they would love to receive any and all information that you are aware of from your district or your geographic area, as well as anything you may be aware of that has been provided (or is planned) by any other organizations and entities across the Synod. There is no need to be brief, in this case more information is better than less.

Please send any such information that you may have to Jenna McMiller at jenna.mcmiller@lcms.org before March 1; please Cc. your submission to SELC District Ministerial Care Coordinator Rev. Chris Cahill at revcahill@gmail.com. Thank you!

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Basin and Towel Podcast

Recently, SELC District Ministerial Care Coordinator Rev. Chris Cahill has had several opportunities to learn about ministry around a time of suicide - how to prevent suicide, how to intervene, and how to minister to surviving family members. He shared much of this information with pastors of the Central Circuit at Calvary Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio on February 1, 2022. **HERE** is a new episode of The Basin and Towel podcast that is a live recording of that presentation.

UCF Symphony Orchestra

Saturday, February 19th

Tune in for the next performance from the St. Luke's Concert Series! Watch live **on Youtube** and invite your family to enjoy the music!

Saturday, February 19th at 7pm and the Pre-Concert begins at 6pm



The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section is white with a thin gold border and contains the UCF Symphony Orchestra logo in gold, featuring the letters 'UCF' in a large, bold font, a small circular logo to the right, and the words 'SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA' below. The right section is split horizontally: the top half is a dark teal color with the text 'SATURDAY FEB 19' in white, 'Time: 7pm' in white, and 'Pre-Concert: 6pm' in white; the bottom half is a gold color with the text 'Visit *Visit* sllcs.org/concert-series for details and seating.' in white.



National Youth Gathering July 9–13, 2022, in Houston, Texas



Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The 2022 LCMS Youth Gathering will be held in Houston, Texas and the SELC will be there. If you would like to know more please check out www.lcmsgathering.com. If you need assistance or have any questions about the Gathering please contact Deacon Jim Hurst at deacon@calvaryparma.org.



Contemplate visitation event set for May 3-4 Future students encouraged to attend

College-age and older men and women are invited to **Contemplate**, a visitation event that gives prospective students an opportunity to learn about life at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor or deaconess. This free event will be held May 3-4.

Contemplate attendees will engage in sessions that focus on the spiritual and personal aspects of the decision-making process of becoming a seminarian, as well as learn about the academic programs, field education, vicarage or internship year, financial aid, housing and the enrollment process. The event coincides with the 2022 Multiethnic Symposium to give participants the added bonus of attending symposium plenaries and events.

"Contemplate will give prospective students the opportunity to experience Seminary life," said **Rev. Micah Glenn**, director of recruitment. "It's our hope that this two-day event will help participants further discern whether Concordia Seminary — and a call to ministry — is part of their future."

The deadline to register is April 4. Interested participants can learn more and sign up at **csl.edu/contemplate**.

Contemplate is one of the **visitation events** for prospective students that provide a preview of the Seminary's ministerial formation experience. Individual visits also can be scheduled. To learn more, contact the Enrollment team at 800-822-9545 or **admit@csl.edu**, or **csl.edu/visit**.



Dates to Remember

Men's Retreat - 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. For further information,

contact Lee Roseboom at **LFRoseboom@gmail.com**
or Rev. David Werley for the registration form at
dcwrev@stny.rr.com

Registration opens for Multiethnic Symposium - Event set for May 3-4 *on campus and online*

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**.



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.



Living Water presents Hope Darst Concert March 26, 2022

Location: Oviedo Center Lake Park Amphitheatre (Oviedo, Florida)

When: Saturday, March 26 at 5-7pm

Hope Darst - wife, mother, worship leader and songwriter – will be performing live! *Peace Be Still* and *Promise Keeper* are two of her most popular songs.

Living Water (go.LBT.org/LivingWater) is a word-for-word, immersive rendition of the New Testament. The live performance will feature Khristian Dentley (of Take 6) and Pete Prochnow.

Admission is free - but space is limited! Reserve your ticket today. Visit Eventbrite or go.LBT.org/hopedarst for tickets and more info.

Volunteers are also needed! If you would like to volunteer, use the link on the event page (go.LBT.org/hopedarst) to sign up.

2022 KALEIDOSCOPE FUND

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is proud to announce the 2022 Kaleidoscope Fund grant process will open January 15 with a proposal submission deadline of June 1.

For 2022 grants, eligibility is limited to LCMS K-8 elementary schools. Schools that are RSOs are not eligible.

Visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope to learn more and to submit your proposal.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry

800-843-5233 | lcef.org



The Blessings and Joy of Giving

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, EM

It's better to give than to get. Jesus said so. In Acts 20:35, St. Paul quotes Him: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" Isn't it better to be in a position of having something in order to be able to give, than to be a "have not" without a dime to your name?

In gratitude to the Lord for His blessings, I've made it a practice to feed beggars. Most are very grateful. A few not so much. It's hard for some to be on the receiving end. Envious of what I have and they don't, may even cause resentment. It helps relieve any bad feelings by respectfully asking for permission to purchase a meal. In appreciation, most will express their thanks, some profusely, again and again. I respond by saying, "Don't thank me; thank God. He's the one who gave me the money and willingness to buy you a meal." Later during the meal I would add, "You didn't pay for your meal. It was a gift of God through me. Likewise, you can't purchase everlasting life. It's a free gift from God paid for by Christ on the cross." The comment becomes a springboard for further sharing of the Gospel.

SHARING
GOD'S
GIFTS

Within a period of two years prior to the pandemic, fourteen meals were purchased for me in restaurants. Most of the benefactors were strangers. When I mentioned this to my family, my son, Greg, responded, "Well, dad, it's just payback time for feeding all those beggars." Sometimes God's pay back perks are evident. It reminded me of a comment made by the sainted Andrew Duda, a generous benefactor of the SELC District and Missouri Synod. When I once personally thanked him for a generous \$1 million gift to "Forward in Remembrance", a synodical fund drive for missions, he simply said, "No one can out give God". The Lord continued to bless him. A few years later, he gave \$2 million to another synodical fund drive. God's promise in Luke 6:38 is compelling: "*Give and it will be given to you.*"

We should not, however, give in order to get. To give in order to get something in return is tainted with the sin of selfishness. Giving should flow out of love for God. "*Love is the fulfilling of the Law.*" (Rom. 13:10) We should not give for our own sake, but for God's sake. Some people give out of sinful pride, looking for the praise and recognition of others. Secular humanists give not for God's sake, but for the good feeling they get from giving. Dimitris Xygalatas writes in *The Conversation*: "Psychological research shows that spending money on others feels better than splurging on ourselves. Neuroscientists have found that making a donation makes the brain's reward circuitry light up more than receiving a gift. Moreover, the joy of giving a gift lasts longer than the fleeting pleasure of accepting it."

Christmas is a happy time. Part of the joy is generated through gift exchanges. The root of Christmas giving is God's Christmas gift, the birth of his son, Jesus. His name means *Savior; Deliverer*. Through His sacrifice on the cross He saved us from our sins, delivered us from everlasting hell and graced us with the free gift of eternal life. Spark up your life! Imitate God's giving love. Share some of the blessings God has given you with someone. Experience the blessings and joy of giving.



'Missional Leadership in the Urban Context'

Registration opens for new online course

April 20-June 1

Concordia Seminary is partnering with **Concordia University, Saint Paul, Minn. (CSP)**, to offer "**Missional Leadership in the Urban Context**," an online continuing education course for pastors, lay leaders and commissioned church workers. Especially appropriate for those in urban and metropolitan settings, the course assumes a general familiarity with U.S. cities, interest in reaching people in urban areas with the Gospel, and some experience serving or ministering in urban areas.

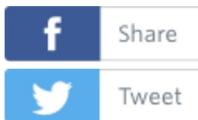
Sessions run April 20 through June 1, 2022. (The course will not meet May 4 during the Seminary's annual **Multiethnic Symposium**, themed this year "Rise and Enter the City: The Hopeful Church in the Multiethnic City.") The course includes video lectures, optional readings, recommended assignments and peer discussion activities that enhance the learning experience.

Course instructors:

- **Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M.**, Professor of Systematic Theology, Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies and the Werner R.H. Krause and Elizabeth Ringger Krause Professor of Hispanic Ministries at Concordia Seminary
- **Dr. Mark Koschmann**, Associate Vice President of Faith and Ministry and Chair of the Department of Theology and Ministry at CSP
- **Dr. Gerard Bolling**, Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Mo., and Assistant Professor of Leadership and Theology at Concordia University Texas, Austin.

Registration is \$100, which includes one Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credit for pastors. The deadline to sign up is April 4. Reserve your spot today!

[Register Here](#)



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