



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 the mandatory face mask rule in St. Louis has been lifted at this time. If things change in the future, we will be sure to let you know. Masks will be optional for all attendees.

Registration is open 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. Please complete your Convention registration by April 1st so we have accurate numbers for our hosts at St. Lucas.**

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



A Way to Say Thank You to St. Lucas for Hosting the 2022 SELC District Convention

Feed My People

The SELC District would like to support St. Lucas by helping with a local food bank in St. Louis called ***Feed My People***. They touch the lives of 1200 people in their area. The SELC District would like to thank St. Lucas for being the host of the 2022 District Convention by helping them stock their shelves. We are asking you to bring personal care items with you to the Convention or stop and purchase some to bring with you when you arrive in St. Louis. If you cannot bring items to the food bank and would like to donate, they would appreciate monetary donations to help purchase these items for their food bank.





Prayer Requests

We ask for your prayers for the following:

Rev. John Telloni - Pastor Telloni had surgery on his throat this week and is home recuperating. His procedure went well and he is supposed to limit his speaking, and when necessary, keep it at a whisper.

Rev. Brian Roberts - This is a prayer request from Pastor Roberts

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am so thankful for the SELC District and the care and fellowship that all of you in this district continually show.

I need to share with you that, lately, I have been having some health concerns. My doctor ordered some testing, which revealed that I have pancreatic cancer. The scans show two tumors on my pancreas. As you can imagine, this has been difficult news for me and Ruth, as well as my family.

Soon, Ruth and I will be going to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN for further evaluations and treatment plans. Right now, we are in that challenging phase where there are more questions than answers.

Ruth and I know that God's strength and blessings are with us. In fact, we have already seen His blessings in various ways in the few days we have known about this diagnosis. Praise God, who is already overshadowing this illness with His goodness! Even though God's will is not always easy, it is always good, so we know that His love and peace are there for us no matter what.

Of course we ask for your prayers.

Blessings in Christ!
Brian and Ruth Roberts



Year End Congregational Statistics Deadline for Submission Extended

Less than 3 weeks until deadline

The LCMS Department of Rosters and Statistics sent out their annual request for the 2021 Congregational statistics. These statistics are to be filed by **March 31st.**

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.



Holy Land Familiarization Trip January 2023

The 2023 tour to Israel has now been opened to all called "Ministers of Religion!" This will allow many more called workers and spouses to come to Israel at a deeply discounted rate, less than half the cost of most Israel trips. Join SELC District President Wally Vinovskis, Indiana District Vice President TJ Mattick, and English/SELC District Vice President Dan Lepley to learn about this tour opportunity at one of the ZOOM meetings.

The monthly Bible Study sessions are held once a month at two different times. The March sessions are listed below. These Bible Study sessions are open to everyone, whether you will be participating with the trip to Israel

- March 15, 2022 at 10:00 AM Eastern Time - **Topic Lower Galilee**
 - Link - <https://lcef.zoom.us/j/86918272687>
- March 15, 2022 at 9:00 PM Eastern Time
 - Link - <https://lcef.zoom.us/j/82169088112>

To view more about this amazing trip, please go to this website for more information

<http://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/fh23010423I52755#.YaaF51XMLX4>





Basin and Towel Podcast

There is a NEW episode of Pastor Chris Cahill's "Basin and Towel Podcast at [https://www.buzzsprout.com/1387516/10213508!](https://www.buzzsprout.com/1387516/10213508)

Pastor Cahill says "At Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio, where I serve as Pastor, we've begun the season of Lent and our 40-day exploration of The Forgiving Challenge by Pastor Zach Zehnder. We've worked through two other 40-day challenges by Zach in the past, and I've been interested and excited to see what this one would be like.

The Forgiving Challenge follows the acronym "S.C.A.R.S." Each week, we focus on the meaning behind one of these letters: "S" for "Sin"; "C" for "Confession"; "A" for "Absolution"; week of March 20); "R" for "Restoration"; and "S" for "Sanctification." You can find out more about the Forgiving Challenge at our special website: <https://ctkfc2022.mystrikingly.com/> or at the Forgiving Challenge website: <https://redletterchallenge.com/40-day-challenges/forgiving-challenge/>"



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.



It Takes a Church to Raise a Church Worker

As a laborer in God's harvest, you are uniquely positioned to help
RECRUIT, IGNITE, and EQUIP
the next generation of kingdom workers.

Concordia St. Paul humbly requests your assistance in these three ways:

1. Encourage young men and women to consider church work.
2. Urge them to explore [Concordia St. Paul's Church Work Tuition Guarantee](#).
(\$0 tuition for Pre-Seminary; \$6000 maximum tuition for DCE, DCO, DPM, LTC)
3. Access resources available through ["Set Apart to Serve"](#),
(LCMS Church Work Recruitment Initiative)

Click to view a video from Rev. Dr. Brian Friedrich - [CSP Video](#)

Remember, it takes a church to raise a church worker.

Thank you. May God richly bless your Lenten journey.

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



Vocatio retreat for high school students set for June 25-July 2

On-campus visit helps students explore call to ministry

High school students interested in attending **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** are invited to **Vocatio** June 25-July 2 on campus. This free, weeklong retreat, following the Seminary's academic theme for the year, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet" (Ps. 119:105), provides prospective students the opportunity to explore God's calling and direction as they experience Seminary life.

During this retreat, participants will engage in theological conversation, hear from Seminary professors and attend a Concordia University System college fair. Group sessions will focus on thoughtful conversation about the Lutheran faith, aspects of vocation and the call to pastoral or diaconal ministry. Participants also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and have some fun and recreation.

"Vocatio is an incredible experience for the young people of our church to explore the possibilities of a church work career, experience Seminary life and be around likeminded peers who share their faith," said **Rev. Micah Glenn**, director of recruitment. "I'm looking forward to another great retreat this summer and excited to see some familiar faces and meet some new ones as well!"

The deadline to register is May 27. Learn more or sign up at csl.edu/vocatio.

Vocatio is one of two **visitation events for prospective students** held throughout the year that provide a preview of the Seminary's ministerial formation experience. Personalized visits also can be scheduled and are highly encouraged for those considering attending the Seminary. For more information, contact the Seminary at 800-822-9545 or admit@csl.edu, or visit csl.edu/admissions.



Why Is THAT in My Bible?

(Examples of why the Holy Spirit doesn't waste ink!)

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Knowing that many of you can easily add to these examples for possible further discussion, in light of what Scripture says about itself in 2 Peter 1:20-21 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17, the following randomly selected biblical references come to mind for your consideration or sharing.

For starters, what about those seemingly endless genealogies in both testaments including the often sadly overlooked "begats" in Matthew 1 where the sinless Christ stands at the end of a long line of sinners (cf. also Luke 3)? Or, how about those large blocks of statistical data or extremely detailed units of



measurement found in parts of the Pentateuch, Ezra, Nehemiah or 1 Chronicles regarding specifications for Israel's tabernacle, eventual temples or the future heavenly City of Jerusalem?

Genealogical data also can serve as a reminder for us today to thank God for the faithful cloud of witnesses including beloved Christian ancestors who years ago "crossed the pond" to bring the precious Gospel (and their hymnals) with them to these hallowed shores. Were only one of these persons removed from the "mix," you or I would not be here as part of our Creator's human family.

We should not ignore the strong scriptural emphasis on the importance of praising our God in song (in addition to dozens of psalms), note the specific reference to no fewer than 148 singers in Nehemiah 7:44 following post-exilic rebuilding of the walls of ancient Jerusalem. Think perhaps of our own use of God's gift of music today until our ascended Lord's promised return and beyond as His redeemed people's "rehearsing for eternity!"

Have you also perhaps ever wondered about the following passage in Mark 3:28-30? "Truly I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" – **for they had been saying, "He [Jesus] has an unclean spirit!"**

"Pastor, I may have committed the only unpardonable sin against the Holy Ghost!" Listening quietly to this still fairly familiar, sincerely impassioned, but likely questionable fear, St. Mark's foregoing easily overlooked explanatory comment in the shortest New Testament Gospel. It is set in the context of some of the Savior's harshest critics who claimed that He, Jesus, had been casting out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons.

Pastorally speaking, the only **unforgivable** sin is prolonged unbelief or the stubborn refusal to acknowledge one's essential need of Jesus as the world's only Savior from sin and eternal death. Had the troubled individual actually been guilty of the only unforgivable sin of *unbelief* it is reasonably safe to assume he or she wouldn't have cared less about the possibility of committing such a grievous transgression!

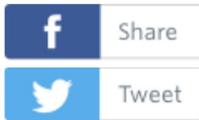
Concerning our Lord's first publicly recorded miraculous sign of changing water into wine in the Fourth Gospel, the evangelist John's seemingly passing reference to the presence of **six large water jars** for ceremonial (not hygienic) washing in John 2:6 is indeed worthy of a second look. Jesus' command to Cana's wedding feast servants to fill to the brim with water those over-sized vessels conceivably symbolizes our Lord's obediently keeping in our behalf the whole law of God as an essential aspect of the Father's sending His uniquely sinless Son, Jesus, to become our Heavenly Bridegroom and all-atoning spotless sacrifice for this world's mountainous load of sin.

Consider also these words, "**There were many oil lamp lights in the upper room where we were gathered**" (Acts 20:8). Fondly recalling privileged teaching of the Book of Acts at our then Springfield, IL seminary also to talented student wives calls to mind yet another seemingly obscure detail in conjunction with that unusual late night incident near the end of the ascended Lord's apostle Paul's "third missionary journey" at Troas where a young man named Eutychus dozes off and topples three floors to his death. Miraculously restored to life by the apostle, Luke is likely making the point that it was *not* Paul's prolonged Gospel preaching or teaching that was responsible for Eutychus' "falling asleep in church."

The next time you read about the precise dimensions of Noah's ark in Genesis 6 –

the same word is used to describe baby Moses' tiny floatable basket or "arkette" in Exodus 2. Also, the deeply sacred furnishing known as the ark of the covenant (first mentioned in Exodus 25) or detailed instructions regarding Israel's portable tabernacle or designated place of meeting described in the concluding chapters of the Book of Exodus, and used for more than 400 years until the building of Solomon's temple, please know that though the verbally inspired Word of God was written over a period of 1600 years by fallible men. The Holy Spirit did not "waste ink" in what the writers wrote as everything they were privileged to write was written for a reason (2 Pet. 1:20f.; 2 Tim. 3:16f).

As we are thankfully still freely privileged to hear that Word preached and taught in our churches, especially during these globally tragically trying times, prayerfully continue to read that precious life-giving, faith-strengthening Word also in the privacy of your own homes until that blessed Day when we shall all hopefully find everything "measured to perfection" because of our sinless Brother Savior, Jesus, because of whom we will also have no further reason to ask any more questions (John 16:23a)!



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