



# The Beacon Online

April 8, 2022 / Vol. 3 / No. 14

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

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## **2022 SELC District Convention Registration**

**All Pastoral and lay delegates please be sure to register for the Convention as soon as possible! We would like to give our hosts accurate numbers for food, etc. If you haven't reserved your overnight room, please do so.**

**The Convention Workbook is available on our website for you to download. There is a link that you can click on to download the Workbook. Please note that this workbook will continue to be updated as we get closer to the Convention.**

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. **Overnight rooms are booking quickly, so make your room reservations now!**

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 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.

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

**Please share this information with your delegates.**

The Convention Workbook is available on our website for you to download. There is a link that you can click on to download the Workbook.

If you have any questions, please either call the SELC District Office at 610-965-3265 or email us at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com)



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

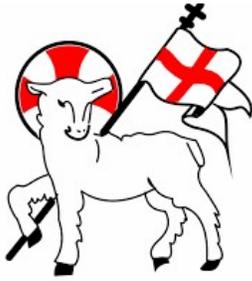
### ***Feed My People***

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 and would like to donate, they would appreciate monetary donations to help purchase these items for their food bank.

If you would like to order your donation and have it shipped to St. Lucas please send your donation to;

St. Lucas Lutheran Church  
7100 Morganford Road  
St. Louis, MO 63116

***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.***



## What Kind of Lamb Did God Require?

(and related Holy Week/Easter thoughts)

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Biblical teaching central to our most holy Christian faith is well summarized in the closing words of the third article of the Apostolic Creed: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." As indicated in the opening verses of such christologically heavily-freighted letters as 1 Peter or our ascended Lord's missionary-apostle Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians, our Triune God's "salvation history" blueprint entailed far more than a Great Flood in dealing decisively with this fallen world's tragically universal sin-problem.

Respected Christian authors like one time atheist and WWI veteran, C. S. Lewis, WWII martyr, Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer and others have been helpful to many in beginning to understand biblically the universal inherited inclination to "re-create" our Creator-Redeemer God in our own image. Severely cheapening at every level God's gift of life and vainly presuming as our "automatic right" His *promised future of life eternal* in His incarnate Son, we so easily fail to recognize the limitations of His otherwise marvelous gift of human reason. More was needed for our redemption than His *foreshadowing* His final Paschal Easter Lamb by the temporary provision of a ram as a sacrificial substitute for the patriarch Abraham and his long-awaited son, Isaac (Gen. 8:21; 22; Ex. 12:5, 14; Ps. 51:5; 1 Cor. 1:24-31; 5:7; Heb. 11:17).

With multiple good reasons, scores of repeated Old Testament references to scores of messianic passages variously translated as the "Just" or "Righteous One," or "the Holy One of Israel" reflect the essential required moral purity embodied solely in the holy incarnate Son of God and Mary's Son, our spotless Savior Jesus Christ (Is. 53:9; Rom. 5:19; 8:3; Phil. 2:8; 1 Pet. 1:18ff. 2:22).

Realizing also that biblical teaching regarding the baptism of our Lord Christ at the hands of His understandably reluctant cousin, John, extends beyond serving as an *example for our own blessed baptism*, the thought of *anyone* perishing in a cosmic deluge (or dying on a cross!) can only be properly processed in light of the once-for-all sacrificial death and victorious resurrection of our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ (Matt. 3:15-16; John 1:29, 36; Rom. 6:3-4; 2 Cor 5:21; Heb. 2:14-18; 4:15; 9:28; 1 John 3:3, 5; Rev. 7:9ff., 21:22f.). Hardly overemphasized is the seriousness of humankind's rebellious sinning seen in stark contrast to the voluntary baptism and attendant severity of Jesus' temptation successfully withstood by His *seamless obedience* in completing His redemptive mission of endless love.

Thus when in the Nicene Creed we confess that Christ shed His precious blood "for us men and for our salvation" after vicariously suffering in our behalf, it can be surprisingly beneficial also to think "not only" of our Brother-Savior's innocent self-giving sacrificial suffering and death on the cross.

Please do not think, however, that we wish to demean the centrality of the death of Christ in observing that *anyone* can die on a cross – the point, of course, being that the death of anyone *other than* the unblemished Son of God could not even temporarily, let alone everlastingly, benefit another person without also necessarily including His prerequisite holy perfect life which made Jesus' self-giving mortal passion so remarkably unique. Wherever we "messed up" or failed (one of the many

biblical terms for sin connotes the usually woefully understated idea of “rebelliously missing the mark”), **God's flawless Lamb** did not fail!

And, yes, thank You, dear Jesus, as even following Your triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday after spending at least the first night in Holy Week in suburban Bethany (see Mark 11:11ff.) and knowing full well what awaited You only hours later willingly chose to *return* to the so-called Holy City and Calvary's cross to accomplish in our stead what we all so richly deserved!

In attempting to define in reasonably simple language a condensation of biblical Christian teaching, we also need realize that we are saved *not* on the basis of our still imperfect understanding of biblical truths but solely by the *innocently* shed blood of Jesus (Heb. 9:22b). This side of heaven there are many things that remain shrouded in mystery (**e.g.**, the blessed Trinity or personal union of the person and work of the co-eternal divine and fully human natures in Jesus Christ as incarnate Son of God or “real presence” in our Lord's Supper).

In the meantime, our just and holy Triune God is and remains “an awesome God” before whose presence the best we all can ultimately do is to bow down before His throne of grace together to sing His praises during which (contrary to the ways of today's increasingly godless insanely sin-sick world) we continue to find our greatest delight being in the presence of **God's Lamb** who though slain has as our now resurrected and ascended Lord also victoriously begun His reign. As part of the blessed company of His privileged fellow forgiven saints and children of our Heavenly Father, prayerfully note the numerous festive “throne scenes” in the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ (notably Revelation 7:9-17).

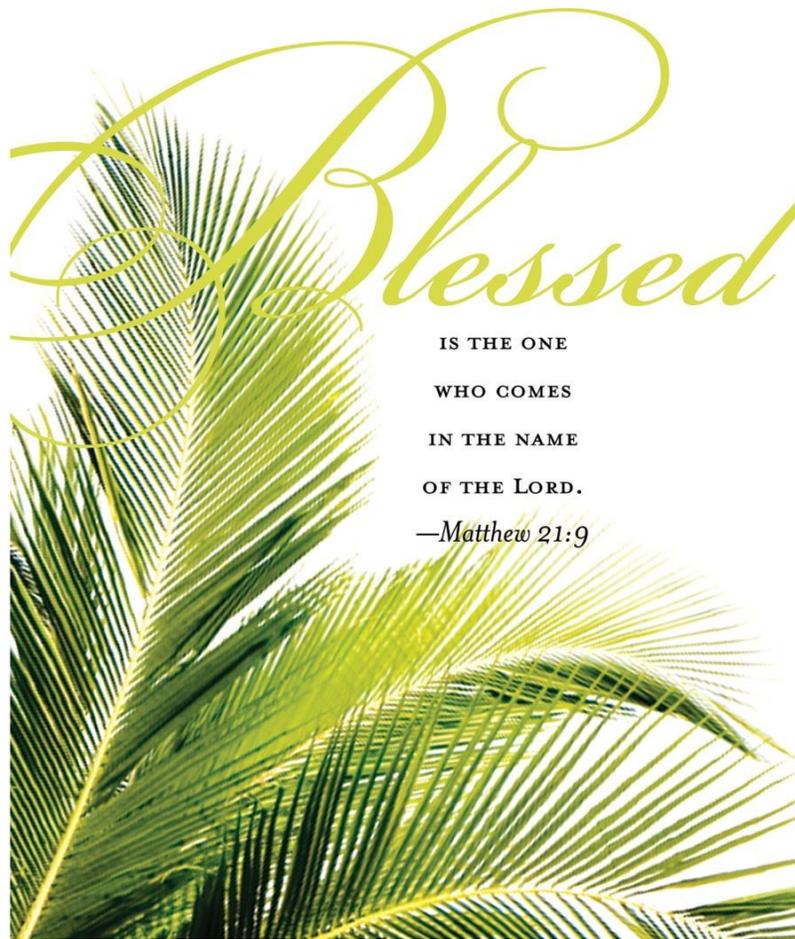
There is perhaps in what we have been saying also a conceivably applicable sense regarding Good Friday's pagan Roman soldiers' decision *not to tear our Lord's seamless outer robe* before voluntarily offering up Himself on Calvary's cross (see Psalm 22:18; John 19:23-25; Gal. 2:20; Phil. 2:8 and what is commonly referred to as “the active *and* passive obedience” of God's seamlessly obedient anointed messianic Christ, a day on which a Roman centurion (and even Pontius Pilate) as well as a penitent Jewish malefactor all rightly agreed that this Man Jesus did *nothing amiss* (cf. Luke 23:47 as well as our Lutheran passion week chorale, “O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?” – answer NONE!

*O dearest Jesus, what law hast Thou broken  
That such sharp sentence should on Thee be spoken?  
Of what great crime hast Thou to make confession,  
What dark transgression?*

*What punishment so strange is suffered yonder?  
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander;  
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,  
Who would not know Him.*

*The sinless Son of God must die in sadness;  
The sinful child of man may live in gladness;  
Man forfeited his life and is acquitted;  
God is committed.*

*And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven  
To me the crown of joy at last is given,  
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,  
I, too, shall praise Thee.  
(LSB, Hymn 439 stanzas 1, 4, 5 and 15)*



## Basin and Towel Podcast

SELC District Ministerial Care Coordinator Rev. Chris Cahill has been posting sermons from the midweek worship services at Christ the King in Lodi to his **Basin and Towel Podcast** at <https://thebasinandtowel.buzzsprout.com/>. These midweek worship services follow the sequence of **The Forgiving Challenge** by Pastor Zach Zehnder while keeping in mind some particular needs of pastors as hearers of the Word of God's grace, not just as preachers of the Word.

Check out the episodes/sermons on Sin (3/10), Confession (3/18), Absolution (3/24), Restoration (3/30), and Sanctification (Scheduled for April 6)



**Holy Land Trip 2023**  
**Bible Studies are open to everyone!**  
**April topic is the Sea of Galilee**

Did you know you can participate in the monthly Bible Study pertaining to the Holy Lands trip in January 2023 if you are not able to go on the trip?

This month the Bible Study is scheduled for the Tuesday after Easter, April 19th. Please join us using the links below.

April 19, 2022 **10:00A EST/7:00A PST**  
<https://lcef.zoom.us/j/89823275048>

April 19, 2022 **9:00P EST/6:00P PST**  
<https://lcef.zoom.us/j/82315746372>



## **LWML SELC District Convention**

The 17th Biennial LWML SELC District Convention is being held April 30, 2022 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio. The address is 6220 Broadview Road, Parma, OH 44134. The registration fee is \$60.00. Please send your registration fee to Stephanie Bailey 737 Redwood Drive Canal Fulton, OH 44614. The overnight rooms are \$10.00 per night. The overnight rooms are at the Holiday Inn South in Independence, Ohio. The telephone number is 216-524-8050.

The SELC LWML is also taking nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please contact Milly Kwiatkowski at [gasngomilly@att.net](mailto:gasngomilly@att.net) or by telephone 216-398-7321.

**The deadline to register is April 15, 2022**



## 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](http://www.lcmsgathering.com). If you need assistance or have any questions about the Gathering please contact Deacon Jim Hurst at [deacon@calvaryparma.org](mailto:deacon@calvaryparma.org).

# 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](http://lcef.org/kaleidoscope) to learn more and to submit your proposal.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
> where investments build ministry

800-843-5233 | [lcef.org](http://lcef.org)

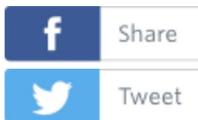


**"Awake, My Heart, with Gladness"  
A Service of Sacred Music for the Season of Easter**

Celebrate with song our risen Lord this Easter season! Join us in person or via livestream at [csl.edu/live](http://csl.edu/live).

**3 p.m. CDT Sunday, April 24  
Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus**

**Featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, the Concordia Seminary String Ensemble and the Clarion Bass**



**SELC District of LCMS**  
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