



# The Beacon Online

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

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## **Rev. Kurt Steinbrueck receives certification as General Pastor**

Rev. Kurt Steinbrueck, Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel, Florida, received his certification as a General Pastor. Pastor Steinbrueck was a Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) until he received his certification in May 2022 from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Pastor Steinbrueck started his pursuit of his General Pastor Certification following his completion of his SMP program in the Summer of 2016.

We congratulate Pastor Steinbrueck and his family and we give thanks to God for the work he is doing in Wesley Chapel Florida. Faith Lutheran is a Church Plant that is approaching its 4 year anniversary.

Pictured is the Steinbrueck family.





## Church Worker Appreciation Month is October

Church worker appreciation month is traditionally held on the second Sunday in October. Please see the letter from Synod President Matthew Harrison [here](#) encouraging appreciation for both ordained and commissioned workers in your Church and School.



## Church Planting Cohorts Launch

*It's not too late to join!*

Three of the four church planting cohorts launched last week but it's not too late to jump in. See calendar below for the next meeting date. You will receive the link for the cohorts when registered. [Click here](#) for full details and to register.

- *Developing Disciples for Sending*—For congregations to get ready to plant, discussing and implementing strategies for discipling individuals in mission, so they can multiply to create sustained movement in your congregation
- *Planning to Plant*—For congregations who are about ready, examining the best practices and common pitfalls for the initial phases of planting a new church
- *Securing Your Legacy*—Examining the phases of the church life cycle and discussing the current positioning of your specific congregation

Since ethnic church planting can fit in a wide variety of contexts, this cohort will be offered later in the fall beginning October 18.

- *Cultivating Partners*—Discussing and planning best practices for establishing cross-cultural relationships that yield ministry partnerships for ethnic church planting

*Don't forget to check out our church planting [podcasts](#).*

### CHURCH PLANTING CALENDAR

(All times are 2pm Eastern/1pm Central)

- October 18 (Tuesday)—*Cultivating Partners for Ethnic Missions* Cohort begins



## Seminary celebrates 20 years of deaconess formation

Special luncheon held for alumnae, students

This year **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis'** is marking the 20<sup>th</sup> year of its residential Deaconess Studies program.

As part of the anniversary celebration, alumnae gathered July 18 for a special luncheon commemorating the program that has been preparing women for service to the church as deaconesses for two decades.

Alumnae in attendance at the event, which was held on campus in Koburg Hall, included graduates from the beginning of the residential program to recent graduates. Several current residential deaconess students also joined the celebration.

"We are excited to celebrate such an important milestone for our program," said Director of Deaconess Studies **Dr. Gillian Bond**. "It is a blessing and a joy for me personally to work with our deaconess students. Our Lord brings women to these studies with such a wide range of skill sets and life experiences, and I am always fascinated to see how He nurtures these varied gifts and then uses them in the different settings where He places our graduates to serve."

Dean of Theological Research and Publication **Dr. Erik Herrmann** offered reflections on diaconal ministry during the luncheon. "Having a churchly office regularly set apart to help shape our impact on our communities is an extraordinary opportunity," Herrmann said. "Imagine having someone to participate in deeper theological reflection on the church's work of compassion, and someone to develop and implement new ways for the church to carry out this work. Who shall we call to publicly guide and nurture the church's love? We don't have to invent a new office or roster category for our church body. It already exists!"

Board of Regents Vice Chairman Dr. Tyler Arnold encouraged the women in their diaconal callings. "You are the Swiss army knife of the church, providing a broad scope of diaconal care within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)," he said. "You are an instrument of the Holy Spirit, embodying Christ whenever you encounter hurting souls. You are so valuable and loved by our Lord. Don't underestimate what God has called you to be. It is a blessed work and needed for our church. So, dear sisters, keep it up. Stay strong. Lean on each other. Be fed, because empty vessels cannot pour, and you have a lot of pouring to do."

The program also included remarks from Deaconess Kim Sherwin and Chaplain Jennifer Wientge, who shared insights from the field. Campus Chaplain Rev. Paul Sieveking led the prayers.



## **'Last Call' for Nominations for the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

The 2023 Committee for Convention Nominations has now been fully constituted by district conventions, but the committee continues to need nominations for the 69 influential officer, board, and commission positions to be elected by the 2023 Synod convention. [Details can be found here](#). Nominations may yet be submitted by:

- Agencies and officers of the Synod
- Congregational and individual members of the Synod
- Laypersons of the congregations of the Synod

With 69 offices to be filled by the convention and less than three months of the nominating period to go, the Secretary's office is in receipt of nominations (including incumbents) for only 72 ordained and 22 commissioned ministers and 49 laypersons — not all of whom will let their names stand. (Last convention, for comparison, the committee had 163 ordained, 45 commissioned, and 139 lay names to consider.) Please, therefore, consider where the needs of the offices to be filled match the giftedness of those LCMS congregation members and ordained and commissioned ministers that you know, and submit their names for consideration.

Nominations must be received by **Oct. 29, 2022**, but are desired as soon as possible, given that each nomination then must be augmented with the responses of nominees and evaluators.

The nomination process is open to every member of every Synod congregation. It is a wonderful opportunity to gather up the great diversity of human gifts in our pews to see how they may be put to the common good in Synod offices, boards, and commissions. Congregations are urged to make their membership aware of the website above and to encourage their members to take up this task, together or individually, with zeal.

The nomination form is available for download at [lcms.org/convention/2023-nomination-form](https://www.lcms.org/convention/2023-nomination-form). It can be downloaded, filled out electronically, and then emailed to the Office of the Secretary at [ccn@lcms.org](mailto:ccn@lcms.org). Electronic submission, according to the accompanying instructions, will expedite processing. With your affirmation and

contact information on the form, including your return email address, there is no longer a need to send a hard copy by U.S. mail.

Information on the distinct, and newly electronic, nomination process for Synod president, first vice-president, and regional vice-presidents will be mailed to nominating member congregations beginning in October 2022.

### [View Nomination Form](#)



CONCORDIA PLANS

## September is National Suicide Prevention Month



### Dial 988 for the NEW Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Caring for you and your family is a priority for Concordia Plans. In recognition of Suicide Prevention Week, we're making you aware of the new Suicide & Crisis Lifeline number\* - 988 - and reminding you that CPS and the LCMS have resources available to support you and your mental health needs.

Time is vital when someone is feeling suicidal and needs help. If you or someone you know is in a crisis, call 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline\*.

The 988 Lifeline provides emotional support for people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress - and is completely free and confidential. Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, across the United States, it's comprised of a national network of more than 200 local crisis centers, combining custom local care and resources with national standards and best practices.

### CALL OR TEXT 988

- Chat with 988 →
- Let the EAP\*\* help →
- Listen in →

## Rest and renewal for your mental health

As Suicide Prevention Week reminds us, it's important to take care of our mental health and seek support during times when we feel anxious, scared or alone. CPS and LCMS provide tools and resources to support your emotional well-being, including virtual and in-person retreats through "Run Hard. Rest Well." and DOXOLOGY.

"Run Hard. Rest Well." will host a free webinar, "A Rest That Works," Sept. 15. This is a free webinar for leaders, individuals and teams.

**Learn more** →

"Take Heart!" is a respite retreat program offered by DOXOLOGY for pastors, teachers and commissioned ministers who labored tirelessly to serve faithfully throughout and beyond COVID challenges. The only costs participants will need to cover is travel.

### PASTORS:

**Learn more and register** →

### TEACHERS AND COMMISSIONED MINISTERS:

**Learn more and register** →

For other resources that can help support your mental health, visit **Caring for You** →

*\*The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is sponsored/administered by "Vibrant Emotional Health" and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.*

*\*\*EAP is available to members of the Concordia Health Plan (CHP).*

# YOUR CONGREGATION HAS A FUTURE... IS YOUR BUILDING READY?

## CONSTRUCTION LENDING SOLUTIONS FOR LCMS CONGREGATIONS

Your congregation has potential for growth and an opportunity to reach deep into your community with the Gospel. What better feeling to know that your ministry is playing a part in God's redemptive work—a mission you've always fostered.

Whether it's time to build, renovate or expand, you can trust Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to come alongside you as you move through the process. LCEF understands your desire to serve people in God's name while being fiscally responsible.

We want to have a conversation and learn about your unique ministry needs and how we can work together to achieve your goals and expand God's Kingdom. Contact us today to get started.

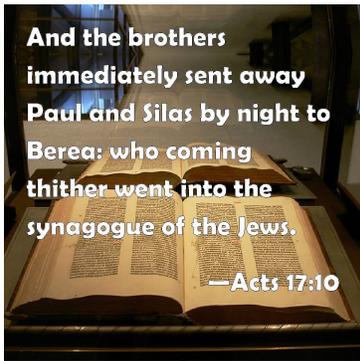


**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
› where investments build ministry

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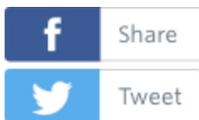
## Why So Many Bibles?

by Pastor K. M. Ballas, EM

For well over 300 years, the only English Bible in a majority of Christian homes was the venerable authorized King James Version of 1611. What some may regard today as a seeming glut of literally dozens of printed English translations as a "mixed blessing" at best, one can also be thankful that contact with the sacred Scriptures in any version or language may conceivably be used by the Spirit of God to kindle or strengthen saving faith in Jesus Christ, the world's only Savior.

A recent article in the Lutheran Witness makes the realistic assertion that every Bible translation also serves as a commentary of sorts. While a questionable procedure to some, comparing one or more readily available translations used in individual or group Bible study may shed light on why the increasing number of existing English Bibles are obviously not "carbon copies" of one another – the reasons almost always having something to do with one's understanding of the original Greek or Hebrew text.

Trained Lutheran pastors likely also have (if not within relatively easy reach, later a hopefully sincere response of "I'll get back to you on that!") resources including basic study tools to assist concerned laity. In the meantime, prayerfully consider imitating the Bereans in Acts 17:10ff. in your own personal study of the inspired written Word of God. Happy reading!



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