



The Beacon Online

March 31, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 12

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 [printable 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.



New SELC District Church Launched on March 26th

Rev. Ben Hoyer Executive Pastor
Central Cross Florida Network



"It was great to see so much history culminate in the launch of a new expression of the church. We saw many familiar faces from past year of ministry as well as several new faces looking to connect to a church. All in all, right around 250 people gathered. Resurrection Church celebrated this beginning with a baptism and communion. We look forward to launching small groups with week two and celebrating our first Easter as a congregation. God is Good, All the Time".

Resurrection Lutheran Church is a satellite church of Holy Cross in Lake Mary and is one of the churches in the Central Florida Cross Network and Pastor Chris Johnson is the Lead Pastor. The services are held at the Upper School of Holy Cross Lutheran Academy in Sanford.



St. John's Lutheran Church Celebrates a Baptism with Four Generations of the Family Present

St. John's Lutheran Church, Hazleton, PA, had a great reason to celebrate last Sunday with the baptism of Leo Anthony Morresi. We rejoice that we have a new member of the church through this holy sacrament, as well as the fact that he brings with him four generations of his family, and a renewed faithfulness from all of the above who were present. Yes, you read correctly; not only did the family commemorate this momentous occasion for this little one, but have seen the church from a fresh perspective by the grace of God, through the hearing of the word and through the fellowship of the saints, our brothers and sisters here at St. John's. The Lord has used this very occasion as a catalyst for the confession of further dedications of commitment to come back to the fold. This is the power of word and sacrament. And we thank God that He would work through us believers; to see the harvest, give us wisdom to see that it is ripe, and then courage to speak boldly, reassuringly and comfortingly to anyone who steps through those sanctuary doors who will in turn, without a doubt, confess with us, 'we know where the fountain of living water is', and who causes us to, in Him, swell up to eternal life, thanks be to our Lord, and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Following are two pictures with Pastor Gordon Naumann with young Leo Anthony Morresi and his family.



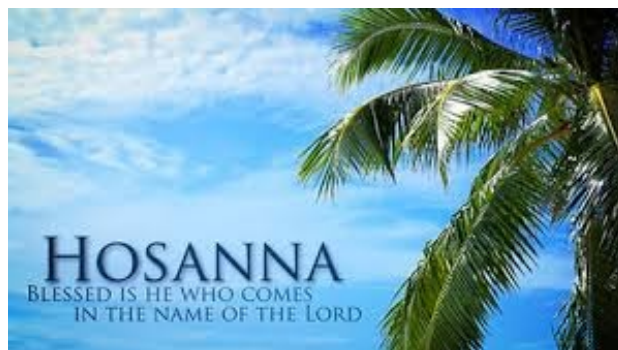
Congregational Statistics due to the Synod by **TODAY**

All congregations were notified by email (by mail only if requested or if no working email was provided to the Synod) on or about January 23. While unanimous reporting is an expectation every year, the Synod is eager to continue to assess COVID impact across ALL our congregations.

The synod wants to know how our congregations are doing and how best to work for your benefit and on your behalf. They need to be able to contact leadership by up-to-date emails to facilitate their governance of their Synod. This was of key importance in the recent congregational referendum and will be increasingly so as we move toward and through convention.

Please update the Synod on your lay leaders and provide their email addresses! These will be important to your congregations to receive timely reminders to participate in Synod governance through the convention cycle.

Congregations who are having trouble logging in to lc.lcms.org or that need other assistance can email Rosters at Rosters.Stats@lcms.org or call (314)996-1366 and staff will assist them.





Our AMAZING ladies of Lutheran Haven

Mary Ann McCunn

Lutheran Haven Foundation Development Director

When we recall the many faces of benevolence in scripture, we remember Dorcas who constantly gave practical help to others. Her motivation was to please the Lord and serve. We are privileged to see this lived out at Lutheran Haven every day. One example is Pat's group of ladies who make beautiful earrings for women going through the difficulties of cancer treatment. It's not unusual to sustain hair loss and being able to choose pretty earrings can help a woman reconnect to her femininity. This small group of ladies produced over **4,000** pairs of earrings as sweet gifts, and as a reminder that despite this daunting challenge, their beauty remains undiminished. More importantly, they are being remembered in prayer during a very difficult time.





LWML SELC District Election Results

The SELC District LWML recently held their elections. The results are below. If you are interested in becoming involved with LWML, please contact Milly Kwiatkowski at gasngomilly@att.net

President - Milly Kwiatkowski - Holy Trinity Parma, OH

Secretary - Martha Moyer - Resurrection Malvern, OH

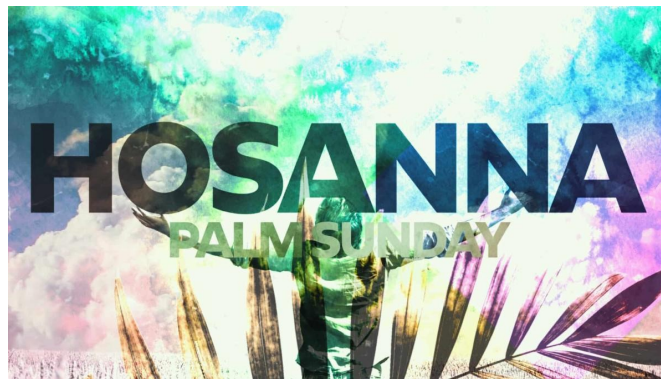
Treasurer - Stephanie Bailey - St. Matthew Norton, OH

Nominating Committee - Carol Miksad - St. Lucas St. Louis, MO

Christian Growth - Pam Reece - Christ the King Lodi, OH

Public Relations - Betty Olah - Christ the King Lodi, OH

The Pastoral Counselor will be officially appointed by the SELC District Board at the meeting in April.



New College Campus Ministry Connection & Support Through the Ohio District LCMS Office!

Sponsored by The Lutheran Church Extension Fund

TO ALL OHIO DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS

The Ohio District LCMS, with support of The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), is pleased to share with you a new outreach opportunity – College Campus Ministry.

College Campus Ministry (CCM) will encourage congregations to connect with college

students attending a local college/university. The Ohio District LCMS is creating a directory of LCMS congregations/entities desiring to reach out to these college students and invite and welcome them to your congregation. Read the, "College Campus Ministry Connection & Support" document which provides the plan overview.

If your congregation is within proximity to a local college/university, we urge you to complete and submit the attached Directory Submission Form on or before May 1, 2023.

The Ohio District LCMS is in the process of organizing a web page on our website in an effort to have helpful information and resources for your congregation to connect with and support those college students in your area.

We ask that you pray for all college students, this endeavor, and that God will bring forth volunteers to share the Gospel message and love of Jesus Christ through our College Campus Ministry.

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President
The Ohio District LCMS

Lisa Hall, Vice President
Ohio District LCEF
lisa.hall@lcef.org
216-570-7077



SELC LWML Monthly Bible Study

April 20, 2023

10:30 AM EST

Your SELC Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) would like to invite all ladies of our congregations to our monthly Bible Study April 20th at 10:30 EST. Christ the King Lodi will host the Bible Study and it will be held in person at 8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH and via Zoom for those too far away to drive.

We will have a "Social Time" to get to know one another followed by the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Bible Study "God's Chosen People – Yesterday and Today. It is available in the Spring magazine which you should have all received recently but it can also be found here: <https://www.lwml.org/bible-studies-quarterly>. If you need to, you can make extra copies for your ladies. Please read through the Bible Study before our meeting as we are limited on time. If you have trouble, please let us know and we will send you a PDF to print.

A link for the Zoom will be sent out prior to the meeting.

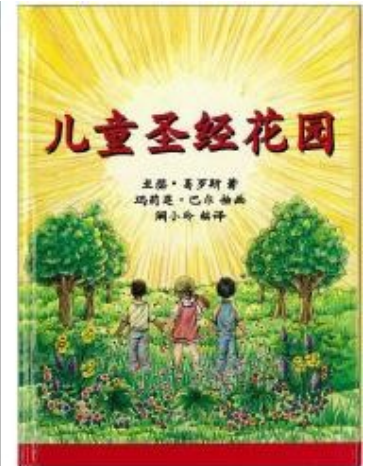
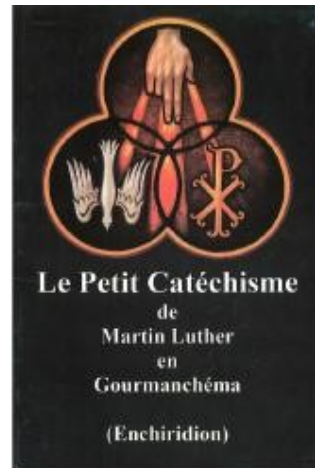
Hope to see you! If you know anyone who would be interested in the Bible Study that we have not included in this email, please forward the information to them.
P.S. Note time is EST!!!



LUTHERAN
HERITAGE
FOUNDATION

Free Resources for You

Do you know someone who doesn't speak English as a first language, and you want to introduce them to the Savior? Check out the Lutheran Heritage Foundation's database of free Lutheran books, translated into more than 140 languages of the world! Resources include children's Bible storybooks (often also good for adults with lower literacy levels), Luther's *Small Catechism*, and devotion booklets in languages like Spanish, Amharic, Hindi and Swahili – all available at no cost to the ministries, short-term mission teams, and individuals who need them. Search the LHF Publication List at www.LHFmissions.org/Publications.



www.LHFmissions.org/Publications



Experience the Sem with other high school students Join us for Vocatio June 24-July 1!

Vocatio is a free, weeklong retreat for high school students who might be considering a career in ministry. During this event, participants experience the Seminary through:

- **Worship and devotions**
- **Thoughtful conversations**
- **Recreational activities**
- **Sessions with professors**

Students also will participate in a servant event and a Concordia University System college fair! Do you know a high school student considering becoming a pastor or a deaconess? Share this email with him or her! [The deadline to register is May 27](#). Interested participants can learn more and sign up below.

Register here!



SELC LWML Meeting

LWML Meeting May 6, 2023

Concordia Lutheran Church
2623 Brookside Road Macungie, PA 18062

Please mark your calendars for a SELC LWML meeting to be held on May 6, 2023 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA. The meeting will be held from 10 AM - 2 PM. You are encouraged to attend and help to plan the future of the LWML in the SELC. There is a \$5.00 registration fee. Please RSVP to Milly at gasngomilly@att.net by April 27, 2023

Meeting Schedule

10:00 AM Welcome, Introductions, and Opening Devotion

10:30 AM The LWML in the SELC – Where we have been, where we are, and where can we go?

- Our role
- New ideas/projects
- Future meetings
- Action plan for 2023 and beyond

12:00 PM Lunch and presentation from Emmaus food bank - we will be collecting items for the food bank. A list of what they need will be sent when you register

1:00 Bible Study

2:00 Meeting concludes

4%

ONE-YEAR FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE

Lutherans Helping Lutherans

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

This limited-time offer is available for
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod:

✔ INDIVIDUALS ✔ CONGREGATIONS ✔ ORGANIZATIONS



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

The choice is up to you. LCEF offers a variety of term notes from 1 to 5 years.

At the end of the term, the funds remain yours to re-invest or redeem. Interest is compounded quarterly (March, June, September and December).

DANIEL LEPLEY

LCEF District Vice President | English and SELC
317-402-9401 | Daniel.Lepley@lcef.org

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of December 2022. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.



Call Day 2023 set for April 26

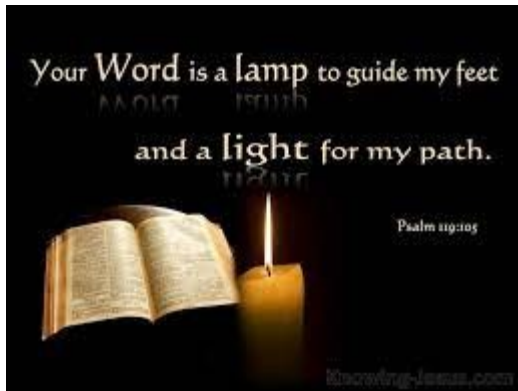
Students to receive first ministry calls, assignments

Anticipation is building for **Call Day** April 26 when concluding **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** students will receive their first pastoral or diaconal ministry placements, and second-year students will receive their vicarage or internship assignments in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. All calls and assignments for service are to churches or ministries within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Students who will serve a year as vicars or deaconess interns will receive their assignments at a worship service starting at 3 p.m. (CDT). Rev. Wally Arp, SELC pastor of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Fla., will preach.

At 7 p.m. (CDT), candidates for the pastoral and diaconal ministry will receive their first calls to serve as pastors, deaconesses, chaplains and missionaries in the LCMS. Rev. Peter Lange, first vice president of the LCMS, will preach.

A live stream of Call Day services will be available at csl.edu/callday, **Facebook** and **YouTube**. Calls and assignments will be shared on Twitter in real time during both services. Everyone is encouraged to share their celebratory comments and photos with the hashtags #CallDay2023 and #CallDayWatchParty on social media.



The Righteousness of God

(concluded)

(Much, but not all, of which was revealed in **Christ Jesus** on a single 24-hour Jewish calendar day!)

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

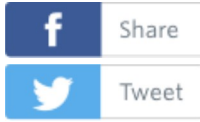
Charles Schulz, Christian creator of "Peanuts," depicts a gangly youth confessing to a girlfriend, "I used to consider myself an authority on the Book of Revelation until I met someone who *read* it!" His words help make it "less than a stretch" in suggesting that Holy Scripture's self-attestation of *clarity* as "a *lamp* to our feet or *light* to our path" becomes increasing evident in proportion to our prayerfully seeking the Spirit's guidance whenever we *do* make it a point to spend time with God's written Word, (Ps.119:105)

Righteousness of **faith**? Righteousness of **life**? **Civic** righteousness? The righteousness of **GOD**? With good reason we Lutherans traditionally associate more than one possible meaning to the pan-biblical concept of "*the righteousness of God*." Historically speaking, this phenomenon derives in part from a still fairly young multi-talented 16th C. monk having been invited to lecture on the Psalms and St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans at the still new University at Wittenberg at a time when one Martin Luther was already providentially captive to the Word and **God's Christ** (1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 10:5; later on the **First Letter of Peter** also became especially dear to our beloved catechist!)

Long known for his *sensitive conscience* as a self-professed sinner, Brother Martin struggled mightily with seemingly contradictory shades of meaning regarding countless Scriptural references to *righteousness* as applied to the relationship between an obviously just and righteous yet merciful God and rebelliously sinful man. The nagging incongruity of being expected faithfully and publicly to teach God's holy Word to others without also finding it possible consistently to grasp in faith His *liberating Gospel message* for one's own life continued to trouble the reformer especially in his earlier years during which the celebrated Dr. Luther honestly remained a less than totally happy Christian camper.

By the same grace and Spirit of God as *blood-bought, redeemed baptized* children of God, *we, too*, have been happily guided through much more than merely wondering intellectually how a righteously just and holy God can also be *mercifully forgiving*. Quite often our feeble prosaic attempts in explaining *any and all* complexities of biblical righteousness fall short of *poetic verse* as evidenced also by this beloved Italian hymn:

"Come, **Thou incarnate Word**,
Gird on Thy sacred sword;
Our **prayer** attend.
Come and Thy people **bless**,
And **give Thy Word success**,
And let **Thy righteousness**
On us descend." (LSB, 905, st. 2)



SELC District of LCMS

2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

SELC District of LCMS | 2623 Brookside Road, Macungie, PA 18062

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by selc.lcms@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!