



The Beacon Online

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

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Funeral Service for Rev. Albert Bielenberg Announced

The funeral service for Rev. Albert Bielenberg, who was called to Glory on July 3, 2023, is scheduled for August 5, 2023 at Faith *Viera* Lutheran Church in Rockledge, FL. The funeral service will be held August 5, 2023 at 11 AM. Rev. Troy Countryman will conduct the service and will be assisted by Rev. Ron Meyr. Clergy will be wearing red vestments. We ask for your continued prayers for the Bielenberg family.



SELC District LWML at the LWML National Convention Central Zone Report

The Central Zone LWML had 3 women participate in the National Convention in Milwaukee. Here are messages from all three.

Milly Kwiatkowski, SELC LWML President - It was great to have 2 women that had not attended before. That is always an exciting time as well as a busy one. They had a chance to meet other women in our District as well as new women from all over the country. Hearing missionaries about their work is always a plus. Seeing all the different flags from all the countries that have missionaries posted is really awesome. The Exhibit Hall is very exciting to see all the Lutheran Organizations and the work they do here and abroad. Our Banner was made by the women of St. John, Massillon, Ohio - thank you!! Please see photo on the next page showing the banner.



From Pam Reece: Attending an LWML Convention for the first time is an adventure in so many ways. As a delegate I realized how efficient the voting was organized. Listening to the people who benefited from grants gave me an understanding of how important the grants were to so many people. Worshipping with more than 3,500 people was awesome. Other things like the parade of banners, singing times, comic breaks, the parade of flags of all the countries that received grants and evening entertainment were like icing on the cake. Best of all was the opportunity to meet so many gracious ladies who are invested in LWML and shared their experiences. All in all, it was a wonderful four days.

From Betty Olah: My first LWML Convention gave me a chance to see how powerful we are when we work together as women of the LCMS alongside our Pastors and the organizations that are working day by day to show others the love of God through His Son. Meeting the people who are in the trenches helping others with our mites support made it more real. Not being a delegate gave me the chance to hear their stories. I'm grateful for the opportunity and thank you for all your support.



Left photo: The Flags of Countries receiving mite grants.



Right photo: No visit to Milwaukee is complete without seeing the Fonz.



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is gaining weight and is receiving supplemental nutrition to help him achieve his goal to gain weight. We give thanks to God that he is gaining weight.

Rev. John Telloni, St. John in Massillon, OH is continuing his recovery and is working on regaining his strength as he has returned to work.

Rev. and Mrs. Panzigrau, John Huss in Arnold, PA

Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Anthony, Sts. Peter and Paul in Lorain, OH

Rev. George Plvan, Emporia, VA

Rev. Tom Soltis, Parma, OH

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Ballas, Parma, OH

Rev. Steve Bocklage, is healing well following foot surgery, Bel Air, MD

Rev. and Mrs. Edgar Anthony and son George for their health needs, Lorain, OH. They give thanks for all the prayers as their son George met with his doctor who discussed healing options for his medical issue.

The family of Rev. Albert Bielenberg who was called to glory on July 3, 2023.

Thank you to everyone for all of your prayers!

We also will be asking for your prayers for the congregations of our District. Each week we are listing four congregations, one from each circuit.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Toronto, Ontario

Concordia Lutheran Preschool in Macungie, PA

Family of Christ Christian School in Tampa, FL

If you have people you would like to be included in the prayer list, please send the information to selc.lcms@gmail.com or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.



The SELC District Youth has a new Facebook group!

Rachel Larson, Youth Chairperson

This Facebook group will allow church workers and volunteers to receive updates from the district about youth ministry and will help the youth leaders in the district to connect with each other to grow the Kingdom. Below is the link to join the group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/971304450583030/>

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Closing Thoughts

"Miracles within Miracles!"

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM


Read Matthew 8:1-4.* Given this brief account of a **leprous man** boldly yet reverently approaching the *right Person*, our literally "hands on" healing Lord, while also (in effect) saying, "*Thy will be done!*", rather than being a "sure-fire sermon text" on *prayer* (other Scripture passages speak more directly to that important topic), these words also address another easily overlooked textual need in the Savior's choice of words "**as a testimony to them.**" The seemingly insignificant solitary pronoun "**them**" (there is no preceding preposition in the original Greek, a point of grammar for practical, in depth Bible study) refers to the Levitical priest whose current assignment was to examine assorted skin disorders including Hansen's disease (leprosy) the underlying intent likely being that **he, too, may be happily blessed in knowing that the long-awaited promised Messiah had arrived in the person of one Jesus of Nazareth** (see Lev. 13 and 14; 2 Kings 5; Matt. 2:23, 10:8; Luke 1:8-9 as well as chapters 4 and 17).

*Also containing examples of how the "**word order**" in an inflected language like common Greek is admirably suited to indicate the writer's Spirit-driven **emphasis** or **intended meaning or** (privileged lecturers of the written Word of God also take note!) as the original can confidently be translated, "You, Lord, can cleanse **even me**, an otherwise incurable **leper!**").

Prior to the predicted advent of God's anointed messianic Christ, the priest's rotational turn of duty to "check out" diseased lepers bears an admittedly remote resemblance to 20th c. TV's "Maytag washer repairman." With the former conceivably having weeds growing on his walkway or cobwebs on his doorposts, this 1st C "**loneliest man in town**" may have seemingly had next to nothing to do, that is, until *Jesus* arrived on the scene! (Note also perhaps Lew Wallace's celebrated novel and Hollywood movie "Ben Hur: A Tale of the Christ").

In preparation for next time, try to *imagine* that all the Bibles in the world were suddenly lost or confiscated. Could any individual or group of believers conceivably *reconstruct* the entire written Word of God? Meanwhile, how might *we make better present use* of the printed Scriptures we still thankfully freely have in our possession?

Jesus Heals a Leper



Matthew 8:2-3
And behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean." And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, "I will; be clean." And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.



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***Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing
Everyone Love in Christ***

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