



The Beacon Online

October 6, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 39

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

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2023 SELC District Professional Church Worker's Conference

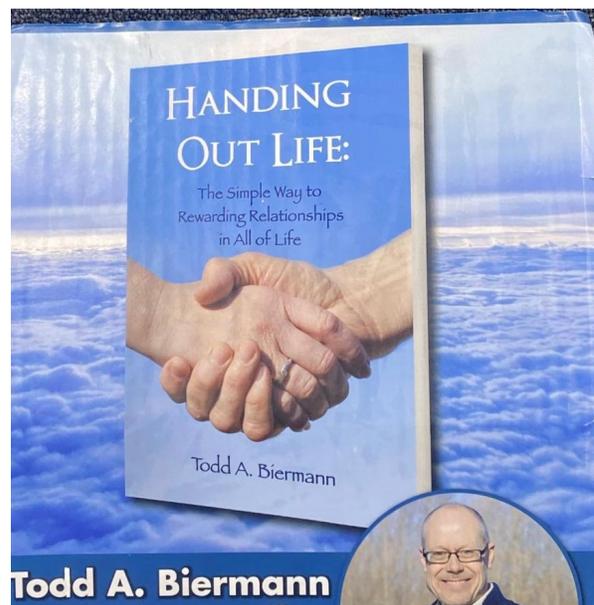
One in Christ

Follow up coverage

The Professional Church Worker's Conference ended on Friday, September 29th with a presentation from Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann and an update from President Vinovskis on the District and he opened the session up to questions from the floor.

Right is a copy of his book *Handing Out Life*.

On the next page is a picture of a role-playing activity that Dr. Biermann used to illustrate what he was discussing on his sessions at the PCWC. Left to right: Mrs. Heather Biermann, Rev. James Fernandez, and Dr. Biermann



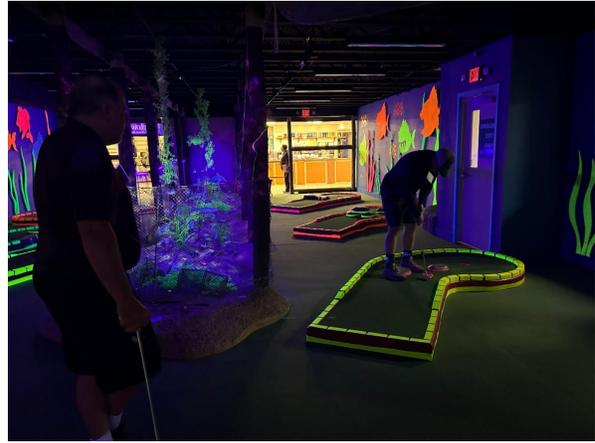


Pastor Mark Larson and Pastor Jacob Hoyer gave an update on the work they are doing on church planting in the District. They are pictured below on the left. Below on the right is Rev. Ron Meyr talking with Dr. Joel Elowsky.



Below are pictures from some of the recreational activities at Lake Williamson including s'mores around the fire and black light mini golf.





100 Years of Pastoral Service Celebrated at Concordia Lutheran Church in Northampton, PA

Pastor Otto Baker and Pastor Raymond Malec at Concordia Lutheran Church in Northampton, PA celebrated anniversary years of their ordination. President Vinovskis preached at the service that celebrated 100 years of combined Pastoral service. Pastor Baker celebrated his 60th anniversary of his ordination and Pastor Malec celebrated his 40th anniversary of his ordination. The congregation celebrated at a luncheon celebration following the service.

Pictured below from left to right: Rev. Otto Baker, Rev. Raymond Malec, President Vinovskis, and Rev. David Demera.



From left to right: Pastors Malec, Vinovskis, and Baker



Rev. George D. Plvan Funeral



Pastor Plvan's funeral was held on September 30, 2023 at St. John the Baptist Lutheran Church in Emporia, VA. He impacted the lives of many, including many Vicars.

Due to technical difficulties, the provided links did not work to watch the service online. Please [click here](#) on this link to view the funeral service.

Pictured from left to right: Rev. Dr. Jeff Kloha, Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis, Rev. Dennis Rhoads, Rev. Luke Schnake, and Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson

Below from left to right: Rev. Jaime Gann, Grace in Chester, VA, Rev. Rich Finck, Grace in Chester, VA (ret.), SELC President Vinovskis, Rev. Herb Forn, Grace in Chester, VA (ret.), Rev. Dr. Jeff Kloha, son of Holy Trinity in Garfield, NJ, Chief Curatorial Officer, Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., Rev. Dennis Rhoads, Vacancy Pastor at St. John the Baptist in Emporia, VA, Rev. Matt Bean, Redeemer in Richmond, VA, Rev. Luke Schnake, who was a Vicar for Rev. Plvan, who is at Christ Lutheran in Lincoln, NE, and Rev. Dr. Michael Gibson, a Vicar for Rev. Plvan, who is the President of the Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS.



School Statistics are due to the Synod by November 1, 2023

It is the time of year again when LCMS Rosters and Statistics and LCMS School Ministry request that you submit your statistics for the new school year (2023–24). To submit your statistics, log into the LCMS Information Support Network (LISN) for Schools website at:

lisn.lcms.org

Important login reminders:

- If you have trouble accessing the LISN website after clicking the link, type or copy/paste the full URL — <https://lisn.lcms.org> — in the address bar at the top of your web browser, not in the search field.
- Be sure to use the username previously provided to you by Rosters and Statistics, not your school's email address.
- Passwords are case sensitive.
- If you are having trouble logging in, try clearing your browser history and

refreshing the page.

- This website will not work with Internet Explorer. Please use another browser.

Once you are logged in, select "School Statistics" from the navigation panel to enter your statistics. If you have not yet had a chance to update your school profile and list of current teachers, you may do so at this time or any time throughout the year.

Attention:

Beginning with the 2023–24 school year, LCMS School Ministry is collecting additional information. You may receive communications from the national LCMS office and/or your district education executive requesting that you complete an additional statistical survey. A link to submit this additional information will be provided upon submission of your annual report via the link above.

For assistance, or to receive a paper form, contact rosters.stats@lcms.org, or the LCMS Church Information Center at [888-843-5267](tel:888-843-5267).

The deadline for submitting your 2023–24 School Statistics is Nov. 1, 2023.



June 2024 Trip to Israel

Do you want to go to Israel in June 2024? Learn more by attending the Israel trip ZOOM session, led by Pastor Dan Lepley, or email him pastorlepley@gmail.com to learn more.

October's zoom session will be held on October 9th and will focus on the Jezreel Valley. To join the zoom session, please click here - <https://lcef.zoom.us/j/83651175982>
All sessions are held at 8 PM Eastern time, 7 PM Central time.



Missionary Pastor Gary Schuschke Visits Concordia Lutheran Church

Rev. Gary Schuschke, a missionary in Germany and a member of the SELC District, visited Concordia in Macungie, PA. He portrayed Rev. Dr. Martin Luther at Concordia's two services. He also spoke about the missionary work he is doing during the adult Bible study hour. His missionary work is supported by Concordia Lutheran Church as well as other SELC and LCMS churches across the Synod. Pastor Schuschke served at St. Luke's in Oviedo, Florida before he began his missionary work in Germany in 2019.

Please keep Pastor Schuschke in your prayers as he continues to serve the members of Trinity in Frankfurt, Germany.



Pray daily for Gary – and how you can support and tell others about his ministry. Visit lcms.org/schuschke

Learn about LCMS international work at international.lcms.org

Support an international worker. Call 888-930-4438



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD



LWML Eastern Circuit Fall Rally November 4, 2023

Saturday, November 4th 10:00am - 2:00pm

Zion Lutheran Church, 559 Raritan Road, Clark, NJ

We will have bible study, work on several mission projects and the New Jersey Comfort Dog will be visiting!

To register, please visit: <http://www.zionlutheranclark.org/fall-rally-registration.html> or email ZionClarkNJ@gmail.com or ziggyrn1@gmail.com



Know someone interested in full-time ministry?

Invite them to **Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 22-24**



Share the word about **Vocatio: Retreat**, a three-day opportunity geared especially for college students or second-career adults who are interested in serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain. But don't wait too long! Registration closes Oct. 6.

[Learn More](#)

Interested in a distinctively Lutheran retreat that provides the space to rest in God's Word, time to spend in prayer and the opportunity to learn from some of the brightest theologians in the church? Concordia Seminary, St. Louis invites you to attend Vocatio: Retreat — a three-day retreat geared toward college students and second-career men and women who are considering serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain. **Registration** is free and includes lodging and meals. To register, scan the QR code below, visit csl.edu/vocatio-retreat or Google "Vocatio: Retreat Concordia Seminary." Hurry! Registration closes Oct. 6.

Click the QR code below to register





SELC Mission Work in Honduras

Faith Lutheran Church in Viera Florida and St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo are members of a FORO working to establish a Lutheran presence in Honduras.

FORO is the Spanish word for "forum" or "meeting." In this case it is a meeting of US congregational leaders, leaders of the Office of International Mission (OIM) of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, the President of the Nicaragua Lutheran Church and most importantly leaders from three mission sites in Honduras.

Those three mission sites are:

- Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in LaPaz, Honduras.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Comayaguela, Honduras.
- Choluteca mission site

Our September FORO was held at a hotel near Good Shepherd. The most important items of report and discussion included:

1. The first year of a three-year Deaconess training program taught by Deaconess Cherie Auger wrapped up prior to our meeting. Currently four women are receiving education, two in La Paz and two in Comayaguela. Cherie reports that they are all diligent students and doing quite well in their studies.
2. A new lawyer has taken on the final steps required to gain official NGO status with the Honduras government. She has experience with this type of law, and we have now begun the final steps necessary to make this a reality. Please pray for this!
3. Two pastors from Nicaragua will be visiting the mission site in Choluteca regularly to preach and catechize the saints gathered. Work will be done to build a retaining wall on the property, and repair bathroom facilities making it possible for mission teams to provide ministry on site.
4. We concluded our meeting with worship at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and were blessed to witness the baptism of a young man named Axel (third picture below). Axel has begun a three-year Deacon training program led by Pastor Ed Auger. Praise God!





Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is continuing to gain weight (about 25 pounds) and his energy level continues to increase. He will be returning to work at St. Luke's in October. He and his family are grateful for your prayers.

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. Tom Soltis, Parma, OH

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Ballas, Parma, OH, Mrs. Ballas has upcoming surgery scheduled.

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.

Rev. Peter Haenftling who is recovering from surgery.

Rev. Alan Mercer in Galloway, NJ for his ongoing health struggles.

Thank you to everyone for all of your prayers!

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.



Fall Activities at Grace Lutheran Preschool Lakewood, OH

Apples, colored leaves, pumpkins and pumpkin spice everything - children learning in school. What a beautiful season God has given us.

Grace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, OH is enjoying fall with lots of children in our building and playing on our playground. We are blessed to have 33 children in our preschool. This year our preschool has expanded to offering both our pre-K students and our three-year-olds the option of half day or full day. Cheryl Poppe, who has taught and administrated full day preschool for nine years has joined our Grace family. Cheryl is a graduate of Concordia, Ann Arbor and received a call to be our administrator and lead teacher. Joining Cheryl at the preschool is Alexis Mahoney, Connie Buchar, Sue Chamot and Diane Mirola. All of these women have full certification by the state of Ohio and years of experience.

Cheryl's installation service was held on Sunday September 10. All of our preschool staff were dedicated as well as our Sunday School staff. Unfortunately, Rev. Vinovskis was unable to attend due to his flight being cancelled. Rev. David Triplett was the officiant.

Grace is also hosting Lakewood Lutheran School, which is a part of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Lakewood, OH. In a bad storm at the end of August, the lower level of the building hosting the school classrooms was flooded. We have space on our upper level a welcome them in for as long as the clean-up and repairs take. Their staff joined us for the special service on the 10th.



Pictured above: Sunday School Staff Connie Buchar, Naomi Schiffrik, Rev. David Triplett, Noel Bartlett, Donna Hubany, Barbara Smithrick

Pictured below: Preschool staff Back Row: Connie Buchar, Rev. David Triplett, Diane Mirola Front Row: Cheryl Poppe Not Photographed: Alexis Mahoney, Sue Chamot



DISCOVER A LIMITED-TIME INVESTMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU AND THE LCMS

The **NEW 5% 18-month fixed-rate term note** is perfect for anyone who loves The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and wants to see its ministries thrive.

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Mark Your Calendars

October 10, 2023 - Concordia Concert Series - Trombone performance by Owen Duncan, a fourth-year student at Concordia Seminary and graduate of the music program at Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.

October 19, 2023 - 10:30 AM Eastern - LWML Mid-week Bible Study

November 4, 2023 - Eastern Zone LWML Rally 10 AM - 2 PM

November 17, 2023 - 7 PM - St. Luke's Concert Series - UCF Symphony Orchestra

May 3 - 5, 2024 - LWML Convention - Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA



Closing Thoughts

Don't wait until Lent to think about Christ's Cross in any depth!

Rev. Ken Ballas. EM

Just because we find ourselves far removed (calendar-wise) from the Lenten season is no reason for not focusing on our Lord Christ's crucifixion any time of the year (see Romans 14:5-9; 1 Corinthians 2:2).

This past week's Gospel lesson (Mathew 21:28-32) features an easily misunderstood Holy Week parable of our blessed Lord who, having entered Jerusalem for the last time, fully knew what awaited Him there and that His "hour" was almost momentarily only minutes away from His God-directed, self-appointed messianic mission and sacrificial death on Calvary's accursed tree of the Cross (cf. John 10:17f.; 18:1ff.).

That fact alone should "color" how we approach this so-called "Parable of the Two Sons." Cast in the light of his preparatory ministry of repentance, Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, referred to this world's only perfectly obedient Savior and Master-Teller of this parable as the sacrificial Lamb of God who single-handedly was in the process of taking away the sin of a rebelliously hostile world (John 1:29, 36).

Standing under the clear teaching of both testaments of the written Word of God's centrality of Christ's cross and open tomb seriously suggests calling this parable "The Parable of the Third Son" in response to our Lord's perplexingly "fuzzily answered" question on the part of those who self-righteously presumed to question Jesus' authority to forgive sins or heal a paralytic on the sabbath by asking in return, "Which son (child?) did the will of the father?" when in reality neither of them was perfectly obedient!

We do well prayerfully continue to ponder this undeservedly gracious mystery of wondrously redemptive love in our daily lives as baptized believing men and women of all ages in our varied vocations as blood-bought servants of our seamlessly obedient sinless Brother-Savior, Jesus Christ, and one another in this otherwise tragically spiritually helpless blundering broken and fallen world.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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