

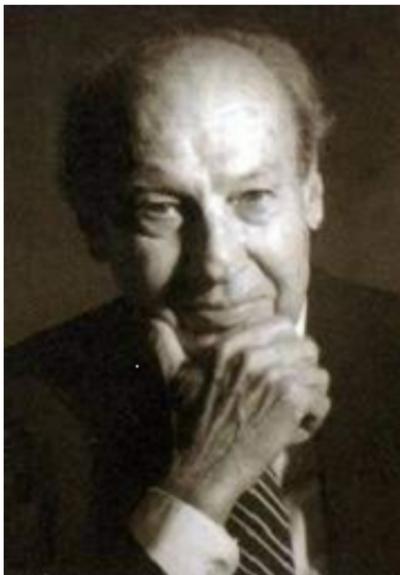


The Beacon Online

October 27, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 42

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.



Rev. Jaroslav Vajda

Part 1

by Rev. John Telloni

Rev. Jaroslav (Jary) Vajda (1919-2008) is considered one of the greatest Christian hymn writers of the late 20th century. He translated and authored over 250 hymns, carols, and songs which are found in many hymnals in the U. S. and around the world.

Vajda was born in Lorain, Ohio, and was baptized at Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church (SELC) by his father, Rev. Jan Vajda. Several years later he and his family moved to East Chicago (Indiana Harbor), Indiana, after his father accepted a call to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (SELC). In 1944 he graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. From 1945 until 1963 he served as pastor of two SELC congregations in Cranesville, PA (1945-1949) and Tarentum, PA (St. John, Brackenridge -1953-1963), and Alexandria, Indiana (1949-1953). In 1963 he was called to Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis and served there as editor of *This Day* magazine and as book developer until his retirement in 1986. From 1963 to 1976 he

served another SELC congregation, St. Lucas, St. Louis, as Assistant Pastor under Rev. Dr. John Kovac.

Musically trained in childhood, young "Jary" began translating classical Slovak poetry into English at the age of eighteen, much of it critically acclaimed and published in the U.S. and Europe. He did not take up writing hymns in English until age 50, when he was serving on the Commission on Worship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and on the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship which prepared the Lutheran Book of Worship in 1978. He also served on the Hymnal Committee in preparation for Lutheran Worship.

There are three collections of his hymns and translations: *Now the Joyful Celebration* (1987) and *So Much to Sing About* (1991), both from MorningStar Music Publications; and *Sing Peace, Sing Gift of Peace* (2002) from Concordia Publishing House. CPH also published a hymnal supplement, *See This Wonder*, which contains 22 of Vajda's hymns for congregational use.

His texts have been used by many significant choral composers and are published by CPH, MorningStar, Augsburg Fortress, GIA, and Beckenhorst Press.

Pastor Vajda received many honors toward the end of his life including ones from Concordia University Nebraska; Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Concordia University St. Paul, Minnesota; Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Eden Seminary, also in St. Louis; Valparaiso University; and the Luther Institute in Washington D. C.

Next Week: Part 2 - Vajda's hymns and personal thoughts about worship and music, and two tributes.



LWML Central Zone Holds Fall Rally

The Central Zone held our Fall Rally on October 19th with 15 women from 5 churches meeting at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon. Carolyn Nicholas from Resurrection in Malvern, OH was installed as Zone Secretary. The Women of St. Johns volunteered to hold the Spring Rally in 2024. The in-gathering was for their local food pantry.





2024 Congregational Support for the District



It's that time of year when congregations begin the budget process for 2024, including next year's mission pledge. Check out this video outlining how your gifts are used to advance Christ's Kingdom here and throughout the world, and their importance to our work together. Watch your mail and email in the coming weeks for ways to share your plans with the district.

Share this inspiring, three minute video in worship, church groups and council meetings. [Stream](#) or [Download](#)



School Statistics are due to the Synod by Wednesday, 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://lisen.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

Next call is November 13th

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.

November's zoom session will be held on November 13th and will focus on Lower Galilee. To join the zoom session, please click here - [Click here](#) All sessions are held at 8 PM Eastern time, 7 PM Central time.



SELC District LWML Announces Their New Website

To all our women, girls and our churches, welcome to the new LWML SELC website where you can find information on events taking place, contact information for your Zone and see some of the fun things that have been happening in our churches and our LWML. Check us out, we'd love to have you join us at an upcoming event."

Please view the new website at <http://lwmlselc.mystrkingly.com/>



PA March for Life

On Monday, Oct 16th, a group from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hazleton, PA, led by Pastor Gordon Naumann, attended the 3rd annual PA March for Life at the PA Capitol in Harrisburg, PA. St. John's joined Pastor Seifferlein and his group from Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Lititz, PA (English District), along with thousands of other pro-life advocates, to stand up for all life, both born and unborn. The rally featured several keynote speakers and concluded with a march encircling the Capitol grounds, in which members of St. John's and Mount Calvary sang several hymns as a profession of faith.

For more information on how you can get involved, please visit lcmslife.org and consider supporting your local pregnancy resource center.





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 ziggryn1@gmail.com

One of the mission projects is gathering items for Orphan Grain Train. Please see below for information about what can be brought for the mission project.

Health Kits:

- 1 Bath Towel dark colored (NOT FLUFFY) 1 Washcloth dark colored
- 1 4 oz bar of soap
- 1 Toothbrush (Dollar Tree has 3 in pkg with toothbrush holder) must be in sealed pkg.
- 1 nail clip
- 1 pkg of tissues (Dollar Tree has pkg of 8)
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 Box of Band Aids (All same size)

School Kits:

- 1 Backpack (can be string type which Dollar Tree sells)
- 2 Spiral notebooks
- 2 Pencils
- 2 Pens
- 10 Sheets of Construction Paper
- 1—24 Count box of Crayons
- 1 ruler with metric on one side
- 2 Glue Sticks
- 1 Child's scissor
- 1 Eraser
- 1 Pkg. 12 count colored pencils
- 1 Pencil sharpener

Please do not include items with religious, camouflage, patriotic or military symbols, No plastic bags, No additions or substitutions. Although well-meaning variations are tempting, please do not do this. It may result in heavy fine and/or the entire shipment being confiscated by custom officials. This information is from the Orphan Grain Train website.



A Service of Sacred Music for Reformation

Sunday, October 29th at 3 PM CT

You are invited to **A Service of Sacred Music for Reformation** with the theme "Each Life a High Doxology" at 3 p.m. CT Sunday, Oct. 29, in the **Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus** on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. The service will feature two Seminary choirs, Laudamus and the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, as well as Schola Cantorum from Village Lutheran Church in Ladue, Mo. Rev. Todd Wilken, host of the Lutheran radio program, "**Issues, Etc.**" and assistant pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Millstadt, Ill., will serve as preacher for the service. The service also will be live streamed at csl.edu/live.



St. John Quilters

Massillon, Ohio

The St. John Quilters recently completed the making of 10 comforters to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. They also completed a number of baby quilts to be given to a pro-life Christian ministry in Canton , Pregnancy and Parenting. All of these quilts and comforters were blessed during the Divine Service on Sunday, October 1st, and were displayed in the sanctuary. Thanks go to the quilters -- Janet Dyer, Jeanette Tennant, Arlene Guynn, Janet Graber, and Mickey Krnach. The women have already begun working on new comforters. The group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.





Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is continuing to gain weight (over 25 pounds) and his energy level continues to increase. He has returned 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 had successful surgery last week. Please keep her in your prayers for her recovery.

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

Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL as she prepares for surgery on November 8th

Please include those listed below in your prayers.

Mr. Ferdinand Duda, Lutheran Haven Board Treasurer

Zion Lutheran Preschool in Clark, NJ

Deacon Jim Hurst, N. Ridgeville, OH

Mrs. Carol Matej

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.

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.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), you earn a competitive interest rate, and you can feel good knowing your investment supports LCMS churches, schools, organizations and church workers.

At LCEF, we call that Lutherans helping Lutherans.

Invest today to join thousands of Lutherans honoring their values and commitment to strengthen, sustain and start LCMS ministries. New money only.

Start today at lcef.org/values.

5%

18-MONTH FIXED-RATE TERM NOTE



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry

DANIEL LEPLEY

LCEF District Vice President | SELC & English
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 August 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.



Mark Your Calendars

October 29, 2023 - Reformation Service from Concordia Seminary St. Louis Live stream 3 PM CT

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

November 13, 2023 - Zoom call for Israel trip 8:00 PM Eastern time

November 16, 2023 - 10:30 AM Eastern - LWML Mid-week Bible Study

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 Further Reformation Reflections

Rev. Ken Ballas. EM

Older Beacon readers especially may recall tales about Roman Catholic and Lutheran neighbors (or even family members) being wary of setting foot in the other's houses of worship for fear that the "roof might cave in" were they to do so. Upon closer inspection, because basic points of agreement exceed admittedly still lingering existing differences, days of hearing or saying less than complimentary things about one another are largely long gone as, thankfully, use of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (words *and* music composed by Dr. Luther) is being sung in a growing number of catholic and other denominational parishes. Living in an age of decreasing moral absolutes, we Christians need our common Lord's unending guidance *and one another* perhaps as never before.

As mentioned last week, Dr. Luther never intended to begin a "new church" at the expense of historic Christianity. By the grace of God, he did, however, help bring about a *degree of reform* in company with other Gospel-minded fellow-believers one of which (rather surprising perhaps to some) was on several occasions his Christ-centered usually patient Augustinian Czech monastic confessor and mentor, Johann von Staupitz.

Father Staupitz whose positive pastoral demeanor in absolving brother Martin's occasional hours' long confession absolved his troubled young monk by appealing to the vicarious mortal wounds of the sinless Christ. Increasingly steeped in the written Word of God and later assigned to be taught at the University of Wittenberg, Luther continued to acknowledge this man's formative influence in his life long after prior Staupitz' death concerning Brother Martin's growing recognition of receiving as God's free gift His full forgiveness and peace of mind solely as a result of the innocently shed blood of our incarnate sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ because of whom we, too, are now empowered by the Spirit of God to become loving servants of one another.

Other historical factors used by our gracious God to achieve His ultimate Christ-centered goals reasonably unhindered included (quite obviously) Johannes Gutenberg's revolutionary invention of movable type less than a century earlier as well as the fact that two of the seven electors of the emperor of the Holy Roman Empire were sympathetic to Luther's soundly Scriptural teachings. The additional fact that the army of the Ottoman Turks were pounding at the gates of Vienna in 1529 thereby diverting the forces of Holy Roman Emperor Charles V from tracking down heretics certainly didn't "hurt the cause" of Christ's saving Gospel. Last but by no means least is the delightful story of Luther's marriage to Katherine von Bora and establishment of the Lutheran parsonage and indispensably supportive role of yet another extraordinarily faithful loving Christian wife and family!

Despite the popularity of some of Luther's earliest printed writings especially ca. 1520), widely regarded as three of his most influential literary creations include his still often read monumentally beautiful translation of the Bible into the German language (his 1521 draft of the New Testament was miraculously completed in the astoundingly short span of only eleven weeks at a time when his life as one already declared to be a heretic was ever in grave danger of being snuffed out); his family-oriented Small and Large Catechisms of 1529; and "ecumenical hymns" more than one of which remains still robustly sung 500 years later – the good doctor calling God's gift of *music* "second only to theology!"

It is altogether fitting that we ask to what extent reform in Christ's Church may also be needed *today*? Short of any unrealistic degree of perfection this side of heaven and without losing one's personal or corporate individuality, there are surely certain areas of ministry in which God's redeemed people could better demonstrate an explicitly clearer winsome Gospel witness by word and deed to an otherwise dying world.

There are perhaps additional reasons for us to thank the gracious Lord of His Church for Martin Luther not the least of which was his being Christ's faithful under-shepherd and *exemplary pastor* in this often vale of tears. This easily forgotten aspect of the reformer's undeniably diverse ministry is amply illustrated by his making the effort just one week before his death in the winter of 1546 to travel from Wittenberg to help

resolve a parish dispute in his birth city of Eisleben where he endeavored to proclaim the precious Word of God one more time only suddenly to become light-headed in the pulpit abruptly ending his intended message. Not many hours later he slipped into the loving arms of his (and our) ascended blessed Savior paraphrasing words of the first beatitude from Matthew 5:3, "We are beggars, that is sure!" to which we can only add, "Thank, You, Lord Jesus, as this is indeed most certainly true!"

Though helpful Luther studies are many, check out Eugene Klug's 2003 CPH paperback *Lift High This Cross: The Theology of Martin Luther*.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS

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

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

Share This Email

Share This Email

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

[Unsubscribe dennis@hclm.org](mailto:dennis@hclm.org)

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

Sent by selc.lcms@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!