



# The Beacon Online

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

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## 100 year Journey of Faith

St. Mark Lutheran Church  
Steubenville, Ohio

St. Mark Lutheran Church, 133 Lovers Lane, Steubenville, Ohio celebrated its 100th Anniversary of Faith on September 24, 2023. It began with a one o'clock worship with communion and a dinner followed. The theme chosen was "Walking by Faith, Not by Sight" 2 Cor. 5:7 with the Footprints in the Sand background. Chairpersons for the event were Jean Reitter, Debbie Koehnlein and Brenda Starinsky. Organist for the Service was Millard Neal, Martins Ferry, OH.

The official date of its founding was August 5, 1923. The original name of the Church was St. John the Baptist Lutheran Church. The congregation started with 100 people coming from the Steubenville, Mingo Junction, Weirton, Colliers, and Plum Run areas. At that time, worship services were held at Swartz's Hall or Lincoln School depending on which location was available at that time.

Just 21 months after the establishment of the organization, the congregation decided on a permanent place for worship. On October 17, 1927, the dedication of the new church was held. Pastor J. Manka served the congregation from October 1923 to 1928 as their first Pastor.

In 1955, the name of the church was changed from St. John the Baptist Lutheran Church to St. Mark Lutheran Church to avoid confusion with another St. John Lutheran Church in the Steubenville area. 1956 brought a search for a site to build a new church.

1958 saw the purchase of the site and in August of 1963, architectural drawings for the new church building were reviewed. In 1964, members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church of Wolf Run, Ohio, joined into full membership with St. Mark Lutheran Church. By May of 1966, the new church was dedicated at the present location of 133 Lovers Lane, Steubenville, Ohio.

The church, through the Men's Club, Mary of Bethany Guild/LWML and our local AAL Thrivent Branch have been active in supporting community organizations such as Urban Mission and Salvation Army as well as mission work in other communities and countries. During the holidays, we would distribute food baskets to those in need as well as maintaining a small food bank. We also provided outreach to the children of our community and their parents through our Vacation Bible School and a youth group called "The Pioneer Club".

In 2002, a group called "The Holy Rollers" was formed. This gifted and dedicated group would get together every Wednesday to bake nut, fruit and poppy seed rolls which were sold at the local Farmers Market, downtown Steubenville. Proceeds would go to various needs within our community and church.

Not every moment of the last 100 years has been easy. History shows times of overwhelming trials along with peace and joy—the fruit of faith and success. But there will be more challenges ahead. With the guiding hand of God, we rejoice, for it is His Plan, His Purpose and His Kingdom we are called to serve by His Grace.

The future of our congregation looks bright in knowledge that while there are still many new and perhaps trying times ahead, God is with us as He has always said He would be. So let us go forward, united in full of trust in Jesus Christ, who alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life. He will accompany us as we continue this "Journey of Faith".

We would like to acknowledge with gratitude the past and present Pastors and Vicars for their pilgrimage to St. Mark Lutheran Church. They are as follows: Rev. John Manka, Rev. Adam Valencik, Rev. George Kozelnicki, Rev. Francis Machina, Rev. Samuel Mozolak, Rev. John Kucera, Rev. John Horarik, Rev. Milan Babel, Rev. Joseph Molitoris, Rev. Kenneth Reed, Rev. Chris Ongstad, Rev. Kenneth Greenwald, Vicar David Oester, Vicar David Abuya, Vicar John Rutz, Vicar Steve Hoerr, Vicar Brian Rosenkoetter, Vicar Eric Rapp, Rev. David McCloskey, and Rev. Scott A. Kuntz. The previous Vicars are now graduated and Pastors of their own congregations throughout the LCMS. We would also like to thank Rev. John L. Telloni for his many years of support to the St. Mark Lutheran Church congregation.

Entertainment for the Celebration included Brooke Ferrel, Mark Statler and Chelsea Householder. Special recognition for years of service to the church were given to Steve Zibritosky, John Starinsky, Clarence Reitter and Dolores Guio. A memorial and moment of silence was given for a committee and church member, Donna Jackson, who had passed away recently.

Below: Debi and Rev. Steve Hoerr, Clarence and Jean Reitter, Rev. Scott Kuntz, Rev. George Hansell, Brenda and John Starinsky.



Below are the 100th Anniversary Celebration chairpersons: Brooke Ferrel, Mark Statler, Chelsea Householder



Pictured below are the people who attended the celebration dinner at St. Mark.



## Concordia Preschoolers Learn About Fire Prevention

Macungie, PA

The preschoolers at Concordia Preschool in Macungie, PA learned about fire prevention from the local fire department. A fire truck and ambulance came to the preschool on two days to share the experience of being in and on the emergency equipment.

They had the opportunity to go inside the ambulance and see what it was like having someone, their teacher Mrs. Van Pelt, strapped on the stretcher.

Thank you to the Macungie Fire Department for visiting our preschool on two different

days so the preschoolers could see the fire truck and ambulance up close!





## 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.

[Click here](#) to view the video



## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



## **District Work at the Lutheran Haven featured in Synod Publication *Engage***

The work that Pastor John Elliott and Deaconess Emily McLean do at the Lutheran haven is featured in the Synod magazine *Engage*. Pastor Elliott and Deaconess Emily are called to St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, FL and they provide specialized spiritual care to the residents of Lutheran Haven. Whether it is bringing youth to the Haven from St. Luke's or providing spiritual care and support in a hospice situation, they are there for the residents of the Lutheran Haven.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



## 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](mailto:ZionClarkNJ@gmail.com) or [ziggryn1@gmail.com](mailto: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 (Dollartree has 3 in pkg with toothbrush holder) must be in sealed pkg.
- 1 nail clip
- 1 pkg of tissues (Dollartree has pkg of 8)
- 1 sturdy comb
- 1 Box of Band Aids (All same size)

### **School Kits:**

- 1 Backpack (can be string type which Dollartree 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

You are invited to a **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 livestreamed at [csl.edu/live](http://csl.edu/live).



## 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 had surgery this 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. Peter Haentling** prayers of thanksgiving for everything turning out well.

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

Please include those listed below in your prayers.

**The staff at the Lutheran Haven**

**Youth Director Blake Wright in Lake Mary, FL**

**St. Peter & Paul Lutheran Little People Preschool in Sharon, PA**



**Mrs. Katherine Jones**

*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](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.

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## Mark Your Calendars

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

**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 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 Timeless Gift of a Hearing Heart and Ear**

Rev. Ken Ballas. EM

I pen these lines on the eve of my wife Lois' elective surgery in a Cleveland hospital. What a blessing knowing we have a God who neither slumbers nor sleeps and that we are not alone part of which knowledge includes many well-wishes of family and friends (including our daughter Kirsten's welcome "mid-sentence" arrival from out of state).

Few, if any, of us have a clear idea of how many people are praying for us not the least of which our living ascended Brother-Savior Jesus (Romans 8). Such assurance is bolstered by the fact that the pronouns "our," "us," and "we" are all intentionally plural in number with the result that everyone who sincerely prays the "Our Father" is also interceding for and a recipient of the heard petition that His saving will be accomplished in us as well as in the lives of one another, indeed a countless amount of under-served blessings.

At a time when also Christian Jews and Palestinians, Ukrainian and Russian believers of all ages are senselessly being killed and maimed by unbelieving neighbors, we pray also for those for whom prayers may relatively seldom be uttered. Recalling once again our ascended Triune God's messianic Christ's intercession, hear their ceaseless dialogue, "Father, I lived for them and innocently and vicariously died for them and rose again!" to which the Father replies, "Yes, My Son, and it was our idea together in the first place!"

Baptized fellow believers, these few words apply to each and every one of you also in his or her particular current life situation and hopefully will also call to mind remembered expressions of thanks-giving for those no longer with us whom we dearly continue to miss until His glorious return at our promised joyous eternal reunion at Jesus' pierced feet!



### **SELC District - A District Without Borders**

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

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