



The Beacon Online

November 23, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 46

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

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A Thanksgiving Message from President Vinovskis

A national day of Thanksgiving wasn't part of Martin Luther's life. Thanksgiving Day is an American phenomenon. Although Americans were celebrating Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November since the first presidential proclamation in 1863, it wasn't official until congressional legislation in 1941 made Thanksgiving Day a national holiday.

Martin Luther recognized God's blessings to every living thing when he wrote about the

First Article of the Apostles' Creed in the Large Catechism. There he wrote, "Hence, since everything we possess, and everything in heaven and on earth besides, is daily given and sustained by God, it inevitably follows that we are in duty bound to love, praise, and thank Him without ceasing, and, in short, to devote all these things to his service." (The Book of Concord, Fortress Press, 1959, page 412)

In a world that thinks it can give God something, either by the way a person lives and by what a person does, Luther would remind us that God doesn't need anything from us. Luther goes on to say that God wants us to be grateful and to honor him as God. "We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks, and honor." (What Luther Says, Concordia Publishing House, 1959, page 1353). And in a prayer at the end of his treatise on keeping children in school, Luther prayed, "God grant that we follow His Word to praise and thank our dear Lord for His precious blood, which He so freely offered for us. And may God keep us from the terrible vice of ingratitude and the forgetfulness of His blessings. Amen." (What Luther Says, Concordia Publishing House, 1959, page 1354).

For us, as Americans, living in 2023, it is easy to take for granted the many gifts we have. Even with wars raging around the world and inflation in our own economy, think of the ease with which we go to the grocery store and fill our carts. Few of us have missed a meal lately out of our poverty. Obesity, rather than malnourishment, is more common among us.

On Nov. 23, our country pauses to celebrate Thanksgiving Day. We have much to be thankful for each Thanksgiving and each day of our lives. Our highest thanksgiving comes from the gift of Jesus our Savior. God has given us everything in Christ; therefore we thank and praise Him, serve and obey Him.

Each day brings new opportunities to rejoice in God's mercy and gives thanks for His abundant gifts. Join me in giving thanks, praise, honor and blessing to our God and King.

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits,
who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
who redeems your life from the pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
who satisfies you with good
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
(Psalm 103:1-5)*

Blessed Thanksgiving!
President Wally Vinovskis



A Service of Sacred Music for the End of the Church Year' set for November 28, 2023

Service ushers in Advent, Christmas seasons

All are invited to attend "**Stay Awake! A Service of Sacred Music for the End of the Church Year**" – a special choral service of evening prayer to usher in the Advent and Christmas seasons set for 7 p.m. CT Tuesday, Nov. 28, in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**.

The service will begin in semi-darkness with the Service of Light and the lighting of candles as the leader and congregation sing "Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome."

The service will be led by the following choirs, which will sing choral selections ranging from Melchior Franck to traditional spirituals to a new text and tune by Dean Nadasdy and Mark Sheppard:

- **Laudamus**, the premier men's choir of Concordia Seminary that features seminarians preparing for the pastoral ministry
- St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, a choir of mixed voices from the campus and larger community
- Psallite, a choir from Village Lutheran Church, Ladue, Mo.

Local artist **April Parviz** will display some pieces from her series titled "Sleepers 'Wake" in the chapel narthex and Koburg Hall following the service. Attendees can meet the artist during this time.

The service is free and open to the public. It also will be available via livestream at csl.edu/live.





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. Please keep them in your prayers.

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 - We give thanks to God that Megan's tumor was benign. Please continue to pray for her healing, pain relief, and recovery from this surgery.

Rev. George Hansell in North Olmstead, OH recovering from cataract surgery.

Please include those listed below in your prayers who are SELC District members.

Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson, SELC Southern Circuit Representative to the Lutheran Haven and Sr. Pastor at St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL

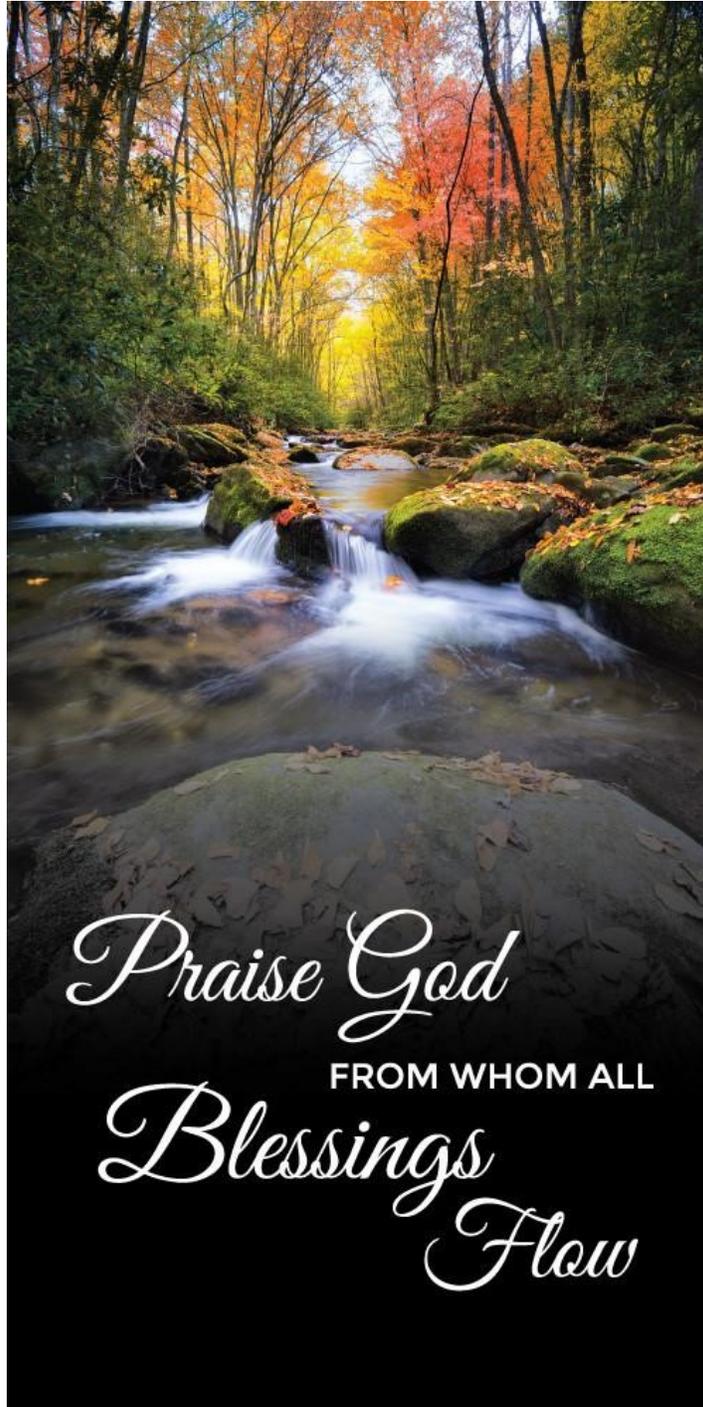
The SELC Eastern Circuit Pastors and congregations

Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Director of Church Planting

Mrs. Anna Visoky

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.



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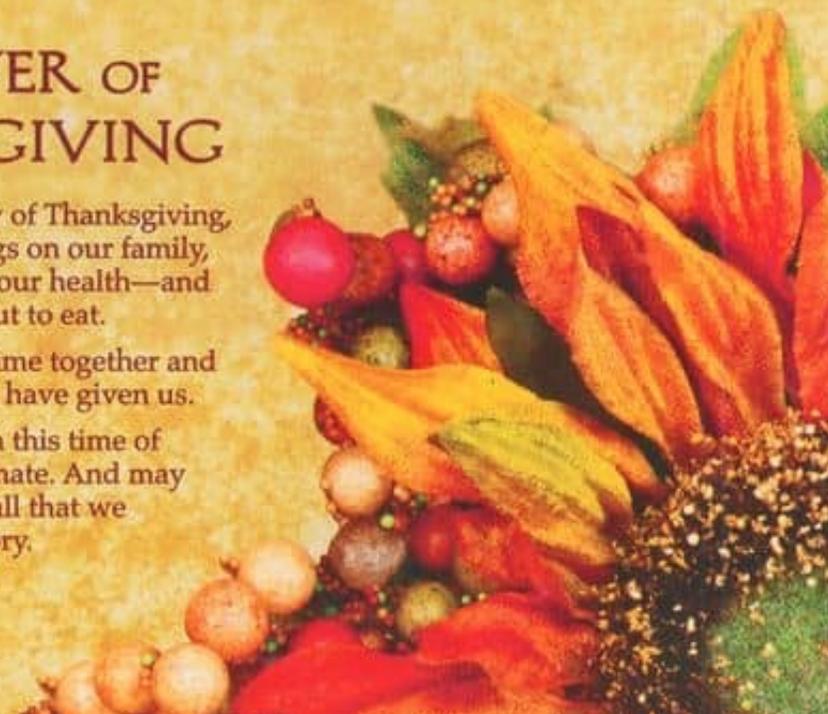
A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Lord God, on this day of Thanksgiving,
We ask your blessings on our family,
our friends, our home, our health—and
on the food we are about to eat.

We thank you for this time together and
the many gifts that you have given us.

Help us to remember in this time of
bounty those less fortunate. And may
your love consume us all that we
might share in your glory.

Amen.





SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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