



# The Beacon Online

December 15, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 49

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

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## **The Way Community Christmas Event Columbia, IL**

On Wednesday, December 6, The Way Church hosted their first Community Christmas event where they celebrated the Reason for the Season with Christmas carols, fire pits and s'mores, hot cocoa and hot apple cider, outdoor games, a keepsake Name of Jesus ornament, and an opportunity to serve others by sending a Christmas card to residents of Mason Pointe Retirement Community.



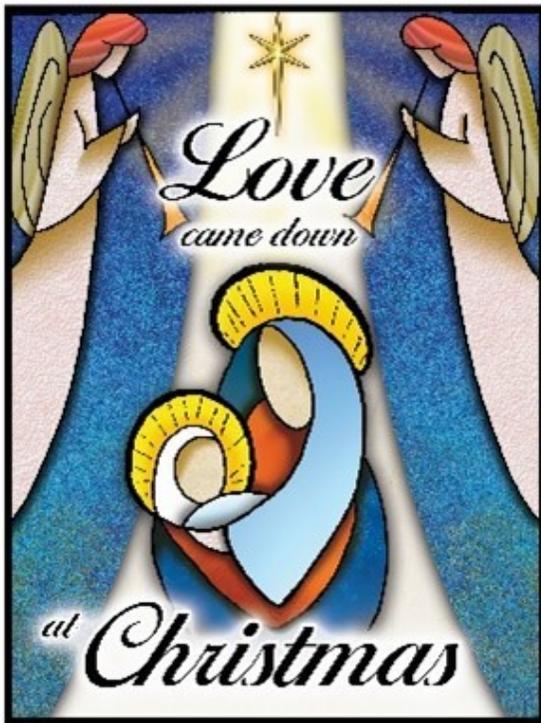


## Vicarage and Seminary Student Call Documents deadline is Set

The deadline for all **vicarage and call docs for Spring 2024** placements must be sent to the District Office no later than **February 23, 2024** so we can be sure to meet the Synod deadlines. If you need assistance or access to complete the call documents for a Vicar or Seminary graduate, please contact the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or 610-965-3265, press 6.



## The 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran Haven Christmas Seal Outreach has Begun!



Two years ago, Lutheran Haven celebrated the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Christmas Seals outreach. This year, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Lutheran Haven as an organization! While the two anniversaries are separated by a couple of years, their histories are intertwined. It was through our Christmas Seals outreach that we were able to raise the funds necessary to bring to life the vision of Mr. Andrew Duda, Sr. for starting a haven for retired Lutheran pastors and children in need.

This year's featured artist for our 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Seal is resident, Jeanne Thierfelder! Her design, titled, "Love came down at Christmas" is reminiscent of the stained-glass art she designed for various churches that she and her husband, Rev. David Thierfelder served prior to coming to Lutheran Haven.

The Seals tradition continues to live on 77 years later, and proceeds from the gifts received, benefit the benevolent care fund which provides for those in need. **There have been many people who have benefited from this vital fund over the years because of your faithful support!** By supporting this outreach, you become a vital part of Lutheran Haven's mission!

Please accept our deepest thanks. You are so very appreciated! If you would like more information, please contact Mary Ann at the Lutheran Haven Foundation at 407-706-1281. If you would like to give to our Christmas Seals campaign, please make your check payable to:

The Lutheran Haven Foundation  
2041 West State Rd 426  
Oviedo, FL 32765

*Have a blessed Christmas this joyous season!*



## Submit Your District Mission Goal Today

Your offerings support the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world

As you congregation sets its mission goal to support the work of the district and Synod, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible, but before January 15, 2024. Here are three easy ways to do so:

- Online at [this link](#).
- Email Stewardship Committee member Rev. Bill Hale at [william.e.hale@gmail.com](mailto:william.e.hale@gmail.com) with the amount per month or year.
- If you can find it, *mail* the form sent to your congregation in October to the address indicated.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bill Hale at the above email or Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Chair at [markclarson0341@gmail.com](mailto:markclarson0341@gmail.com). We value your partnership in the Gospel and look forward to another year of proclaiming the saving message of Christ to a lost and hurting world.



## Beacon Publication through the Christmas Season

The Beacon will be published on December 22, 2023 and then resume publication January 5, 2024. The District Office will be closed from December 23 through January 2, 2024. If you need assistance during this time, please call Patti Smith at 610-392-4927 or email the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com).





## Lutheran Education Opportunity Center



### CHECK IT OUT



Lutheran  
Education  
Opportunity  
Center

What is Lutheran Education  
Opportunity Center?

LEOC is an online tool used to post opportunities related to Lutheran education worldwide and to provide a place where individuals can look for opportunities and post resumes.

Check out the possibilities at <https://leoc.lea.org/>

*Merry Christmas*

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, we are humbly reminded that God's love is unending and His mercy endures forever. God's richest blessings to you and yours.



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
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## 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 as he is working and continuing to regain 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 Please continue to pray for her healing, pain relief, and recovery from this surgery.

**Rev. Dennis Rhoads** in Virginia who is serving as the Vacancy Pastor for St. John Lutheran Church in Emporia, VA. He fell and broke both bones in his lower leg and is recovering from surgery.

**Amanda Baumann** in Mount Dora, FL, is Pastor Jacob Baumann's wife. She is pregnant with their fourth child. Please pray for a healthy and safe pregnancy.

In our District we have many who are serving our district in many ways. Please include them in your prayers as they serve the District.

**Rev. Daniel Berteau, Lutheran Haven SELC Eastern Circuit Representative**

**The SELC LWML Leadership**

*Thank you to everyone for 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.

## LCEF Offers a 6.25% Note

Did you know your investment can have a bigger impact this season with Lutheran Church Extension Fund? Our new, limited-time, six-and-a-quarter term note empowers you to grow your savings while strengthening, sustaining, and starting Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries. This is for new money, with a minimum of \$500 to open an account. And that is what truly sets us apart – your investment with LCEF directly supports LCMS ministries through this 2.5 year term note. Visit [lcef.org/invest](https://lcef.org/invest) to open an account today and earn a solid 6.25% return as you help build a brighter future for LCMS ministries.



**6.25% APR**

2½ year fixed-rate term note  
Limited-time offer

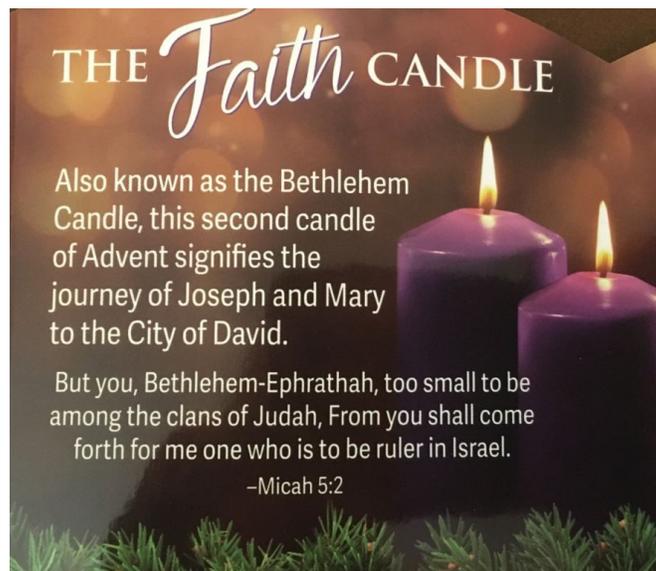
This limited-time offer is available for LCMS:

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Minimum \$500 to invest. New money only. Available as an IRA. New money supports new lending. New lending means more ministry is happening.

APPLY ONLINE AT [LCEF.ORG/INVESTTODAY](https://lcef.org/investtoday) OR CALL 800-843-5233.

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. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA program. Rates as of November 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](https://lcef.org) for details.



**THE Faith CANDLE**

Also known as the Bethlehem Candle, this second candle of Advent signifies the journey of Joseph and Mary to the City of David.

But you, Bethlehem-Ephrathah, too small to be among the clans of Judah, From you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel.

—Micah 5:2



## Mark Your Calendars

**January 18, 2024 at 9:30 AM Eastern** - LWML Monthly Bible Study

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

## Lutheran Summer Music Announces its Musical Advent Calendar

Since the nineteenth century, households and congregations have marked the days before Christmastide with many kinds of Advent calendars. The season of waiting and longing for the “already-but-not-yet” incarnation of Jesus unfolds amidst waning daylight in the Northern Hemisphere, a time of yearning for hope, joy, and peace.

Join Lutheran Summer Music, December 3-24, for our third-annual Musical Advent Calendar—a daily moment of music and reflection on our [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) pages as well as archived on our website: [LSMacademy.org/acal](https://LSMacademy.org/acal)





# "A HYMN FOR ADVENT 4"

(Summary of the Advent Season)

Rev. John Telloni

Rev. John Telloni, Senior Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio is sharing a hymn he wrote for Advent. The Text: John L. Telloni, Copyright @ 2003. Tune: HAF TRONES LAMPA FARDIG (Public Domain), accompaniment can be found in LSB 515.

## "The Light," Said John the Baptist

John L. Telloni



1. "The Light," said John the Bap - tist, "Is com - ing to the earth. He  
 2. "Pre - pare the way be - fore Him, the roy - al path - way straight," The  
 3. The ang - el greet - ed Ma - ry With God's a - maz - ing Word That  
 4. Then Ma - ry sang a love song, "My soul is filled with joy, For  
 5. Come wor - ship, Ad - vent her - alds, And praise the Ad - vent King Who



will dis - pel the dark - ness So there can be new birth." But  
 voice cries from the de - sert, "The hour is get - ting late!" He  
 she would birth the Sav - ior. And then he re - as - sured, "Your  
 God my Sav - ior's mer - cy, His pow'r for us em - ployed. He/has  
 comes to grant His bles - sings And crush death's aw - ful sting. His



John was not the true light - He came to tes - ti - fy That  
 bap - tized in the Jor - dan As folks con - fessed their sin. He  
 Son will be both ho - ly And great - est of them all." She  
 lift - ed up the low - ly And hum - bled rich and proud. He  
 Word has awe - some pow - er To hum - ble and to save. Re -



all may come to know Christ And live no more to die.  
 point - ed to the Sav - ior Who will sal - va - tion win.  
 said, "I am God's ser - vant. His will is my life's call."  
 helps His ser - vant Is - rael As He had once a - vowed."  
 pent and trust the Gos - pel And live the hope Christ gave!



**SELC District - A District Without Borders**  
***Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing  
Everyone Love in Christ***

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