



# The Beacon Online

December 22, 2023 / Vol. 4 / No. 50

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/beacon](http://selc.lcms.org/beacon) Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



## Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

Pastor Lepley, who serves the SELC as LCEF District Vice President, is releasing a daily devotional podcast for those who would like to listen or journal through the Bible over the next two years. You can listen to pre-release episodes, including the Christmas story according to Matthew, at [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com). If you subscribe to the podcast, you will get updates as new episodes drop. Two new episodes will be released each week in December, with three new testament and six old testament episodes dropping each week beginning in January. Thanks for listening!

The link to learn more about the Family Bible Journey is [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com)



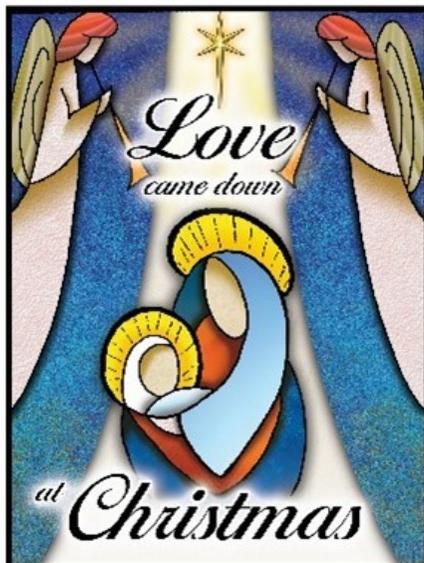


## Vicarage and Seminary Student Call Documents deadline is Set

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 75<sup>th</sup> 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 3276

*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 your 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 resume publication on 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/>



## Israel Trip Bible Study Session January 8, 2024

The January session Bible Study for the Israel trip is scheduled for January 8, 2024 at 8:00 PM Eastern. The topic of January's session is Upper Jordan.

The link to the Zoom session is <https://lcef.zoom.us/j/83541843549>



### 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.

*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

**6.25% APR**

2½ year fixed-rate term note  
Limited-time offer

This limited-time offer is available for LCMS:

- Individuals
- Congregations
- Organizations
- Businesses

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.

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.



## Mark Your Calendars

**January 8, 2024** - Zoom Session 8:00 PM Eastern Time

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

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



# "A Hymn For Advent 4"

(Summary of the Advent Season)

Rev. John Telloni

Rev. John Telloni is sharing this hymn he wrote with the District. 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



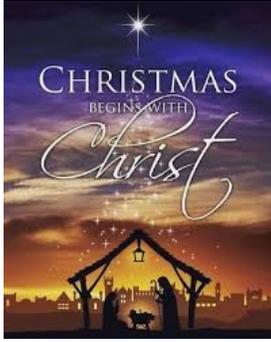
will dis - pel the dark - ness So there can be new birth." But  
 voice cries from the de - sert, "The hour is get - ting late!" He  
 she would birth the Sav - ior. And then he re - as - sured, "Your  
 God my Sav - ior's mer - cy, His pow'r for us em - ployed. He/has  
 comes to grant His bles - sings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



## **Closing Thoughts**

### **Christ, the Lord, to US Is Born!**

Rev. Kenneth Ballas. EM

*Sing or Read December 24 or 25 or Whenever You Want to Share the Joy of the Birth of Jesus*

Translated in part by sainted SELC Pastor John Bajus is the following jubilant 15<sup>th</sup> C. Bohemian/Slovak carol "Narodil se Kristus Pan" aka "Let Our Gladness Have No End."

**C**hrist, the Lord, to us is born, Hallelujah!  
On this joyous Christmas morn, Hallelujah!  
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

**P**rophesied in days of old, Hallelujah!  
God has sent Him as foretold, Hallelujah!  
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

**O**ur poor human form He took, Hallelujah!  
Realms of heaven He forsook, Hallelujah!  
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

**P**rostrate lies the Evil One, Hallelujah!  
God has saved us through His Son, Hallelujah!  
Of a virgin lowly, He, the King most holy,  
Born this day to save us.

**G**race divine, be with us still, Hallelujah!  
Keep us from all harm and ill, Hallelujah!  
For the sake of Jesus, who from sin now saves us,  
Grant to us Thy mercy.

**G**rant us, Lord, a blessed end, Hallelujah!  
To our souls Thy comfort send, Hallelujah!  
Come to us, dear Jesus, Born this day to save us,  
Bless us all forever.

We wish all a truly blessed **CHRIST**mas!



**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!