



# The Beacon Online

January 26, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 4

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

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## Call for LWML Nominations Nominations due February 15, 2024

The Nomination deadline for the 2024 LWML SELC District Convention in Macungie, Pennsylvania is February 15, 2024.

The District Officers to be elected are:

President Vice President Secretary Nominating Committee (3 – 1 from each Zone)

The Nomination Form and Instructions may be found at this link - <https://selc.lcms.org/lwml-documents/>

The Nomination deadline for the 2024 LWML SELC District Convention in Macungie, Pennsylvania is **February 15, 2024**.

Please be sure to send in your 2024 Nomination Form to:

Carol A. Miksad  
2024 Nomination Committee Chair  
307 Seton Hall Court  
Valley Park, Missouri 63088-2318  
Or email your form to her at:  
[camiksad@aol.com](mailto:camiksad@aol.com)  
(609) 412-4168



## **Please Note New Sending Address for the Beacon Online**

The sending address from which the Beacon Online and other communications sent through Constant Contact will now be from the following email address - [SELCOffice@selcdistrictoflcms.ccsend.com](mailto:SELCOffice@selcdistrictoflcms.ccsend.com)

**Please be sure to add this email address to your safe senders list - Thank you!**



## **Holy Trinity and Grace Lutheran Churches Form a Dual Parish Rev. John Milligan called to serve the Dual Parish**

Installation scheduled for February 3, 2024

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio and Grace Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Ohio have formed a dual parish. They voted to call Rev. John Milligan to serve both parishes. Pastor Milligan will be installed at Grace Lakewood on Saturday, February 3rd at 10 AM. LCMS Clergy are asked to wear red vestments.

A reception will follow. Please RSVP to Vicki at Grace Lutheran by emailing her at [graceluthlake1@att.net](mailto:graceluthlake1@att.net) or call her at 216-221-4959 by **January 29, 2024**.

You are cordially invited to attend the installation of  
**Rev. John W. Milligan**  
as the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio  
and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Parma, Ohio  
on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 a.m.

The Installation Service will be held at  
Grace Lutheran Church  
13030 Madison Avenue  
Lakewood, Ohio 44107

There will be a reception immediately following the service.  
We are asking that you if are planning to attend,  
please RSVP to Grace Lutheran Church at 216-221-4959 or email  
**[graceluthlake1@att.net](mailto:graceluthlake1@att.net)** by January 29th



## Rev. Brady Retzlaff to be Installed at Pentecost Lutheran Church on February 4, 2024

Pastor Brady Retzlaff will be installed as the Pastor at Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisconsin on February 4, 2024 at 2 pm. A reception will immediately follow the service. LCMS clergy are asked to wear red vestments.



## Vicarage and Seminary Student Call Documents deadline is Set

Deadline to submit to the District Office is  
February 23, 2024

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.



## National Lutheran Schools Week January 21 - 27, 2024

The theme for this year's week is connected. National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The schools in the Synod touch over 180,000 students, families and their communities and share the message of Jesus' love with them.

The Bible verse for this year's Lutheran Schools Week is John 15:1 - 5. I am the vine

***"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing".***

Please send us write-ups and pictures about how your schools celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week! Please email them to [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com).

Pictured below is the sign that welcomed preschool students and their families at Faith Viera Lutheran Church in Viera, FL



## Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

How do you feel when cheaters win? Listen to the Family Bible Journey podcast to hear how the family dynamics of the patriarchs are alive and well today. You can listen to the episode, "When Cheaters Win" at [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com) or on your favorite podcast app.

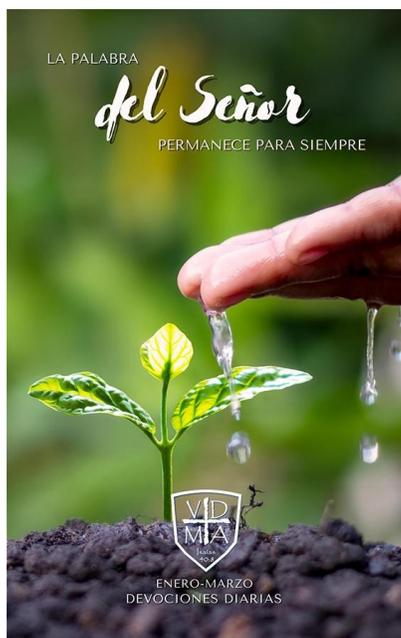
If you'd like to listen to the podcast, check out [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com) or scan the QR code on the right.

*Thanks for listening!*



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.

## New Free Resource from Lutheran Heritage Foundation



**Daily Lutheran devotions for Spanish-speakers!** *La Palabra del Señor Permanece Para Siempre* ("The Word of the Lord Endures Forever") is now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation at <https://pubsearch.lhfmissions.org/>. From the link, search by language or title to download the most recent edition. These quarterly collections of devotions are written by LCMS Latin American missionaries and by pastors of LCMS Latin American partner churches.



## Prayer Requests

**Rev. Brian Roberts**, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is continuing to gain weight and his energy level continues to increase. 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. 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.

**Rev. Dennis Rhoads** in Virginia who is serving as the Vacancy Pastor for St. John Lutheran Church in Emporia, VA. He is recovering from surgery and cannot put weight on his leg yet. Please pray for his continued healing and recovery.

**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.

**Laura Bergmann**, in Munster, IN, please pray for relief of her pain in her hands, feet, back, and legs.

*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.*



**LCMS LUTHERANS  
YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS.**

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> where investments build ministry

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.



## Mark Your Calendars

**February 16-17, 2024** - Higher Things Conference for Youth Pittsburgh, PA

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



## SELC Board of Directors

The SELC Board of Directors met at Faith Viera Church in Rockledge, Florida earlier this week. Thank you to Pastor Troy Countryman and Julie Deal for hosting the Board at Faith!

SELC Board member Rev. Ron Meyr and his wife hosted a dinner for the Board and guests. Betty Hoyer was also on hand to help Pam Meyr prepare the delicious meal. Several guests were able to join the Board at the dinner which was a real treat.



The Board also celebrated the LCEF District Vice President Dan Lepley's birthday at the dinner. Wishing you a happy and blessed year, Dan!





## Closing Thoughts

### Prisoners Supported by a Loving God and Church

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

**“Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.”** (Hebrews 12:3)

January 25 commemorates the conversion of Saul of Tarsus, fearsome persecutor of Christ's fledgling 1<sup>st</sup> century Church. Solely by the grace of God, the riveting account of this now enlightened and forgiven servant-apostle, St. Paul, whose remarkable transformation and unmatched devotion to his once crucified yet ever-living Lord as unparalleled Gospel missionary is told no fewer than three times by evangelist, some time companion and fellow co-worker, Dr. Luke. (Do yourself a “spiritual favor” by opening your Bible of choice to Acts chapters 9, 22 and 26. Highly recommended as one of many soul-stirring English versions of what may also be regarded as that “beloved physician's second letter to Theophilus” is J. B. Phillips' *The Young Church in Action*).

Sunday School stories about our merciful God's \*providential presence with captive OT patriarch, Joseph, sold by his brothers into Egyptian slavery or the prophet, Daniel, thrown into a den of lions or the three (actually four) men in the fiery furnace, while in this year of our Lord 2024 countless fellow-believers are increasingly innocently imprisoned or otherwise persecuted because of their unrelenting faithful witness to our more than equally relentlessly loving Lord.

Surprising to some perhaps is the fact that in that same Book of Acts the *post-ascended* Lord's apostle Paul was a prisoner for the sake of Christ's Gospel during more than one-fourth of the length of that dramatic inspired writing. Knowing that our sinless Brother-Savior could never be separated from the rest of His body, His blood-bought Church, our blessed Lord Jesus allowed Himself to be bound between Gethsemane and Golgotha *hours* before His innocent self-giving, sacrificial death on the cross as He, too, (surprisingly to some) was “in prison” along with His martyred witnessing children of every age and place.

In interceding for others including the global persecuted church, it is certainly also most appropriate that we pray for our own apparently increasingly godless nation!

***Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!***

(Additional biblical basis for the foregoing statements includes \*Esther 4:14; Matthew 25:31ff.; John 1:29; 3:16f.; 10:17f.; 18:1ff.; Acts 9:3; 21:10ff.; 1 Corinthians 15:9f.; 1 Timothy 1:15; Hebrews 2).



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

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