



# The Beacon Online

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

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## Rev. Brady Retzlaff Pentecost Lutheran Church Racine, Wisconsin Part Two Joyce Hasko



Pictured below are Pastor Retzlaff's grandparents on the left - both in their 90s! Pastor's parents are on the right and Marissa's Mom next to her on the left and Dad on the right.

What a beautiful day we had for February in Wisconsin - sunny and temperature in the 40s! A wonderful day to celebrate the installation of Pastor Brady Retzlaff!

One of the hymns for the installation service, "*Pastor Appreciation Song*", was written by Diane Kosmala especially for Pastor Brady, during Pastor Appreciation Month. She wrote it to the melody of "Lord of Glory" and started with "Lord of glory, you have blessed us with the Pastor of Your choice!"

The choir song, "Love Grows Here", is a longtime favorite of Pentecost, used in the installation of some of our pastors and the ordination of Pastor Tom Konz (Spiritual son of Pentecost who is pictured in the Pastors pictured below). Since Pastor Brady is an avid Packer fan

and their quarterback's last name is Love, he was given a Love jersey.

Pictured below are some of the musicians who participated in the service (in the loft), as well as the acolytes. Musicians included: trumpets - Tom and Dan Hasko (Dan played baritone on some hymns) and Scott Hensel; trombone - Shyann Christensen; clarinets - Tim Hasko and Sofia Luem and flute-Jenna King. Karli Luchterhand played the piano pre-service and I played the organ for the service. Acolytes in the picture are Deacon Jacob and Lenox Barron, cross bearer was Isabella Lisowski and banner Cullen Lisowski.

The banner was made by Sharon Boehme who has made many beautiful Pentecost banners.



Pictured below, front row left to right: Rev. Wally Vinovskis (President SELC District), Rev. Brady Retzlaff, Rev. Ramirez SELC 3rd Vice President, and Rev. DeVries (Cudahy)

Back row left to right: Rev. Muther (Burlington), Rev. Lockie (Prince of Peace), Rev. Konz (Spiritual Son of Pentecost), Rev. Grabenhofer (Faith), and Rev. Gehne (Trinity)



## Annual Congregational Statistics due March 31, 2024

It is time to submit your congregation's end-of-year statistics and update your current list of lay leaders. Up-to-date statistical information is essential for the Synod as it plans current and future ministry efforts. Such information is also critical for determining proper voting representation at conventions.

The lay leader list is used to send copies of the *REPORTER* and other LCMS ministry related mailings to congregation leaders. The *REPORTER* is sent, free of charge, to all Congregational Chairmen and Board of Elders Chairmen each month and will be sent to the other congregation leaders as funding permits. **Emails for lay leaders will be increasingly important as channels for critical convention communications.**

The **deadline for congregation statistics and lay leaders** is March 31, 2024, you may also review your congregation's profile and lay leader information anytime throughout the year to make sure your contact information, service times, and other important data are current.



## Israel Trip Postponed

Pastor Dan Lepley, SELC LCEF DVP, who was leading the announced that the Israel tour has been postponed to June 4, 2025.

If you are interested in going to Israel in 2025, email him at [pastorlepley@gmail.com](mailto:pastorlepley@gmail.com).

Please continue to pray for peace and justice in and around Israel.



## Ministry at Work at Ascension Lutheran Church Montreal

Ascension, Montreal set some ambitious ministry goals for 2024, and the Lord is working hard through us to share his Gospel and show his mercy. Our congregation is halfway through our first 2024 term of English outreach classes, with several dozen attending our beginning, intermediate and advanced classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We also hosted our first open house of the year on fire safety - a real issue in our neighbourhood. We had about sixty in attendance. The fire services people who came - including the firefighter who normally inspects our building - were truly grateful for the opportunity and want to come back soon. We also took four of our college students to the (very soggy) winter carnival in Quebec City for a day of ice sculptures, ice wall climbing, and less-than-icy fellowship!



Pictured above is Pastor Charles St-Onge with some of the attendees at their English outreach classes.



Pictured above are members of the beginning English classes,

Pictured below is the group at the college carnival



Pictured below are four of the Ascension college students at the Winter carnival.



## Disaster Relief Training Day

Join your fellow Disaster Relief volunteers for a day of training and fellowship on Saturday, March 9 at Camp Cedarkirk in Lithia FL. This day will include the basic LERT training class as well as chainsaw training, Bobcat skid steer training and disaster relief medical training. Visit [LCMS-LERT.org](http://LCMS-LERT.org) or [FGLER.org](http://FGLER.org) to register or for more information.



## Concordia Lutheran Church Celebrates Boy Scout Sunday

Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA celebrated Boy Scout Sunday on February 11, 2024. Pictured below is Pastor Vinovskis with some of the Boy Scouts and their leaders who meet at Concordia. Four of the scouts participated in the service by leading the Scout Litany. The Litany is based on the Scout law.





## Honduras Mission Update February 9 - 12, 2024

The Honduras FORO is a group of partnering congregations working together with the Office of International Mission to develop ministry opportunities. St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL; Faith Lutheran Church, Viera, FL; Christ Lutheran Church, Perry, GA; and Our Father Lutheran Church, Centennial, CO are the four primary congregations involved in this venture.

A process was begun five+ years ago to attain legal status for the Misión Evangélica Luterana Confesional en Honduras. Navigating the bureaucracy of the Honduran government is an ongoing challenge. However, we are hopeful to achieve this status in the near future.

In the meantime the work of extending God's kingdom is happening at three mission sites. Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in LaPaz, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Comayaguela, and a yet to be named mission location in Choluteca. We have one missionary serving full time in LaPaz and another missionary from Nicaragua leading worship in Choluteca twice a month.

In addition Rev. Ed and Deaconess Cherie Auger have been in Honduras for over a month doing diaconal training for three women from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Comayaguela. We are also hoping to train two men from Good Shepherd to become pastors through the distance education program offered through the Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic.



Pictured on previous page and below are FORO members with some of the congregation at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Comayaguela. Pastor Wally Arp and Pastor Tige Culbertson from St. Luke Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Florida were part of the team that travelled to Honduras.



## **'The Ashes Go on Singing' Hymn Festival set for February 18, 2024**

### **Celebrating Five Centuries of Martin Luther's Hymns**

**"The Ashes Go on Singing"—A Hymn Festival on the Hymns of Martin Luther**, a very special event to celebrate hymns written by Martin Luther, is set for 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18, in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. This festival of song and sound will be led by the musical forces of the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale; **Laudamus**; and an orchestra of brass, strings, woodwinds and organ. Peter Reske, senior editor of music/worship at Concordia Publishing House, will provide narration. This event follows the annual **Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop** the previous day.

"When Martin Luther wrote his first hymns exactly 500 years ago, he set off a hymn writing explosion that hasn't stopped since," said Dean of Chapel and Associate Professor of Practical Theology **Dr. Jon Vieker**. "Luther's hymns have proclaimed the Reformation Gospel into the hearts and minds of millions, and so we today continue to sing that same precious Gospel, to all the world!"

This event is offered as part of the **Concordia Seminary Concert Series**, which encompasses hymn festivals, services of sacred music and concerts. This year's hymn festivals follow the season of the church year.

"The Ashes Go on Singing" hymn festival is free and open to the public, and also is available via livestream at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live).



## 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.

If you are planning to send in a Vicarage or Seminary graduate application, please let the District Office know.



## Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

If you'd like to listen to the podcasts, 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.



## Two Visitation Events set for Spring, Summer

**Prospective students encouraged to attend**

Discerning the tug to ministry and making the decision to attend seminary can be challenging. **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** aims to help prospective students contemplate these important decisions with two visitation events set for this spring and summer: **Vocatio: Retreat** and **Vocatio: High School**.

College students and second-career men and women can learn more about the path to full-time service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain during **Vocatio: Retreat** scheduled for April 14-16. **Registration** closes March 29. The event is free. Visit [csl.edu/vocation-retreat](http://csl.edu/vocation-retreat) to learn more.

"Vocatio: Retreat is a great opportunity for those who are interested in ministry to rest in God's Word, enjoy the fellowship of others and see what life as a member of the Seminary community is like," said **Rev. Tom Schlund**, admissions officer. "Participants worship in chapel, visit class, learn about the process of becoming a student and have

the time to ask questions.”

High school men and women entering grades ninth through 12th can explore God’s calling and direction for them during **Vocatio: High School**, slated for June 22-29. **Registration** closes May 24. The registration fee is \$100 per participant. Learn more at [csl.edu/vocatio](http://csl.edu/vocatio).

“We look forward to building relationships with our young brothers and sisters in Christ this summer during Vocatio: High School,” said **Rev. Micah Glenn**, director of recruitment. “We thank God for the opportunity to show them how they are a much-needed part of the church.”

In addition to Vocatio: High School and Vocatio: Retreat, individual visits also can be scheduled and are highly encouraged for those considering attending the Seminary. For more information, call 800-822-9545, write to [admit@csl.edu](mailto:admit@csl.edu) or visit [csl.edu/admissions](http://csl.edu/admissions).



## Prayer Requests

**Rev. Brian Roberts**, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is experiencing some challenges gaining weight. Please pray for him and his caregivers as they formulate a plan of care.

**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.

**Rev. Carl Krueger**, currently in Florida for the winter, is hospitalized. Please pray for his treatment and his recovery.

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

**February 18, 2024** - The Ashes Go on Singing Hymn Festival

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



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

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

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