



The Beacon Online

March 15, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 11

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

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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.



St. John's Lutheran Church Hazleton, PA

Just when they thought their Lententide was busy, having doubled their services in anticipation of Easter, as usual, St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, PA has ramped up their efforts from warp speed to ludicrous speed, looking at five baptisms (Including Lydia Rose Naumann, Pastor Naumann's eighth child), in these last couple months, to serving a community luncheon Palm Sunday Eve, after which they will be offering an additional divine service (now every month). See the family photo below and *congratulations to the Naumann family!!*

Their youth will also travel up to Scranton and participate in Immanuel Lutheran Church's Braille Bonanza, where LBW representatives came up and made a day of it. How fascinating it is to see how books are put together for the blind, from the numbering of pages, to being punched, to being given unique plates and then pressed through a machine and then collated into a binding; what a privilege to serve in this way and know that more people will be able to read scripture in the only way they can. It is humbling and exciting at the same time to be a part of this mission. Thanks, again, to Pastor J. Zimmerman, and the Eastern District, for setting that up! Then, it's back to advertising holy week for the community, getting those bilingual banners up and handing out as many leaflets to our neighbors as we can. Speaking of which, may we take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter from our little corner of PA!

Christ is Risen!





Pictured above is a member putting up the bilingual signage for Holy Week services

Pictured below are members working on the Braille Bonanza



Ysleta Lutheran Mission

Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) is a faith-based, 501c(3), non-profit organization that provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions on the U.S./Mexico border (El Paso/Juarez region). YLM provides aid and ministry services that benefit the lives of thousands of people every year. YLM began its work in El Paso and Northern Mexico in 1982 and was formally incorporated in 2005. YLM is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS.

Ysleta focuses on eight areas in their ministry and they are incorporated in their 2024 goals. The final two goals include:

- Faithful and transparent stewardship of resources, maximizing the impact of the donations they receive and ensuring accountability to their supporters.
- Goal-reaching effective communications to convey the mission, goals, and impact. They work to foster deeper connections with supporters and the community.

VISION

We labor to see on both sides of the U.S./Mexico border..

God's people working together,
providing relief to the suffering,
encouraging and equipping missions,
instilling health and opportunity,
and reaching the spiritually lost with
the Good News of Jesus Christ.

MISSION

"Changing lives every day through simple acts of kindness"

<https://ylm.org/>

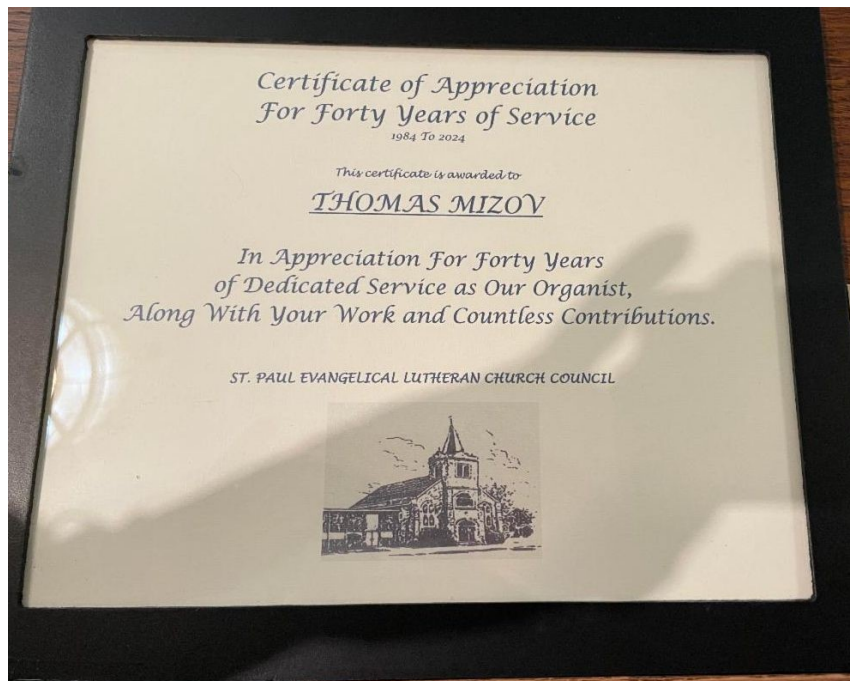




St. Paul Lutheran Church Celebrates their Organist's 40th Anniversary

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Raritan, New Jersey celebrated Organist Tom Mizov and his 40th Anniversary of serving the Church.

Pictured below from left to right are: Geri Stapleton, Tom Mizov, Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik, and Jerry Sanseverino





Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne Call Day Announced

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is looking forward to assignment and call services in late April. Details for both services are below. We appreciate your help in sharing this information with congregations in your district.

Vicarage and Deaconess Internship Assignment Service, Tuesday, April 23, 7 p.m.

Candidate Call Service, Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m.

Both services will be available via live-stream from Kramer Chapel.

Visit our Call Day 2024 webpage for live-stream access, placement lists, and photos as they become available at ctsfw.edu/callday.



Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

Do you have true grit? Learn the blessings of being faithful during times of affliction.

[https://
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If you'd like to listen to the podcasts, check out familybiblejourney.com or scan the QR code on the right.

Thanks for listening!



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



LWML SELC Monthly Bible Study

The monthly Bible Study session will be held on Thursday, March 21st at 10:30 AM Eastern. The topic is from the Winter issue of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly entitled "What is Your Treasure".

The link to join the zoom session is

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?wd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>

Remember to check the LWML SELC website for updates at
<https://lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com/>



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. Alan Mercer in Galloway, NJ for his ongoing health struggles.

Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL Please continue to pray for her and her doctors to find pain relief solutions for her jaw pain and severe headaches following her surgery.

Amanda Baumann in Mount Dora, FL, is Pastor Jacob Baumann's wife. She is pregnant with their fourth child. Please pray for a continued 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 or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.

SHARED INTEREST PROGRAM

Donate your Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investment interest to a ministry close to your heart.

Your investment in LCEF is already helping ministries through low-cost loans and ministry solution programs for LCMS organizations and Rostered Church Workers (RCWs).

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Mark Your Calendars

March 21, 2024 - LWML SELC Monthly Zoom Bible study

April 23, 2024 - Call day at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis

April 24, 2024 - Call day at Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne

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



Closing Thoughts

Faithful in Little Things

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

“Whoever is faithful in seemingly smaller matters will also be faithful in larger ones”
(Luke 16:10)

Peering out of our kitchen window at a wide assortment of God's birds and other members of the Creator's animal kingdom (our newest neighbors even have chickens and three goats!), we see people strolling or jogging back and forth in front of our suburban home. A fellow senior citizen briskly walking his beautiful equally well conditioned reddish Irish setter (Happy St. Patrick's Day!), young couples pushing baby buggies with their precious little ones, individuals or entire families with dogs of every description, bicycles, tricycles, a veritable parade of folks getting some fresh air and wholesome physical exercise.

Recalling sainted Martin Franzmann's upbeat poetic verse reminding us all to reflect on the thought that who are we to think that once youth is past that God has no *further gifts* to give. I live with an ever-decreasing degree of remorse over seeming limitations often associated with the earthly aging process actually rejoicing to watch the freedom of motion of neighbors or amazing Olympic athletes or even the Creator's acrobatic squirrels. Also, memories of being able to grow up working on a farm, moving freely over wooded nature trails throughout His beautiful world including enjoying the sport of golf (which Mark Twain called “a good walk spoiled!”). Overall in recent years my dear Lois and I have experienced an abundance of angelic protection from Him who “never slumbers or sleeps” (see Psalm 121). All of which reminds me of yet another beloved hymn!

*Let us **ever walk with Jesus**, Follow His example pure
Flee the world, which would deceive us, And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading, Body here yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love,
Let us do the Father's bidding, Faithful Lord, abide with me;
Savior lead, I follow Thee. . . .*

*Let us gladly **live with Jesus**; Since He's **risen from the dead**,
Death and grave must soon release us, Jesus, Thou art now our Head.
We are truly Thine own members; where Thou livest, there live we,
Take and own us constantly,
Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren, Jesus, here I live to Thee,
Also there **eternally. Amen.** (Hymn 409, TLH)*





SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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