



# The Beacon Online

March 22, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 12

## **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.



## Helpful Ideas for Your Church's Website

As you are creating content on websites for Holy Week and Easter, here are some tips, shared by Pastor Kurt Steinbrueck of Faith, Wesley Chapel, Florida.

- Give the important details up front - Make it easy for people to find the information they are looking for if they've already decided to come and are just looking for the details like time, location, etc.
- Use pictures - People are very visual today. The younger generation has a saying, if you don't have pictures, it didn't happen. It's good to use pictures on web pages, especially pictures with smiling facings.
- Talk about benefits - Why should someone attend St. Lucas? People are best convinced when they understand how something will affect them in a positive way. What benefits will they have from coming? These could be things like, they'll be inspired, their kids will have a great time, they'll find friends, they'll grow in the faith, etc. These are just examples, but the idea is to think about why someone would want to come and express that.
- Speak about the visitor - Many organizations talk about themselves (our church does this, we believe that, etc.). However, the reality is that a person visiting a site really cares about themselves and their family, not the organization. So, it's good to talk about the visitor and what their experience will be. This would be things like, "Your kids are going to love running around the front church grounds hunting for Easter eggs...and they'll love the candy inside!" or "You'll be inspired and your faith strengthened by the beautiful music and relevant message." or "From the moment you arrive, you'll feel like your home with great friends."

These guidelines are appropriate for pretty much any page on a website and can result a better responses from your audience.



[Lutherwoman.com](http://Lutherwoman.com)

### **An online resource for Women in their 20s - 40s**

This life... it is exhilarating and it is excruciating. It is sweet and it is bitter. It is joyful and it is sorrowful.

Our faith in God is our firm foundation.

*Psalm 54:4 says: Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life.*

*Isaiah 41:9-10 says: "You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off"; fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

*Psalm 37:23-24 says: The steps of a man are established by the Lord, when he*

*delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the Lord upholds his hand.*

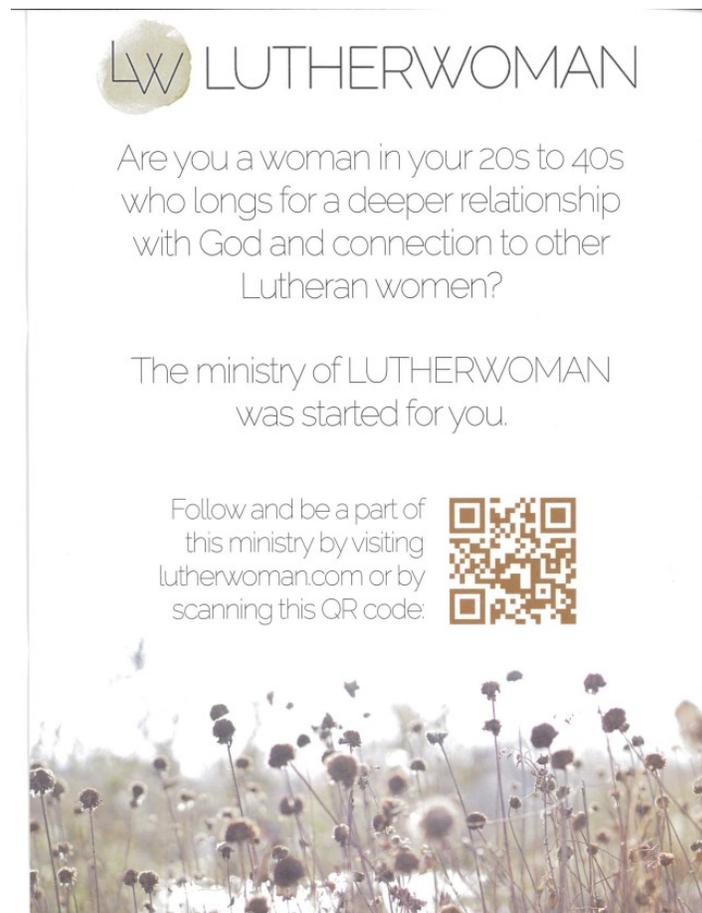
Do you believe it? Do you believe that God will do what He says He will do? He is your upholder.

God wants you to trust Him through all of it. He wants you to go to Him first. He wants to be your number one. He is the only one who will never leave or forsake you. You can believe that.

LUTHERWOMAN exists to help you know that. We are here to help you move forward in your faith, to come to that place where you depend on God for everything. God uses each of us to help others, and that is why we are here... sharing our stories and letting you peek into our lives and how God has upheld us, because that is what we as women should do... support and encourage one another in the faith. And we want to show you real. Our real lives. Our real struggles. Our real every day. And not because you should like us, but because we want you to see that the Lutheran women around you, in your church, are also real. Our hope is that you can connect to the women in your church in a deeper way.

We know that you are busy. You are in the prime of your life with a thousand things to do. It is difficult, on the daily, to give time to your relationship with God. And because you are busy, we think you might be able to find a few minutes to get online and get deeper with God and connect with us here.

Below is a flyer that has a QR code to scan for more information. If you would like to be mailed a copy of the flyer, please contact the District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or call 610-965-3265, press 6.



LW LUTHERWOMAN

Are you a woman in your 20s to 40s who longs for a deeper relationship with God and connection to other Lutheran women?

The ministry of LUTHERWOMAN was started for you.

Follow and be a part of this ministry by visiting [lutherwoman.com](http://lutherwoman.com) or by scanning this QR code:



The flyer features a background image of a field of tall, dried flowers with dark, round seed heads, set against a bright, hazy sky. The text is centered and uses a clean, sans-serif font. The logo consists of a circular emblem with the letters 'LW' inside, followed by the word 'LUTHERWOMAN' in all caps.



## District President Meets Navy Chief of Chaplains



District President Wally Vinovskis met with several District Presidents in Williamsburg, Virginia at King of Glory Lutheran Church and School in Williamsburg. Williamsburg is in the Southeastern District (SED) of the LCMS.

They met the Navy Chief of Chaplains, Rear Admiral Greg Todd who is pictured with President Vinovskis.



Left to right: Pres. Bill Harmon, SED; Rev. Dr. Lannon Martin, Pastor King of Glory L.C, Williamsburg, VA; Pres. John Pingel, Eastern District; Rear Admiral Gregory N. Todd Chief of Chaplains of the Navy, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations/Director of Religious Ministries; Pres. Kevin Wilson, Ohio District; President Vinovskis; Pres. Bob Beinke, New England District; Pres. Dien Ashley Taylor, Atlantic District; and Rev. Martin Schultheis, Chief Ministry Officer SED



## Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

**Consider how easy it is for people to say the right things, while doing the very opposite of what God expects from his children in our episode, "giving lip service to God I hit the one with my ride," at [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com).**



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.

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!*



## LWML SELC Convention

The LWML SELC biennial convention is being held May 3 - 5, 2024 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA. The theme of the convention is **"Let Our Light Shine!"**. Eden Keefe, the President of LWML will be joining us at the Convention. Please go to <https://lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com/> and click on Convention Central for more information and registration information.



## Prayer Requests

**Rev. Brian Roberts**, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is returns from Minnesota this week after receiving a feeding tube to help supplement his diet and assist with weight gain. Please pray for him as he returns to Florida to begin this next step in his recovery.

**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](mailto: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).

Now take your investments one step further by donating your interest to the ministry of your choice.

### Ready to donate?

Call our friendly Customer Relations Team at **800-843-5233** or scan the QR code.

Want to learn about more ways to give? Visit [lcef.org/shared](https://lcef.org/shared).



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
where investments build ministry

800-843-5233 | fax: 314-996-1131 | [lcef.org](https://lcef.org)



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

**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

### And We Thought We Were Busy!

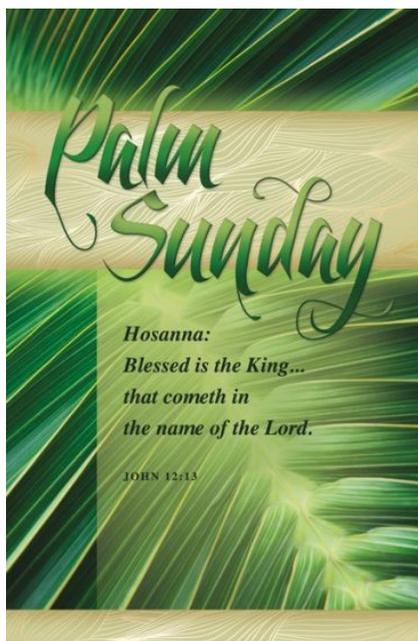
Holy Week Recollections: Part I

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Palm Sunday, side-trips to Bethany (yet knowingly returning one or more times to Jerusalem and His appointed Calvary's Cross!) but not before *spending time* in an upper room with beloved friends. He even washed His student-disciples' feet, teaching them (and us) by word and deed as our supremely Good Shepherd about to lay down His life for His often wayward sheep as the world's destined spotless Lamb of God. He *strategically took time* to institute for His Church on earth His Holy Supper, only to leave that memorable Passover meal for His spiritually pressure-packed anguish of soul in the Garden of Gethsemane. His voluntary "arrest" and seemingly non-stop illegal "nocturnal trials" before His fellow-Jews, sporadic humiliating jeering and acknowledged *false testimony* from the hands and lips of those who never knew or met their (and our) only Savior. Those who already had every reason to love and befriend Him the most and yet betray, deny and to a man utterly forsake Him by taking flight but also Gentiles whose brow-piercing thorny mockery culminated in the often deadly 39-lash Roman scourge and ultimately totally unjustified criminal's fatal death by crucifixion.

Both testaments of Scripture remind us that it was with our sinless suffering Servant-Messiah Jesus' "**bloody stripes**" that we are healed and forever forgiven (Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter)! As our Christian Church Year reminds us, thankfully the foregoing staggering only *partial listing* of historic Holy Week happenings is not the end of the story and yet surely more than sufficient reason whether at church, at home or wherever for us to pray or sing in the words of the **Agnus Dei**:

O Christ, Lamb of God, You do *take away* the sin of the world  
have mercy upon us, and grant us Your Peace! Amen!





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

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