



The Beacon Online

April 26, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 17

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. 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. 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 Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



SELC District Receives One Seminary Graduate and Two Vicars at this Year's Call Day Services

The SELC District received one Seminary Graduate and two Vicars at the Call Day services at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis on April 23, 2024.

Allen Dass was called to serve as Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, New Jersey. Allen's hometown is Queens Village, NY. He served his Vicarage in Dublin, Ohio.

Biruk Chiksa was called to serve as a Vicar at St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Edward Krez will be the 43rd Vicar to serve at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, Florida.



Pictured left is District President Vinovskis with Allen Dass who will be installed as Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, New Jersey.



Pictured above left to right is President Vinovskis, Edward Krez, and Allen Dass



Pictured above is Edward Krez waiting to receive his call announcement.

Pictured below is Biruk Chiksa waiting to receive his call announcement.



Pictured below is the Chiksa family with Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Pastor at St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis and President Vinovskis.





Youth-Led Service at Pentecost Lutheran Church Racine, Wisconsin

To close out the Sunday School year last June, the youth class of Pentecost Lutheran Church led the Sunday morning worship service. The youth picked the theme for the service, selected all the hymns, read the Scripture lessons for the day, performed a skit for the children's message, and participated in special music.

The service began with a vocal solo of "The Power of the Cross", sung by Autumn Madsen and accompanied by Amy Luxem. Cullen Lisowski served as lector. A special version of "Holy, Holy, Holy" was played during communion, which included Grace Hansen and Raynae Hensel on flute; Sofia Luxem and Tim Hasko on clarinet; Shyann Christensen and Tom Hasko on trombone; and Seth Luxem and Scott Hensel on trumpet, accompanied by Joyce Hasko.

The youth skit, based on Matthew 25:34-40, focused around main character "Susie", who was told she was going to get a visit from Jesus that day. All day long, Susie turns away needy visitors as she cleans the house, washes her best clothes, and prepares a meal fit for a king. The next morning, Susie asks Jesus why he never came to visit, and Jesus explains that He was all of the needy visitors, for "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

Youth who participated in the skit included Sofia Luxem (as "Susie"); Grace Hansen as narrator; Seth Luxem as a thirsty jogger; Shyann Christensen and Autumn Madsen as food drive collectors; Cullen Lisowski, Izzy Lisowski, and Raynae Hensel as accident victims; Henry Hansen as a boy who wants to visit his dad in jail; and Nathaniel Lisowski as Jesus.



Pastor Brady Retzlaff's sermon was based on Matthew 25:34-40 and Thessalonians 5:12-24, and reminded us not to become so heavenly-minded that we become no earthly good to anyone. Instead, as Christians, knowing we are saved by the power of the cross, let us spend our days looking for "trees to plant", and let us always strive to serve our neighbors. Because when we do that, we are indeed serving the Lord. The youth are preparing to lead a service again this coming June.



It's Not too Late to Join Lutheran Summer Music 2024!



We're looking forward to an incredible year at LSM, and we've been able to add extra spots for this summer! Final openings are available for the four-week Full Session (June 30-July 28) for students in grades 8-12 who play clarinet, flute, horn, oboe, trumpet, euphonium, violin, or string bass. Contact LSM Admissions for questions or to refer students: admissions@lutheransummermusic.org. For more information or to apply, visit LSMacademy.org.



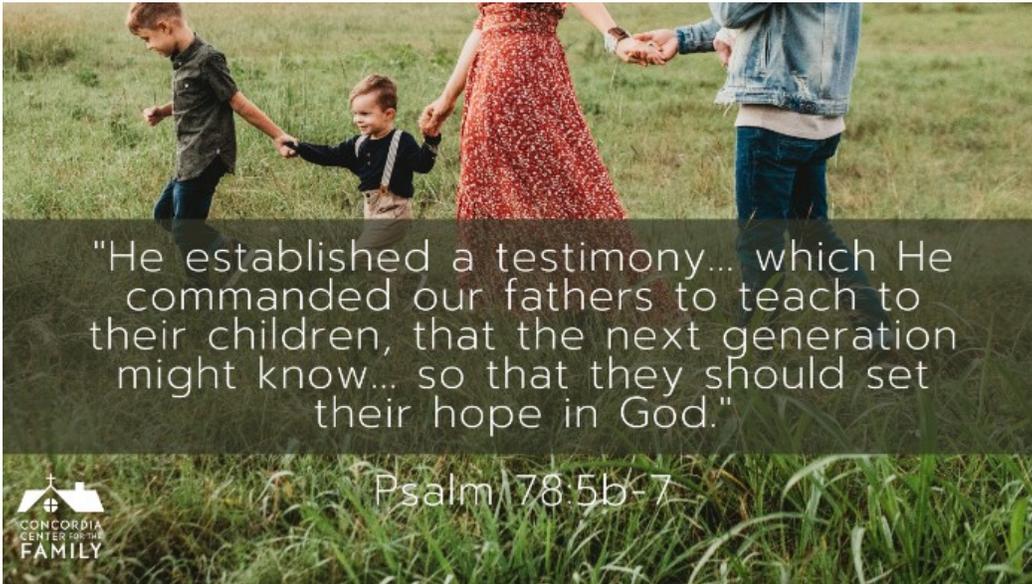
Concordia Center for the Family

Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) that is focused on inspiring and equipping Christian leaders to facilitate thriving home-centered family discipleship, enabling Christ's gifts to create faith in and through families with church support. To learn more, visit www.concordiafamily.org. Please be sure to go to, like, and subscribe to the YouTube site where Dr. Biermann is uploading regular videos with current info and thoughts on CCF. The site is on YouTube under Concordia Center for the Family or using this direct link:

<https://www.youtube.com/concordiacenterforthefamil5057>

Please visit the Concordia Center for the Family website regularly where there is current information, including the regularly updated calendar of events.

The web address is: www.concordiafamily.org



LCEF Announces Scholarship Opportunities



Take Heart Scholarship



WIN A \$3,000
Scholarship



ENTER HERE
lcef.org/scholarship



HURRY ENTER!
By May 1, 2024

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) Y.I. Club World Changers, who are high school seniors and will soon advance to your next level of higher education. As you begin your new journey, LCEF's Young Investors Club wants to assist your transition by offering financial support through the Take Heart Scholarship with up to three awards \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500. **Visit lcef.org/scholarship to learn more.**



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry



Educational Opportunity Saint Luke and the Formation of the New Testament

An educational opportunity is happening in Sharon, PA at Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church. The Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer is coming from June 17th-19th to teach pastors on "Saint Luke and the Formation of the New Testament."

The program will begin at 1pm on Monday the 17th and conclude on Wednesday at 4:30pm. Though we have a handful of hotels within a few minutes of the church, we recommend that you stay at Holiday Inn Express at 3060 Spangler Rd, West Middlesex, PA 16159.

Please refer to the brochure below. Rev. Jacob Deal, from Saints Peter and Paul in Sharon is hosting the event. When a pastor has signed up, he will email you the required reading and hotel information. Please contact Pastor Deal at pastordeal@saintspeterandpaul.net or by telephone/text at 724-977-1682 with any questions.

CTSFW
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Continuing Education Opportunity!

Luke and the Formation of the New Testament

Dr. Peter Scaer

June 17-19, 2024

Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
699 Stambaugh Ave
Sharon, PA 16146-4130

Register Today!

To find more Continuing Education classes:
Visit our website at ctsfw.edu/CE.

Please note that this Continuing Education course is for pastors only.
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA **JUNE 17-19, 2024**



Dr. Peter Scaer

The Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer joined the faculty of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), in 2000. His teaching centers on the Gospels of Luke and Mark, the sacramental ministry of Jesus, and the church's confession during times of persecution.

He did his undergraduate work in the classics at Indiana University, then earned an MDiv from CTSFW in 1992. His Notre Dame doctoral dissertation centered on the Lukan passion narrative (2001). From 1996 to 2000, Dr. Scaer served as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church in Arcadia, Indiana. Along the way, he has spent many years championing the cause of life, first at Birthright and then at Right to Life of Northeast Indiana and as founder of Shepherds United. He writes and speaks regularly on the cultural issues that affect the church and her confession.

Luke and the Formation of the New Testament

In this course we will look at the pivotal role that Luke plays in the formation of the New Testament canon. In particular, we will see how Luke unites the Old and New Testaments and also unites the various writings of Matthew, John, and Paul. This is a course where we can see Luke's churchmanship in action.

Schedule

Class begins at 1:00 p.m. on the first day and concludes at 4:30 p.m. on the final day.

Coordinator

Rev. Jacob Deal
Phone: (724) 977-1682
Email: pastordeal@saintspeterandpaul.net

Location

Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church
699 Stambaugh Ave
Sharon, PA 16146-4130

CTSFW
CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

6600 North Clinton Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46825
www.ctsfw.edu

Please note that this Continuing Education course is for pastors only.
SHARON, PENNSYLVANIA **JUNE 17-19, 2024**

Luke and the Formation of the New Testament Dr. Peter Scaer

Please return this completed form with your check (made payable to CTSFW) to: Concordia Theological Seminary, ATTN: Continuing Education, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46825.

(Please circle if applicable.) Dr. Rev. Deac. Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Date of Birth ____/____/____

Email _____

Category	Price	Qty.	Amount
Please note that this Continuing Education course is for pastors only:			
1.5 CEU course for pastors	\$150	x _____	= _____
1.5 CEU course for retired pastors	\$100	x _____	= _____
1.5 CEU course for CTSFW vicarage/fieldwork supervisors (Contact LeeAnne Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)	\$0	x _____	= _____

Name(s) of vicar/fieldworker(s): _____

ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To register by phone with credit card:
Contact LeeAnne Rondot at (260) 452-2204.

To find more Continuing Education classes:
Visit our website at ctsfw.edu/CE.

To register online:
Go to ctsfw.edu/CE/Sharon-Pennsylvania.

Continuing Education opportunities:
LeeAnne Rondot
Administrative Assistant—Continuing Education
Phone: (260) 452-2204
Email: CE@ctsfw.edu

**Additional information about this class
(including accommodations):**

Rev. Jacob Deal
Phone: (724) 977-1682
Email: pastordeal@saintspeterandpaul.net

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse
Director of Continuing Education
Email: Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu
Phone: (260) 452-2273



Congregational Statistics Deadline Extended to April 30, 2024

Thank you to the many SELC District congregations who have submitted your annual statistics to the Synod - it is very appreciated! Almost 50% of our congregations have reported which is higher than the Synod average.

Your annual congregational statistics are due! The synod has extended the deadline to April 30, 2024.

The Synod is requesting 100% participation for the following reasons:

1. Because it is useful, especially now. We want to know how our congregations are doing and how best to work for their benefit and on their behalf.
2. Because we need to be able to contact leadership by up-to-date emails to facilitate their governance of their Synod. This was **demonstrated** to be of key importance in the recent congregational referendum and will be increasingly so as we move toward and through convention.
3. Because the Bylaws expect it (1.3.4.3) and require the Secretary (3.3.3.2 [e]), district presidents (4.4.8), and circuit visitors (5.2.3 [h]) to urge it, consistent with an objective of the original 1847 Constitution of the Synod (Ch. IV 13).
4. Because the practice goes hand in hand with good pastoral / congregational record-keeping in general. If this is being done, filing statistics shouldn't be hard. We are aware of serious shortcomings in this area in many parishes of the Synod. This needs to be addressed, and this is a start.



Family Bible Journey Daily Podcasts

Hear how justice was served cold to Jesus in our episode, "Upside Down World." You can listen at familybiblejourney.com

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



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

Thanks for listening!



Men's Gathering

Men of SELC congregations especially in New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio **are invited** to the **2024 LHM Men's Retreat** at **Pioneer on the Lake** in **Angola, NY**, on **May 31 through June 2**. The Retreat begins with dinner on Friday, May 31, and closes with a brunch on Sunday, June 2, 2024. The invited speaker is Pastor Barry J. Keurulainen addressing the topic "Living Your Life Rooted In Prayer". The Retreat is sponsored by Eastern District Lutheran Hour Ministries. For questions and registration information, contact George Havens at georgehavens765@gmail.com or 585-223-3445.



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL is back on Florida. Please pray for him to regain the weight he has lost and to regain his strength.

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. Panzigrav, 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.



Mark Your Calendars

April 30, 2024 - Annual Congregational Statistics are due

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



Closing Thoughts Jesus as the True Vine

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Our risen and ascended Lord Jesus' upper room Holy Week farewell discourses with His chosen student-disciples occurred only a few hours before His self-giving, sacrificial death on Calvary's cross. Included in His memorable teaching in John 14 – 16 as our perfectly obedient messianic Servant Shepherd-King, our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus reminded them (and all of us) as our truly God-pleasing fruit-producing Vinedresser of our utter dependence on His having grafted us back into receiving by His grace. His cleansing paradisaical life-giving Spiritual breath re-surges through our bodies after humanity's universal tragic fall into sin.

How blessed we often fruitless and seemingly spiritually dead "branches" are that the eternal Triune God's Gospel means of grace and powerful Spirit of God's "toolbox" contains the written and preached Word of God. This Word also embraces Holy Baptism and faith-strengthening Eucharistic Sacrament of His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. With extremely good reason far beyond this coming Cantate Sunday weekend, we can now joyfully

*"Sing unto the Lord a new song; for He has done marvelous things!"
His right hand and holy arm have gotten him (and us) the victory!"*

Cantate Domino and then some indeed! (John 15:1-11; Psalm 98:1).



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

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

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 selcoffice@selcdistrictoflcms.ccsend.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!