



The Beacon Online

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

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Lutheran Haven Dedicates New Aquatic Center



On Friday, April 26th, the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees gathered to dedicate the Lutheran Haven Aquatic Center to the glory of God and all our donors who made this possible. It was such a celebratory event with prayer and song, and approximately 150 people attended. Rev. John Elliott welcomed the crowd with the Invocation, "Let the gates be opened in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit."

Rev. Wally Vinovskis, SELC District President and Trustee of Lutheran Haven spoke about how long the idea of a pool had been discussed among the Trustees and the joy of what we are dedicating today. Raleigh Sims, Lutheran Haven Resident Living Administrator thanked the Foundation Resident Advisory Committee for all their work raising the needed monies, much of which during the pandemic, along with the contractors who worked so diligently to build our beautiful Aquatic Center for Fitness and Rehabilitation.

Each donor was invited to paint a tile which created a mosaic of kindness for our Donor Appreciation wall. We were blessed with perfect Florida weather and numerous people ready to go swimming! To Him be the glory for this long-awaited day!



Pictured above is the tile wall of giving that donors painted.

Pictured below left is the Board of the Lutheran Haven. From left to right: Rev. Dan Berteau, Rev. George Hansell, Rev. Jon Carpenter, Ardyne Kirn, Susan Hanas, Rev. Tige Culbertson, District President Wally Vinovskis, Rev. John Gutz, and Wendy Clark



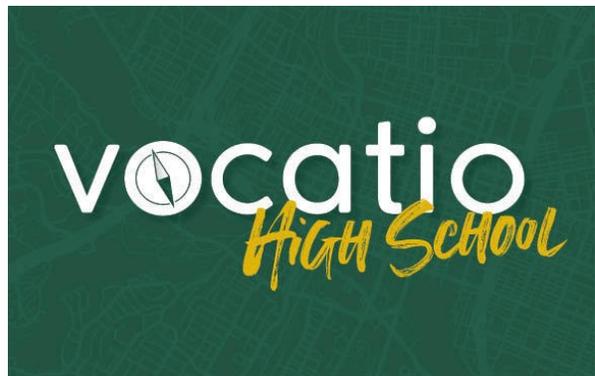
Do you Know High School Students Who are Interested in a Future in Church Work?

High school students are invited to visit campus!
Vocatio: High School
June 22-29, 2024

Know a high school-age student who may be interested in church work someday? Please invite them to attend **Vocatio: High School**, a week long summer retreat that encourages ninth- through 12th-grade students to explore the many aspects of the Seminary, including worship and devotions, sessions with professors, and even some fun and recreation.

Registration costs \$100 and closes May 24!

Learn more





Preschool Teacher Retires After Teaching for 22 years

Cathy Schoener retired from Concordia Preschool in Macungie, PA after teaching at the Preschool for 22 years. She was honored during the church service and at a reception following the service. Pictured below from left to right are several members of the preschool teaching staff - Cathy Dickman, Cathy Schoener, Amanda Marzari, Preschool Director Crystal Meck, and Bern Van Pelt





Pictured above are two of Mrs. Schoener's former students who came to the celebration.

Pictured below on the left is Mrs. Schoener with Pastor Vinovskis. Pictured on the right is Mrs. Schoener's family.





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



phil's friends

cancer is strong. **hope is stronger.**

Requests for care packages have doubled in 2024. We now have requests for 300 care packages each week!

As diagnoses increase and awareness of the Phil's Friends mission grows, we anticipate a continued rise in demand.

Please help so no one is turned away!

Gather items or order from our **Amazon Wishlist**. Collect items on your own, with your neighborhood, church, or business organization and bring them to one of our Hope Centers or ship to our **Crown Point location**.

CARE PACKAGE NEEDS

BLANKETS

Rolled throw blankets, crocheted, or fleece tied



PUZZLE BOOKS



MOUTH RINSE



Alcohol-free
4-8oz. or smaller

LOTIONS



Fragrance-free; 16oz. or smaller



HATS

Knitted, Crocheted, Baseball



JOURNALS

Soft
TOOTHBRUSHES & Travel size TOOTHPASTE



TISSUES



LIP BALMS



FUZZY SOCKS Womens only



** GIFT CARDS



MONETARY GIFTS



SCAN QR CODES AMAZON LIST ONLINE GIVING



Please note: all items need to be new and unused because our friends with cancer have compromised immune systems.
** Gift Cards are used to purchase needed items. We do not put them in the care packages

DROP OFF LOCATIONS

CALL OR EMAIL FOR HOURS

julied@philsfriends.org 224-653-8315

Crown Point, IN
1249 Arrowhead Ct.
Crown Point, IN 46307

Wheaton, IL
213 W. Wesley St.
Wheaton, IL 60187-5135

Addison, IL
1150 N. Swift Rd.
Addison, IL 60101-1452

Online Giving

Amazon



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

Forming servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost, and care for all.

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. Mt. 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 LeeAnna 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 LeeAnna 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:
LeeAnna 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

May 31, 2024

Thank you to the many SELC District congregations who have submitted your annual statistics to the Synod - it is very appreciated! **Thank you** to the **70%** of our congregations who have reported which is higher than the Synod average.

Your annual congregational statistics are due! The synod has again extended the deadline to May 31, 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

Meet Obi, Doby and Gimli, stars of the Family Bible Journey podcast episode, "Bloody Personal, Mate." You can listen at: 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. Gary Schuschke, who is hospitalized in Germany. Please pray for his healing.

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.

Growing with  Lutheran Church Extension Fund
> where investments build ministry
lcef.org | 800-843-5233

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has served as the financial extension of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) since 1978, offering funding and resources in support of the church. Our investors make it possible for us to provide customized loans and support services to new and growing ministries as well as loans for Rostered Church Workers who dedicate their lives to sharing the Gospel.

Scan the QR code or visit lcef.org/grow to find out which investment is right for you!



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.



Closing Thoughts

Setting the Stage for Talking about Jesus' Bodily Ascension and Reality of God's Gift of Eternal Life with Him in Heaven

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

A young boy was asked *where* he thought the Lord's weekly offerings ended up after weekend worship. Thinking for a moment, not surprisingly the lad replied, "I think they put them **up in the attic!**" A major reason why we all likely grew up believing (perhaps even continuing to believe) our Heavenly Father's promised haven of heaven was nebulously located up in the sky. Scripture provides us with a satisfactory assurance that a large segment of the believing population may be headed in the wrong direction. Scripture uses as a way of using revelatory clouds to indicate the presence of God.

When in His upper room Holy Week discourses (John 14-16) our about-to-be crucified and victoriously sinless, perfectly obedient ascended Lord repeatedly mentioned the need for His going away before His dearly-needed Spirit's promised coming in special measure on that first Christian Pentecost, He was not for one minute denying the eternal existence of the powerfully creative and re-creative Spirit of our blessed Triune God (see, for example, Genesis 1:2).

Calvary Parma's scheduled May 9th 7 pm Ascension Thursday worship service will be preceded, weather permitting, by a community 6 pm Meditation Trail Nature Walk. A festive, Christ-glorifying partially lay-led "family teaching service" will feature as many as eight scriptural reasons for our exalted Lord's "*temporarily*" withdrawing His visible presence from us not the least of which was His **waiting for us to be born** (cf. 2 Peter 3).

Selected LSB hymns include 525, 493, a contemporary setting of Hymn 549, 386 (yes, a most fitting *Christmas* hymn!) and 491, the latter's most meaningful closing words written by sainted Slovak-American SELC District Pastor Jaroslav Vajda.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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SELC District of LCMS

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Macungie, PA 18062
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