



# The Beacon Online

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

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## **LWML SELC Holds Biennial Convention**

The LWML SELC Convention was held May 3 - 5, 2024 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA. Eden Keefe, the National President of LWML attended the convention and spoke to the attendees.

Saturday began with a worship service followed by a presentation by Rev. Dan Lepley, the LCEF DVP for our District. He also spoke about Israel as he travels to Israel and leads groups on the Israel tours. National President Eden Keefe spoke to the convention attendees about LWML, participation as a petal pusher at the Rose Bowl parade, and what the national office is focusing on. Please see the article next week for more information about what to look for from the national office.

President Vinovskis welcomed the group to Concordia and also gave an update on what the SELC District is doing, including planting churches in our District, the District without borders.

The business portion of the convention included a report from Milly Kwiatkowski, District LWML SELC President. She reported on the grants that were awarded and Committee reports, including the Nominating Committee report. The following women were voted to serve for the 2024 - 2026 term.

- President - Carol Miksad, Western Zone
- Vice President - Betty Olah, Central Zone
- Secretary - Allyn Starry, Esq. Eastern Zone

Congratulations to the new Officers and thank you to outgoing President Milly Kwiatkowski and Secretary Martha Moyer for your dedication to the LWML SELC.

Rev. John Zimmerman, from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Scranton, PA and St. John's Lutheran Church in Pittston, PA, led the afternoon Bible study. The group had a dinner followed by musical entertainment featuring an accordion and clarinet presentation. The Convention concluded with the Divine Service on Sunday morning. The new President and Vice President were installed by the Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Gordon Naumann.



Pictured above on the top is the group picture of convention attendees. Immediately above is Eden Keefe, National LWML President.

Pictured below in the left is newly elected President Carol Miksad presenting the Past President pin to outgoing President Milly Kwiatkowski. Pictured below on the right is the LWML SELC Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gordon Naumann who led the opening devotions on Saturday morning.



Pictured below on the left is the Saturday evening dinner event. Pictured on the right are the current and newly elected officers for the 2024 - 2026 term. From left to right: Pam Reece, Betty Olah, Rev. Naumann, Carol Miksad, Karen Ann Kowalski, and Allyn Starry.





## 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**



### Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky Honored

Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis honored several faculty and staff members for their service to the Seminary. Dr. Joel Elowsky, SELC District, was honored for being the Professor of Historical Theology for 10 years. Congratulations Dr. Elowsky!



## **SELC District Youth Leader and her Mom Graduate from Concordia University - Nebraska**



In the host of graduates at Concordia University-Nebraska last weekend was a mother and daughter duo receiving their Master of Education degrees. Lisa and Rachel Larson walked across the stage together to celebrate this wonderful accomplishment.

Both teach in Lutheran Schools in the St. Louis, MO, area. Lisa (on the left) is a Campus Manager and preschool teacher at Christ Community Lutheran School in Kirkwood, MO. Rachel (on the right) teaches fourth grade at Immanuel Lutheran School in Olivette, MO and is the SELC District Youth Coordinator.

***Congratulations to Rachel and Lisa!***



## **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](http://www.concordiafamily.org). Watch the PODCAST interview of Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann, Exec. Dir. of Concordia Center for the Family, on April 24, 2024 by Kay Meyer of Family Shield Ministries, another RSO of the LCMS. You can view the PODCAST at this link when you [Click Here](#)

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](http://www.concordiafamily.org)

# Growing

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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](https://lcef.org/grow) to find out which investment is right for you!



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## SELC Mission Update from Ascension Lutheran Church in Montreal

Rev. Charles St-Onge



We regularly invite those who attend our English classes and open houses to worship at Ascension. Faith comes by hearing, after all, and hearing by the Word of God. In March many of them came to worship and stayed to hear more about what it means to be a Christian. Some were not quite ready. But two men from India kept coming back and, after Easter, asked to receive Holy Baptism. Rajesh and Sonu, whose religious background was Hindu, were received as sons of God in Christ on April 28. Thanks to the Lutheran Heritage Foundation both have Small Catechisms in Hindi to study. Ascension Lutheran Church, Montreal is a mission supported in part by the SELC District. If you would like to learn more, you can subscribe to his monthly newsletter at [intheway.org](https://intheway.org).



# 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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. Disc. Mr. Miss Mrs. Ms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Price	Qty.	Amount
1.5 CEU course for pastors	\$150	x _____	= _____
1.5 CEU course for retired pastors	\$100	x _____	= _____
1.5 CEU course for CTSFW vicarage/heldwork supervisors (Contact LeeAnna Rondot at CE@ctsfw.edu or by phone to register.)	\$0	x _____	= _____

Name(s) of vicar/heldworker(s): \_\_\_\_\_

### ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

**To register online:**  
Go to [ctsfw.edu/CE/Sharon-Pennsylvania](http://ctsfw.edu/CE/Sharon-Pennsylvania).

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

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

**To find more Continuing Education classes:**  
Visit our website at [ctsfw.edu/CE](http://ctsfw.edu/CE).

**Continuing Education opportunities:**  
LeeAnna Rondot  
Administrative Assistant—Continuing Education  
Phone: (260) 452-2204  
Email: [CE@ctsfw.edu](mailto:CE@ctsfw.edu)

Dr. Jeffrey Pulse  
Director of Continuing Education  
Email: [Jeffrey.Pulse@ctsfw.edu](mailto: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

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

*Thanks for listening!*



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.



## 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](mailto: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. 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 have birth to their fourth child, a daughter Eden. We give thanks to God for the health of both Mom and baby.

**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.*



**SELC District - A District Without Borders**

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

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2623 Brookside Road  
Macungie, PA 18062  
610-965-3265

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[selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com)

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