



The Beacon Online

May 31, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 22

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

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Lutheran Haven Holds Annual Corn Fest



A Fundraiser for Lutheran Haven's Benevolent Care Fund!

As a part of our ongoing initiative to serve our residents in need through our Benevolent Care Fund, the Foundation Resident Advisory Committee held the 2nd annual "Corn Fest" for just under 200 residents and friends of the Haven. The event was held on May 10th and thanks to the Lord's providing hand and those who participated in this free luncheon, we raised over \$17,000!

Residents and friends enjoyed a delicious lunch along with a Silent Auction and Raffle. Because everything had been donated, including the food, 100% of the proceeds went to our Benevolent Care Fund. This fund is critical to providing for those residents in need at the Haven.

Caring for one another is truly the hallmark of Lutheran Haven, and thanks to a matching gift of \$5,000, and a truly fun event, the Haven can continue to bless our seniors in need through the generosity of so many of our residents and friends of Lutheran Haven.



Confirmation Celebrated at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, New Jersey on Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday was Confirmation Sunday at Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool in Galloway, NJ. Surrounded by friends and family Bryn and Graeme Carland having completed their studies, publicly confirmed their faith at the Lord's Altar.

Pictured below from left to right: Jim Carland, Bryn Carland, Kara Carland, Rev. Alan Mercer, Graeme Carland and Cathy Mayfield.



LWML SELC Biennial Convention Final Coverage

The LWML SELC Mission Board awarded four mission grants this year. The awardees are listed below. Each will receive \$1500.

St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, Pennsylvania for International Disaster

Relief through the Orphan Grain Train efforts.

St. Lucas Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri for doing Easter and Christmas outreach.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Norton, Ohio. They received financial support for an electronic church sign.

Zion Lutheran Church in Norridge, Illinois for Feeding Souls and Bodies at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Chicago. They feed the homeless twice a week in a building that needs repairs.

Young Women IN MISSION

There is a subgroup of Lutheran Women in Mission that focuses on women ages 22 - 35 years of age. The purpose of this Committee is to:

- Guide LWML leaders with resources to help make connections with young women.
- Produce and facilitate the Young Woman Representatives (YWR) program for the LWML Convention.
- Empower and mentor younger women to connect and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.
- The double links represent LWML, women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths. Equip and encourage young women to become more involved in their congregation and the mission of the LWML.



The Young Women Representative pin - the double links represent LWML, women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths.

There is information on this Young Women's Group in the website at this link - <https://www.lwml.org/young-women>

You are invited to the Ordination and Installation of

Allen Samuel Dass

as

Pastor

of

Zion Lutheran Church

559 Raritan Road

Clark, NJ 07066

on

Saturday, June 29, 2024 at 11:00am



LCMS Ministers of Religion – Ordained,
LCMS Ministers of Religion – Commissioned,
are invited to vest.

The color of the day is red.

A Luncheon will be served after the worship service.

Please RSVP by contacting Hope Alfieri via email at

ZionClarkNJ@gmail.com

Please RSVP no later than 1:00pm on Friday, June 21st



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



Do You have a Church Member who is Preparing for Full-time Churchwork?

The Student Financial Aid Committee was organized by the SELC District to assist young men and women preparing for full-time professional ministry or church work within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This includes deaconess, lay ministry programs, as well as clergy preparation. Professional church workers who are working toward advanced degrees are not eligible for aid from the SELC District Student Aid Committee. Please see the SELC website for an application and more information. <https://selc.lcms.org/docs/student-financial-aid/>



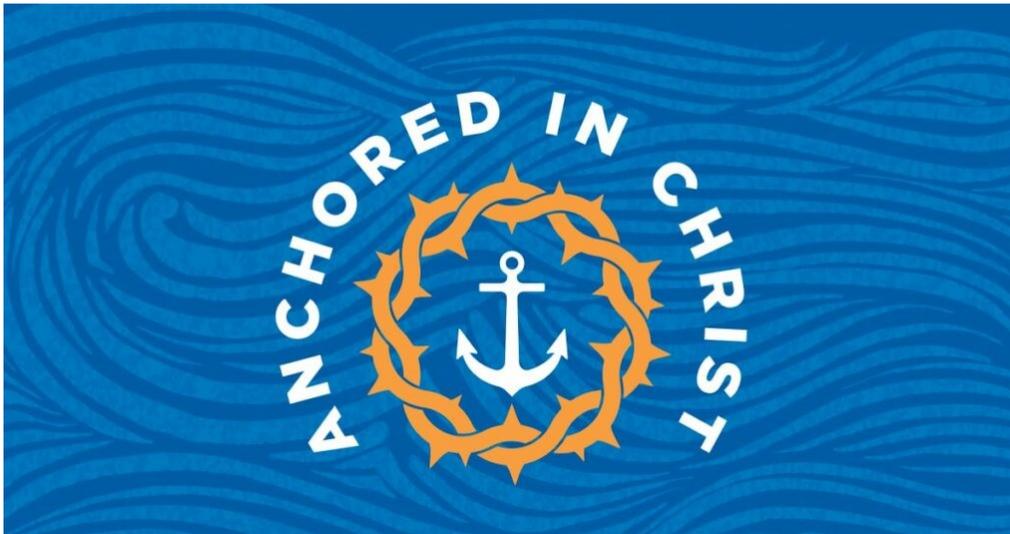
LCMS Disaster Relief Information

The **Anchored in Christ** curriculum is available for use by congregations who have experienced a disaster or crisis. You can take a look at it and request materials here: [Anchored in Christ Curriculum \(lcms.org\)](http://lcms.org).

Times of crisis and pain strike everyone in this fallen world, including the faithful. This truth comes as no surprise; it is just as our Lord taught us. Fires, tornados, floods and hurricanes affect our churches and communities. School shootings, the death of a pastor or teacher, a suicide in the community — all can come and bring grief and confusion.

LCMS Disaster Response has developed Bible study resources under the title Anchored in Christ to offer hope, comfort and peace in Christ to a congregation and its surrounding community during a time of crisis.

Anchored in Christ can be used for a single Bible study or congregational event, or the four modules can be used over an entire year to bring extended comfort and hope to a congregation and community during a time of trial. There are four modules available to use that can be found at this link - [Anchored In Christ](#)



Concordia Center for the Family Part 2

As a follow up to last week's article from Dr. Biermann, below are items 6 - 10 that the Concordia Center for the Family are working on.

6. A major area of focus has been with the districts of the LCMS, particularly with the district presidents. This connection will lead to the training of *CCF Facilitators*. These are church workers and other leaders in congregations who will

learn more about CCF through a five-day training event in spring 2025. They'll learn how to better equip their congregation and its members to grow in Family Discipleship. They'll also influence those congregations and fellow Christians around them to do the same. If you might be interested in this for yourself as a church worker, or if you have a church worker you know who might be interested, **get in touch with me**. I'd love to share more about becoming a CCF Facilitator.

7. Intensive CCF Facilitator Trainer Training in July 2024. Dr. Ben Freudenburg, Emeritus Director of CCF, will be passing on a wealth of information to a team of six trainers who will join me in training the *CCF Facilitators* starting next spring. Please pray for the Lord's blessing on this intensive five-day training event on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

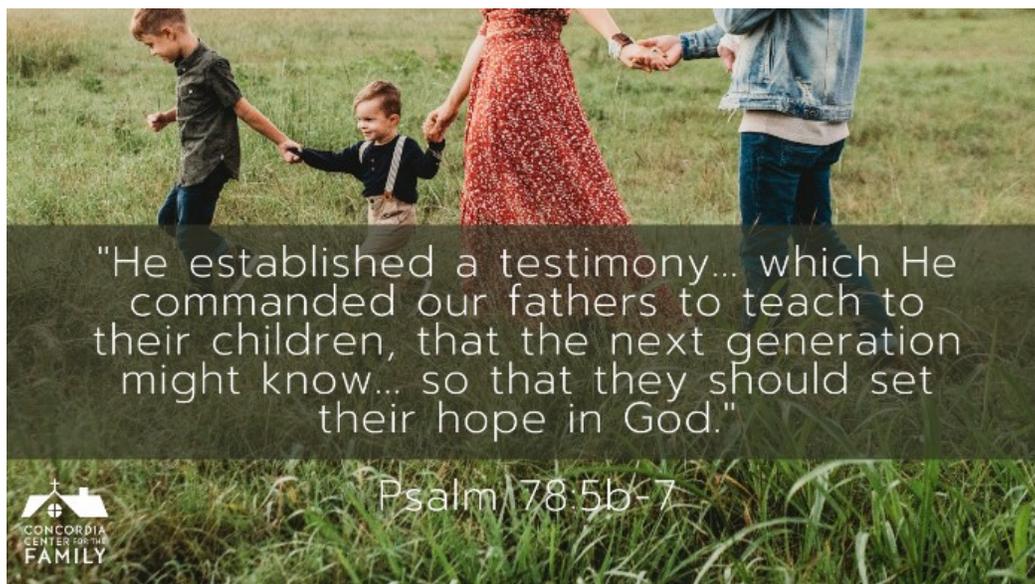
8. Return to Ethiopia in October 2024. My brother Ben Freudenburg is also busy preparing for another trip to Ethiopia in October for the fifth major training event of our partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Lutheran Church Mekane Yesus. This will prepare them to carry on family discipleship in their growing church body. Ben will build on our five years of training in the EECMY to help them establish their own center for the family, much like CCF.

9. CCF is developing a new *Faith Formation at Home* resource. This is a great tool that has been used extensively in LCMS circles in the past to help families mark all the key childhood faith development steps. We'll be adapting and updating this resource to help families stay in faith all the way through life as they grow in faith at home 24/7. Listen for more about *Faith Formation at Home* and how families like yours will be able to put it into practice immediately.

10. I thank God for friends like you who are invested in Family Discipleship as taught by CCF. We'd love to tell you more about CCF and how you can support us. Stay connected on **Facebook** and **Instagram**, our **weekly emails**, in **blog posts**, or on **YouTube**. Each Friday we hope to have a new update with prayer requests, our latest news, interesting stories, insights for practicing Family Discipleship in your home, and more. Please keep in touch and let us know how we can support you in your own walk of Family Discipleship. That's our real focus...YOU and what you're doing to walk with the Lord in your own home every day.

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





Join Lutheran Summer Music 2024 In Person or Online!

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) announces its 42nd season, offering over 30 free and open-to-the-public concerts and recitals. All events take place this July at Valparaiso University, and most will be live-streamed. Performances and services are shared by over 250 students, faculty, fellows, worship staff, and guest artists who come together to create a vibrant community of music-makers. The LSM 2024 season will culminate during Festival Week (July 21-28), featuring the LSM Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra, a Festival of Hymns, and closing each day with sung Evening Prayer. Of special note, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM) will join this year's LSM community and offer an inter-generational performance of J.S. Bach's St. John Passion. Visit LSMacademy.org/2024 for a complete listing of events and to access the livestream.



Growing with  Lutheran Church Extension Fund
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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 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.



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 Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Arcades, 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.

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

(Name(s) of vicar/feedback supervisor)

ADDITIONAL CLASS AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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

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

Additional information about this class (including accommodations):
Rev. Jacob Deal
Phone: (724) 977-1682
Email: pastordeal@saintspeterandpaul.net

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

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

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



Congregational Statistics are Due **TODAY!**

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 more than **70%** of our congregations who have reported which is higher than the Synod average.

Your annual congregational statistics are due today!

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

Dear friend and supporter of the Family Bible Journey,

First, thank-you for all you do to encourage and support this ministry. It was a year ago this month that the idea to launch the podcast first germinated in my mind, and oh how quickly things have developed. God has certainly blessed this endeavor. Thank-you for your help and encouragement. It wouldn't have been possible without lots of prayer, discussion and hard work.

Recently, the scripture from Psalm 127:1 has come often into my mind:

"Unless the Lord builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain."

We know the scripture is true, but it is nice when we see it affirmed in our experience. Beginning and covered in prayer, my desire is that this is the Lord's work! That He would direct this work. That His will be done in this podcast. Please pray for me and all who listen, that God would provide for and bless all who are a part of our podcast family.

You were in on the ground floor of the podcast. Thanks for sticking through the planning, learning and growing stages. We have learned much and continue to adapt. Right now, I'm learning how to slow-down my presentation and edit more effectively and efficiently. My prayer is that God continues to help me learn and grow, so that I may be ever more eloquent and winsome in my delivery of God's Word. With ever-shortening attention spans, it is important to be faithful and provide depth without boring the audience. Not an easy task.

It's also important to be faithful to the Truth, and always point listeners to Christ. I learned the hard way how harsh the world is to Christian content when I "promoted" a post on Facebook a month ago. That post had over 350 more interactions than my average post, but many were toxic. I removed many that were outright offensive towards Christians and our faith.

I was not surprised by the negativity, but what affirmed my already jaded view of social media was that the number of downloads of the podcast was unchanged after the promotion. In other words, those who were hostile didn't listen to the episode. They were just trolls, willing to spam any and all Christian content. Predictable and disappointing.

A few numbers for you, so that you can see a bit of the reach of the podcast: The podcast has been listened to in fifteen countries and forty-one states. With over 15,500 downloads, we are averaging about 109 downloads per day, or about 126 downloads per episode. I am humbled by and thankful for every person who listens, as they are trusting me with their most valuable resource, their time.

I have been blessed to share the podcast as a featured speaker recently at the SELC District LWML convention; a convocation on Faith, Family and the Future, hosted by the Grand Rapids circuit churches; and at Risen Christ in Plymouth, MI. I love talking with those who are passionate about leaving the legacy of faith. It is a great blessing to be a blessing to them in their journey, whether they are listening or journaling with us. If you have any thoughts, suggestions, or a word of encouragement for me as I continue to work on the podcast, please email or call me. If there are topics you'd like to hear covered in episodes, please let me know. A friendly word or conversation is always welcome. You are the reason for this podcast, and my ears are always open to friends and listeners.

Your host, and servant in Christ,
Pastor Dan Lepley

If you'd like to listen to the podcasts, check out familybiblejourney.com

Thanks for listening!



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. Phil Miksad, EM St. Lucas in St. Louis, MO who is home and is recovering from surgery.

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.

Laura Bergmann, Munster, IN, please pray for relief of her pain in her hands, feet, back, and legs.

Deacon Jim Hurst, Parma, OH who is recovering from foot surgery.

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.

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Closing Thoughts

Residual Thoughts on the Mystery of the Blessed Trinity

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Have any of the following questions honestly ever crossed your mind?

Why believe in a Triune God even if the Bible never uses the word "trinity?"

(Read Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1-2, 3-12)

Is one God in three persons the sum total of one-third Father, one-third Son and one-third Holy Spirit? Need one think the Father is more important than the Son or Holy Spirit least important of the three?

(Read Deuteronomy 6:4; John 10:30; Ephesians 4:1ff.)

Need humanity's advances in science make the existence of a God totally irrelevant?

(Read Job 38 - 42; Psalm 50; Romans 11:34)

Because God is often described as an invisible spirit, isn't it important that we be *spiritually minded*? "Instead of quibbling over words, **trust Him** as God's essentially reliable substitution Word made flesh, "perfect God and perfect Man"

(Read John 4:24; Romans 5:8; 8:31-39; 1 Corinthians 2:16)

Doesn't believing that there are *many roads* to heaven "cover all the bases?"

Even in reaching earthly destinations, however, it is necessary to turn into a single driveway. Thank God there is **ONE SURE WAY** to our promised blood-bought eternal home, our Lord Jesus Christ!

(Read John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 1:7b)

This side of heaven, why might we Christians dare even wonder if the three distinctive persons of the Holy Trinity were ever jealous or envious of one another? Talk about perfect teamwork! **JESUS** remains the Key to the meaning of life and death and life after death as well as limited unlocking the eternal mystery of the blessed Trinity!

(Read John 1:14, 18; 3:16-17)

Most important than our *limited understanding* of the revealed ways of our just and holy, uniquely merciful and forgiving *non-competitive* God who rightly tolerates no rivals? Most important is not that we understand God, but that He know, love and forgive us!

Knowing that it is impossible to worship this God too much by word or deed, it is indeed our privilege joyfully to preserve this mystery by worshiping the Trinity in person and unity in substance in glory and majesty co-equal (Athanasian Creed)!

(Read Psalm 34:3; Ephesians 4; Revelation 5:12)

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Merciful and Mighty; God in three persons, blessed Trinity!"



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

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