



The Beacon Online

May 17, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 20

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

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LWML SELC Biennial Convention

Update

The LWML SELC convention had an ingathering for a Lehigh valley organization, BrightHope, which is a pregnancy support group in the area. A table with information about BrightHope was set up by Carol Jenkins, a member of Concordia. She did a great job sharing a lot of information with everyone who attended.

The organization's mission is to honor life and offer hope by providing pregnancy support services, resources and life skills education to women, men and youth.

BrightHope Pregnancy Support Centers

Empowering women to choose life for their unborn children and an abundant life for their families. Our mission is to honor life and offer hope by providing pregnancy support services, resources and life skills education to women, men and youth.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

John 10:10

Bright Hope has many things that they work on to support pregnant mothers and their babies. One of those is the **Baby Boutique**. For the Baby Boutique, the convention attendees brought the following to support this important organization.

Diapers - 56 boxes of various sizes and quantity
Wipes - 84 packs of various quantity

Towel sets - 7
Washcloths - 44
Bottles - 13 various sizes with two additional tops
Pacifiers - 2
Sippy cups - 8
Baby Food - 36 jars
Formula - 2 cans various sizes
Body wash and shampoo - 11 bottles + 1 set
Crib sheets - 7
Socks - 16
Bibs - 3
Onesies - 30
Sleepers - 15
Outfits - 5
Pack n' play - 1
\$20 Gift Card

You can see the items that were donated for BrightHope in the pictures below.

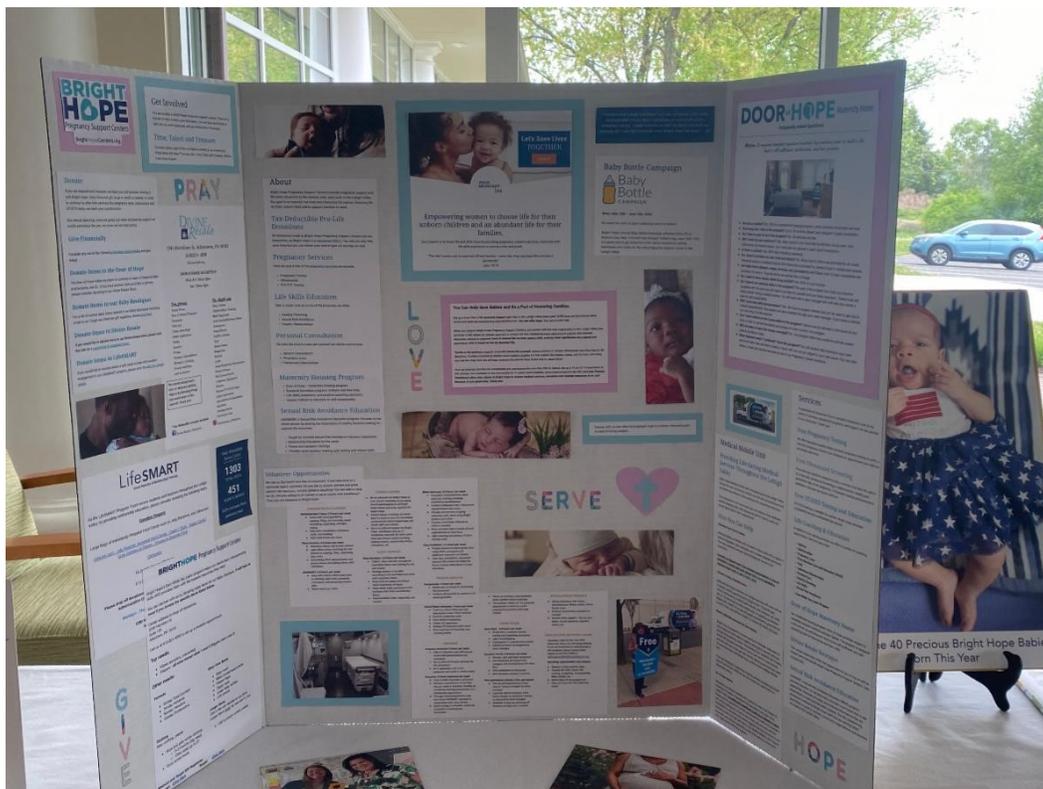
Thank you to everyone for your generosity!





Pictured above on the left are three members of Concordia - Michelle Graybill, Heide Johnstone, and Dawn Kohler. Both photos show the generosity of the Convention attendees with the number of items collected for BrightHope.

Pictured below is the board showing the work that BrightHope does for pregnant Moms and their babies.



There were several exhibitors who attended the Convention. They included, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (pictured on the left below), Lutheran Church Extension Fund (pictured below on the right), Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Orphan Grain Train. Comfort Dog Lily and her handler Linda were also present from Lutheran Church Charities. Phil's Friends and Lutheran Haven also sent information and giveaways for attendees.

Thank you to all the exhibitors at the LWML SELC Convention!



Pictured above is comfort dog Lily and her handler Linda.

Pictured below on the left is a presentation about the Lutheran Heritage Foundation and on the right is the Orphan Grain Train table.



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





Election Announcement and Prayer Service Set for Saturday, May 18

The election of the seventeenth president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will be held this Saturday, May 18, and will be followed by an announcement and brief prayer service at 11:30 a.m. (EDT) in Kramer Chapel. The service will be livestreamed at ctsfw.edu/daily-chapel, on Facebook, and on YouTube.

The four candidates on the final slate, all of whom are CTSFW faculty members, include Dr. Jon S. Bruss, Dr. Charles A. Gieschen, Dr. Gifford A. Grobien, and Dr. Todd A. Peperkorn. The slate was finalized in April by the designated electors: the CTSFW Board of Regents (voting individually), the president of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), the chairman of the LCMS Board of Directors, and the district president representative on the CTSFW Board of Regents. Finalists will participate in interviews with the electors on campus before Saturday's election.

Please keep the candidates, the electors, and the Seminary in your prayers this week.

For more details about the presidential search, visit ctsfw.edu/presidential-search.

[Watch the Announcement Here](#)



New Book Available at Ad Crucem

A new book is available free of charge "Without the Shedding of Blood" through Ad Crucem. You can download the book at this link - [Literature - Ad Crucem](#). The book is written by Professor David P. Scaer.

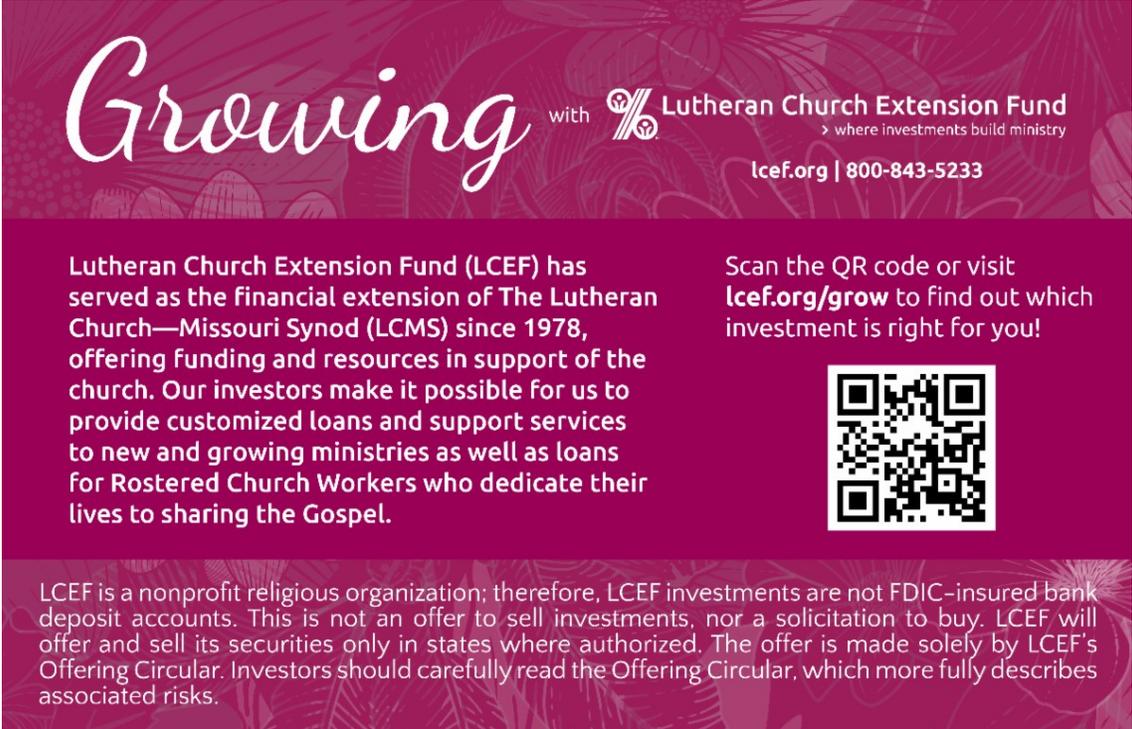


Concordia Center for the Family

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. 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



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.

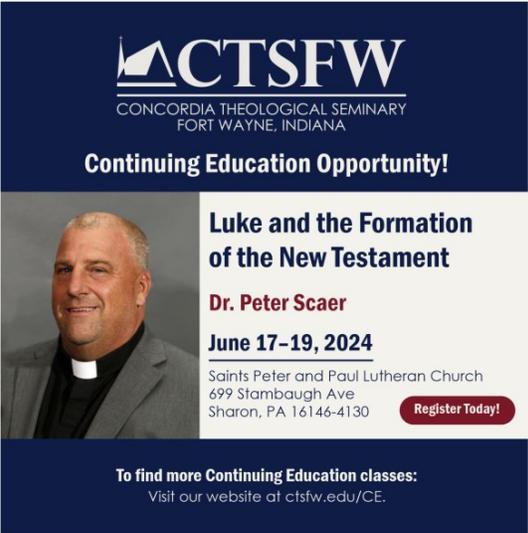


Educational Opportunity Saint Luke and the Formation of the New Testament

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



ACTSFW
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.

information. Please contact Pastor Deal at pastordeal@saintspeterandpaul.net or by telephone/text at 724-977-1682 with any questions.

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.



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. Deoc. 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 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 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 Rondot
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 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

Leviticus can be tough! If you want to learn how to make sense of some of the more confusing and controversial passages of the Bible, listen to the podcast at www.familybiblejourney.com. We will learn where to find Jesus and make some sense of the ceremonial law which no longer applies to us, but still teaches much about the character of God.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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

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. 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, 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.

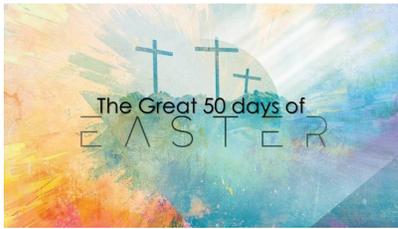
SIGN UP FOR MINISTRY MOMENTS



Ministry Moments, from Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), are helpful emails containing videos and tips that will help your ministry move forward, according to God's will.



VISIT LCEF.ORG/MINISTRY-MOMENTS TO SUBSCRIBE TODAY!



Closing Thoughts The First Christian Pentecost or Day of the 50th

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Privileged to be reading Theophilus's "mail" (note the introductory verses to Luke and Acts), Luke 24 and Acts 1 can help remind us that we are nearing the end of the "festival half" of the current Christian Church year with the passing of Ascension Thursday 40 days after Resurrection Sunday and recent "waiting Sunday" before the promised special outpouring of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter.

Even one visitor (or regular worshiper) is precious to our victorious ascended Lord. Blessed as we were with 10 visitors at Calvary Parma's Ascension Thursday inaugural evening service May 9th. Prior to the service, the congregation opened a Meditation/Nature Trail for the community despite God's earthly heaven having also earlier opened to give us a reminder of our Christian baptism.

Interestingly, the dramatic Old Testament giving of the Mosaic Law at Mount Sinai occurred exactly 50 days after Passover and Israel's miraculous liberation from centuries of Egyptian bondage during the first year of wilderness wanderings and later prolonged encampment at Kadesh-Barnea (see Exodus 19:1; Deuteronomy 2:14). Also known as the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22), that feast commemorated the harvest of the spring barley harvest while the first Christian Pentecost, as described in Acts 2, came to celebrate the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This was in tandem with the apostolic Gospel preaching of the liberating Word of God which the Lord's powerful Spirit may be said to "jump start" the fledgling Jerusalem congregation not with a harvest of grain but with no fewer than 3000 blood-bought baptized human souls.

In the meantime, since by the grace of God, we, too, are blessed to join their ranks in believing and singing, "Let none but Christ our Master be!" (Hymn 497, LSB)!



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

SELC District of LCMS

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Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

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