



The Beacon Online

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

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SELC 2025 District Convention



The 2025 SELC District Convention is being held January 16 - 19, 2025 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida. The program schedule and hotel information will be sent out soon.

We are looking for pictures from earlier conventions to feature in upcoming issues of the Beacon. If you have information about who is in the pictures, please include this information when sending the photos. Please email the photos to the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com Look for the first photo in next week's issue of the Beacon.



Beacon Article Deadline for June 14th Issue

Please submit any articles for next week's edition (June 14th) must be submitted by **Tuesday, June 11th at noon.**

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 21*



Rev. Brett Witmer to be Installed on June 30, 2024

Rev. Brett Witmer will be installed on Sunday, June 30, 2024 at 3 PM as Pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church/Central City, PA (Eastern District) and as Permanent Vacancy Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church/Johnstown, PA (SELC District). The service will be held at Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Central City. A reception dinner will follow.

If you are planning to attend the service, Pastors are invited to vest with red stoles. If you are staying for dinner, kindly let Pastor Kyle Mullins know ASAP. His e-mail address is: kylescotm@gmail.com.



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/>



Concordia Center for the Family

What is "home-centered, church-supported" and how is it different from "church-centered, home-supported"?

Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

The big emphasis of Concordia Center for the Family is going back to a premise that Martin Luther celebrated— the importance of how the head of the household should teach the faith in a clear and simple way to his own household. That's in the Small Catechism all over the place. He saw the importance of parents, especially fathers, making sure that their household heard about faith in the Lord on a daily basis in the home. And since that's where 24/7 work can be done to shape the faith of a child, that is the most important place for this faith to be developed. Of course, though, we must use the gifts of God to do that. It goes back to the Lord and His gifts, which are delivered to us through the church that He has put into place, through pastors that are

called to lead the church, through other church workers. And so we go to the Word and Sacraments that are given to us in the Divine Service and in regular worship together and with the fellowship of believers in the church as well. The giving of those gifts from the church is essential to support the work that goes on in the home. The two go hand-in-hand.

But, the problem is: too often homes have given up the importance of discipling the next generation, thinking "The church will take care of it," or "I don't know how to do it," or "I'm not equipped to do that, I can't do it." And they've let go of doing that, hoping that just a little bit of contact with church or confirmation programs will be enough to make my child a good Christian for life. Sadly, that has been seen that that is not the case. And in fact, recent statistics that have come out through a study by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the **Seven Practices of Healthy Youth Ministry**, a great book that was just published from CPH, about how only one in five of our young people who are baptized in the Missouri Synod remain in faith through adulthood. The results of that study came out in 2019, and it still seems to be a true issue... in fact, getting worse. That's just such a sad statistic. In order to turn the tide on that, we see the importance of helping homes to be a place where faith can be shaped, and help parents, caregivers, grandparents, all those who influence the next generations to see that they can have an influence 24/7. And the church is there to support and equip that with church workers and other church members who provide Christ's gifts and support for the home development that happens.

Tune in to hear more of this conversation about what Concordia Center for the Family is currently doing and plans to do in the future, igniting Family Discipleship in the LCMS and beyond.



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.



Who do we serve?

In short, we serve Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries and church workers.

We invite LCMS Lutherans—whether church workers or lay members—like you to invest with us. We then use those investments to help support the work of LCMS individuals, schools and organizations through low-cost loans and other strategic ministry resources.

VISIT [LCEF.ORG/INVEST](https://www.lcef.org/invest) TO SUPPORT LCMS MINISTRIES TODAY!

Dan Lepley
SELC & English District Vice President
317-402-9401 | daniel.lepley@lcef.org

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
where investments build ministry

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.



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 was discharged from the hospital in Germany and is now in rehab. Please pray that he gains his strength back following his illness.

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.



Closing Thoughts **The Blessings of Family Relationships** Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Lois and I were recently privileged for the very first time to spend a few precious days here in Ohio with New Mexico family members now including four generations of Ballas "men folk" (pictured below at Calvary Lutheran Church, Parma Ohio). By the grace of God, all of us have received the Spirit's sacramental "washing of regeneration" of Holy Baptism into the death and glorious resurrection of our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ (John 3:5; Romans 6:3-4; Titus 3:5-7).

Even if conditions are such that we live all by ourselves, the psalmist David and Small Catechism remind us that our Triune God graciously "gathers the solitary into families" with the result that we are never really alone as children of our Heavenly Father's "forever family" especially in the ongoing blood-bought Church of His beloved Son as one generation shall declare God's mighty works to another (Psalm 68:6, 18; 145:4; Ephesians 4:8) for which we indeed have very good reason to be most grateful to our loving and merciful ascended Lord!

Pictured from left to right: Lois Ballas, Rev. Ken Ballas holding three-year old great grandson, Owen Alexander, Owen's grandfather, Michael, and his father, Daniel.





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

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