



# 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](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) Look for the first photo in next week's issue of the Beacon.

The picture below shows the 2018 Convention held at Grace Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Ohio. ***Please continue to share pictures from previous Conventions - Thank You!***





## **LWML SELC Mission Grant Awarded in the Western Zone**

Sharron Salat Schademann- Zion Ev. Lutheran Church,  
Norridge, IL

St. Matthew LCMS is a 150-year-old church located in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. The church serves healthy meals to immigrants and folks living in shelters twice a week. Clothing items and food items are essential in their ministry. Services are held Sunday morning both in Spanish and English by Rev. Cesar Sifuentas. His wife, Elly, is a deaconess and conducts Sunday School for the children.

The church and annex building are in dire need of repairs, especially the ceiling, steps and bathrooms. The grant money from our SELC District to St. Matthew will go to help with much needed repairs needed to pass city inspection codes.

Prayers are needed for this wonderful congregation to continue spreading the Gospel and helping others!



Pictured above is Pastor Cesar Sifuentas at the Lectern.

Pictured below on the left is the Church sign that is 150 years old Below on the right are Pastor Sifuentas and wife, Elly.



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](mailto:ZionClarkNJ@gmail.com)  
Please RSVP no later than 1:00pm on Friday, June 21\*



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

**Note change to color of vestments to be worn**

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 green stoles**. If you are staying for dinner, kindly let Pastor Kyle Mullins know ASAP. His e-mail address is: [kylescotm@gmail.com](mailto:kylescotm@gmail.com).



## **Concordia Center for the Family**

### **Anxious vs. Bold**

Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Just recently, I read several articles in the same week saying that the generation of young adults growing up now is one of the most anxious generations that has lived in America. It's really sad to hear that, and I do see evidence to support it. There is a lot of anxiety as young people worry about the future of our nation, the future of our world.

However, in that same week, I was heartened when I was with my wife Heather at a place called Silver Dollar City, near us here in Missouri where we live. It's a place like an amusement park, but it is very open to Christian values being expressed by the entertainers there, and they support that atmosphere. As we were there, we heard a bluegrass band made up of a young family: a mom and her three daughters. They were sharing their music, but also their faith very openly and boldly onstage. I was thrilled to hear this young lady of 20-some years old who was sharing her faith in the Lord, her confidence in the Lord, and her encouragement for people not to worry in this world in which we live. She also encouraged young people to follow God's plan and not let the world tell them to do otherwise, especially when it comes to marriage. She boldly said that young women should not be afraid to wait, be pure, and wait for a man who is a godly man who will love them in God's way. She talked about how it is appropriate for one man to marry one woman, to be married for life, and to follow God's will, to have children and rejoice in that, for women to be joyful in raising children and for husbands to also take their role in leading the family and support in the raising of the children, and especially to raise up those children in faith in Jesus Christ. It was so awesome to hear this open testimony of faith in Jesus as our Savior above all, and she was clearly holding a "thumbs-up view" like I espouse, putting Christ on top. So don't give up on our world. There are good young people out there who are growing in faith in Jesus and wanting to live out marriages in that way.

If you'd like to join in raising up the next generation in that way, then join us here at CCF. That's what we're about, and we will continue to support young people just like this girl I heard sharing their faith and looking for a marriage in God's way that will be a blessing to the world.



## Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine WI Closes out Sunday School Year with Youth Service and a Dessert Derby

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, Pentecost Lutheran Church celebrated the end of the Sunday School year with a service planned by the youth of the congregation. In preparation for the service, the youth picked the theme, the readings, and the songs. On the day of the service, the youth ushered, lectored, played instruments on the hymns, performed a musical selection during communion, and sang a vocal solo on the last hymn. In place of the sermon, the youth presented a skit entitled "The Heavenly Express".

The service was followed by a "Dessert Derby", a Pentecost favorite. Parishioners anonymously made 8 different bite sized deserts. After sampling the deserts, congregation members voted for their three favorites. This year's winners were Kathy McGregor (1<sup>st</sup> Place) - Strawberry Cookie Cups; Debby Cooper (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) - Andes Candies Cookies; and Bekah Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) - Strawberry Crumble.

The congregation also honored retiring Sunday School teacher, Kathy McGregor, for 31 years of service. A bulletin board was displayed with pictures of Kathy and many of her students going back to 1993.

Pictured below is are the members who performed the skit. **Front Row:** Izzy Lisowski, Simon Jacob, and Autumn Madsen **Back Row:** Kyle Jacob, Cullen Lisowski, Henry Hansen, Nathaniel Lisowski, Raynae Hensel, Shyann Christensen, and Tim Hasko





Pictured above on the left are the instrumentalists for the service. **Front Row:** Deacon Jacob (trumpet), Dan Hasko (trumpet/baritone), Shyann Christensen (trombone), Joyce Hasko (organ/piano), and Tim Hasko (clarinet) **Back Row:** Seth Luxem (trumpet), Autumn Madsen (vocals), Evan Guirsch (keyboard/vocals), Scott Hensel (trumpet), & Raynae Hensel (flute). **Not pictured:** Sofia Luxem (clarinet) and Jenna King (flute).

Pictured above on the right are the three dessert winners from left to right: Bekah Smith (3<sup>rd</sup> Place), Debby Cooper (2<sup>nd</sup> Place), and Kathy McGregor (1<sup>st</sup> Place)

***Congratulations to all the winners!***

Pictured below is Retiring Sunday School teacher Kathy McGregor, who was honored for 31 years of service teaching Sunday School.

***Thank you, Kathy, for teaching for 31 years!***





## LCEF SELC District Vice President

We give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev. Dan Lepley as our LCEF SELC District Vice President. We pray for him as God has called him into new areas of ministry and service in God's Kingdom. We thank Dan for his service to our District and to the SELC District Board of Directors.

If you or your congregation is in need of services from LCEF, please contact the SELC District Office in this time of transition.



## 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. Panzigray**, 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.

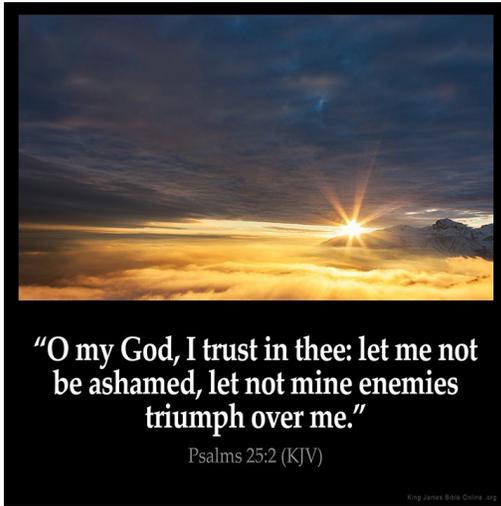
**The family of South Wisconsin District President Rev. John Wille** who was called to heaven on June 10th.

*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.*



## Closing Thoughts

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM



Beloved sainted SELC pastor, editor and in his later years highly gifted hymn writer and translator, Jaroslav Vajda, once observed that seemingly little has been written on the biblical concept of **shame**. Staying with Scripture and Luther, we can perhaps do no better than briefly call to mind Psalm 25, Romans 1:16-17 and Hebrews 12:1-3. With our blessed crucified and ascended Lord, continue to despise the shame and sin that caused it without ever being ashamed of Jesus and the comforting Good News of our faithful God's precious Gospel! **Thank You, Jesus!**



## SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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