



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

Acts 13:47: For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "I have made you a light for the Gentiles [nations, ethne], that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth."

The 2025 SELC District Convention is being held January 16 - 19, 2025 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida. The Convention begins with Opening Worship on Thursday evening at 7 PM, followed by a reception. Convention business will be conducted on Friday and Saturday. The Convention ends following worship on Sunday, January 19, 2025 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. Registration information will be sent out soon.

The due date for your congregation to submit your delegate information is **September 15, 2024**. It is important that your Church Council or Church Board of Directors meet to identify potential people to fill the Lay Delegate role in your congregation. Once this is done, you will need to schedule a Voter's meeting ***in August, no later than September 8th***, to elect your lay delegate and lay alternate delegate and to get the paperwork submitted to Secretary Telloni by the due date of **September 15th**. At the Convention, the SELC District delegates to the National Convention in 2026 will be elected.

The delegate information will be in the mail by July 25, 2024.

It is important that before your Voter's meeting that each congregation prayerfully seeks God's guidance in identifying individuals who might be asked to be your Lay Delegate and Alternate to our SELC District Convention in Florida in January

2025.

The 2025 SELC Convention registration will be available on the SELC District website on August 1, 2024. A hard copy of the registration materials will be sent to each congregation.

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

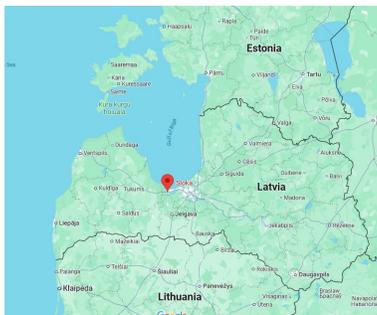
Pictured below is a picture from the 1978 SELC District convention that was held in Garfield, New Jersey



***Please continue to share pictures from previous Conventions
Thank You!***



SELC Mission Trip to Latvia



As you are reading this, we give thanks that the 13 missionaries from the SELC District have returned home safely. They returned home on July 16th and are now sharing their stories with family and friends! Here is a synopsis of their first few days in Sloka, Latvia.

The week began with devotions and registration of the children for the week of camp (pictured below left). Games and crafts (below right) were very popular, as was singing!



The campers continued to practice their singing throughout the week (photo left).

The service project was making blankets for residents at a local nursing home. The campers and advisors tied blankets to be given to the residents at the end of the week. See both pictures below.



See next week's issue for the wrap up of the English camp in Latvia.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

Jesus did not tell us when He would return. Why? How does this mystery encourage us to be faithful, while patiently waiting on His return?

Listen at familybiblejourney.com or scan the QR code on the right.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



Registration Opens for October Lay Bible Institute Workshop Will Focus on Mental Health

Registration is now open for the **Oct. 5 Lay Bible Institute**, "Christian Caregiving for People Suffering with Depression and Anxiety."

Participants will come away with practical skills drawn from the Christian tradition of providing care and comfort to those in mental distress through the use of scriptural teachings and insights from Martin Luther.

"The struggle of mental illness, in its various forms, has been with us for centuries. Christians are, of course, not immune from it, and many of us have known its suffering. Recent research is showing that wise teachers of the past knew something about this, which today has been largely forgotten: Mental illness involves more than just the mind. It is also physical and, very importantly, spiritual," said **Dr. Stephen Pietsch**, associate professor of Practical Theology. "Christian soul care teachers of the past can help us cope with issues like depression and anxiety from within the counsel of God and His Word. Our whole life, including our mental health, is held in His care, and there is strength, joy and hope in Jesus Christ, the great physician and comforter of souls."

Open to anyone interested in the study of Scripture and proclamation of the Gospel, the workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 5 in Sieck Hall 202 on campus, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105. The **registration** deadline is Sept. 23. Cost is \$20 per person (free for Seminary students) or \$35 with lunch.

The Seminary's Lay Bible Institute, offered three times a year and led by faculty members, is an ongoing study of the Bible and how it relates to today's life and events.

For more information or to register, visit csl.edu/lbi or contact Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or ce@csl.edu.



Independence from Brokenness Concordia Center for the Family

Is a home in which there's been a divorce now a "broken home?" Is it in a hopeless state of division that can never be overcome? Is it vain for someone in that home to even lift a plea to God in prayer for help? Absolutely not!

NO home is beyond Jesus' power and love. Yes, we're all personally "broken" by sin ever since the fall in Eden. However, Jesus died and rose to pay the price for our broken nature. And, Jesus freely forgives and loves us by grace. All who are baptized in His name and are led by the Holy Spirit to cry out in prayer to Jesus, DO receive His forgiveness, love and more gifts. We still have scars from our past brokenness... a sinful nature that still rises up to attack us and tempt us to despair. However, those scars do NOT take away Jesus' love. They can NOT keep us from living out His love in our relationships. When we pray for it, the Spirit empowers us to choose to live and love in Jesus' way.

This is a powerful message as we reflect on Independence Day, recently celebrated on July 4th in the U.S. This day commemorates American independence from foreign tyranny. Now, through faith in Jesus, we can celebrate EVERY day our independence from the tyranny of sin. Recall Jesus' promise to us in John 8:36, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." Jesus HAS set us free from hopeless brokenness. Any home that puts Jesus first ("Thumbs Up" to Jesus – SEE my book *Handing Out Life* at www.concordiafamilystore.org/books) is made whole by His power. Every home filled with the love of Jesus can overflow with that love to every person in that home and to the world beyond. We're free from Satan's lie that says we're broken beyond hope. THAT'S true independence!

Sharing such independence from hopeless brokenness is the goal of CCF. All our resources and training are geared to help sin-scarred people live every day in the FREEING grace of Jesus. Check out what we have to offer at www.concordiafamilystore.org.

Written by Rev. Dr. Todd A. Biermann, Executive Director at CCF

Read More Stories

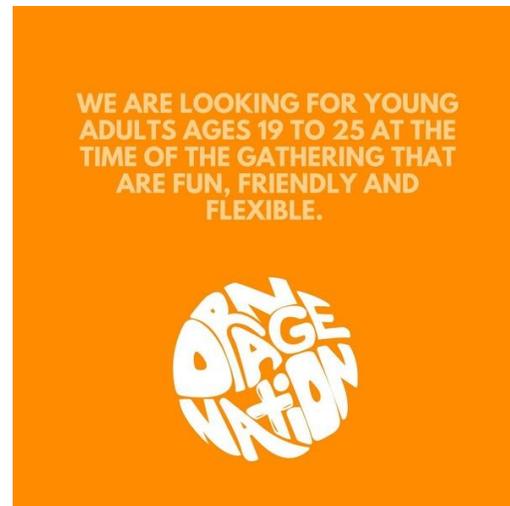


SELC Youth Group on Facebook



The SELC Youth has a Facebook page. Join the group by [clicking here](#) This will help you keep up-to-date with the plans for the 2025 Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA and much more!

The applications are open for Young Adults to apply to be a Young Adult Volunteer at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 19 - 23, 2025 in New Orleans, LA. [Click here](#) to access the application. The Young Adult Volunteers are the Orange Nation at the Convention!





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Scholarship Funds are Available

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 by going to this link - <https://selc.lcms.org/docs/> and choose Resources, Documents, Student Aid.

To access the application, please **[click here](#)**



LWML Mission Grant Awarded to Orphan Grain Train in Maryland



Karen Ann Kowalczyk, LWML SELC District Grant Chair, presented a \$1,500 check to Bruce Coonradt, OGT Maryland Branch Manager. The SELC District of Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is a non-geographical district. The LWML SELC met in convention on May 4th at Concordia Lutheran Church, Macungie, PA and approved this grant. The check represents "Mites" that have been collected over the past two years from LWML women of the district. The funds will be used for container shipping costs as we continue to bring the hope of the Gospel to those in need.



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 in Florida. Please pray as he works to regain his strength back following his illness.

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.

Cheryl Poppe, Grace Preschool in Lakewood, OH who is recovering from hip surgery.

We ask for your prayers for the Mission trip that members of the SELC District are making to Latvia. There are people going from Concordia Macungie and St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL.

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.



New Hymn of the Day - Pentecost 10 July 28, 2024

Rev. John Telloni,
St. John, Massillon, OH

Below is a hymn authored by this writer that would be appropriate to sing on Sunday, July 28th, the 10th Sunday after Pentecost. It is entitled, "Jesus Calls Us in the Tempest," based on two texts from St. Mark (5:21-43 and 6:45-56), the latter of which is the assigned Gospel for the 28th in Series C. Thus the hymn could serve as a good replacement for the recommended Hymn of the Day.

The hymn's words are set to a familiar tune, "Stuttgart," which can be found in The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH # 270). If you or your organist/pianist do not have a copy of TLH, please contact me (jlt3750@aol.com), and I will be happy to quickly send you a downloadable copy of the full accompaniment. Or you may also find the accompaniment if you Google "Stuttgart.Hymnary" after which you can download it for your parish musician.

Finally, I would recommend cutting the words and melody below and paste them onto your worship folder or prepare a separate insert. Blessings!

Please see the hymn on the next page.

Jesus Calls Us in the Tempest

Text: John L. Telloni/Tune: Stuttgart, 1715



1. Je - sus calls us in the temp - est
2. His dis - cip - les watched Him sleep - ing
3. "Hush!" He cried to wind and wat - er,
4. "Who is this?" they asked each oth - er.
5. In our joys and in our sor - rows,
6. Thus His love is ev - er spark - ling,

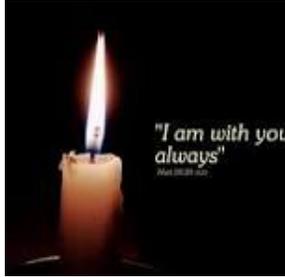


On the wind - tossed, storm - y sea. Ev - ery day His
While the waves splashed on the boat. "Don't You care," they
And the storm came to an end. Then He turned to
"Ev - en wind and sea o - bey." Je - sus Christ is
When we work and when we play, Je - sus cares and
Bright as sun on shin - ing sea. Trust His wis - dom



sweet voice beck - ons, Say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low Me."
said, "We're drown - ing!" But the ship re - mained a - float.
His dis - cip - les, "Why the fear? Trust Me, Your Friend!"
Lord and Sav - ior; He's the An - swer when we pray.
still He calls us, "You are Mine and I will stay."
and His pow - er. He leads to e - ter - ni - ty!

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Closing Thoughts **A Pastoral Prayer following the Death** **of a Believing Loved One**

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, with mixed feelings in the midst of our tears and grieving hearts help us remember that You also experienced a death in Your own immediate family, the death of Your only Son, our sinless Brother-Savior, Jesus Christ. Thankfully, that was not the end of the story as You continue to provide more than one kind of healing especially in His resurrection not from a chair or a bed but from the dead. Because of Jesus we need not struggle to speak "a final Goodbye" but "Till we meet again at Jesus' feet!" where there will be *no more* sickness, death, sin or pain. Blessed Lord, *not* wishing in any way to *limit Your Gospel promises*, help us know that even in the *best of families* it happens that less than loving words or actions were exchanged regarding which (only because of Jesus) there remains a sense in which it is not *too late* even now or in days to come both to say *and* hear, "I love you!" or perhaps even, "Please forgive me!" Ascended Lord Jesus, we believe *Your Scriptural words of promise* to be with us in any and all circumstances; help us when it may seem impossibly hard to believe! Keep us all not only close to YOU and close to one another all the way to Heaven but also continue to be with us here *on earth* where we still live and where we often hurt. In Your healing Name we pray, LIVING LORD **JESUS!** **AMEN!**



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