



The Beacon Online

July 26, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 30

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

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! A [printable version](#) of the newsletter is available on our website at selc.lcms.org/beacon. Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



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 on August 1, 2024.

Delegate Due Dates

September 8, 2024 - Make sure your congregation's Voter's meeting is scheduled no later than 9/8/2024. 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.**

September 15, 2024 - Submit your delegate information to SELC District Secretary Rev. John Telloni.

If you did not receive your Convention Official Notices and Forms packet, please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com or by telephone at 610-965-3265 and press 6.

Additional Deadlines

October 15, 2024 - Nominations due for District President and District Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, Proposed Resolutions

November 15, 2024 - Credentials to be submitted for Advisory Delegates and Nominations for District Board of Directors and Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees

The 2025 SELC Convention registration will be available on the SELC District website on August 1, 2024 - www.selc.lcms.org. 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. Thank you to John Daniel for supplying many of these photos.

Pictured below is a picture from the 1959 SELC District convention held in Chicago - River Forest, IL.



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



SELC Mission Trip to Latvia



The 13 members of the SELC District have returned home safely and are returning to the lives after their trip to Latvia. There were seven from St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL and six from Concordia in Macungie, PA.

On day 5 they finished the service project and took the blankets to the local Senior care facility. You can see several of the camp volunteers bringing many blankets to the nursing home.



It was the famous water balloon day at recreation time (which is always a blast!) along with singing and games.





After camp we went to the shores of the Baltic Sea to enjoy some of the local culture and watch the sunset

Day 6, The Final Day: Wow! What a week! The time in Latvia flew by. Today was the final day of camp. The final classes were held in the morning. Each group prepared a skit or presentation for the closing program (below right). President Vinovskis' class (of one adult!) did a reading in English of Psalm 23 and John 10, the Good Shepherd (photo below left).



After the program there was a lovely picnic and S'mores, a camp tradition!





Family Bible Journey Podcast

Many Christians believe there will be a rapture, and then a time before Christ returns to earth for good. What does Jesus say about His return? We consider what it means to be “Left Behind” in this week’s podcast.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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



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.



SELC Youth Group on Facebook



The SELC Youth Group 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!





Y.I. CLUB

**YOUNG INVESTORS
STEWARDCOUNT®**

Help Your Child Save for the Future

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, you are supporting Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries—without forfeiting competitive rates.

**VISIT LCEF.ORG/YICLUB
TO INVEST TODAY!**

 **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. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount® products are not available to investors in South Carolina.



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 St. Matthew Lutheran Church Norton, OH

On May 26, a check for \$1500.00 was presented to the President of St Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church. The funds were a Mission Grant from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League SELC District and will be paid toward the cost of the new digital electric sign placed on the church grounds in October 2023.



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.

Cheryl Poppe, Grace Preschool in Lakewood, OH who is recovering from hip 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 Five Reasons We Can Be Sure God Loves Us

(the first and last of which are often overlooked)
Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

1. Article 11 of the Formula of Concord of our Lutheran Confessions in affirming the comforting biblical doctrine of divine foreknowledge **or election** to salvation without ever positing a "double election" of *predestination* to damnation. God *chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world* also using the sacrament of Holy Baptism to assure us believing Christians that we forever remain His elect children. (Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 20; 2:4-10 and the Nicene Creed).
2. By His Word God **created** a perfect universe including humanity in His own image (Genesis 1 and 2; Psalm 104; John 1:1ff.; Hebrews 11:3 and many other words of Holy Writ.
3. God has **redeemed** His later sadly fallen creation by sacrificing His only sinless Son, Jesus Christ, not with gold or silver but with His holy precious blood and innocent suffering and death and glorious resurrection not from a chair or from a bed but from the otherwise seemingly permanent clutches of death (1 Peter 1:3-21; 1 John 1:7b).
4. God the Holy Spirit powerfully and graciously continues to **sanctify** His Church on earth in the assured hope and knowledge of the forgiveness of sin, resurrection of the body and life of the world to come (1 Corinthians 15; Hebrews 13:14). Finally, God *waited for us to be born* before His ascended Son's promised glorious return (2 Peter 3:9 and 15a). Imagine perhaps points 1 and 5 as enfolding a costly (especially to God!) most Spiritually nutritious "Trinitarian Club Sandwich" by continuing to "taste and see" that our **TRIUNE LORD** is and remains supremely good! (Psalm 34:8; Isaiah 25:6-9; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Peter 2:3). Bon Appetit!



**SELC District - A District
Without Borders**

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

SELC District of LCMS
2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS

2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

Share This Email

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS | 2623 Brookside Road | Macungie, PA 18062 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!