



The Beacon Online

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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.

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 is available on the SELC District website on August 1, 2024 - www.selc.lcms.org. A hard copy of the registration materials was mailed 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 1947 SELC District convention held in Dickson City, PA



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



Special Notification Regarding Elections of District Officers – Pastors

A Message from District Secretary Rev. John Telloni

This is an official notice to all pastors and congregations regarding nominations for the upcoming SELC District Convention at Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, January 16-19, 2025. This should have been provided in the packet sent out two weeks ago to facilitate the nomination process.

Specifically, congregations need to be aware that Specific Ministry Pastors (SMP) are not eligible to be nominated for District offices that require an ordained pastor to serve. This is according to the Handbook of the LCMS, which contains the Constitution and Bylaws that govern our church body. For the benefit of both clergy and laypeople in our congregations as they prepare to participate in the important action of nominating officers who will serve for the next triennium, the pertinent Bylaw, 2.13.1(B)(2), is printed below:

Bylaw 2.13 Membership Status and Limitations

Specific Ministry Pastor Status and Limitations

2.13.1 A “specific ministry pastor” is a minister of religion—ordained who has completed the requirements for service as a specific ministry pastor and has been examined by one of the Synod’s seminaries, has received a regular call, and has been placed by the Council of Presidents into a specific Word and Sacrament ministry context. He is eligible to serve only in that specific ministry context for which he has been trained and may not be offered or accept a call for ministry for which he has not been certified as determined by his district president. He shall serve under the supervision of his district president and another pastor who is not a specific ministry pastor.

7(a) Because he is under supervision of another pastor and because a specific ministry pastor’s theological education has been formed in part by and for a specific ministry context, he may not be placed or called into ecclesiastical roles that exercise pastoral oversight outside the context of his call.

(b) A specific ministry pastor is not eligible to

- (1) serve as a voting delegate to a national convention of the Synod—but may serve as an advisory delegate to national conventions and as a pastoral delegate to district conventions;**
- (2) hold any elected or appointed office on the district or national Synod level that is assigned by the Bylaws of the Synod to “a pastor” or “an ordained minister” (although specific ministry pastors may serve in all other capacities, especially representing the ministerial contexts in which they serve);**
- (3) supervise vicars; or**
- (4) serve as a circuit visitor**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Rev. John L. Telloni, Secretary
SELC District, LCMS



New Free Stewardship Resources for Your 2024 Stewardship Emphasis

Start planning your 2024 stewardship emphasis today

Looking for some fresh resources and ideas for your Stewardship Emphasis this fall? The district Stewardship Committee is pleased to share three new resources provided by Ron Chewning. These resources have been developed by Ron Chewning, and are:

- Written by LCMS members & pastors
- Scripturally-based and grace-centered
- Focused on raising people, not just money, and
- FREE to SELC-LCMS congregations!

Please note, this material is licensed for the sole use of congregations of the SELC District. However, they may be purchased by contacting Ron Chewning at stewardshipadv@aol.com.

To view the content of this program, [click here](#) and start your planning today!

For help downloading or using these materials, contact Patti Smith at selc.lcms@gmail.org.



THE WAY
CHURCH

Kid's Camp The Way Lutheran Church Columbia, IL



During the week of July 15th to 19th, 2024, The Way Church transformed its grounds into The Great Jungle Journey, a captivating Kids Camp that drew children from every corner of the community. The volunteers at camp led these young adventurers on a journey to unravel the epic tale of God and the boundless love embodied by Jesus for us and all living beings. The kids rallied to raise \$1,259.88 for our mission partner Good Samaritan, which offers support to families in East St. Louis by providing a nurturing space for learning, togetherness, and spiritual growth.

Not stopping there, they also gathered 314 vital supplies for Restore Network, a local organization dedicated to empowering foster families in our area. See photo above.



To celebrate meeting their mission goals, the children were treated to an exhilarating water day with the Tsunami Slide (above left) and an extraordinary encounter with jungle creatures, leaving them with enduring memories as seen in the photo left and below.





Family Bible Journey Podcast

When Jesus cries from the cross, we hear the pain caused when He was separated from His Father. But He doesn't cry just as a man, but as the very Son of God. We reflect on God's pain, expressed at the cross during our August 1 podcast.

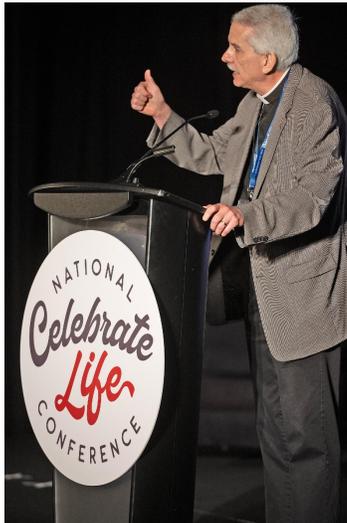
Listen at familybiblejourney.com or scan the QR code on the right.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



National Celebrate Life Conference



On June 21-23, pro-life organizations from all over the country gathered in Washington, DC for the National Celebrate Life Conference. The LCMS was one of the many sponsors of this conference, but the only church body to do so. Pastor Douthwaite was asked to give the Opening Devotion on Saturday morning. You can read his devotion by going to: <https://rb.gy/a7kf0q>



IMC Seeks to Hire Executive Director

The LCMS Interim Ministry Conference (IMC) seeks to contract a part-time Executive Director to help carry out the regularly occurring functions of their Board of Directors. The IMC promotes and coordinates the health and development of transitional interim ministry in the LCMS in coordination with the Council of Presidents. The Position Description is available **HERE**. To apply, send a resume and two professional references to Mark Koch at revmkoch@gmail.com

Are **you** eligible for this **exclusive opportunity?**

If you are a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod rostered or lay church worker, then Lutheran Church Extension Fund's **Church Worker StewardAccount**® is for you.

Learn more about the Church Worker
StewardAccount at lcef.org/cwsa.



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



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](#)**



Women's Bible Study

The monthly Women's Bible study is held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM Eastern time. The August session will be held on August 15th in person or via a zoom session.

The topic is "**Speak the Truth**" the first one in the Summer edition of the LWQ

You can Zoom or come in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Lodi, 8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH 44254

Please click on the link below and then enter the password when prompted.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?>

pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09



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 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

Calling all Lutherans!

PENNSYLVANIA MARCH FOR LIFE
HARRISBURG, PA | SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

CALLING ALL LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

Gather with your pro-life Lutheran brothers and sisters prior to the 2024 PA March for Life at:
**THE HILTON HARRISBURG
ONE N. 2ND STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17101**

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
Meet and Greet with Full Breakfast

10:00 AM
Welcome, and Keynote Speakers:
"Life in the Darkness" Scott Licht, Lutherans for Life
and Legislative Update, Maria Gallagher PA Pro-Life Federation

10:30 AM
Walk to the Capitol Steps for the Rally

12:00 PM
March Begins

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Pastor Christopher Seifferlein of Mount Calvary Lutheran in Lititz
at (920) 918-7200 or email pamarchforlife@lancafterlutheran.com

Visit marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania for event details

Full Breakfast graciously provided free of charge by the English District of the LCMS

Gather with pro-life Lutherans prior to the 2024 PA March for Life at The Hilton in Harrisburg, One N. 2nd St. in Harrisburg to be encouraged and take a stand for mothers, fathers, and their children born and unborn. A full breakfast, free of charge, (graciously provided by a grant from the English District of the LCMS) will be served from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. Speakers Scott Licht of Lutherans for Life, and Maria Gallagher from the PA Pro-Life Federation will briefly address us. We will walk together to the Capitol steps for the 11:00 AM Rally and 12:00 PM March. For more information or to RSVP your attendance, contact Pastor Christopher Seifferlein of Mount Calvary Lutheran in Lititz at (920) 918-7200 or email pamarchforlife@lancafterlutheran.com.

Visit marchforlife.org/Pennsylvania for event details about the PA March for Life. Join us for this inaugural event for Lutherans, the first of its kind in PA!



Closing Thoughts A Little-Known Little Letter

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Regular users of our Synod's current issue of Portals of Prayer devotions also may have noticed the rather unusual "literary wedding" of not just two but *three* suggested daily Bible readings. In addition to expected excerpts from the Psalter (22 days from Psalm 119 alone!) plus a second selection from either testament, July's talented privileged contributor was able to incorporate for his widespread readership the entire short but noteworthy and sadly often neglected New Testament **Epistle of Jude**.

Although Jude is hardly the *first* portion of Scripture serious students of the written Word of God we turn to for one's own benefit or to teach the basics of biblical Christianity to others, its stern message of Law coupled with an equally obvious emphasis on the comforting Gospel of salvation has been much needed throughout the history of Christ's Church militant in *apologetic contending* for our most holy faith in our powerful living and loving Lord Jesus Christ also in today's still diabolically hostile world.

Noteworthy also is the fact that only a few pages after this easily overlooked penultimate book in most printed editions of the Holy Bible are the perhaps surprisingly similar themes in the Spirit-driven "Seven Letters to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor" recorded in Revelation 2 and 3. Fondly remembered from my seminary days as an impressionable student "field-worker" at the then venerable downtown St. Louis

Slovak-English St. Lucas Ev. Lutheran Church (genial hosts of our last SELC District Convention), the Rev. Dr. John Kovac of blessed memory preached an ever-needed series of sermons based on those very same letters to those earliest churches all of which also far from perfect but all of which served and worshiped our perfect Lord!

We should be most thankful for the ministry of such faithful individuals and church bodies who take seriously the entire inspired written Word of God faithfully preached and taught from both the Old and New Testaments (see 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 3:16). Let him who has ears obediently hear what the Spirit of our almighty and most merciful God continues to say to His (and our) churches today!



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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