



The Beacon Online

August 16, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 33

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 was mailed to all Churches on August 1st and is posted on our website - www.selc.lcms.org.

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 and/or the registration information, 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

December 16, 2024 - Registrations are due for the Convention.

December 26, 2024 - Hotel rooms must be reserved no later than 12/26/2024

Register for the SELC District Convention at this link on our website - www.selc.lcms.org/convention/

You may also complete the registration form at the end of this issue and email it to the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com or mail it to

SELC District Office
2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062

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



Celebration Picnic Held at End of Joint VBS Program

Wilkes Barre and Hazleton, PA



St. John's Lutheran Church, Hazleton, had its service and picnic at Wargo's Grove, after a five year interval. Celebrating the end of a great week of VBS, both members from Wilkes Barre and Hazleton enjoyed this time of fellowship together, blessed by the Lord for a perfect day! Complete with worship, games, and good food in the classic Lutheran way, with plenty of pot luck side dishes, as well as the use of an awesome cook out grill.



What a great opportunity to enjoy the company of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We'd love to know when you're having yours! Let us know; maybe we'll come join you!





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.

Family Bible Journey Podcast



Learn how modern archaeology squares with the story of Jericho. Is it an ancient fable or historical fact? Learn more by listening to "Jericho" at familybiblejourney.com!



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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



SELC District Central Circuit Meeting Held

On Tuesday, August 6, St John Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio, hosted an informal Central Circuit pastors' conference. Participants talked about the upcoming Joint Western-Central Circuits Conference (September 24-26) and the SELC District Convention (January 16-19, 2025 in Lake Mary, Florida). Pastor Jacob Deal led a conversation about whether preaching about particular sins may lead hearers to seek the comfort of forgiveness.



Participants included Mrs Lois Ballas & Pastor Ken Ballas (Parma); standing (left to right) Pastors Chris Cahill (Lodi), Jacob Deal (Sharon PA), John Telloni (Massillon), Jon Carpenter (Massillon), and George Hansell.



Holy Trinity Baptism Celebration in Pleasant City, Ohio



On Sunday, August 4, Hayden James Loy received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Pleasant City, Ohio, when Pastor Chris Cahill (left) conducted the afternoon worship service with Holy Communion. Hayden's parents are Kellie and Jeff; (below left) his grandparents are Russ and Nancy Hill (below right).





Christian Concert to be Held November 2, 2024

St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA



Wendysue Fluegge coming to not only entertain us but lead us in praising our Lord and Savior with her special musical talents, both orally and instrumentally. She is a natural musical leader and has organized many concerts, working with several Lutheran affiliates such as the LWML, in order to serve the Lord and His church with lovely arrangements of worship through song.

It will be such a wonderful delight to come together to join in raising the roof once again in praise to our Lord and God, Creator and Savior. So, it is our wish and prayer that you are inspired to join us Saturday, Nov 2nd, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, located in Wilkes Barre, PA, at 1 PM for this positively outstanding event!

Funding to help support this concert has been awarded through a SELC Evangelism grant.



Important Dates for the Youth Gathering

November 1, 2024 | Gathering Registration Opens
December 31, 2024 | Young Adult Volunteer Applications Close
January 15, 2025 | Team Flex Applications Open
April 30, 2025 | Team Flex Applications Close
July 19-23, 2025 | 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA

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.

The deadline for applications has been extended to August 31, 2024.

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



Women's Bible Study

Every third Thursday of each month
10:30 am EST

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

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, August 15th at 10:30 am EST and this month is "Speak the Truth" the first one in the Summer edition of the LWQ

<https://02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>

Be sure to visit the LWML SELC website -
[LWML-SELC District on Strikingly \(mystrikingly.com\)](http://www.lwml-selc.com)



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.

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

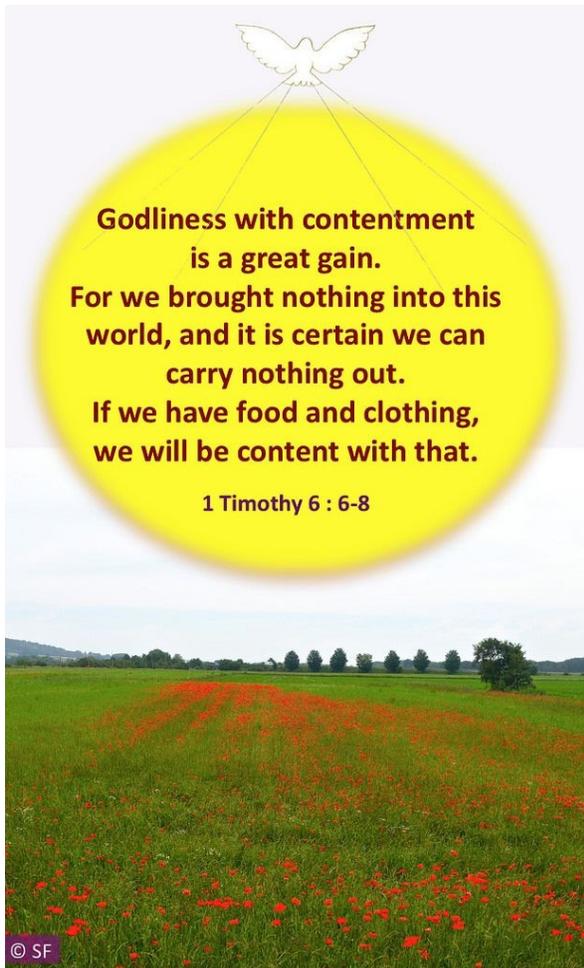


“Godliness with Contentment Is Great Gain”

A very free paraphrase of the above may be “The best things in life are . . . **NOT THINGS!**”

(see St. Paul to Timothy in 1 Timothy 6:6ff.)

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM



Having recently been among those experiencing prolonged weather-related power outages, one could expect to hear or ask, “How did generations of our ancestors manage to live without benefit of electrical energy?” A number of North American Mennonite or Amish folk's demeanor and way of life would still answer, “Quite nicely, thank you!” which prompts the following prayer:

Dear Lord, Your good and perfect gifts of material blessings among us remain neither good nor bad in and of themselves unless in our heart of hearts or inner being we choose disproportionately to “*deify*” the *things of this world* by our *misuse* of Your gift of time and our occasional lack of devotion discerning and actually doing Your Fatherly will. Forgive our common failure properly to distinguish between self-centered *wants* and hopefully obvious God-pleasing *needs* or largely transitory temporal concerns from the everlastingly eternal verities including persistent passion for more Himself in our behalf. **AMEN.** money or “*stuff*” money may buy compared to our cheerfully and uncomplainingly consistently *doing* Your heavenly will on the basis of Your holy saving Word through Christ our Lord who loves us by fully giving Himself in our behalf. **Amen.**

Matthew 6:24-34
Galatians 2:20

Conference Registration Form

Name	Church		
Address	City	State	Zip
Registration Fee		\$ _____	
Additional Guest Fee		\$ _____	
Total Cost		\$ _____	
WOMEN'S TRIP	I will go to DeLeon Springs.	Yes	No
All expenses except the entry fee and boat ride are on my own.			

DIETARY INFORMATION for Registrant and guest(s)

Dietary restrictions _____

Food allergies _____

CONVENTION WORKBOOK

I would like a printed copy of the Convention workbook Yes No

TRANSPORTATION

Will you require transportation to/from the hotel and church daily Yes No

Will you make your own arrangements for your daily transportation? Yes No

Arrival Date: Arrival Time: Airline:

Departure Date: Departure Time: Airline:

I will be renting a car Yes No

I need to have transportation to from the airport to the hotel Yes No

I will be driving to the Convention Yes No

I am willing to provide transportation to and from the convention Yes No

Please contact the District Office with any questions via email at selc.lcms@gmail.com or by telephone 610-965-3265, press 6.

Mailing Address: SELC District 2623 Brookside Road Macungie, PA 18062



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

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!