



# The Beacon Online

September 6, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 36

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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

**Delegate nominations due by September 15th**

*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.

**Please remember the dates below to make sure that your delegate information is submitted and your congregation is represented at the Convention.**

### 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](mailto: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/](http://www.selc.lcms.org/convention/)**

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)



## **Concordia Celebrates Beginning of the School Year**

Macungie, PA

Concordia Lutheran Church and Preschool celebrated the beginning of the 2024 - 2025 school year. They celebrated with Backpack blessings for all students as they returned to school.





President Vinovskis also installed Preschool teachers at the service held on August 25th. Below is President Vinovskis with preschool staff and Board member following the installation service. The Director is Crystal Meck, third from the left and Preschool Board Chair Jen Tillinghast on the far right.



## **Lutheran Haven Dedicates the New Assisted Living Facility *The Harbor***

Lutheran Haven dedicated "The Harbor" on August 28<sup>th</sup> to a crowd of more than 150 residents and friends who joined together along with our Board of Trustees in prayer and worship to dedicate this beautiful congregate care facility. Pastor John Elliott led the service and Lutheran Haven Trustee and District President, Rev. Vinovskis spoke of

the history of this facility and remembered his attendance at its groundbreaking many years ago. "The Harbor will be a place where care is given, His word is heard, His sacraments are distributed and celebrated, and His name glorified."

The vision of Lutheran Haven has been to gradually move toward an aging in place model of care by expanding our assisted living rooms and adding several new and expanded services. By renovating our former nursing home and expanding into additional assisted living spaces, we were able to add numerous amenities giving us the capacity to further integrate our community.

Our goal was to increase the use of these former spaces for the entire Lutheran Haven community so our residents can more easily interact with each other regardless of whether they are living independently or need the additional care of assisted living. This significantly adds to the sense of community and has been the overarching vision for The Harbor.

Previously, it was not unusual that when an independent living resident moved to the Assisted Living Facility, they felt a little isolated from various community activities which were held in other buildings on campus. Now, several activities and services are more readily available by bringing them under one roof. This includes:

- Outpatient physical therapy
- Additional physician office spaces and exam rooms
- Larger Chapel space for Sunday worship services
- A large multi-purpose room for various activities
- New and expanded dining space
- A pub and game room
- The relocation of our Pastoral Care Team
- Beauty Salon
- Respite rooms for when a resident is discharged from the hospital but needs a bit more care before returning home. Respite rooms can also be used for a caregiver who simply needs a break from the daily care-giving needs of a loved one.

The Lord designed us to live in community regardless of age. God created us to live life with others. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:20. Now, our community, in its entirety, can gather for worship, fellowship, and recreation, along with the expanded healthcare services this new renovation provides. To God be the glory!

Pictured below left is Rev. John Elliott, Spiritual Care Coordinator, at Lutheran Haven and on the right is President Vinovskis, SELC District President and Lutheran Haven Board member.



In the 1920's, Lutheran immigrants from Czechoslovakia living in Cleveland, Ohio, dreamed of building an "orphanage" for children and a "retirement home" for pastors who had limited income. In 1937, one of these settlers, Mr. Andrew Duda Sr., in gratitude to the Lord for His many blessings, offered the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Church (now the SELC District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod) forty acres of land and \$90,000 for the first two buildings - a home for the elderly and a home for needy, dependent children. The offer was graciously accepted by the Synod. In 1946 at the Synod Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, Articles of Incorporation were approved and a board of trustees was elected. The doors were opened to children and the elderly on May 30, 1948.



## Family Bible Journey Podcast

Hear how God used two women, Deborah and Jael, to save His people from their enemies when the men failed to rise to the challenge posed by the Syrians. "Deborah" and "Deborah's Song" are both now available on the Family Bible Journey podcast.

Listen at [familybiblejourney.com!](http://familybiblejourney.com)



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.



## Christian Concert to be Held November 2, 2024

St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA

*Wendysue*  
in  
Concert

*When*  
**Saturday, Nov 2**  
**1pm** (With a Reception After)

*Where*  
**St Peter's Lutheran Church**  
1000 S Main St., Wilkes Barre, PA 18706

**Suggested Donation:**  
Adult - \$10    Family - \$30

wendysue.com

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 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, in Wilkes Barre, PA, at 1pm for this positively outstanding event!

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



## UNLOCK FINANCIAL CONVENIENCE WITH LCEF'S DIGITAL TOOLS!

**We're here to make your life easier.**

Managing your Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investments and loans has never been easier. Discover the power of LCEF's digital tools designed to simplify your investment journey today.

**LEARN MORE AT [LCEF.ORG/DIGITALTOOLS](https://www.lcef.org/digitaltools).**



**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.



## FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP FACILITATOR TRAINING

### What is Family Discipleship?

*Christ's gifts nurturing  
faith in God's children  
through the partnership of  
home and congregation.*

Building on our Lutheran heritage, Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is training **pastors**, other **church workers**, and qualified **lay leaders** to help us ignite new zeal for Family Discipleship in our LCMS. As homes and congregations work together to disciple the next generations, our LCMS and **Christ's Kingdom will flourish!**

Would you like more **training and resources** to support this vision? CCF would love to have you join us! Scan the QR Code to learn more!

#### **Our next training events:**

April 22-26 - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

May 12-16 - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne



CCF is an  
LCMS RSO



[concordiafamily.org](http://concordiafamily.org)



1-888-553-5133



[toddbiermann  
@concordiafamily.org](mailto:toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org)



CONCORDIA  
CENTER FOR THE  
FAMILY



## Know Someone Interested in Full-time Ministry?

Share an invitation to Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 6-8

Spread the word about Vocatio: Retreat, a free three-day opportunity geared especially for college students or second-career adults who are interested in serving as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain. Registration closes Sept. 25.

[Learn more](#)



## 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, September 19th at 10:30 am EST. The topic will be:

"STEADFAST IN FAITH FIRST ARTICLE BLESSINGS" the second 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.org)



## 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. 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

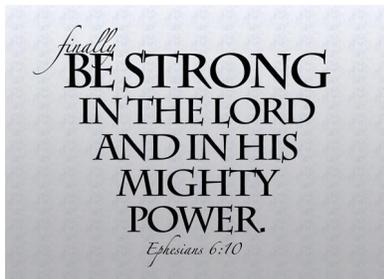
**Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Ballas**, Parma, OH. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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 her as she injured her knee and is receiving inpatient treatment to help with her recovery.

*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** **This "Liar of All Liars" Is Hardly Funny!**

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Though not recalling viewing the Jim Carrey *comedy movie* "**Liar, Liar**," the film's title alone nevertheless could remind one of specific challenges in living a God-pleasing life especially in today's unquestionably far from perfect world, a world in which growing numbers of people of various religious persuasions find reason for urging a degree of caution regarding formerly purely fictional depictions of "Artificial Intelligence."

Leaving discussion of "**AI**" to others, easily overlooked with reference to the incarnation of the sinless Son of God come in human flesh to redeem sinners that first Christmas is the thought that the Son of God came into the world to **destroy the works of the devil** (1 John 3:8). This biblical teaching provides an even greater proven danger of **diabolical intelligence** as Scripture refers to the devil as a *murderer* and father of lies (John 8:44 or Paul's pastoral instruction in Ephesians 6:10ff.).

Only *briefly* does the Bible hint that before there were any people a rebellion occurred among the Creator's heavenly angelic beings many of whom blatantly refused "playing second fiddle in God's orchestra." One of these, Satan, even presumed to usurp the eternal Deities being the Founder and Conductor of the natural beauty of what we today are privileged to see and hear. (cf. Revelation 12:7-9). For by the time the first words of Holy Scripture were written, the inhabited world having made its own rules of conduct was already so deeply mired in sin (read Genesis 4) that 99.9% of biblical content was concerned *not to the origin of evil but thankfully to the lastingly **divine solution*** and eradication of our vexingly chronic human condition.

The most essential part of our desperately needed solution has been described as "all the bother" our mercifully just and holy Creator-Redeemer God went to be our King again after our defiantly turning our backs on Him by rescuing and delivering us from the senselessly godless folly of our rebelliously self-centered nature culminating in

Christ's voluntary innocently selfless sacrificial all-atoning death on Calvary's cross and promised glorious triumphal resurrection from the otherwise seemingly permanent clutches of death and grave.

Did God know Creation would rebel or sin? Yes. Was God the *cause* of sin? Certainly not! (See Genesis 1:31.) God, however, **did not call into being a mechanically robotic universe!** Our warped conscience and limited reason easily cause us to **lie** if not to one another to *ourselves* with the greatest deception of all being what our risen and ascended Lord's apostle, John, calls our failure to acknowledge our sin and *believingly* to confess and repent as making **GOD HIMSELF** out to be a *liar* (1 John 1:10)! However formidable a spiritual enemy the devil still is, "the old Evil Foe" is no match for our sinless Brother-Savior or us who belong to *Christ's forever forgiven family!* (Luke 22:31-32; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-11)

While the story line of Hollywood's "**Liar Liar**" may innocently appeal to most secular movie-goers as a habitually clever manipulative "twister of the truth" is suddenly briefly challenged to struggle **not to lie once** over a single seemingly interminable 24-hour period, a sensitive 19<sup>th</sup> century Roman Catholic Christian hymn writer, Genevieve M. Irons, was moved to pen the poetic verse, "Thou knowest **all** my griefs and fears, the grace abused, *my misspent years.*" Set to Joseph Barnby's hymn "**Drawn to the Cross, Which Thou Hast Blest,**" each of the four stanzas of that eminently singable tune ends with the very same words which with good reason for the past **2000 years** defeated spiritual scumbag, Satan, still only loves to hate, "**CHRIST CRUCIFIED, I COME!**" (Hymn 390, **TLH**; 356, **LW**; 560. **LSB**) **Don't turn your back on Winner Jesus!!**

May it never be thought, dear reader, that these closing musings are the "last word" on any topic. Please know that your comments or feedback are warmly most welcome as, otherwise, how can each of us (present company included) better continue to serve and learn from one another? Thank you

Pastor Ken Ballas, EM 12965 W. Linden Ln. Parma, OH 44130  
Phone 440 886-6462 Email KenLoB4455@aol.com



## **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

Share This Email

Share This Email

Contact Us  
selc.lcms@gmail.com

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



Try email marketing for free today!