



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

**Delegate nominations due by
Sunday, 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 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/

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



Senior Vacation Bible School **Lutheran Haven** Deaconess Emily McLean

This year at The Lutheran Haven we set about bringing Vacation Bible School to the memory care unit. Initial feedback was mixed. Some said, "Why?! They won't even remember it!" A phrase I heard in seminary came to mind, "When I can't remember, God remembers me." My job as a deaconess is to bring the Gospel and leave it up to the Holy Spirit to perfect His Word in the people.

With the help of our dementia specialist and activities coordinator, Deborah McMichael, we made a schedule for how the day should flow. We decided to hold it every day, Monday through Friday, for a week just like the children's VBS. The key is to be flexible in a memory care unit, but this is what we used:

9:30 - Opening
9:40 - Hymn
9:45 - Bible Lesson
10:00 - Transition to tables/bathroom break
10:10 - Craft
10:50 - Transition to sitting area
11:00 - Hymn sing
11:15 - Closing

The program we followed was the same one we used for the children's VBS, "SCUBA." Our church already purchased all the materials. I saved decorations and leftover craft supplies. We didn't have to purchase anything except for a couple items for the skits. The overall cost was about \$7, not including what we printed in-house.

I worried it would be too child-like and we even renamed VBS to "Senior Bible Class," so the residents would not feel as though we were treating them like children. To our surprise, the residents were confused by our new name, but when we said, "VBS!" they became excited with knowing looks.

The best part of the week was seeing the residents really respond and have fun. With retired pastors and formerly active church volunteers in attendance, we were able to honor the work they did for the Kingdom of God by ministering *them* in their golden years. One woman came every day to visit her husband and stayed for VBS. On the final day, Friday, when she arrived, we questioned why since her husband was now in the hospital. "I don't want to miss the last day of VBS," she exclaimed! That was when we knew we should extend VBS to the Assisted Living facility next year.

Our favorite quotes of the week are:

"Now it's getting *real!*" and one resident shouted our theme of the day,
"God is a friend for everyone!"

I would like to extend thanks to Pastor John Elliott who was a great sport in putting on skits, helping with residents, and crafts. All thanks and glory be to God our father, through Jesus Christ for this growing ministry.







Rev. Gary Schuschke Accepts Call

Rev. Gary Schuschke, who has been serving as a missionary in Germany, has accepted a call to Faith Lutheran Church, Woodland Park Colorado. He will be installed on September 22, 2024. We wish Pastor Schuschke God's blessings in his new call.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

We learn from Samson how God uses this tragically flawed hero to redeem His people from the Philistines. There is so much more to Samson than covered in Sunday School. Learn more by listening to the Family Bible Journey podcast this week.

Listen at familybiblejourney.com!



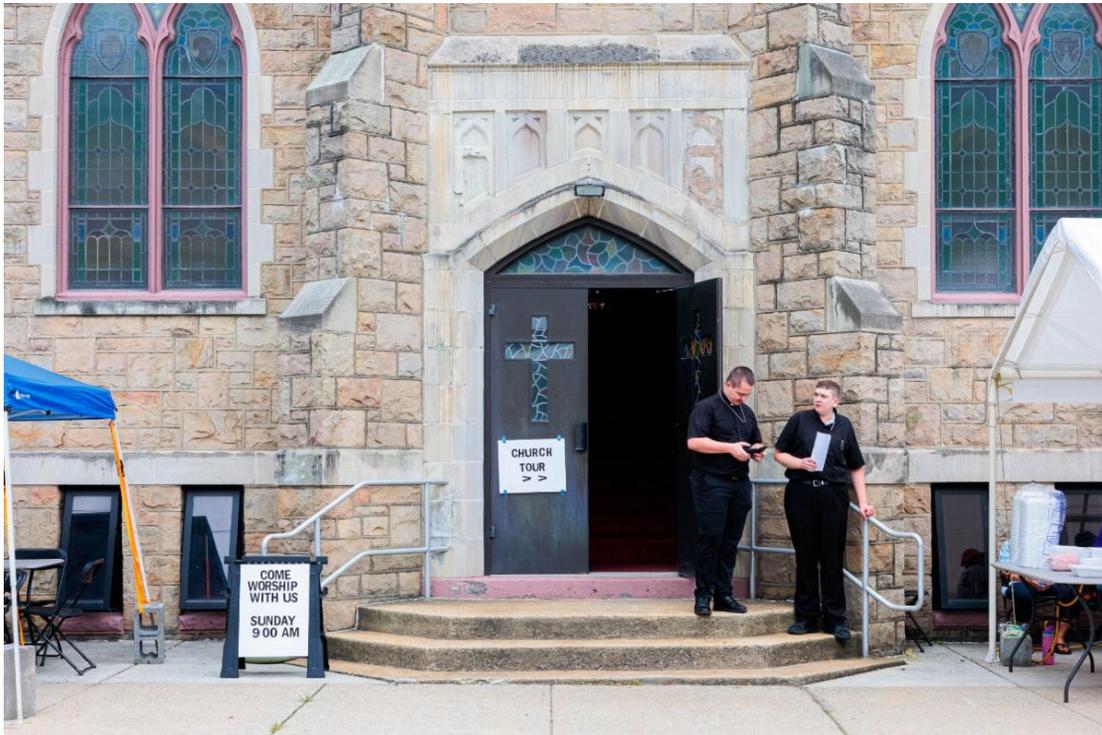
Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church Participates in Ethnic Festival

Johnstown, PA

On August 30-31, Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Johnstown, PA, participated in the Cambria City Ethnic Festival which runs over Labor Day weekend. Cambria City is the historic district of Johnstown, and the Ethnic Festival celebrates the differing immigrant communities that settled that part of Johnstown at the turn of the twentieth century. Holy Cross Lutheran Church was founded by Slovak Lutheran immigrants. The congregation represented that Slovak heritage and served homemade halushki (cabbage and dumplings), in addition to pierogies and kielbasa. They opened up the church, and Rev. Brett Witmer, the pastor of Holy Cross and Saints Peter and Paul Lutheran in Central City, talked to people on the history of the congregation and gave tours of the church. Members of Ss Peter and Paul Lutheran in Central City, PA and Trinity Lutheran in Glen Savage, also helped with the food. Holy Cross is in a partnership with Ss Peter and Paul Lutheran Church in Central City and Trinity Lutheran in Glen Savage. Together, all three congregations are helping to support a pastor for the revitalization of Holy Cross and Ss Peter and Paul. See photos on the next page.





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 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!

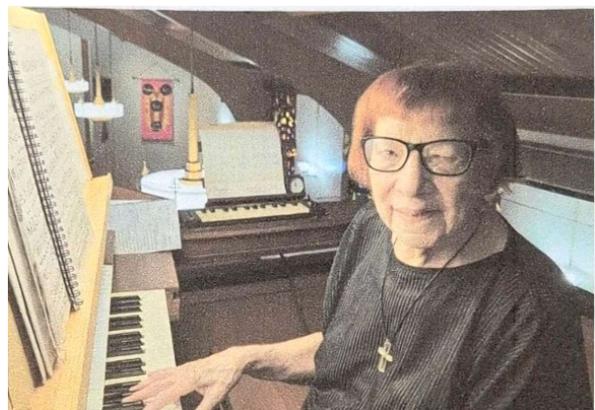
Funding to help support this concert has been awarded through a SELC Evangelism grant.



Memorial Service Scheduled for Organist St. Matthew Lutheran Church

St Matthew Lutheran Church in Norton, Ohio invites you to the memorial service for their long-time organist Dolores Butrick on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 1pm. She was their organist for 74 years, until her death a few months ago. There will be a luncheon after the service.

St Matthew Lutheran Church is located at 5451 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road, Norton, OH 44203.





Little League World Series Team Recognized at Resurrection Church

Resurrection Church celebrated the Lake Mary Little League World Series Champions during the service on September 1st. Several teammates and coaches attended, sharing their inspiring faith stories and receiving prayers. Keep up the great work, team!



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Giving Thanks for LCMS Church Workers Throughout the Year

October is the beginning of the Synod's yearlong church worker celebration

Fall is around the corner. It's the time of year we start to think about hayrides, bonfires, hot chocolate and apple picking.

It's also the time of year we turn our thoughts to celebrating and giving thanks for our beloved church workers. In October, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) observes Church Worker Appreciation Month. It's an opportunity for all of us throughout the Synod to recognize, in an intentional and unified way, those who serve us through their faithfulness, dedication and skill. These dear workers bless us in a multitude of ways as they preach, teach and care for God's people in body and soul. First among them, of course, is our pastors, who stand in the stead of Christ as they bring us His gifts of Word and Sacrament. In addition to our pastors, the LCMS is blessed to recognize seven commissioned (auxiliary) offices that support the work of the Holy Ministry: teachers, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, directors of parish music, directors of family life ministry, directors of Christian outreach and directors of church ministries. What a joy to be able to recognize the service of all these gifts of God!

But while October is the LCMS' designated month for showing appreciation to our workers, there are too many blessings — and people — to celebrate to limit our appreciation to only one month. For that reason, we have planned a year's worth of observances to align with other organizations in highlighting the many workers who serve in the LCMS and to give thanks for all of them and the indispensable and sacrificial work they do:

- Oct. 13 — [Pastor Appreciation](#)
- Oct. 25 — [Deaconess, Director of Family Life Ministry, Director of Christian Outreach, and Director of Church Ministries Appreciation](#)
- April 28 — [Director of Parish Music Appreciation](#)
- May 5–9 — [Teacher Appreciation](#)
- June 26 — [Director of Christian Education Appreciation](#)

Look for more information and resources in next week's Beacon.





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



1-888-553-5133



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 or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.



Closing Thoughts

Disciples as Well as Riches May Keep People from Jesus and God's Kingdom!

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

(Guiding questions for studying the biblical text of chapters 9 and 10 of St. Mark's Gospel) Noting especially Mark 10:13-27

Mark 9:1 raises a number of questions, some of which are to be understood in light of Acts 1 and 2. What minor descriptive detail in his transfiguration account does Mark alone record? Cf. Matthew 17 & Luke 9. Relate Deuteronomy 18:15 to the interruptible voice of God the Father from the cloud in Mark 9:7.

Following Jesus' passion and resurrection predictions, be sure to watch for Mark's *numerous* references to **children** (many of which also relate to God's gracious rule and the Kingdom of God!).

Why, do you suppose, earlier verses of Mark 10:13-27 though likely a literary unit have both rightly and wrongly been applied to our Lutheran liturgical rite of Holy Baptism?

It should be noted regarding the previous question that, **grammatically speaking**, the words "**as a child**" in the original Greek text of Mark 10:15 *cannot* refer to "**whoever**" but rather to the nearer word "**kingdom**" (the *contextual sense* being that the lives of kingdom people **should** *lovingly receive or welcome one another including children!*). Moreover, none of us came into our world untainted by sin (Psalm 51:5) as perfectly humble or trusting individuals as even the best behaved child needs to be disciplined to be less self-centered in ways **far beyond** unwillingness to share a

favorite toy perhaps accompanied by a verbal or physical tantrum or cry of **"Mine! Mine!"**

Beside Mark *who else* intentionally quotes the "second table of the Law" in the Ten Commandments *out of sequence* even "adding" the easily overlooked words **"Defraud not!"** with good reason later calls *His chosen disciples* **"children"** in Mark 10:24? Prayerfully reflect also on what the evangelist tells us in Mark 10:15 about *our Lord's reaction* to the blatantly negative behavior of His original slow-to-learn pre-Pentecost disciples and the sobering fact that we possess the behavioral propensity of preventing or **"robbing others"** of access to our Triune God's free gift of forgiveness and salvation.

Preconditioned as we are to think otherwise, this side of heaven it may take some awhile in order to realize that an overarching reason numerous Christian denominations mistakenly believe it to be a "sin" to baptize infants by relying on our limited gift of human reason to "decide to follow Jesus" and thereby receive the needed "new birth," or that the saving Gospel message of God the Father's loving us in His sinless, obedient, incarnate Son is so "simple" (rather than **extraordinarily genius!**) but because the Holy Spirit is so powerful as to create faith also in the hearts and lives of precious individuals including God's precious "little ones" whose families and church families are also commanded to study other essential teachings of Scripture! (Matthew 28:18-20; John 3ff.; 15:16; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:3b; Titus 3:5-7). The greatest obstacle to obediently heeding our crucified and risen Lord's loving command of being baptized into our living Christ's sinless death and resurrection at any age is Satan!



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

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