



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

It isn't too late to send in your delegate information!

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.

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/**



Vocatio: The St Louis Experience

Eric Riggins, Concordia, Macungie, PA



The common question of “what do you want to be when you grow up?” can be daunting, even for high schoolers. Thankfully, the Lord has a plan, and guides us on his path to complete his plan. Considering church work is often one of the toughest things to think about. Am I good enough? Could I really do it? Will I be any good at it? These are all questions I asked myself too. My name is Eric Riggins and this letter is for anyone entering high school all the way up to college and is considering church work.

Go to Vocatio. That is the best advice I think I can give anyone at this current moment. It changed how I saw working in the church, but what is Vocatio? Vocatio is a summer camp held in the Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis. The camp lasts one full week where you stay on campus, live a college life, and learn about your vocation. It is open to boys and girls entering high school all the way until their freshman year in college. You will learn about how the Seminary works, Lutheran colleges that will help you on your journey, make strong friendships with people going through the same journey as you, and build your faith so you can be guided on the right path. My experience did all of this and more. The scariest part for me was flying out. I had never flown alone, and had no idea what to expect, but as soon as I met two of the counselors for Vocatio, I knew I was in good hands. They were friendly, honest, patient, and understanding. The other participants that I rode with to the seminary were the same. Everyone was friendly and easy to talk to.

The first time you see the seminary is unlike anything else. Its uniqueness in the heart of St Louis makes you feel like you are in a little paradise, protected from the outside world. Anything that seemed like it would be difficult or uncomfortable, like signing in, going to your dorm, and meeting your roommate was the complete opposite. Everything went smooth and the dorms give you more privacy than you are going to expect. The schedule seemed packed, with breakfast, chapel in the morning, lessons, trips to camps, lunch, more sessions, and dinner followed by evening devotion, but there was lots of free time built in. And don't let thinking about the session discourage you. You don't feel like you're sitting in a room with someone telling their life story, you feel like you're having a conversation, your questions being answered with experience and honesty. Learning about different books of the bible all the way to what you can expect on the path to working in the church, you will learn more than you think possible in one week.

The trips to camps, like Camp Wertburg, give you insight on how to work with people and hold conversations about faith. Even with all these sessions, and activities, you find time to have fun, interact with other participants, and even talk to current scholars at the seminary. One week seems like a lot of time, but it will pass too quickly, and you will want to stay longer. This is how I felt, and I still want to go back, and that's one of the greatest parts. If you are still in high school, you can go back the following year again as a participant. And even if you are now going through college, second year or more, you can go and be a counselor. Learning the same way you did as a participant. I am well on my way to becoming a pastor thanks to Vocatio. Talking with people is a great first step to get an idea if you should consider church work, however, if the thought of doing church work is stuck in your mind, go to Vocatio. You will be guided on the path God has laid out for you.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

The book of Judges ends on a terribly brutal note with, "everyone doing what was right in their own eyes." Learn what happens when people only care for themselves and consider how the world today is not so different from the world of the Judges on the Family Bible Journey podcast.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

Listen at familybiblejourney.com!



President Vinovskis Elected to the Clergy, Call and Roster Committee

President Waldemar Vinovskis was elected to the Clergy, Call and Roster Committee for the Synod's Council of Presidents. This Committee is responsible for the COP manual that governs the workings of the Council of Presidents. The committee presents recommendations to the Council on matters pertaining to call procedures and roster maintenance. He is also serving as a member of the LCMS Worker Well-being Alliance Group.



Christian Concert to be Held November 2, 2024

St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA



St. Peter's Lutheran Church is excited to host Wendysue in concert, November 2nd. As well as a gathering of Christians for mutual benefit and edification, it is also an opportunity to support our local missions. There will also be the ability to donate to the food pantry of St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Wilkes Barre. As an option, this will coincide with the donations we receive for the concert at the door of St. Peter's. All non-perishable food items are welcome. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is a true joy to share with you in the ministry of our Lord; what a blessing it will be to join with so many of the saints from across the NEPA region, congregating in the Spirit to celebrate our faith together in this way; pray, praise, and give thanks.



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!

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.

In His great love and mercy, God cares for His people through the men and women serving in church work vocations. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod thanks God for the faithful church workers who serve in congregations and schools across our Synod. Below you will find more suggestions for ways to show your gratitude and support for your pastors, teachers, church musicians, deaconesses and other church workers.

Mail a thank-you note

Download and print one of [these cards or postcards](#), color it, and write a note to your pastor or church worker. Address it to them and mail it to your church's address.

Record a video message

Record a short video of you or your family singing a hymn, reading a psalm, or sharing words of encouragement and thanks. Send it to your church worker, and share it on social media to show your support publicly!

Show support on social media

Visit the [LCMS Facebook Page](#) to access [social-media shareables](#) with messages of support for church workers.

Pray

Use the hashtag #LCMSThankYous when sharing your thank you notes, video messages, etc., on social media. Your church workers need prayer. Pray for these workers and let them know you are doing so. Also please pray to the Lord of the

harvest for those future church workers whom God will raise up to fill these sacred and joyful roles in His Kingdom.

Whether as a pastor, director of Christian Education (DCE), deaconess, music director or educator, each and every church worker vocation helps proclaim the Good News!



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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, October 17th at 10:30 am EST.

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

Be sure to visit the LWML SELC website -

[LWML-SELC District on Strikingly \(mystrikingly.com\)](http://www.mystrikingly.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. 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.

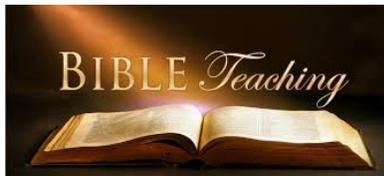
Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL Please continue to pray for her and her doctors to find

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.

Rev. Phil Miksad, St. Louis, who was hospitalized for surgery. Please pray for his recovery and rebuilding of his physical strength.

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

Teaching Basic Elements of the Faith to Family and Friends New or Old

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Old Testament (suggested thoughts and biblical references)

Genesis chapters 1-3, 12-50 (patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph forgiving his brothers) Exodus 3:6 (God reveals Himself to 80-year old Moses at the burning bush ca. 500 years later) Deuteronomy 6:4-7 (God's loving command to *teach* those we love the most (cf. Matthew 28:19); 18:15 and obediently pay attention to Him of whom Moses spoke (cf. Matthew 17:5) Selected psalms including perhaps Israel's King David's Psalm 51 and other penitential psalms Isaiah 25:6-9 and chapters 35, 53 and 55 (think also of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday!)

New Testament (a sampling of suggested references)

Matthew 11:28-30 (our sinless Brother-Savior, Jesus, invites us to come to Him just as we are!) "28:19 (baptized into the Name of our Triune God, we are to teach others much else) John 1:1-18; 3:16f.; 10:17f.; chapters 18-21 (the Father punishes His sinless Son instead of us!) Romans 5:8, 18; 6:3-4; chapter 8; 14:5-9; 15:13; 1 Corinthians chapter 15; 2 Corinthians 5; **2 Timothy 3:16-17**; Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:14-16; 10:23-25; 12:1ff.; 13:8, 14; 20-21; **Revelation 7:9-17**. How comforting is that!



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

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