



# 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**

### **Deadline for Nominations for District President, District Vice Presidents, Circuit Visitors, and Proposed Resolutions is**

**October 15, 2024**

**Only 11 Days left to submit your nominations for those listed above!!**

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.

### **Future Deadlines**

**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/)



## **Joint Central and Western Circuit Meeting Held September 24 - 26, 2024**

Rev. George Hansell, Jr., Central Circuit Visitor

Fourteen Pastors and two Pastors' wives met at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Marengo, Ohio, about 45 minutes north of Columbus, from the evening of September 24th until noon on September 26th. Located on 420 acres of woods and streams, the venue provided a peaceful and relaxing retreat setting. Revolving around the central theme of "The Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Brethren," the main purpose of the conference was to refresh, restore, and rebuild the fellowship that we share not only as brothers and sisters in Christ, but as brothers who share in a unique fellowship: the high calling and vocation of Called and Ordained Servants of the Word: Pastors.

One of the first activities in which everyone participated was a "Getting to Know You" activity. Utilizing one-page prepared biographies, each Pastor and Pastor's wife shared who they were, where they served, joys and sorrows in ministry, and whether or not they liked camping! The activity was a response to the reality that Pastors across the Synod are increasingly isolating themselves from their brethren in ministry, a situation that is even more readily possible in a non-geographical district like the SELC, and as a result, Pastors sometimes don't really know their brother Pastors in their own or in the other circuits of the District. For this writer, it was a joy not only to connect names with faces, but to enjoy being with, talking with, and actually getting to know at more than a surface level the men who serve in the Western Circuit.

The conference featured a real fireside chat with Pastor Vinovskis around our lodging's fire pit. The chat included not only a report of what is happening in Synod, but also allowed for the group to ask questions of special interest to them. Our days at camp included substantive conversations, worship with Word and Sacrament, Devotions and Bible Studies on fellowship of Pastors and the Mutual Conversation and Consolation of the Brethren, Reports on missions and church planting in our district, a presentation on how cultural shifts have impacted positively or negatively the gathering together of the brothers, and a poignant sharing of patient, faithful pastoral ministry to a hurting parishioner who did not respond in the way that had been hoped. One of our Bible Study leaders assigned homework to the group! Having paired each participant with a partner in order to learn about each other, the challenge given was to be in contact with each other once a week between the close of the conference and the start of the SELC District Convention in January.

Personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the joint circuit conference format, and hope that this is the first of many for the years to come.



Pictured above is Rev. Jon Carpenter who was the officiant for the Wednesday service.

Pictured below is the fireside chat held the first evening.



Pictured above is Rev. Brady Retzlaff who preached at the service.

Below are those gathered for a meal.





## The Start of a New Vocation

Rev. Chris Cahill

Jim Hurst has been the Deacon at Calvary Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio, for over twenty years, but this September he took his first steps into a new vocation. He enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor program of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) program enables men to study for the ordained ministry at either of our seminaries in a combination of online and at-home coursework. They also participate in a week of intensive study on campus in the fall academic quarter.

Like Jim, the SMP students are very involved in congregational ministry where they live and work. In the meantime, they are considered to be "Vicars" in their home congregation and are supervised either by their home pastor or (as in Jim's case) by a neighboring pastor serving as their mentor.

Over their course of study, they'll not only be hitting the books, but teaching Bible studies, preaching sermons, visiting congregation and community members, planning and carrying out special events, and more. At the end of the two years an SMP candidate is ordained to be the pastor in the place he has been serving.

Jim and his wife Jennifer enjoyed the "intensive week" at Concordia Theological Seminary September 23-27, along with mentor-supervisor Rev. Chris Cahill (SELC Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio). All three are looking forward to the blessings that they pray will come to Calvary and its people in this new ministry.

You can learn more about the Specific Ministry Programs at our St Louis Seminary here <https://www.csl.edu/academics/programs/specific-ministry-pastor-smp/>

Or at our Fort Wayne Seminary here <https://www.ctsfw.edu/future-students/pastoral/smp/>



Pictured from left to right: Jim and Jennifer Hurst; Pastor Chris Cahill



## **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.



## **Fall Rally LWML SELC District Eastern Zone**

The Fall Rally for the LWML SELC District Eastern Zone, will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, PA on October 19, 2024. The rally schedule is below. Please RSVP by October 12, 2024. The cost is \$5.00 per person.

9:00 am Registration

10:00 am Devotion/Bible Study

11:00 am Business Meeting with Elections

NOON Lunch

1:00 Ingathering/Service Projects & Get together to know your neighbor

2:30 Closing

RSVP by **October 12th** to Karen Ann Kowalczyk - 570-582-6046  
**[karenannkow@hotmail.com](mailto:karenannkow@hotmail.com)** or  
Cathy Friedman - 732-499-0762 **[ziggy1@gmail.com](mailto:ziggy1@gmail.com)**

**The IN GATHERING is benefiting Catholic Social Services who serve women in need with their babies. Items needed are NEW car seats, diapers, wipes (sensitive), onesies, sleepers, and Walmart gift cards.**



**LWML SELC**  
**Eastern Zone Rally**  
**Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup> at**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**621 North Vine Street**  
**Hazleton, PA 18201**  
*"All Around the Neighborhood  
I'm Gonna Let it Shine!"*  
**Register Today:**  
Karenankow@hotmail.com  
570-582-6046  
9am – 2.30pm



## **Young Musicians From Your Church are Invited to Lutheran Summer Music 2025!**



**Announcing LSM 2025**  
**June 22-July 20**  
**Grades 8-12**  
**Valparaiso University**

**LSM LUTHERAN SUMMER MUSIC ACADEMY & FESTIVAL**

Enrollment for LSM 2025 is open now! Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a supportive and fun community. Musical experiences include large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and electives like handbells, jazz, musical theatre, composition, conducting, church music and more. Priority enrollment deadline: December 1. Standard enrollment deadline: March 1. Learn more at [LSMacademy.org](https://LSMacademy.org).



## **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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\*Data pulled from Bankrate.com on July 31, 2024.



## Family Bible Podcast

We will learn how God's people can have full confidence in God, despite life's challenges.

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



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.



## Women's Bible Study

**Every third Thursday of each month  
10:30 am EST**

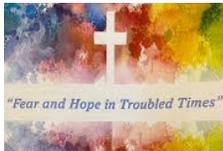
Zoom or in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Lodi, 8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH 44254

**LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, October 17th at 10:30 am EST.**

The topic will be "SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN" from the third 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://mystrikingly.com)**



## Fear and Hope in Troubled Times Redeemer Lutheran Church

This past weekend on Saturday, September 28th Redeemer in Manchester, NJ held a retreat for its members and the community entitled "Fear and Hope in Troubled Times."

With wars in the Middle East and the Ukraine, massive illegal immigration, a looming divisive national election, pandemics, school shootings, hurricanes and more, Americans are overwhelmed with feelings of fear that they cannot see, to shake. Yet as the Redeemed Christians we know too that we have a sure and certain hope that rests in the objective truth of what Jesus Christ has done for us. In this all-day retreat we focused on these issues, reminding ourselves of God's Word and promises to us and then focused our attention on how we can live as God's elect in these troubled times.



## Concordia Seminary Music Series dates set for 2024-25

### Events feature sacred music, talented musicians

Music lovers of all ages are invited to campus for the 2024-25 **Concordia Seminary Music Series**, which will feature talented musicians during events scheduled through summer 2025.

The annual series includes Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music, After Chapel Concerts and Summer Carillon Concerts. **The Sacred Music and After Chapel Concerts are being live streamed.**

#### **After Chapel Concerts**

The After Chapel Concerts are mini concerts, beginning at 9:55 a.m. directly following morning chapel, which begins at 9:35 a.m., and are typically held in the chapel balcony. These concerts also are available via live stream at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live).

- This year's After Chapel Concerts will include: Sept. 24: Luke Reske, piano
- Oct. 8: Jillian Gardner, organ
- Nov. 5: Tom Mueller, organ
- Dec. 10: Jinah Knapp, organ
- Feb. 11, 2025: Nathan Pennington, organ
- March 25, 2025: Nancy Peterson, organ

#### **Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music**

The Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music will follow the seasons of the church year and will feature locally and nationally acclaimed musicians. The concerts also are available via livestream at [csl.edu/live](https://csl.edu/live).

This year's Hymn Festivals and Services of Sacred Music include:

- Oct. 27, 3 p.m.: "O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe," A Service of Sacred Music for Reformation, featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- Dec. 3, 7 p.m.: "O Christ, Redeemer, Save Us All," A Service of Evening Prayer for Advent, featuring the Service of Light, Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- Feb. 2, 2025, 3 p.m.: "With Peace and Joy I Now Depart," A Candlemas Choral Vespers, featuring the music of J.S. Bach with the American Kantorei, under the direction of Dr. Maurice Boyer, and additional choral music by James MacMillan and Kile Smith
- March 2, 2025, 3 p.m.: "The Only Son from Heaven, "A Hymn Festival for the Season of Epiphany," featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and instrumentalists
- May 6, 2025, 7 p.m.: "And They Sang a New Song," A Hymn Festival for the Multiethnic Symposium, featuring Laudamus, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and a variety of instrumentalists and musicians leading the singing of newly translated hymns from around the world



## 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. Tom Soltis**, Parma, OH for God's loving care.

**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, MO, who was hospitalized for surgery. Please pray for his recovery and rebuilding of his physical strength as he is recovering at home.

**Nita Huffines**, St. Louis, MO, wife of Rev. Warren Huffines who is five-year survivor of colon cancer, has begun a new round of treatments. Please pray for her as she receives her treatment.

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.



## **SELC District - A District Without Borders**

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

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