



# The Beacon Online

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## The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

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## Hurricane Milton Update

Hurricane Milton swept through Central Florida on October 9 and 10 leaving behind a trail of damage. Flooding was not as bad as anticipated but still impacted thousands of homes. Tornado and wind damage brought down trees across a large area of Florida and many are still without power a week later. Thankfully, SELC churches had minimal damages and short power outages. Family of Christ in Tampa suffered tree and debris damage from both Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton. Members at St. Luke's in Oviedo and at The Cross in Mt Dora had trees fall on their homes. Lutheran Early Response Teams (LERT) crews have been out assisting families with all types of cleanup and will continue to do so for the coming weeks and months.

LERT Response sites are currently set up in Sarasota, Tampa, Valdosta GA, Augusta GA, and North Carolina. If you are able to travel and assist in other locations, sign up for notifications at [LCMS-LERT.org](http://LCMS-LERT.org). Volunteers of all types are needed so prayerfully consider how you can help!

Donations over the last years have been used to purchase Bobcat skid steers, tractors, trailers, generators, pressure washers, and other disaster relief equipment. This equipment has enabled LERT crews to more efficiently help with recovery efforts.

If you would like to make monetary donations to help with recovery from Hurricane Helene or Hurricane Milton, please donate to

[SELCLERT fund](#), [FGLER.org](http://FGLER.org) or [lcms.org/givenow/disaster](http://lcms.org/givenow/disaster).



## **SELC 2025 District Convention**

**Remember to register for the 2025 District Convention at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Lake Mary, Florida**

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.

### **Upcoming 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/)

The Ingathering will support The Sharing Center, a group supported by Rev. Paul Hoyer who had volunteered to be the Pastoral Chair of the Convention at Holy Cross prior to his passing. In addition to financial support, please look to bring some of the items listed below to support this ministry in the community of Lake Mary, Florida.

One of The Sharing Center's ministries is The Oasis, which Paul Hoyer led the building and formation efforts in 2011. "The Oasis" is a respite center for individuals experiencing homelessness. Oasis clients have access to showers, laundry service, mailbox service, haircuts, case management, and more. Pastor Paul and the Holy Cross congregation raised the funds needed to construct the first Oasis. He oversaw the construction, and the church provided the first Oasis manager for its first four years. Holy Cross, through Pastor Paul's vision of helping those experiencing homelessness, is the reason we have an "Oasis" today.

#### **Toiletry Item for The Oasis Clients**

**Travel Size:** Body Wash, Lotion, Shampoo, and Sunscreen

**Other items** include Deodorant, Feminine Products, Lip Balm, and Razors

*Next week will feature a note from the Hoyer family about Pastor Paul Hoyer and why he believed in this ministry in Lake Mary, Florida and how it supports its residents.*



## **Milwaukee County September 11th Observance**

The War Memorial Building in Milwaukee is the Annual Observance and Memorial of the tragedy that occurred on September 11, 2001, when terrorists commandeered 4 Airplanes and carried out a suicide attack on the United States. The first two aircraft crashed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, causing its complete collapse. The third Aircraft crashed into the Pentagon in Arlington Virginia. The fourth Aircraft, on which the passengers revolted, crashed in rural Pennsylvania.

On 9/11/2024 Rev. Carl Krueger, Chaplain Lt. Col. (Retired), WI Air National Guard, was privileged to represent all the Veterans of Milwaukee County in the special "Wreath Placing Ceremony". Rev. Krueger is presently serving as one of three Milwaukee County Veterans' Service Commissioners. The Wreaths were placed on a "recovered Girder from World Trade Center South Tower". The Girder was transported from New York to Milwaukee by retired Military Personnel of Milwaukee. See the photo on the next page.



## ***Lutheran Haven's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Seals are Coming!***

*What a marvelous thing to be the recipient of a gift, but often it's an even greater joy to be the giver of a gift when you know you have made a significant difference in a person's life...*

This is even more poignant when a person needs the assistance of Benevolent Care, and they will never be able to thank you personally.

The critical need for Benevolent Care is why we reach out to you during this joyous season each year for what is now our **78<sup>th</sup>** Annual Christmas Seal campaign. Thanks to you, Benevolent Care at Lutheran Haven has been a sanctuary for so many people over the decades who have faithfully served our Lord in prosperity and in sacrifice.

***Lutheran Haven's Benevolent Care Ministry is, and always has been, to assist ordained and commissioned church workers along with other Lutheran Haven residents when a critical need arises.***

We can't help but rejoice in the Lord's provision through you, our faithful Pastors,

Churches and Donors who sacrificially support this ministry through your prayers and gifts of love. It's because of *you* that help will be available when a genuine need arises for our precious saints.

**YOU** make the difference - your prayers and your congregational support make our Benevolent Care Ministry possible. Through your financial gifts, lives are changed, crises averted, and families are relieved of difficult and often unexpected hardship.

This year's Christmas Seal was designed by Bill Baessler who retired to Lutheran Haven after serving as a schoolteacher and principal for 3 Lutheran Schools for over 40 years. Bill created his unique design through his creative use of AI. He began experimenting with the technology to develop images for a Bible study he authored and entered this beautiful image for our 78<sup>th</sup> Christmas Seal. Our residents voted on it as their favorite! A packet of individual giving envelopes will be mailed soon which contain individual envelopes with our beautiful Christmas Seals, a letter, a mail-back card and an envelope for your congregation.

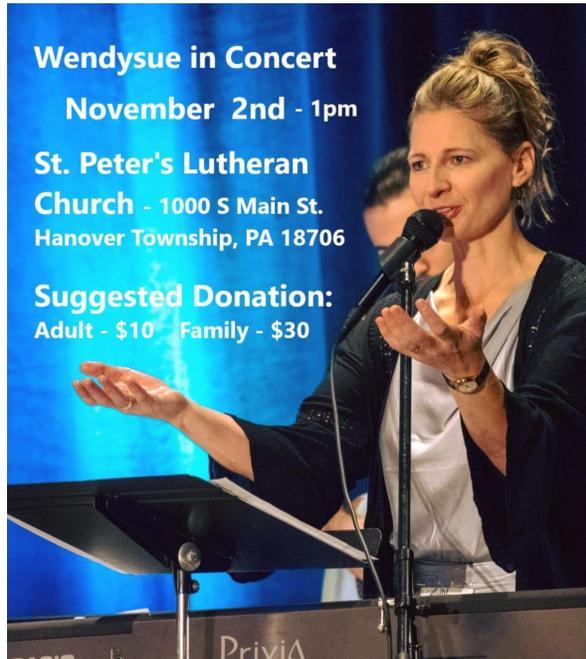
If you would like additional envelopes, please don't hesitate to contact Mary Ann at the Lutheran Haven Foundation at 407-706-1281 or via email at [mmccunn@lutheranhaven.org](mailto:mmccunn@lutheranhaven.org).





## **Christian Concert to be Held November 2, 2024**

St. Peter's Church, Wilkes Barre, PA



**Wendysue in Concert**  
**November 2nd - 1pm**  
**St. Peter's Lutheran  
Church - 1000 S Main St.  
Hanover Township, PA 18706**  
**Suggested Donation:**  
Adult - \$10 Family - \$30

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.

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



## **2025 Youth Gathering Update New Orleans, LA 2025**

Beginning October 15, Primary Adult Leaders can log into the Gathering Registration program and enter important information for your youth and adults. View and download important Registration information to be best prepared to begin the process. Head over to the Gathering website for worksheets, FAQs, and Step-by-Step videos to make Data Entry a breeze! Linked is also a step-by-step video for Gathering registration process to help you understand the steps you need to take to register your congregation. The distinct event will be a servant event, one of the days of the Gathering. - more information to follow!

[Gathering Registration Link Step by Step videos](#)

### **Important Dates for the Youth Gathering:**

**October 15, 2024 | Online Data Entry Begins**

November 1, 2024 | Gathering Registration Opens (\$395)

November 2, 2024 | Gathering Registration Rate Increases (\$425)



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



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).



## Rev. Allen Dass Marries Rebekah Walker Zion Lutheran Church

Rev. Allen Dass married Rebekah Walker on October 11, 2024 at Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, New Jersey. President Vinovskis officiated the wedding of Rebekah and Allen.

We congratulate Pastor Dass and his wife Rebekah Walker Dass on their wedding and wish them all the best and God's love and guidance as they begin their life together.

*1 John 4:16 - God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.*





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



## Family Bible Podcast

Last week in the Family Bible Journey podcast we heard how David began His reign as a wise king. Next week, we will learn how David got distracted and made the biggest mistakes of his life.

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



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.



## 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.

**Lillie Ekong**, Youngstown, OH, wife of Rev. Hosea Ekong who is in the hospital in Ohio. She is improving, but your prayers are appreciated.

*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.



## Looking for Full time Music Staff Member?

Katie Rolf, a Commissioned Minister, is available for a call. Katie would like to work full time in the music ministry and is currently serving in a part time position. Katie's availability to move is open as her husband's work is remote so she is able to take a call wherever the Lord would have them. She has no reason to leave her current position other than it's not full time.

If you are interested, please contact the SELC District Office at [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or 610-965-3265, press 6.



## SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

### SELC District of LCMS

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