



The Beacon Online

October 25, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 43

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

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The Birth of a New Church New City Church Orlando, FL

New City Church in Orlando, Florida became the newest Church in the SELC District. Previously, New City Church was within the satellite network of the Holy Cross Network. On Sunday, October 20, 2024 President Vinovskis completed the membership process by welcoming New City into the SELC District on Membership Sunday.

We welcome New City Church into the SELC District!



Pictured above is Pastor Adam Barcott leading a Children's message.

Below left is from the Membership Sunday service. Below right from left to right are Pastors Matt Fitzpatrick, President Vinovskis, and Adam Barcott.



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

Please be sure to send in your delegate information to Rev. John Telloni if you have not yet done so.

Register for the SELC District Convention at this link on our website - 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. Below is from Betty Hoyer, Pastor Paul's wife and Rev. Jacob Hoyer, his son, about why The Sharing Center was so important to Pastor Hoyer.

The south Seminole Christian Sharing Center was founded about the same time that the SELC District called Paul Hoyer and his family to plant a church in Lake Mary, FL. Early in the story of Holy Cross Lake Mary Pastor Hoyer got involved with the Sharing Center as a volunteer and supporter. Over the years Paul Pastor Hoyer served on the Board of Directors for the Sharing Center multiple times; twice as Board Chair. In addition to holding regular food drives for the Sharing Center, Holy Cross Lutheran Church funded the launch of the Oasis homeless respite center, and partnered with the Sharing Center and Shepherd's Hope to initiate and sustain a free medical clinic at the site of the Sharing Center.

As one of Pastor Hoyer and Holy Cross's first community partnerships, the Sharing Center has been a great example of how Paul and the congregation of Holy Cross prioritized serving the community without caring who gets the credit. Holy Cross's involvement through the Sharing Center has not been about raising up Holy Cross, but about "meeting the needs of the community" in a way that honors God, lifts up Jesus as Lord, and proclaims hope to those who are experiencing poverty, food insecurity, and homelessness.

The SELC District would like to honor the work Pastor Paul did in his community, by asking each Church in the District and each delegate and guest to support the work being done by The Sharing Center. 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. "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



Serving through Faith & Compassion

Our Story:

In 1986, leaders from 17 churches around Central Florida saw a need in our community. They recognized that great change is only possible when good works are done by individuals who work together to serve others.

Values:

With every service we share with our community, we want to ensure our values are visible to all the moment they cross paths with us.

Compassion

Transparency Dignity

Accountability

Respect Community

Integrity

SELC District attendees can donate to The Sharing Center by scanning the QR code.



Mission:

Through Christ, we provide dignified solutions for those experiencing poverty and homelessness.

Programs:

FamiliesInCrisis

Sharing essential resources in times of need

ThePantry

Nourishing families with dignity

The Oasis

Respite center for the homeless

ProjectRISE

Creating Paths to Possibilities

MentalHealth

Pathways to self-discovery

TheThrift PROGRAM

Where shopping gives back

Live United Village | 600 N. Hwy 17-92 Ste 130
Longwood, FL 32750 | (407) 260-9155
www.thesharingcenter.org



Holy Cross Lutheran Church to Celebrate 110th Anniversary

The congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Johnstown, PA, will celebrate their 110th Congregational Anniversary on November 9, 2024. The celebration will start with a Vespers service at 4pm, where the District President, Rev. Wally Vinovskis, will be the guest preacher. There will be a potluck offering/light refreshments to follow! If you will be attending the service and potluck celebration following the service, please RSVP to holycrossjohnstown@gmail.com.



Deacon Jim Hurst Installed as Vicar Calvary Lutheran Church

Deacon Jim Hurst was installed as a Vicar on October 19, 2024 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio. He has entered the SMP tract at the Seminary. He was installed by Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill who is also his Supervisor (pictured below). Other pastors present in the congregation - Rev. John Milligan, Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church (Lakewood, OH) and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Parma, OH) and Rev. Ken Ballas (EM) a member at Calvary.

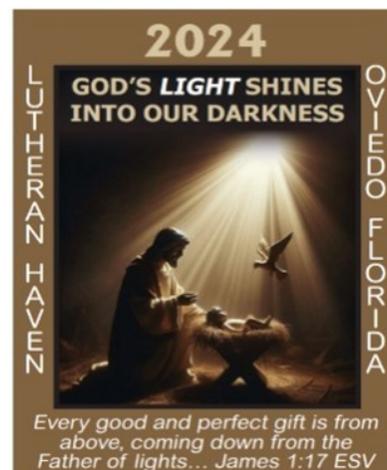


Pictured below from left to right is Rev George Hansell, Central Circuit Visitor, Liturgist and Celebrant, Vicar Jim Hurst, and Rev Chris Cahill, SELC District Vice President, who also preached at the service.



Lutheran Haven's 78th 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 **78th** 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.

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 78th 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.



Honduras Mission Update

In September, Pastors Arp and Culbertson from St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo traveled to Choluteca, Honduras to attend the biannual FORO for our work together as the SELC District in Honduras. This meeting was attended by representatives of our three mission sites — Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in La Paz; Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Comayagua; and Jesus the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Choluteca. In addition, there were leaders from partner churches in the United States — Our Father Lutheran Church in Centennial, CO and Faith Lutheran Church in Viera, Florida. Also in attendance were the Executive Director and a member for the staff from Lead a Child, missionary and deaconess Ed and Cheri Auger, and the regional director for the Office of International Mission (OIM) for Central America for The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Rev. Ted Kray and Rev. Herb Bursch.



The opportunity for mission and church planting in Honduras is limitless. We received ministry updates from each mission site. The work they are doing to bring the gospel to their communities is breathtaking. Our special focus was on the work at Choluteca, our newest mission site. There we have received as a gift, a church facility constructed by a previous missionary who had worked in the community. From that base a missionary, Pastor German from the Nicaraguan Lutheran Church has been canvassing the neighborhood, leading worship and teaching the catechism to numerous families.

On Sunday, September 22, 2024 we were privileged to worship at Jesus the Redeemer and witness two baptisms and eight adult confirmations. (Photos below)



We also received updates from the attorneys who are working on our application for legal status of the newly formed Honduran Lutheran Church. Rev. Kray also reported that the LC-MS will be pursuing legal status in Honduras for the purpose of placing a missionary in the country.

Rev. Ed Auger and his Deaconess wife, Cheri are providing training for several deaconesses from the mission sites and two possible pastoral candidates who would be trained through the distance learning program of the Lutheran Seminary in the Dominican Republic. Continue to pray for this exciting and important work in Honduras.



Montreal Forum

Ascension hosted the fifth annual "Montreal Forum" partners meeting Oct 3-5, 2024. Our SELC District was represented by members of Ascension as well as President Waldemar Vinovskis, Mission Executive Mark Larson, and Circuit Visitor James Douthwaite. Pat Klekamp represented the Mission of Christ network. Pastor Charles St-Onge, Deb St-Onge, and MCN workers Anna Voelker, Kayla Gundermann, and Grace Sugg discussed and planned their mission work in Montreal for the coming year. Grace was officially installed as a worker at Ascension at a service on Saturday morning, October 5. Some of the outreach work currently underway or planned for 2025 includes a regular women's ministry tea, university student activities, English classes, monthly open houses, and a study group for new Lutherans and Christians. Thank you, brothers and sisters of the SELC, for supporting this work among the 25,000 immigrants of Parc-Extension in Montreal, Quebec.



Pictured above are the Forum participants.

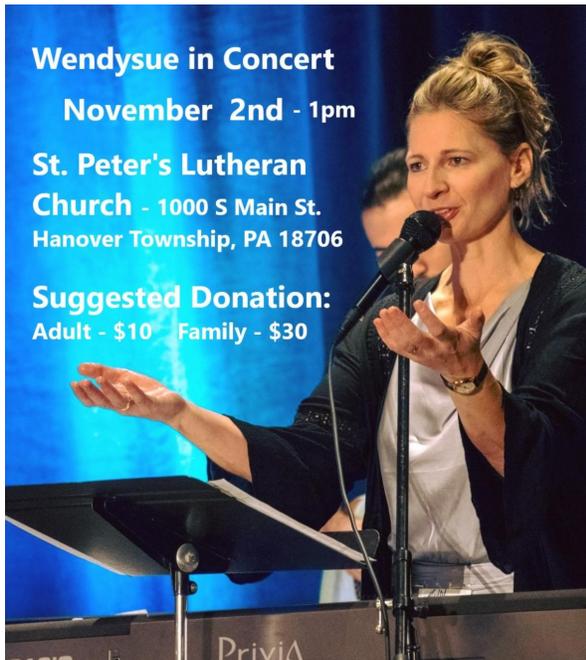
Pictured below is following the installation of Grace Sugg (From left to right: Pastor Jim Douthwaite, Pastor Charles St-Onge, Grace Sugg, President Vinovskis, and Pat Klekamp of Mission of Christ Network.





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.



Central Zone Fall Rally Held

The Central Zone of the LWML SELC held their fall rally on September 28th at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in Norton, Ohio. Approximately 18 women gathered for food, fun, fellowship and service. Millie Kwiatkowski was elected President and Stephanie Bailey was nominated as Delegate and Joanne Segedi was nominated as alternate to the 2025 National Convention in Omaha to be held June 26-29. The In-Gathering was for the local food bank.





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:

November 1, 2024 | Gathering Registration Opens (\$395)
November 2, 2024 | Gathering Registration Rate Increases (\$425)



LWML Bible Study

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, November 21st at 10:30 am EST and this month is "The Lord, My Helper, Keeps Me" the second one in the Fall edition of the LWQ. (Note: Since the first Bible Study in the Fall issue is so short, we will do the 2nd and 3rd ones in November and December. Please feel free to do the first one with your groups or by yourself!)

That will bring us to the first Winter LWQ Bible Study in January. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about this. We wanted to give you a BIG heads up because of our proposed change.

[Click here](#) to join the Bible Study each month.

The link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>



O Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe
A Service of Sacred Music for Reformation
3-4:30 p.m. CT Oct. 27, 2024
 Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

The **special service** will feature **Laudamus**, the St. Louis Lutheran Chorale and the Chamber Ensemble. Dr. Jacob Corzine, vice president of publishing at Concordia Publishing House, will serve as the preacher.

Bring your friends and family, or for the live stream, and join us in this very special observance of Reformation. For those who can't attend in person, the service also will be live streamed at [csl.edu/live](https://www.csl.edu/live).



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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 got distracted and made the biggest mistakes of his life. Next week, we will learn how the whole kingdom suffered for David's folly.

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. Please also pray for Pastor Roberts as he begins retirement on October 30, 2024.

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 is home and making progress in his recovery. Please pray for his recovery and rebuilding of his physical strength as he recovers.

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.

All people affected by hurricanes Helene and Milton.

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 **Making a Lasting Impression** Pastor Ron Meyr, EM

Recently, while serving a preaching vacancy at Holy Cross, Lake Mary, I had the misfortune to step on a borrowed, slightly long, alb while walking up the chancel stairs with the offering plates in my hands. As I was taking a header towards the altar, the offering plates went into the air along with the offerings, and I landed and bounced on my hip and knee. (Fortunately, I never played football or basketball in high school and so those parts of my body are one of the few still intact).



Upon reflection, I realized that a few years from now the good people at Holy Cross, Lake Mary will recall this event (*"remember when that substitute minister tripped and the offering plates went into the air? What WAS his name?"*) About the only thing they will remember will be this incident -- not so much me personally.

It is true that many pastors, teachers, DCE's, deaconesses may have that same experience. The people you served 20, 30 years ago may not remember your name, but they will remember the things you DID!

"I remember that pastor who visited me so much in the hospital with a lot of comfort. . . .what WAS his name?"

"What was the name of that pastor who was always involved in community outreach and ministry to the homeless? Can't remember his name, but boy, did he make a difference."

"A lot of what I learned and inspiration for studying came from that 4th grade teacher -- what was her name?"

THE POINT: People you serve may not remember what you were CALLED -- but they will remember what you DID!

Of course, there is One who not only sees and remembers what you did to serve others, He always remembers your name. He gave it to you in baptism; He had your name in mind suffering on the cross; He said "given and shed for you" in His Supper; He will gently call you by name to His eternal home.

Hopefully, people will remember -- not just your name -- but what you DID for others!



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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