



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

Saturday Evening President's Reception

The Saturday evening President's reception will be held at Lutheran Haven in Oviedo, Florida. We will be providing transportation to and from the event.

The theme of the event is ***A Celebration of SELC's Lutheran Haven***

We will begin the evening in the Harbor Pub for appetizers and tours will also be offered. We will then move to the Aquatic Center for more appetizers. Dinner will be served in the Fellowship Hall and dessert will be back in the Harbor Pub. This will give everyone an opportunity to see the Lutheran Haven and the new gathering spaces available to the residents of the Haven. This is included in the registration fee!

Please remember to submit your resolutions as soon as possible!

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.

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



Respite center for the homeless

The recently expanded and modernized Oasis is the only drop-in resource center in Seminole County for those struggling with homelessness. Clients can take a warm shower and receive laundry service, internet access, a haircut and a hot meal – along with a caring smile.



Redeeming Life Gala

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries celebrated its mission and supporters at its October 19th Annual Boots, Bow Ties & Bling Gala, held at Heathrow Country Club with nearly 200 guests in attendance. Partygoers enjoyed a silent auction and games before dinner and a program led by Rev. Dr. Peter Meier, Exec. Director of Missions and Outreach for the FL-GA district of the LCMS.

The star of the event was the mission of Redeeming Life- to offer a home, help and hope to women in crisis pregnancy. Guests watched a brand-new video highlighting past resident Jennifer who graduated from RLOM's program at 19 and has gone on to find a stable partner, build a career in law, and have another child. In short- Jennifer has built a faith-filled, independent life after RLOM! The Gala guests and sponsors raised over \$75,000 to fund the ministry's maternity homes in Florida and Illinois, with additional funds pledged.

RLOM welcomes more ministry partners to fully fund the annual operating expenses to offer a home, help and hope for women in crisis pregnancy. Churches, individuals and groups are encouraged to reach out via email to info@rlom.org to schedule a presentation, book a campaign, or simply to learn more. Together in Christ, we are changing lives!

Pictured below from left to right: Ed DeWitt, Sheryl DeWitt, Executive Director of Redeeming Life, President Vinovskis, Rev. Sam Shick, Deaconess Alex Shick, the Director of Program Ministries for Redeeming Life, Sara Culbertson, Mission Advancement Manager, and Rev. Tige Culbertson.



Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries Mission

Motivated by God's grace, Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries seeks to reach out with the love of Christ to support single expectant and postpartum mothers. We do this by providing [a safe and stable home](#). The women have opportunities for growth in their relationship with their Savior, as well as career, parenting, and life skills education.

We are a pro-life ministry. We support our mothers whether they choose to place their baby for adoption or to parent. Either way, we walk alongside them in their journey. Every woman who calls Redeeming Life home will find help, love, and support.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church to Celebrate 110th Anniversary November 9, 2024

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.



LWML SELC Eastern Zone Rally



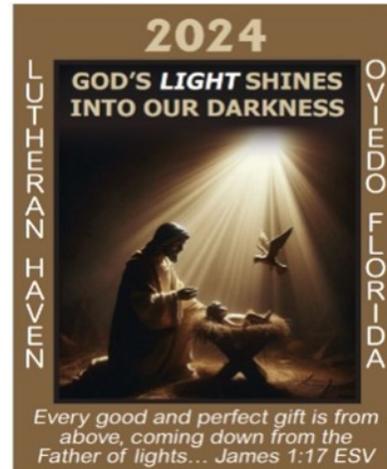
St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton, had the privilege of hosting the ladies of the Eastern Zone of the LWML SELC. For our 'in-gathering', we collected items for our local CSS charity, currently helping women in need of shelter and care. We also put together care packages for Orphan Grain Train, helping to fill their emergency relief containers. We spent time in devotion, studied God's Word, ate together, prayed together, and just had an all round good time seeing our old friends from our sister congregations, as well as making new ones, electing new officers for the next biennium, and making friends for life, which is so like the ladies of the LWML!





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...



A GUIDE TO **Christian INVESTING**

Seven points LCMS Lutherans should consider when investing

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Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary Fort Dodge, Iowa



SELC DISTRICT
Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod

October 23, 2024

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1023 S 27th Street
Fort Dodge, IA 50501

Srdečne blahoželáme k oslave 100. výročia!
Heartfelt congratulations on your 100th Anniversary celebration!

Dear Reverend Raether and Members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the SELC District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, I extend our warmest congratulations to you as you celebrate the historic occasion of your 100th Anniversary. This is a significant milestone that reflects goodness and mercy of our Lord, Jesus, and the faith, dedication, and life of God's Spirit in his people that have sustained your congregation for a century.

Our Lord's promise in Acts chapter 1 is that his Church will be witnesses of God's love and mercy in Jesus "from Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." That Gospel message, of "Grace alone, through Faith alone" spread from those first Apostles across the known world, to Bohemia and Slovakia, to Germany and to the United States. It was confessed by the Slovak Reformer Jan Hus in 1415, and by the German Reformer Martin Luther in 1517. Their ethnic descendants confessed that same saving faith and brought that same saving Gospel message to the "New World" when they emigrated to North America. Throughout the decades, your Lutheran congregation has been a beacon of hope, love, and service in your community. Your commitment to our Lord in worship, fellowship, and outreach has touched the lives of many and has been a shining witness of your faith in action.

As you gather to commemorate this special anniversary, and reflect on the rich history of your congregation, we join you in honoring the legacy of those who have come before you and look forward with hope and anticipation to the future that lies ahead.

We celebrate with you in spirit and in unity, as fellow members of the body of Christ. May God continue to bless your congregation with His grace, peace, and guidance as you continue to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Wishing you a joyous and memorable anniversary celebration.

With heartfelt congratulations,

Rev. Waldemar R. Vinovskis, President
The SELC District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
(formerly, The Slovak Ev. Lutheran Church)



Christian Concert to be Held Tomorrow, November 2nd

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.



Update from Concordia Center for the Family

We're eagerly sharing our newly clarified MISSION STATEMENT: Uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus! Our training, resources and support are already making this mission a reality for congregations and homes like yours in our LCMS and beyond.

We love to share our message, resources and support with church workers in our LCMS. This month I'll be meeting and speaking for many of you in the Nebraska and Indiana Districts. Scott Sommerfeld will be with those of you in Michigan. Pam Nummela will represent us in Missouri. Most of our gifts are free, but the benefits are priceless. Talk to me if you'd like me to come to you, too.

I enjoy preaching and teaching on family discipleship in the congregations of our LCMS. This month I've been preaching in Nixa and Rolla, MO. My wife, Heather, and I led a marriage seminar for 20 couples in Springfield, MO. If you'd like us to come to your congregation, have your pastor contact me.

Our latest resource release is my [LIFE IN GOD'S WAY series](#) under the "For Church Workers" section of our website. It's a GREAT tool for teaching family discipleship principles that guide all of life's relationships...esp. the most important one with Jesus. There's even a [FREE SAMPLE of the "Worldview" unit](#) from the series. All the titles in the series are: Hope, You Are Loved, Worldview, Family Discipleship, Marriage, Parenting, Preparing for Marriage, Retirement, Life Alone, Witnessing, Dating, For ALL

of Life.

I've had dozens of great contacts with future trainees for our CCF Family Discipleship Facilitators. With two opportunities next spring to come to a four-day training, pastors and other family ministry leaders will receive the training, resources, networking and inspiration they need to take family discipleship to a new, powerful level in congregations like yours. You can find information on our website [here](#).

CCF's Faith & Life Survey tool is now available to your congregation. Two congregations are using it right now near Des Moines, IA and in Rolla, MO. It's an excellent tool to help you assess success and growth opportunities for service to the families of your congregation. You can find info [here](#). Then, get in touch with our Research Specialist, Matthew Knehans, at matthewknehans@concordiafamily.org.



2025 Youth Gathering Update New Orleans, LA 2025

Today is the last day to register to save \$30!

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>



Nominate Students for Lutheran Summer Music 2025

You're invited to **nominate a student** for LSM 2025! Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students (grades 8-12) who come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build an intentional, supportive, and FUN community. LSM 2025 takes place at Valparaiso University in Indiana from June 22-July 20 (Full Session) or June 22-July 6 (Half Session). Priority Enrollment is open now through December 1. Nominate students at [LSMacademy.org/nominate](https://lsmacademy.org/nominate), and watch and share this **LSM Experience Video** to learn more!

Health Savings Account

Many employers offer the health coverage option of a high-deductible health plan (HDHP) that can be paired with a Health Savings Account (HSA). HSAs offer investors the opportunity to use their funds to pay for qualifying medical expenses. Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) HSA FlexPlus Certificate earns interest while allowing easy access to funds.

Need to know more
about HSAs?

Visit lcef.org/hsa
today!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs.



Family Bible Podcast

Last week in the Family Bible Journey podcast we heard Jesus teach us how things may not always be how they appear.

Next week, we will learn about some of the blessings and burdens of faith.

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 began his 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. 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 recovering at home.

Rev. John Milligan, Newburgh heights, OH, who injured his knee. Please pray for his healing.

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 Teaching Others Essentials of Our Most Holy Faith

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Led to believe that none of us populating today's deeply troubled planet is here *by accident*, everything our eternal God had originally spoken into existence was also declared to be "very good" (Genesis 1:31; Hebrews 11:6). Sadly, however, a large number of the created angelic army of angels chose to rebel against their Creator even to the point of convincing our original human ancestors to dethrone God from His rightful position as unrivaled Deity.

And though we were not created as "robotic automatons" nor was it ever decreed beforehand that "imaged crown jewels" of the Creator's hand would ever sin, God Himself was not the cause of sin as *before all worlds* He foresaw the ultimate solution to our dilemma by sending to earth the messianic descendant of the seed of the first woman in the person of the world's only completely sinless obedient Savior Jesus Christ (Genesis 3:15; Acts 4:10-12; Ephesians 1:4; 1 Peter 1:2, **20**).

Contrary to popular opinion, all "religions" are *not* the same as only a just and loving God would mercifully and deliberately seek to *redeem* what later malevolent, incomparably lesser man-made gods were deemed as failures of their own choosing. Moreover, only a mercifully just God would invite us often self-centered arrogant mortals to make "a 180 degree spiritual U-turn" of repentance -- not to give us a "second chance" as the good we might do today does not remotely make up for our moral failures which God had every right to expect us to avoid yesterday (see Jesus' first recorded words in Mark's Gospel in Mark 1:14-15).

A final thought. Only a just and loving God would bother to invite and restore a notorious former persecutor of Christ's Church *and Christ Himself* to be His foremost apostolic missionary witness sent to all nations to model by word and deed the precious Gospel of full and free forgiveness of our most heinous sins and corresponding gift of eternal salvation (Acts chapters 9, 22 and 26).

In his New Testament letters the former at one time much feared Saul of Tarsus (now Paul) repeatedly urges his hearers/readers to focus solely on the redemptive merits of Jesus Christ that we privileged baptized believers firmly continue to believe there is no lasting reason any one of us ever forever remain among those who grieve over their most excruciatingly painful losses as those who have no hope that we all make every effort only to comfort one another (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

*Living Lord Jesus, enable us all truly to love and help one another! **AMEN!***



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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