



The Beacon Online

November 8, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 45

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

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! A [printable version](#) of the newsletter is available on our website at selc.lcms.org/beacon Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



SELC 2025 District Convention

Deadline for Registering for the Convention is 5 Weeks Away December 16, 2024

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.

Don't forget to submit your resolutions for consideration at the Convention!

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.



Eastern/Southern Joint Circuit Conference

The Eastern and Southern circuits of the SELC were able to gather together October 16th through October 18th at the Sandy Cove retreat center just off the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Their time together started off with a bit of fun as they all got to know a little bit more about one another. Some highlights were that Pastor Ray Malec, of Concordia Northampton, met Jackie Onassis when he was a teenager and that, if Pastor Brad Knorr of St. Paul Westport wasn't a Pastor, he would have been a police detective! After getting to know one another and after sharing supper, the group worshiped together and received the Sacrament as Pastor James Douthwaite of St. Athanasius in Alexandria, Virginia led the service and Pastor James Fernandez of Hope in Melbourne, Florida shared the hope of Jesus in his message.

The next day, the group was blessed by Pastor Sam Schick of St. Luke's in Oviedo as he shared a devotion about listening, not just to others, but to what God has to say to us in His word. President Vinovskis led us in a Bible study based on Ephesians. After lunch, Pastor Mark Larson, District Mission Executive, gave a presentation on the District's efforts to extend the kingdom of God through the planting of churches. That afternoon, President Vinovskis presented an update on the business of the District and the Synod. The afternoon session came to a close as the group discussed the shift we are seeing and experiencing in our culture and how our pastors can love our people through these challenging days while remaining steadfast in God's word. That evening, the group shared a meal at a local seafood restaurant and had a wonderful time continuing to get to know one another.



The last day of the conference was opened by Pastor Brad Knorr who led a devotion centered on the identity that all Christians have in Jesus and the great comfort that brings. Pastor Troy Countryman, of Faith Viera in Florida led a Bible study on the Gospel reading on Mark 10:46-52 and how that text could be effectively used in a sermon for Reformation Sunday. The group finished their time together in prayer and left greatly encouraged by one another.

It truly was a great blessing for the two circuits to gather and they look forward to seeing one another again in January at the District Convention in Florida!



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.

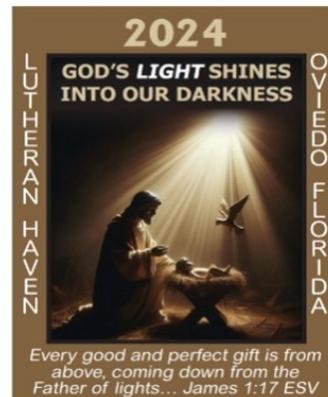
Eastern Zone Elects Officers

At the Eastern Zone rally on October 19th, the Officers for the next year were elected. They are Karen Ann Kowalczyk, President, Cathy Friedman, Vice President, and Stephanie Correll Secretary, they are pictured below from left to right in the photo below.



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...



Look for your seals in the mail. If you have not received seals, and you would like to, please contact Mary Ann McCunn at 407-706-1281 or via email at mmcunn@lutheranhaven.org.



Registration is Open for the 2025 Youth Gathering

Registration is open for the National youth Gathering being held July 19 - 23, 2025 in New Orleans, LA. To register click on this link - [Youth Gathering Registration](#)

The theme Endure is based on this Hebrews passage from Hebrews 12:1-3

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted."



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>

[Click here](#) for the link to the LWQ article for November



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, 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 about some of the blessings and burdens of faith.

Next week, we will learn how Jesus dealt with rejection.

Listen and learn more at 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 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.

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 Seldom Noted Calendar Days

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

In sharp contrast to what Martin Luther was also led to believe and teach about the Creator's *remaining host of holy angels* nearly a half millennium ago, for various reasons (not the least of which is our ability to *resist the loving promptings of the Spirit of God*), many today sadly espouse a purely rational faithless existence by increasingly scoffing at the thought of an otherwise obviously desirable protective angelic presence in our seemingly enlightened yet largely diabolically depraved, topsy-turvy mindless world.

Born in Eisleben, Germany November 10, 1483 and reborn in the Christ-instituted Trinitarian sacrament of Holy Baptism a day later (on the day of St. Martin of Tours), the reformer's brilliant catechetical explanation of the Third Article of the Apostolic Creed remains particularly apropos:

I believe that I *cannot by my own reason or strength* believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, *enlightened* me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, *gathers*, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He *daily* and richly *forgives* all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will *raise* me and all the dead and give *eternal life* to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true. (LSB, page 323)

Speaking of angels, angels do not have a Savior.
The holy angels don't *need* one;
the evil angels don't *want* one;
only people have a Savior!

THANK YOU JESUS !



SELC District - A District Without Borders
***Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing
Everyone Love in Christ***

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS

2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

Share This Email

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS | 2623 Brookside Road | Macungie, PA 18062 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!