



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

Have You Completed Your Convention Checklist?

**Deadline for Registering for the Convention is
only 3 Weeks Away
December 16, 2024**

Have you completed all the steps to attend the 2025 SELC District Convention? Review the checklist below. Please remember to complete all the steps needed to be at the Convention.

SELC District Convention Checklist

____ I registered for the Convention at www.selc.lcms.org/convention

____ I am a Delegate, Alternate Delegate, or an Advisory Delegate and I have submitted my forms to the SELC District Secretary Rev. John Telloni

____ I have been nominated for a District Office and I have sent my acceptance or declination to Rev. John Telloni

____ I am accepting the nomination and I have submitted the required bio form and photograph to the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com

_____ I have made my overnight room reservations at the hotels listed on the convention page of the website www.selc.lcms.org/convention

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

Past Due Deadlines - Credentials to be submitted for Pastoral and Lay Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Advisory Delegates and Nominations for District Board of Directors and Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees.

Have you made your overnight rooms reservations yet?

December 16, 2024 - Registrations are due for the Convention. If you need a registration form, please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com or by calling 610-965-3265, press 6.

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/



CCF is Thanking God and Celebrating His Blessing for the 2024 EECMY Family Discipleship Training Event in Parent Education!

Stepping off the airplane into the city of Addis Ababa the capital of Ethiopia is surreal. But meeting with the pastors being trained in Family Discipleship in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus is like coming home. This was the 7th trip to Ethiopia serving and training pastors of the EECMY (Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus) in Family Discipleship and God is blessing this work.

This year CCF celebrates the 68 newly licensed EECMY Synod Parent Education Instructors who invested 45 hours of training with Rev. Dr. Scott Turansky, Kirk Weaver, Rev. Dr. Zegeye, and Dr. Ben Freudenburg in Parent Education. They received training to train (TOT) pastors and church workers in their Synods in:

- Biblical Parent Education by Rev. Dr. Scott Turansky
- Biblical Human Sexuality for Parents and their Youth by Dr. Ben Freudenburg and Rev. Dr. Zegeye
- Teaching and Influencing Faith at Home through Family Time Training by Kirk

Weaver

These trained and licensed Synod instructors have pledged to train pastors and church workers in their Synod in the three areas mentioned above. They pledge a minimum of one parent education training supported by Synod leaders in 2025 and a minimum of three trainings in 2026.

Those who take the Synod training will deliver Biblical parent education classes, humans sexuality classes, and teaching the faith at home classes to congregation members.

We thank God for being able to translate into Amharic and print the following texts:

- Good and Angry by Rev. Dr. Scott Turansky
- Strengthening Youth by Helena and Tapio Raisanen
- The Family Time Training Manual by Kirk Weaver

The presenters also prepare workbooks for instructors and participants. All workbooks included detailed lesson plans and student handouts for each subject. PowerPoints and scripts for each subject were developed by each presenter and thumb drives with all material were produced and presented to each instructor.

CCF celebrates and was honored to present Rev. Geneti Wayessa with the 2024 Outstanding Family Life Educator award. CCF recognized his 21 years of untiring passion and commitment to Family Discipleship and for initiating and managing the EECMY Marriage and Family Life Education Initiative in partnership with CCF.

We thank Rev. Dr. Scott Turansky, Kirk Weaver, and Marc Crabtree for donating their intellectual property and airfare for this training.

We also thank God and celebrate the 107 attendees from many faiths who attended the Parent Education Community Event on Saturday after the week-long training.

The training was highly successful. Below is a sampling of the comments:

- I would like to extend our gratitude for your dedication, hard work, and concern for Ethiopia.
- We have been blessed to have you with us and thank you for making a positive impact on the lives of the Ethiopian ministers.
- The training that our ministers received from you was transformational in their personal lives and ministries. I am sure it will bear fruit.
- We have seen the depth of your training.
- The materials are great and fit our context.
- You, Dr. Rev. Zegeye, as well as your team have done a remarkable job.

The pastors and members of the EECMY are a faith-filled highly motivated people filled to the brim with the love of Jesus. CCF's training is reaching thousands of members eager to grow the next generation in faith in Christ through family discipleship. Thanks to the LCMS Michigan District International Mission Fund and all who have generously supported this ministry!



Wendysue Concert Highlights

Wilkes-Barre, PA

The Wendysue concert was of course all we expected and more. What a privilege it was to be able to host Wendysue on her tour through the NE PA region. So much more thanks and recognition need to be made. First to the SELC District for underwriting the event; that was such a wonderful gift and motivation in the early stages of its organizing. Then to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Wilkes Barre, for being willing to be our venue and for being so gracious and receptive in the fellowship hall afterwards, doing such a fabulous job in catering for the event.

Pastor Haenftling gave a beautiful introduction and began the proceedings with prayer. His son was instrumental in helping set up and was a wonderful volunteer as 'stage crew'.

There was so much participation, it really was a fun afternoon for all. From hymn singing, to a musical quiz, and Pastor Naumann even got up on stage to jam with Wendysue on the guitar to 'God bless America'.



Wendysue was able to sell some merchandise in the narthex with the help of some of Pastor Naumann's teenagers, from CDs to T-shirts. See photo below.

The majority of the proceeds then went to Hurricane relief. It's hard to say what made us feel better by the end of the evening; having had such a great time or knowing we did some real good for those in need, praise God!

She's still on the road. Check out her page and where she'll be next:

www.facebook.com/wendysuemusic



Below is the group of concert goers at the post-concert reception.



Pictured below left to right: Pastor Gordon Naumann, his daughter, and Wendysue.





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

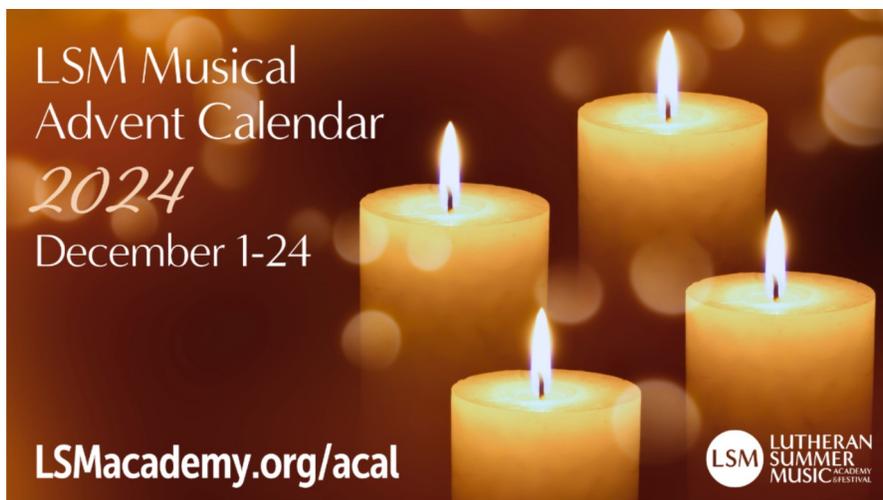
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured 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."



2024 LSM Musical Advent Calendar

Experience the anticipation and hope of the Advent season with Lutheran Summer Music's fourth-annual Musical Advent Calendar. From December 1-24, immerse yourself in a daily moment of music and reflection shared on our Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube pages and archived on our website at LSMacademy.org/acal.

To have these daily videos delivered straight to your inbox, sign up at forms.gle/6Jw7DoDApTAgW4Uf6.



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 what makes a person great in the kingdom of heaven.

Next week, we will learn what Jesus taught about the last days.

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. Please also pray for Mrs. Ballas' twin sister, Luella Williams, who is experiencing health concerns.

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.

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.

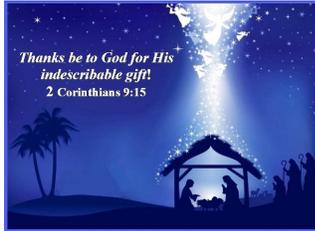
Lillie Ekong, Youngstown, OH, wife of Rev. Hosea Ekong, who is recovering at home.

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

Rev. John Mashek, Akron, OH who is home and is being evaluated by his physicians. Please pray that his physicians diagnose his condition and that He brings comfort and care to Pastor Mashek.

Rev. Miguel Torneire, St. Louis, MO whose Father recently passed away in Brazil. Please keep the Torneire family in your prayers.

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 Thanksgiving, Advent and Beyond

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

What is JESUS most thankful for?

Jesus is thankful when we take Him at His Word!

Thinking of you during what many

simply refer to as T H E H O L I D A Y S

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Thank you for being our dear readers!

WE THANK GOD ALSO FOR THE GIFT OF HIS SON!

(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Pastor Ken and Lois Ballas



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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