



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

The Deadline for Registering for the Convention is only 2 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.

The President's reception will be held at the Lutheran Haven Saturday evening. Transportation will be provided to the Haven and back to the hotels.

The ingathering at this convention is for The Oasis, at The Sharing Center (TSC), is a respite center for individuals experiencing homelessness. Oasis clients have access to showers, laundry service, mailbox service, haircuts, case management, and more. This was supported by Pastor Paul Hoyer who was instrumental in the formation of The Sharing Center. His efforts began in 1986 when 17 churches of diverse denominations came together to serve those experiencing hunger and homelessness. Since then, TSC has become Seminole County, Florida's most comprehensive social services hub. We believe "actions speak louder than words." Rather than proclaiming Christ to those experiencing hardship, we strive to exemplify Christ through our programs and services. By fulfilling our clients' physical and emotional needs, they are more receptive to a spiritual encounter with the Lord.

The ingathering will be for items listed below as well as any financial gifts you would like to give to The Oasis at The Sharing Center.

Toiletry Items for The Oasis Clients

Travel Size: Body Wash, Lotion, Shampoo, and Sunscreen
Other items include Deodorant, Feminine Products, Lip Balm, and Razors

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/



Pastor Jonathan Moyer Accepts Call to Faith Viera

Rev. Jonathan Moyer, of Highland, Michigan has accepted the call to be the Associate Pastor at Faith Viera in Rockledge, Florida. We thank God for his guidance as Pastor Moyer and his family prayerfully considered this call and for the congregation of Faith Viera as they went through the call process. We pray for all as they prepare for Pastor Moyer to join them. Once installation details are confirmed, we will announce them in a future issue of the Beacon.



Applications for MinistryFocus Grants Now Online

Deadline is December 31, 2024

Applications are now available online for 2025 LCMS Rostered Church Worker financial assistance grants. The applications are available at <https://ministryfocus.org/>

These grants are available to pastors, teachers, directors of Christian education and other LCMS rostered church workers in all districts through the MinistryFocus general fund. Since 2015, MinistryFocus has awarded \$810,000 in grants to 313 rostered church workers. Applications must be submitted by December 31, 2024.

For 2025, a special opportunity for pastors named the Ministerial Excellence Fund (MEF) has been made possible by a partnership with MinistryFocus, Lilly Endowment Inc., the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), the Batterman School of Business at Concordia University Wisconsin and participating districts that are a part of LCEF. Grants are available for up to three (3) pastors from each of the participating districts.

These special grants will include a total cash grant of \$4,500 plus \$500 in tuition to participate in a 14-module online financial education curriculum developed by CUW. The curriculum includes 10 modules on personal financial education and 4 modules on organizational financial education. Grantees must complete the curriculum to receive the full cash grant amount.

Applications for the MEF are the same as for other MinistryFocus grants and are available at MinistryFocus.org with the same December 31, 2024 due date. If there are questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Ken Krueger at Ken@MinistryFocus.org.

May God continue to bless you as you continue to serve Him.





Hope Helps Serve the Families of New Life Mission in Melbourne, FL



On Saturday, November 16th, the members of Hope Lutheran Church in Melbourne, Florida had an opportunity to provide and serve lunch for the Fall Festival at New Life Mission in Melbourne.

New Life Mission is a Christ-centered ministry in Melbourne that equips homeless moms to transform their families for generations. Through education, accountability, and goal advancement, their program empowers families to become self-sufficient and break the cycle of homelessness. New Life Mission believes in the transformative power of a relationship with Jesus Christ in the lives of all people and they are committed to sharing this message of hope to all the moms and kids they serve. They seek to apply biblical principles to all their interactions with the families they serve and with the community.



Hope has been supporting New Life Mission in various ways for a number of years. Last October was the first time Hope was able to serve for the Fall Festival and New Life mission and loved having the opportunity to serve in the community alongside other area congregations this year.



What's On Your Calendar? The Beauty of the Church Year

By Rev. John L. Telloni

"By gentle Powers faithfully surrounded,
Protected wondrously, consoled by grace,
That's how I long to live these days together,
Close by your side, to start the coming year;

Our hearts are tortured even now by evil days,
The burdens of the past are hard to bear,
Oh Lord, grant our scared souls the salvation,
Therefore You have created us and saved ...

By gentle Powers wonderfully sheltered,
Awaiting fearlessly what there will be.
God, He is near at dusk and in the morning
And with us certainly on each new day." *

The above is an excerpt from a hymn penned by Dietrich Bonhoeffer at Christmas just a few months before he was executed by the Nazis in 1945. He was a German Lutheran pastor and theologian who was imprisoned for his opposition to Hitler and his cruel fascist government. Read the hymn again and then continue reading this article...

The hymn is a song of deep prayer and praise despite the darkness Bonhoeffer experienced in the dank dungeon where he lived and suffered for almost two years before his awful death. Despite his suffering and turmoil, he reaches out to the Lord with confidence and hope. His mind and spirit are sheltered under God's Power and Grace as he awaits the fulfillment of His promise to face the intense twilight leading to the timeless "new day" that will be beautiful and brilliant emanating from the loving eyes of his Savior!

The troubles we face may not be as extreme and tormenting as Bonhoeffer's, but the experiences on our calendars every day may be tough to handle. Do you possess a reliable spiritual roadmap or GPS to the end? Are you waiting and watching for the world's culmination, or too busy, too consumed, by the tyranny of the present?

The best calendar that we can follow, I believe, is the Church Year, which is a commendable guide for knowing and following Jesus Christ and preparing for our weekly worship gatherings. Our worship pattern is based on Scripture and organized to highlight the history of God's promises and His (*Jesus'!*) story of salvation. Each day and week in the year permits us to follow the life of Jesus Christ from promise to birth (*Advent/Christmas*), to death (*Lent/Holy Week*), to resurrection (*Easter*), to *Ascension*, to *Pentecost*, and consequently, to His Shepherding of His Bride, the Church, until the close of the age that will open the door to the new creation of heaven and earth for eternity.

There is a conscious rhythm and theme connected to the days and weeks in the Church Year. In the first half, from Advent to Pentecost, we closely follow Jesus' birth and saving episodes, living with Him and listening to Him as He redeems our sinful world. Major festivals are celebrated in this part of the liturgical year. The second half is devoted to the life of the believer and Christ's Church, reflecting Jesus' teaching about

active faith and witness in the world around us. Each Sunday has a definite purpose that strengthens our faith and life as we navigate through our daily lives as Christ's beloved people.

Jesus once declared, *"This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent"* (John 17:3). This truth gives us new glasses to correct our near-sightedness and enables us to look ahead, to see Jesus now and to look forward to Jesus' coming again. Knowing Jesus more and better will, by the power of the Spirit, fortify our faith and love in our dear Lord!

This is what we are remembering on this day between the Last Sunday in the Church Year (*November 24th*) and the new liturgical year on the First Sunday in Advent (*December 1st*), as we direct our eyes to the future and the end that sparks the new creation that Jesus will establish!

Yes, living the Church Year helps us to know what really matters in life, and what does not.

When Jesus returns, it will be a day of joy! The day we have been looking forward to. Our Lord and Savior Jesus, who now hides Himself in baptismal water, scriptural words, and sacramental bread and wine, will be the Jesus who comes in visible flesh and glory. The whole family of God will be raised in body and soul to their forever home. It is a privilege to walk in this Advent season leading to Christmas and beyond in this new church year! *"Emmanuel"* – *"God with us"* – for sure!

(* Translation by Eckhard Becker; full hymn in Lutheran Forum, Spring 2024, p. 28)



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

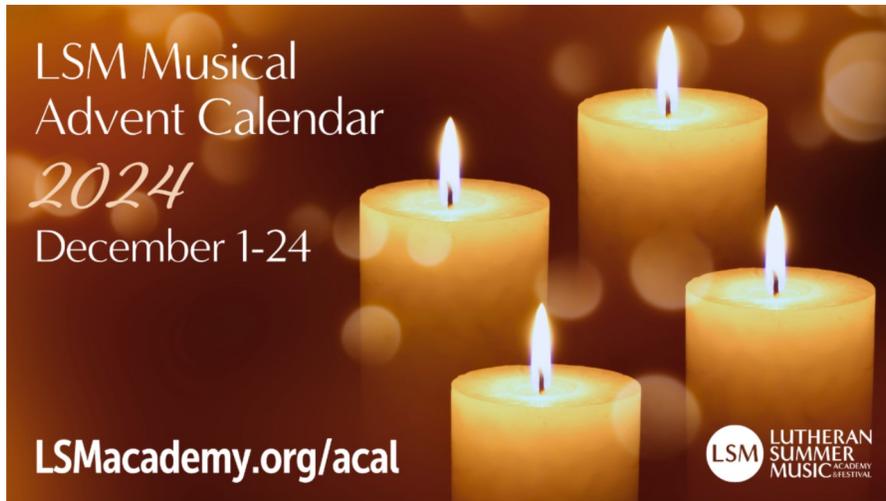
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured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



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.

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.

Rev. Hosea Ekong, Youngstown, OH, who is recovering at home after a hospitalization.

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.



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

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