



The Beacon Online

December 13, 2024 / Vol. 5 / No. 50

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

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SELC 2025 District Convention

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

**Two pastors will be installed during the Convention!
Rev. Miguel Torneire, who is leading the Hispanic Mission in
St. Louis will be installed during the Opening Service.
Rev. Russell Peterson, who will be the Pastor at our Host Church
Holy Cross, will be installed during the Closing Service of the
Convention!**

Please note that you must send in your delegate forms, register for the Convention, and reserve your overnight room, if needed, to complete the necessary steps to attend the Convention.

The proceedings from the 2022 SELC District Convention will be available on the District website at this link - <https://selc.lcms.org/convention/>. These are made available to review prior to the opening of the 2025 Convention.

An evening of music and fellowship will follow the Opening Service Thursday evening at Holy Cross. The music will be provided by Pastor Adam Barcott and his band from New City Church.

On Saturday evening, we will travel to the Lutheran Haven in Oviedo to tour the new buildings and have dinner and meet some of the residents at the Haven.

The ingathering at this convention is for The Oasis, at The Sharing Center (TSC), is a respite center for individuals experiencing homelessness. 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."

Toiletry Items for The Oasis Clients

Travel Size: Body Wash, Lotion, Shampoo, and Sunscreen

Other items include Deodorant, Feminine Products, Lip Balm, and Razors
Financial gifts can also be given to support the work at The Sharing Center.

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.

Register for the SELC District Convention at this link on our website
- www.selc.lcms.org/convention/



SELC Pastor Installation Services Scheduled for January 2025

The SELC District announces the installation services for four Pastors who are joining the SELC District.

January 4, 2025 - Rev. Scott Coerber will be installed at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oveido, FL at 2 PM

The members of St. Luke's Lutheran Church are pleased to invite you to attend the upcoming Installation Service for Rev. Scott Coerber.

The service will take place at St. Luke's in Oviedo, Florida on Saturday, January 4, 2025 at 2:00 PM. If you are able to join us, clergy will gather at 1:30PM in Meeting Room 4 in the Family Life Center. As you come into the church office reception area, turn right and proceed down the corridor. Please bring your vestments and red stoles.

Following the service, you are invited to join us for a reception in Founders' Hall.

We look forward to worshipping with you on January 4th!

January 16, 2025 - **Rev. Miguel Torneire** will be installed as the Mission Leader for the Hispanic Lutheran Mission in St. Louis, MO during the Opening Service of the SELC District Convention at 7 PM

January 19, 2025 - **Rev. Russell Peterson** will be installed as the Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, the host Church for the Convention, during the Closing Service of the SELC Convention at 8 AM.

January 19, 2025 - **Rev. Jonathan Moyer** will be installed as the Associate Pastor at Faith *Viera* Lutheran Church at 3 PM.



Don't Forget to Submit Your District Mission Goal

Your offerings support the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ here and throughout the world. As your congregation sets its mission goal to support the work of the district and Synod, please be sure to let us know as soon as possible, but before January 11, 2025.

Here are three easy ways to do so:

- Online at [this link](#).
- Email Stewardship Committee Member Rev. Bill Hale at william.e.hale@gmail.com with the amount per month or year.
- If you can find it, mail the form sent to your congregation in October to the address indicated.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Bill Hale at the above email or Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, Stewardship Chair at markclarson0341@gmail.com. We value your partnership in the Gospel and look forward to another year of proclaiming the saving message of Christ to a lost and hurting world.



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.



Life in God's Way

Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

This week I'm sharing a portion of an article I recently wrote for a newsletter that goes out to North American Directors of Christian Education (NADCE). It highlights several resources offered by CCF, especially our new RESOURCE OF THE WEEK, the Life in God's Way series. You can see a free sample of this material, the unit titled Life in God's Way: Worldview, by [**CLICKING HERE**](#). You can also use that link to see the complete 12-unit set of material that is available for purchase at the low price of \$120. Once you purchase and download the set, you can use the booklets, handouts and PowerPoints as much as you wish in your local congregation and the homes you serve.

CCF's latest resource, my [**Life in God's Way series**](#) is under the "For Church Workers" section on the CCF website, but it would be useful for anyone interested in living out all of life's relationships as God designed them. It will make your home a place where the love of Jesus is fully known and shared. This will lead you to the most fulfilling and joyous life possible.

The Life in God's Way series is a great follow-up companion to my book, *Handing Out Life*, which is also available on the CCF website under the "Books – Relationships" section [**here**](#). This short book starts with a parable on real life that is then interpreted. It lays out the way in which God has taught us to love with the kind of love Jesus first showed to us as our perfect husband. It also highlights the right order of priorities for all our relationships in life. The book also includes eight brief Bible studies for personal, small group or congregational usage.

Building on the Biblical foundation laid out in *Handing Out Life*, the Life in God's Way series will help you share God's way for living out all our relationships to His glory and our good. The series unpacks the riches of God's Word in a way that will benefit those

who are brand new to Christian faith along with those who've been lifelong disciples of Jesus. Each of the twelve units in this series includes a booklet, handout and PowerPoint presentation. The booklets are utilized best when read by individuals on their own time, ideally before coming to a group presentation, but also very beneficial afterward and for regular review. The handouts and PPT's work together for presentations in a typical one-hour session. Also included in the Life in God's Way series are three videos that highlight basic illustrations that appear frequently throughout the series. You'd be able to watch or share these videos whenever you deem fitting...during a teaching of the series or any time in the future to illustrate these foundational lessons.

A suggested way to start the series is with the first three units numbered in order:

1. Hope (to bring hope in Christ to so many who are without it in this broken world today)
2. You Are Loved (celebrating the unique, perfect love of Jesus for every individual)
3. Worldview (showing how God's way for marriage, family and love is the only way to have a complete worldview that gives us hope, purpose and joy each day)

After those initial three units, the remaining nine units may be used in any order you choose to serve your needs. You may also pick and choose which units to utilize, leaving some of them for later or never to be used...though that last option isn't recommended ;) The Lord will certainly use the Life in God's Way series to lead you and those you influence to the riches of living out a grace-filled, purposeful and joyous life in God's way!

One final reminder, if you aren't already, you should regularly **peruse the CCF website...concordiafamily.org**. There are regularly updated resources you might like...most of them free.



Spring 2025 Vicarage and Call documents Deadline Announced

The deadline for all **vicarage and call docs for Spring 2025** placements must be received in the District Office no later than February 28, 2025 to ensure that they are ready for submission to the Synod in time. Please contact Patti at the District office with any questions at selc.lcms@gmail.com or 610-965-3265, press 6.



Registration is Open for the 2025 Youth Gathering

YAV (Young Adult Volunteers, age 19-25) applications are due December 31, 2024.

Identified by their bright orange shirts, Young Adult Volunteers (YAVs) are adults ages 19–25 who serve as role models and servant leaders throughout all corners of the Gathering.

Within the Young Adult Volunteer Team there is also an opportunity to apply to be a Squad Leader and Captain, helping to lead fellow YAVs in being fun, friendly and flexible.

Young Adult Volunteers commit to:

- Paying a \$400 volunteer registration fee
- Staying in assigned Gathering hotel accommodations covered by the Gathering (with 4 or more same-gendered volunteers)
- Attending volunteer training July 17–18, 2025 in New Orleans
- Serving the Gathering July 19–23, 2025 in New Orleans

YAVs pay a volunteer registration fee of \$400. The Gathering uses this fee to supplement hotel costs. Current plans are to house the YAVs at a hotel near the Morial Convention Center. YAVs are roomed by gender and 4 or more to a room. The Gathering covers all housing costs but YAVs pay for their own transportation and most meals.

It's a blessing for Young Adults to be encouraged to apply and also to have the financial support of local congregations as they prepare to pay for travel, registration fees, and meal expenses.

The YAV application is open until December 31, 2024. YAVs must commit to attending the Gathering and serving July 17–23, 2025 (plan to arrive midday on July 17 to attend the first night's training). YAVs who arrive prior to July 17 or want to stay later than July 23 will need to make their own arrangements.

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."



Monthly Zoom Bible Study LWML - SELC

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, December 19th at 10:30 am EST and this month is "Christ's Steadfastness: The Apostle's Creed- Second Article" the last one in the Fall edition of the LWQ.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>



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.

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

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery. *Refrain:*

O come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease,
And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain:*
(Hymn 357, LSB)



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

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