



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 2025 SELC District Convention Workbook has been posted on the website. It will continue to be updated prior to the start of the Convention. The printed Workbooks will be printed on January 3, 2025. Any additional materials added to the Workbook after that date will be available online only. If you requested a printed Workbook, it will be available when you check in at the Convention.

The Convention will be live streamed. The link is on their YouTube channel - [Youtube.com/hclm](https://www.youtube.com/hclm)

The Memorial Service will be at 1 PM on Saturday, January 18th.

To help you prepare for the Convention, Daily Devotions have been written for you. They are in digital and printable formats. The links to the Devotions can be found at this link - <https://selc.lcms.org/convention/>

The proceedings from the 2022 SELC District Convention are 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. There will be a small quantity of these available at the Convention but will not be printed for those who requested a printed Workbook.

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.

Please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com or call 610-965-3265, press 6 with any questions



Concordia Lutheran Church Macungie, PA New Member Service

Concordia Lutheran Church celebrated the last Sunday in December with a New Member Sunday. Nineteen new members were welcomed into the membership! The new and current members celebrated together following the service with a meet, greet and welcome reception.





SELC Pastor Installation Services Scheduled for January

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

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

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.

All services will use red stoles.



Funeral for Rev. John Mashek

The funeral service for Rev. John Mashek has been scheduled for January 11, 2025

Place: St Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5451 South Cleveland-Massillon Road, Norton, OH 44203

Schedule:

- *Visitation at the church - 10 am - noon*
- *Funeral service - Noon*
- *Luncheon at the church - after the service*
- *Interment - private, at a later date*

The officiant will be Rev. Keith Johnson, Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Akron (Zion was John Mashek's home congregation; Pastor Johnson was his pastor. John was attending there faithfully after his retirement from St Matthew).

- *Clergy are welcome to attend, vest (with RED stoles), and sit together during the service (or sit with your wife). They are also welcome to attend the luncheon afterward.*
- *The luncheon will be provided by the ladies of St Matthew (Norton) and of Zion (Akron).*



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.



Family Bible Journey

Looking for some resolution for the new year? Join the Family Bible Journey podcast as we journal through the Bible! Six days a week we drop a short episode to encourage you to read through the Bible. Sorting episodes oldest to newest allows you to listen through the Bible beginning to end. Search for the Family Bible Journey on your favorite podcast player or find us at familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



LWML Monthly Bible Study

Please note change due to SELC Convention

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, January 23rd at 10:30 am EST. This month is "Steadfast in Christ": The Apostle's Creed- Third Article" the first one in the Winter edition of the LWQ.

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



Nominate Young Musicians for Lutheran Summer Music



Enrollment is filling up fast for the LSM 2025! Students come together in an immersive musical community that connects the pursuit of musical growth with the joy of Lutheran church music traditions. LSM welcomes musicians of all kinds: brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, piano, organ, voice, harp, guitar, handbells, and more. Know a young person (grades 8-12) who would benefit from this life-giving and joyful musical community? Nominate them for LSM today at LSMacadey.org/nominate. LSM 2025 takes place at Valparaiso University from June 22-July 20 (Half Session through July 6). Standard Enrollment is open now through March 1.



LCMS LUTHERANS
YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry

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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.

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 Musings on the Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

Also New Year's Day Anno Domini
(in the year of our Lord) AD 2025
Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

*"And when eight days had passed in order to circumcise Him, He was called **Jesus**, the **Name** given by the angel before He was conceived in Mary's womb" (Luke 2:21).*

Thankfully, the earthly redemptive messianic mission of our incarnate sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ's now forever being **both** Son of His beloved Heavenly Father **and** Mary's Son consists of **even more** than "*just*" His innocent sacrificial death and bodily resurrection from the dead! (See Romans 8:3).

Not that many days ago it was my privilege to read the lessons at a sparsely attended yet festively spiritually uplifting **Christmas Day communion service** where the appointed epistle lesson was our blessed ascended Lord's apostle Paul's timeless pastoral Christological teaching in Philippians **2:5-11** beginning with his familiar hymn-like "Let this mind be **IN YOU** which was also in Christ Jesus" etc. including a single **seamless active and passive obedience** of our necessarily sinless Brother-Savior. Note 1 Corinthians 2:16 and Philippians 4:7 and without over "systematizing" connect all the dots!

Also appropriately heard on New Year's Day and Palm Sunday near the end of the 46-day Lenten/ passion tide at the beginning of Holy Week, *contextually*, Paul's beautiful Christologically-loaded verses unfortunately often remain disassociated from the apostle's also lovingly finding it necessary *later* in Philippians 4 publicly to reconcile two (hopefully temporarily!) Christian sisters apparently unable to live up to the meaning of the name of at least one of them let alone that "**NAME ABOVE EVERY NAME**," our spotlessly pure crucified and now ever living and exalted **LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

"What's our Christian mindset regarding prioritizing an even much deeper level of servant-discipleship in the coming year of our Lord AD 2025?" One of Satan's most effective deceptive ploys for interfering with our being faithful witnesses of Christ's saving Gospel is to convince us that there **no hurry** regarding sharing our baptismal faith by word and deed. Spend time with 2 Corinthians 6 (the entire chapter, better, that entire letter along with Philippians) and perhaps even learn to sing:

*Greet now the swiftly changing year
With joy and penitence sincere,
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.*

*Remember now the Son of God
And how He shed His infant blood.
Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.*

*"All glory be to God on high,
And peace on earth!" the angels cry.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! With thanks embrace
Another year of grace.*

*God, Father, Son and Spirit, hear!
To all our pleas incline Thy ear;
Upon our lives rich blessing trace
In this New Year of grace.*

(Hymn 896, LSB, (stanzas 1, 2, 6 and 7) (translated from Slovak by sainted SELC District Pastor Jaroslav Vadja for the alternate Slovak melody ROK NOVY see Hymn 183, LW.)



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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