



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

Convention Offering to Benefit SELC Mission Work

The Convention offering for 2025 has been designated for the construction of church buildings for the new congregations that are forming through our mission in India. The Holy Spirit has been using our missionary greatly, who is raising up and training local leaders (about 10). These leaders have been planting new churches. A church building can be constructed for about \$7500. We hope to support the building of three churches in 2025, one of which is nearing completion.

Please note the change in the link for live streaming

The Convention will be live streamed. The link is on their YouTube channel -

[youtube.com/@SELCDistrict](https://www.youtube.com/@SELCDistrict)

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/>

At each break and meal on Friday and Saturday you will be able to visit several exhibitors from across the Synod. The Sharing Center will be there as well as

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries. Please be sure to visit the dozen exhibitors that are coming to our 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.

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

Please note that the District Office will be closed from January 12 - January 21, 2025 during the Convention. Please email the District at selc.lcms@gmail.com or call 610-392-4927 for immediate needs.



Rev. Scott Coerber Installed at St. Luke's Lutheran Church Oviedo, FL

Rev. Scott Coerber was installed as an Associate Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, FL. The installation was held on January 4, 2025.



Pictured above from left to right, **Front row**: President Vinovskis, Rev. Micah Steiner, Pastor Coerber's cousin, Rev. Scott Coerber, Deacon Dennis Coerber, Pastor Coerber's Father, and Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. Tige Culbertson at St. Luke's

Middle row: Rev. Dr. Wally Arp, Rev. Sam Shick, Rev. Roy Mack, former Southeastern District President, and SELC Southern Circuit Visitor Rev. James Fernandez

Back row: Vicar Edward Krez, Rev. Gerald Reinking, and Rev. John Elliott





Pictured above from left to right: Pastor Coerber's wife Teckla, son Tavian, daughter Kierra, and Rev. Scott Coerber.



Lutheran Haven Receives a Gift from Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT

At the final voters meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church in Stamford, CT, it was unanimously decided to disband the congregation and to distribute the assets from the sale to specific Gospel missions and ministries whom they have supported in the past. Blessedly, this included Lutheran Haven Retirement Center, a Registered Service Organization of the SELC. While bittersweet, their wonderful gift will bring so many blessings to the Haven's Benevolent Care Ministry which assists those in need at Lutheran Haven.

According to Pastor Jack Breznen who served Trinity for many years, it was the wish of the congregation to "pay it forward." He further sates, "Our dear Professor Kenneth Ballas always reminded his classes that the Bible does not teach, 'God helps those who helps themselves. But rather, Holy Scripture is clear that God helps those who cannot help themselves and God helps those who help others!'"

What has been born from this sale is a new Hispanic ministry whose new home for the Gospel is now at the former Trinity Lutheran Church. In addition, Lutheran Haven, along with other ministries were the recipients of wonderful gifts that will not only continue the Gospel but bless so many people for decades to come.

With deep appreciation, Jerry Griffing, CEO of Lutheran Haven said: "This reminds me of Isaiah 43:19 which says, 'See, I am doing a new thing...! I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.' This gift will truly make a way for those whose difficult circumstances may not have seemed solvable or salvageable. Our deepest thanks to Trinity Lutheran Church and to their generations of support for making a way in multiple ways!"



Funeral for Rev. John Mashek

January 11, 2025

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



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

Join our journey through the gospel of John with the podcast. Two favorite stories, the nighttime visit of Nicodemus and the woman at the well are two recent episodes. Listen on your favorite podcast player or at familybiblejourney.com!



Lutheran Service Book Three - Year Lectionary, Series A, B & C dedicated at St. Stephen Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Service Book Three - Year Lectionary, Series A, B & C was dedicated at St. Stephen Lutheran church in Dickson City, Pennsylvania on the Second Sunday after Christmas. God's Word, the Holy Bible, preached & taught, along with Baptism & the Lord's Supper, the heart & center of our mission in Christ Jesus for 135 years! Pictured below are Front row L to R: Pam Berg, Carole DeCandis & Marcia Rudat
Back row L to R: Bob Berg, Jr., Pastor Richert & Kevin Iyooob





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 LSMacademy.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.

The advertisement features a large, ornate cross in the foreground, set against a cityscape background. The text reads "LCMS LUTHERANS YESTERDAY. TODAY. ALWAYS." and "Lutheran Church Extension Fund" with a percentage symbol icon. Below the name is the tagline "> where investments build ministry".

LCEP 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.



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, Orlando, FL. Please pray for him to regain the weight he has lost and to regain his strength as he faces continued health struggles.

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.

Rev. Ronald Yergey, Macungie, PA who has been hospitalized and is receiving care at home.

Rev. Kevin Duff, Hilton Head, SC, formerly a Pastor at Faith *Viera*, who is in ICU with a brain tumor. Please pray for his wife, his young family, and his caregivers.

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.

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 A Possibly Overlooked Epiphany Season Passage

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Many years ago, then vicar-intern, Joel Lehenbauer, quietly pointed me to the closing doxology of St. Paul's magnificent Epistle to the Romans as a fitting summary statement for the Christian Year's Epiphany season calendar, namely, **Romans 16:25-27**.

Reminiscent also of the **mission theme** of our beloved district's Holy Cross Lake Mary, FL January convention, "Called to Be Light to the Nations!" (based on Acts 13:47), see if you do not also agree!

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith – to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ. Amen.

God grant that we all not only know but unhesitatingly do what that means in today's church and world! For Jesus' sake!



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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