



The Beacon Online

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

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! A [printable version](#) of the newsletter is available on our website at selc.lcms.org/beacon Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



Upcoming Conference - Forming the Next Generation of Pastors

A conference is being held from May 2 - 4, 2025 that is focused on assisting young men considering a vocation in the ministry and pastors/parents who want to learn more about the ministry for their families. Any students, families and pastors in your congregation are encouraged to join us. Below is the website with more information to learn more about this conference.

<https://www.zionwg.org/event-list>

THE MAIER CONFERENCE

MAY 2-4, 2025
ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH WINTER GARDEN, FL
[HTTPS://WWW.ZIONWG.ORG/EVENT-LIST](https://www.zionwg.org/event-list)

Forming The Next Generation of Lutheran Pastors

Rev. Willie Grills Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz Rev. Andrew Preus

THE MAIER CONFERENCE IS A THREE DAY CONFERENCE FOR YOUNG MEN CONFIRMED IN THE CHURCH WHO WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT A VOCATION IN THE HOLY MINISTRY.



SELC Youth Gathering Update Rachel Larson, Youth Chair

Greetings and blessings as we ENDURE the excitement of preparing for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering!

I am excited to share with you some numbers and plans that are developing. First, the

SELC District has 5 congregations, and 94 people have already registered for the Gathering. If you know of people or a congregation still thinking about attending the Youth Gathering, please reach out to them. Let me know so I can encourage them too. We can still add to your group numbers until March.

The other news is about our SELC District Event. We will be serving together at an offsite location again this year. We will be partnering with the English District for this event. The location and type of work is still being worked out with the Gathering planners. I will share any details as soon as I get them. The cost for this event will be \$35.00 and will include the event, transportation to and from the event, lunch, and a SELC District T-shirt. I am thankful to the SELC District Board of Directors for including support of the Gathering in the 2025 spending plan to help keep our costs low. Look for a Google form to register your group and provide T-shirt sizes. If you have any questions about the event, please let me know. My email address is rachel.larson@stlucaslcms.org



Veterans of the Cross Gathering

All retired lay and rostered workers who have served in LCMS are invited to attend. Dr. Dale A Meyer, former Lutheran Hour Speaker and St. Louis Seminary President is the keynote speaker. Theme is "He Restores My Soul". there will be lots of fellowship, singing, and flocking together to enjoy a new look at Psalm 23. Devotion leaders include Dr. Peter Meier, Rev. Tom Zehnder, Rev. Gerhard Michael, Deaconess Liz Borth, and Rev. Ron Engel. It is being held at St. Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center in beautiful Titusville, near the Space Center.

[Click here](#) for more information



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 Podcast

In our New Testament episodes, we follow Jesus through the middle of John's gospel. Jesus teaches important lessons about what it means to be blind or deaf. Then He goes on to teach a powerful lesson about His resurrection power as He raises His dear friend Lazarus from the dead! Listen to the podcast at familybiblejourney.com or on your favorite podcast app!



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



New Concordia Chicago Scholarship

As of this week, Concordia Chicago (CUC) has instituted a new policy, the Prepared to Serve Church Professional Scholarship. What this new policy means is that all students enrolled in church-work programs will be able to study for no more than \$5,000/year, not even factoring in district scholarships or other outside scholarships. This will significantly lift financial burdens for students, and make it much more feasible to enter church-work programs at CUC. This also makes CUC one of the most affordable options for students in our Synod.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
An institution of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

MAXIMUM TUITION:
\$5,000
PER YEAR, INCLUDING ALL MANDATORY FEES
Concordia scholarships can be combined with other awards.

PREPARED TO SERVE:
CHURCH PROFESSIONAL GUARANTEE

Stand tall with one of the most affordable pathways for students in church professional programs across the Concordia University System. **APPLY TODAY!**



COMMITTED TO HELPING YOU

PURSUE GOD'S CALL

PREPARED TO SERVE: CHURCH PROFESSIONAL GUARANTEE

Beginning in Fall 2025, if you're a new, incoming student enrolled full time in one of our church professional programs, your tuition and mandatory fees won't exceed \$5,000 per academic year. You can also stack external scholarships from LCMS districts and congregations, as well as other private entities, for greater savings. This makes our **CHURCH PROFESSIONAL GUARANTEE** one of the most affordable pathways within the Concordia University System.

Eligible programs include:

- Lutheran Teacher Education
- Director of Christian Education
- Deaconess
- Pre-Seminary
- Classical Lutheran Educator
- Director of Parish Music

Thanks to the generosity of donors who believe in the importance of church vocations, this guarantee makes a Christ-centered education more accessible, exemplifying CUC's commitment in preparing you to serve. Whether you're just starting your journey or continuing your studies, we're here to help you prepare for a life of purpose and service to God and His people.



TAKE THE NEXT STEP: LEARN MORE!

OFFICE OF UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION

877-282-4422 | Admission@CUChicago.edu | CUChicago.edu/admission

[@CUC_admission](#) [@CUChicago](#) [ConcordiaUniversityChicago](#)

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- LCMS freshmen or transfer students pursuing a church professional major who meet CUC admission requirements.
- Available to new, incoming students starting in Fall 2025; currently enrolled students are not eligible, with the exception of a one-semester allowance for those adding a church professional program.
- Must complete a FAFSA.
- International students are not eligible.

ADDITIONAL DETAILS:

- Tuition and mandatory fees will not exceed \$5,000 annually, renewable for up to four years with satisfactory academic progress.
- External scholarships from LCMS districts, congregations and private entities may stack, further reducing costs (up to cost of attendance).
- Room, board and additional fees (e.g., parking) are not included.



Greece 2025 Trip

June 21 - 28, 2025

Optional cruise June 27 - July 1

Want to go to Greece this summer on a Journeys of Saint Paul tour? It's not too late to register for our trip! Feel free to join our Zoom on [February 24th at 8:00 PM EST](#) to learn more. You can also check out our brochure at <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/pa25062125a52755#eotours> Email pastorlepley@gmail.com if you'd like to be added to our mailing list for future meetings, or for help registering for our trip!

The link to the call on February 24th is <https://zoom.us/j/91410659114>

www.EO.travelmytrip Tour = PA25 Date = 062125 Code = A ID = 52755

Join Rev. Daniel and Wendi Lepley
**JOURNEYS OF PAUL IN
GREECE**
June 21 - 28, 2025

EO Educational Opportunities Tours

www.EO.travel
800-247-0017

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Travel with Us!

St. Luke's Travel Group 2025

The St. Luke's travel group led by the Lois and Pastor Wally Arp, is excited to announce "Highlights of Norway and Sweden" *including visits to* Bergen, Sognefjord Cruise, Lillehammer, Oslo, Stockholm and more! Twelve days, July 5-16, 2025. [View the brochure](#). Email tour or travel questions to: Travel@SLLCS.org



Highlights of Norway and Sweden

including visits to: Bergen, Sognefjord Cruise, Lillehammer, Oslo, Stockholm and more!

12 Days ~ July 5 - 16, 2025

Tour Coordinators -

Rev. Dr. Wally & Lois Arp / Debbie & John Shahinian

Email tour or travel questions to: travel@SLLCS.org

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, Florida



LCEF, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, has a new brand! Please see the ad below and scan the QR code for more information! Our LCEF representative is John Hoover, the DVP for the SELC District. His contact information is below.

John Hoover
10733 Sunset Office Drive, STE 300
Saint Louis, MO 63127
(o)-314-885-6512 (m)-314-276-3370
john.hoover@lcef.org



Finance
for the Faithful

Together in faith, we'll unite resources to serve God's kingdom.

Learn more about our rebrand at lcef.org/TogetherInFaith.



**LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND**
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS. TOGETHER IN FAITH.

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.

-  INVESTMENTS
-  LOANS
-  MINISTRY SOLUTIONS
-  REAL ESTATE SOLUTIONS



LWML Women's Bible Study February 20, 2025

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, February 20th at 10:30 am EST and this month is "God Sees Our Story - Therefore Rejoice!" the second one in the Winter edition of the LWQ on pages 18-19. The link to the zoom session is below.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/84746607019?pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09)



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. Kevin Duff, Hilton Head, SC, formerly a Pastor at Faith *Viera*, who is recovering from brain surgery. Please pray for his wife, his young family, and his caregivers as they determine his plan of care.

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.

Daniel McLean, Oviedo, FL, who has stage 4 cancer and is receiving treatment. Please keep him his wife Emily, Deaconess at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo, and their children 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.



Free Ukrainian Resources for Sharing the Gospel

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (a recognized service organization of the LCMS) has just gotten a huge shipment of books carrying two FREE new resources available in Ukrainian, including the classic children's Bible storybook *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories* and *Best of Portals of Prayer*. These materials are available to any LCMS church, mission or individual who wants to share the Good News with their Ukrainian-speaking neighbors. To order, send an email to info@LHFmissions.org or call the LHF office at (800)554-0723.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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