



The Beacon Online

February 21, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 7

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

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Annual Congregational Statistics Due February 28, 2025

Each congregation must submit your congregational statistics to the Synod by February 28, 2025. The Synod is asking for these because of the reasons stated below.

1. The Synod wants to know how our congregations are doing and how best to work for their benefit and on their behalf.
2. The Synod needs to be able to contact leadership by up-to-date emails to facilitate their governance of the Synod. This was **demonstrated** to be of key importance in the recent congregational referendum and will be increasingly so as we move toward and through convention.
3. The Bylaws expect it (1.3.4.3) and require the Secretary (3.3.3.2 [e]), District Presidents (4.4.8), and Circuit Visitors (5.2.3 [h]) to urge it, consistent with an objective of the original 1847 Constitution of the Synod (Ch. IV 13).
4. The practice goes hand in hand with good pastoral/congregational record-keeping in general. If this is being done, filing statistics shouldn't be hard. We are aware of serious shortcomings in this area in many parishes of the Synod. This needs to be addressed, and this is a start.



Spring 2025 Vicarage and Call documents Deadline is **February 28, 2025**

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.



Concordia Lutheran Preschool Celebrates Lutheran Schools Week

Concordia Lutheran Preschool in Macungie, PA celebrated Lutheran Schools Week with activities throughout the classrooms. In the photo on the right, it was Pajama Day, and some preschoolers rode the scooters in their pjs!

Below left was Wear Green Day and below right all the preschoolers wore hats for Hat Day.



Rev. Jon Carpenter Accepts Call

Rev. Jon Carpenter, currently serving at St. John Lutheran Church in Massillon, Ohio has accepted a call to be the Pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Norton, Ohio. Pastor Carpenter will be installed at 11:00 AM on March 8th at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Please contact Diane Hunsicker (dmhunsicker@neo.rr.com) or leave a message at the church office (330-825-4100) by March 4th if you will be attending the meal.



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.



Last Call for Lutheran Summer Music 2025!

Enrollment for this summer is over 80% full, but there's still time for young musicians to apply, and for you to **nominate students**. Lutheran Summer Music is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school musicians. Students come together from around the country for a joyful summer of music-making through large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, elective classes (conducting, composition, jazz, musical theatre, handbells, pipe organ) and use their musical gifts in performance, and in worship.

LSM 2025 | Valparaiso University, IN | June 22-July 20 | Grades 8-12
Learn more: LSMacademy.org/program

Nominate music students for LSM 2025



LSMacademy.org/nominate

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

EDUCATION • CONTINUITY • UNITY

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

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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



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



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 Telsoni, 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, who is recovering from brain surgery. Please pray for his wife, his young family, and his caregivers as they determine his plan of care.

Rev. Stephen Bocklage, Bel Air, MD, who is recovering from a fall. Please pray for his healing and recovery.

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.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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