



The Beacon Online

February 28, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 8

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

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Annual Congregational Statistics Due **TODAY!**

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.

- The Synod wants to know how our congregations are doing and how best to work for their benefit and on their behalf.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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 **TODAY!**

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.



Lutheran Haven Celebrates Lucy Lockman's 106th Birthday!

Some say the Fountain of Youth is in St. Augustine, Florida but we think it's at Lutheran Haven! Several residents and staff gathered on foot, on bikes and on golf carts to wish Lucy a happy 106th birthday! Lucy moved to the Haven with her husband Bill in 2001. She enjoyed working at our bi-annual Flea Markets and attending our pot luck dinners at our Fellowship Hall. She attended exercise classes until early this year and enjoys reading and word puzzles. What an honor to celebrate her and her huge milestone birthday!



Rev. Jon Carpenter Installation March 8, 2025

Rev. Jon Carpenter 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.



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 [March 31st 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 March 31st is <https://zoom.us/j/94251886443>

www.EO.travel/mytrip Tour = PA25 Date = 062125 Code = A ID = 52755

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



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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, 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.

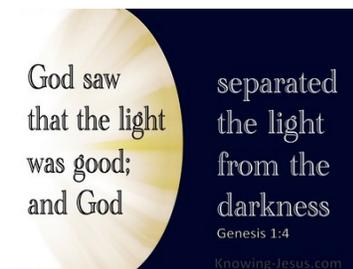
Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL Please continue to pray for her and her doctors to find pain relief solutions for her jaw pain and severe headaches following her surgery.

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.



Closing Thoughts Evening and Morning

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

While being privileged to work outdoors or travel are certainly not the only occupations offering possible added benefits from one's labors, privileged boy to grow up on my grandfather's and uncles' beautiful Ohio farm, a full day of healthy "toiling in the soil" quite often left me with the impression of justifiably *deserving* a refreshing night's sleep. Over the years, however, I was led to realize that instead of viewing restorative slumber as a *reward* for a job reasonably well done, the gift of bodily rest also embraced an intended deeper purpose of equipping one for a new day of Christ-like, useful service to *others* (the same may be said regarding the purpose of sabbath also for the Creator's working animals). Though Scripture speaks of the mercies of God as being new *every morning* in Lamentations 3, note the order in the familiar recurring refrain of "evening and morning" in the Genesis 1 creation account.

Our observance of *Maundy* Thursday (from the Latin *maundatum* referring to our Lord's "new commandment" to love *one another* exactly as He has loved us in John 13) is a further reminder of the purposeful plethora of salvific events of each Passiontide and all that transpired in our behalf that single 24-hour day on the Jewish calendar beginning and ending in the evening all of which culminated in the sinless Christ's perfectly obedient voluntary sacrificial death and His (and our) final promised Day of Resurrection. What a Day that will be! Thank You, Lord Jesus!

The first of the so-called medieval "seven deadly sins" being the sin of *misguided pride*, as for any recognition of any good we will have ever been privileged to accomplish in Jesus' Name, we need read no further than to repeat our blessed Lord's own easily forgotten words recorded in Luke 17:10: "Even when we have done all that was commanded, say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.'" Why not also sing 17th century Paul Gerhardt's praiseworthy words of comfort written during the 30 Years War?

Evening and morning, Sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace and gladness; Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,

Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me; Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no longer be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings;
As it may please Thee, Retain or release me;
All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me, Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower, and winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing;
These shall I treasure And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.
(LSB, Hymn 726)



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

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