



The Beacon Online

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

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Common Life

A Young Adult Apprenticeship Program

The Central Florida Cross Network (Holy Cross Lake Mary, Resurrection Church, The Cross Orlando) is looking to launch a young adult apprenticeship program called Common Life. This program is focused on high school graduates and college-aged students between the ages of 18-21. The desire is to help develop the skill of living a common life, which is built on Luther's theology of vocation and the approach to discipleship: Meditatio, Oratio, Tentatio. The program will include a weekly meal, congregational commitment, community service, a vocational mentor, and Biblical instruction. As the Network continues to develop this program, they would love to get some feedback from parents in your congregations. Please help them by sharing the parent survey that they have included [HERE](#).

Why?

High School Graduates deserve every resource the church can offer them as they set out on their own and begin to build a life under the Reign of God. There are a subset of High School Graduates who desire, whether during a gap year or early in their college life, to explore deeply the resources of the church to understand living vocationally in the world. Our Lutheran churches have a deep well of wisdom on vocational theology as well as a deep bench of saints who have learned from experience how to navigate the world's challenges faithfully.

How?

Experience processed alongside theological education in the context of committed community will be the best teacher. Common Life will endeavor to cultivate community amongst a select group of High School graduates over a nine month period through

weekly group study, structured volunteer expectations, curated mentor relationships, a retreat and a mission trip. Through this mix of theological/biblical study, real life experience and wisdom from experienced practitioners of everyday faith, Common Life will equip young people to live under the Reign of God in a world that doesn't recognize His authority.

What?

Common Life will be an apprenticeship program run in Central Florida for 8-12 high school graduates and college students aged 18-21 over the course of one school year. The graduates are apprenticing to develop the skill of living a common life, built on Luther's theology of vocation and the approach to discipleship: *Meditatio, Oratio, Tentatio*. Costs to the apprentices will be minimal, just enough to cover costs including a paid facilitator/leader. It will be facilitated by the Central Florida Cross Network, but could be executed in collaboration with Circuit or District.

Weekly Meal/Study

Common Life will program a weekly meal. So much happens when people eat good food around the same table. It is anticipated this will be the most formative aspect of the experience. In addition, Common Life will curate a calendar of topics and expert teachers from local clergy and professionals teaching theological principles, spiritual practices and core exegetical concepts.

Congregational Commitment

In conversation with the apprentice Common Life will pair them with a congregation for the year. The congregation will assign a point of contact and a specific volunteer responsibility for the apprentice for the length of their participation in the program. A large part of living under the Reign of God is connection to the church. With this connection each apprentice will learn habits of meaningful involvement with their local church.

Service Commitment

In conversation with the apprentice, Common Life will pair them with a local service organization. A large part of living under the Reign of God is meaningful service to their community. With specific volunteer expectations and responsibilities for the length of the program the apprentice will learn habits and challenges of volunteer work.

Vocational Mentor

As part of their application, apprentices will indicate a field of work to which they aspire. Utilizing networks from churches in Central Florida, Common Life will pair them with individuals of faith that are familiar with that field. Mentors and apprentices will determine the most helpful support together. It could be as formal as an internship, or as casual as regular coffee.

Topics for Instruction

Common Life apprentices will study different topics throughout their year. These topics will be foundational to their understanding of scripture and the growing of their faith. These topics include; Lutheran Theology 101, Applying Scripture to daily life, perception of the suffering servant, and living out faith in the world.



Youth Worship Night at Zion Lutheran Church

Zion Lutheran Church in Clark New Jersey will be hosting our youth worship night in collaboration with "The Disciples Band" (band of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Whitestone- Atlantic District). This will include contemporary music, devotional, prayer and fellowship. You are welcome to attend. Please see below for more information.


THE DISCIPLES


ZION
LUTHERAN
CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

YOUTH WORSHIP NIGHT

THEME : FRIENDSHIP

Friday, March 21 2025 @ 7pm EST
Zion Lutheran Church
559 Raritan Rd, Clark, NJ 07066
Open to all Junior High and up
Refreshments & Fellowship after!

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT, WATCH US LIVE !!
WWW.YOUTUBE.COM - ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH CLARK

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Lutheran Haven Ladies made 132 Quilts for Lutheran World Relief!

Each year, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) delivers tens of thousands of handmade Mission Quilts to people in need around the world – over 689,000 last year. We are so proud of our ladies at Lutheran Haven who share the gift of their hearts and hands to design, layout, cut, sew, tie and bind these gifts of love for this much-needed ministry.

Our ladies have been gathering to produce these beautiful quilts since 2013 and they call themselves the "Piecemakers." They gather year-round, twice per day, each week, to prepare these colorful masterpieces as gifts of love which bring comfort, warmth and hope for families in both crisis and poverty. This past year, LWR Mission Quilts were delivered to Angola, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and to the survivors of hurricanes' Helene and Milton. We at Lutheran Haven applaud you for your incredible dedication to the Lord's work, LWR, and so appreciate the immense blessing you are to so many in need.





Less Chocolate or More Jesus?

Dr. Todd Biermann

As we've just begun the season of Lent, it's fitting to ponder the meaning of this season in our daily lives. Is it a time to give up something like eating meat? Is it a time to be somber and contemplative? Should you be doing something different in your home each day? If you're looking for ways to observe Lent at home, [explore our recommended resources on Family Devotions](#). Below is a

devotion you can read and share to get your head and heart moving in the Lenten direction.



Chocolate. Dark. Semi-sweet. Mousse-i-fied. You name it. I've never met a chocolate I didn't like. That's why it was hard to give it up for Lent for many years. Unfortunately, I often spent more time thinking about chocolate than the real focus of Lent.

Instead of leaving things behind, our Lenten observance often benefits from seeking more, more of the kingdom of God and his righteousness. We receive this wonderful "more" as we ponder Jesus' promise of free forgiveness for our obsession with stuff. We receive "more" as we recall that we're already His through Holy Baptism. We receive "more" as we eat and drink His Holy Supper weekly. We receive "more" as we love others rather than seeking what they have.

Don't get me wrong. Obsessing over chocolate is a sin to be left behind. But, maybe, if we seek first all the gifts freely given by our Savior, Jesus, our minds will be less apt to fixate on chocolate...or wine...or a newer car...or a better spouse...or more likes on our posts...or whatever sinful obsession may possess us. Those things are nothing compared to being right with our maker through Jesus our Savior. Yes, Lent's a perfect time to seek first the kingdom of God.

May we seek you, Jesus, above all else. Amen.



Monthly Zoom Bible Study to be Held March 20th at 10:30 AM Eastern

The third Thursday of each month
10:30 am EST

Zoom or in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Lodi, 8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH 44254

LWML Woman's Bible Study - Thursday, March 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.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/>

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

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.travelmytrip 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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to view our rates.

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. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. 0225N153



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, Orlando, FL. Please pray for him as he is regaining the weight he has lost and works to regain his strength and stamina.

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.



SELC District - A District Without Borders
***Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing
Everyone Love in Christ***

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