



The Beacon Online

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

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SELC District Servant Event Youth Gathering Register Now!

Below is the Google Form link to register your group for the SELC District Servant Event for the Youth Gathering this July! We are still working with the Youth Office to finalize what we will be doing for our service. 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. If others who are at the Gathering (YAVs, Team Flex, etc.) from your church would like a T-shirt can also be added to the Google Form as additional shirts and not in the event total. Even if you are not planning to attend the District Event (I hope to see all of you at the event!), you may still order District shirts for your church. All payments go to the District Office. Please have this form filled out by April 15th so I can order the t-shirts and have them shipped to your churches before the Gathering! (This is only for churches attending and registered for the Youth Gathering in New Orleans).

Link for the Gathering Event and T-shirts:

<https://forms.gle/giQtGXesmJULnA4e7>

If you have any questions, please let me know!

Blessings,

Rachel Larson, SELC Youth Chair
rachel.larson@stlucascms.org

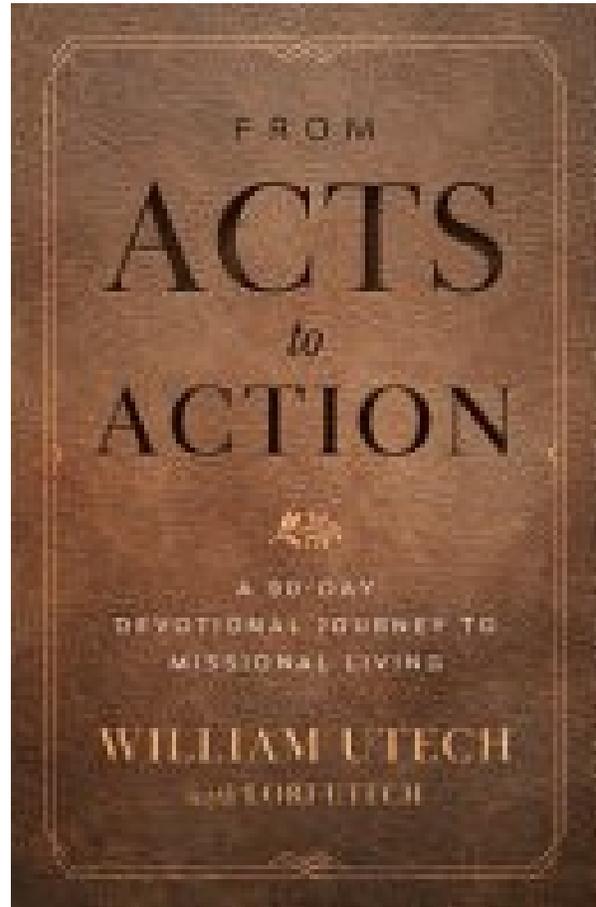


Rev. Dr. William Utech Authors "From Acts to Action"

Rev. Dr. William Utech has authored a book entitled "From Acts to Action". Dr. Utech was the speaker at our District convention this year.

Are my faith and my local church still relevant? The answer is a resounding, "YES!" But only the Word of God, and especially that Word as it come to us in the Acts of the Apostles, can make it so. This 90-Day devotional journey leads readers on a guided tour of the entire Book of Acts to see and learn anew how God is always working through His people, His leaders, and His local congregations to grow His kingdom. The first century church changed the world for the better. The Lord of the church wants to use you and your 21st century congregation to do the same.

The book is available on Amazon - [Click Here](#) to order the book.



Family Bible Journey Podcast The Story of Esther

The epic story of Esther begins next week on the Family Bible Journey podcast! Listen along as a young Jewish girl gets swept into the royal court and finds herself in a dangerous position. Risk her life by speaking up for her people, or quietly watch them get attacked by vile enemies.

www.familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



LWML-SELC Monthly Bible Study Date Change for April

Since the 3rd Thursday in April is Maundy Thursday, we will be changing April's Bible Study to the 24th.

The Bible Study will be in the Spring edition of LWQ on page 14, "Confessing What We Believe".

Here is the link to join the Zoom meeting:

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



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 the Circuit or District.



"Life and Death: A Confessional Framework for Pastoral Bioethics" **Via Zoom**

Calling all pastors and church leaders! Join Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL) and Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis. (CUW), for a six-week virtual continuing education bioethics course — "Life and Death: A Confessional Framework for Pastoral Bioethics."

Tuesdays, April 29 – June 3, 2025 4–5:15 p.m. (CT) via Zoom

Meet the presenters:

- Dr. Kevin Voss, professor emeritus of Philosophy and former director of the Concordia Center for Bioethics at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis. With decades of experience in bioethics and pastoral care ministry, Voss blends his unique expertise in reproductive counseling and end-of-life care with a passion for addressing bioethical issues from a Lutheran theological perspective.
- **Dr. Robert Weise**, professor emeritus of Practical Theology and the former Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis Chair in Pastoral Ministry and the Life Sciences from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Weise served on the faculty for over two decades and made significant contributions to the fields of bioethics, human sexuality and genetics, both through his academic work and as a frequent speaker and author.

Read more about the course sessions and **register** by April 25, 2025.

For more information, contact the Continuing Education department at Concordia Seminary at ce@csl.edu or 314-505-7286.

Register now

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

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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.

Anna Bocklage, Bel Air, MD, wife of Rev. Steve Bocklage, who is recovering from knee replacement surgery. Please pray for her 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 The Primary Reason for the Season of Lent

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Perhaps you recall seeing this old wall or desk motto:

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.
"For me to live is CHRIST!"
(Philippians 1:21)

Though St. Paul on death row in Rome for his confident belief in Jesus' resurrection also speaks of his impending demise (by decapitation), the primary emphasis in his upbeat extended "thank you note" to fellow-believers in Philippi for their money gift to aid in the apostle's required "prison upkeep payments" for his unrelenting insistence on his Gospel preaching and teaching of the Lord Jesus' bodily resurrection and ascension (see Philippians 2:8ff.; 3:10f. and constant references to resurrection in the Book of Acts).

This also remains the chief reason for our 46-day season of Lent as spiritual preparation for God's never-ending Easter as well as why, historically, these past two millennia the majority of Christian churches unhesitatingly choose to observe the sabbath no longer on the seventh day but rather as a *weekly* reminder of *Resurrection Sunday* – things we all do well to teach people of all ages including our living and loving exalted Lord's precious baptized little ones! (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-4).



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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