



The Beacon Online

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

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Lutheran Haven Mother's Day Appeal

Lutheran Haven is announcing the 2025 Mother's Day Appeal. Below is the appeal letter from Rev. Dr. Roy Maack. If you would like to mail a donation to Lutheran Haven and/or this Mother's Day campaign, you can send it to the address below.

Lutheran Haven Foundation
2041 West State Rd. 426
Oviedo, FL 32765



In honor of Mother's Day this year...

we received a wonderful gift from Lutheran Haven resident, Rev. Dr. Roy Maack who authored our Mother's Day letter. As you celebrate this special holiday, we invite you to take in his beautiful words in honor of his beloved wife and the mother of their 4 children:

"God blessed me and my 4 children with the most precious, loving, gifted, God-fearing wife and mother, Ann. Ann played the role of cheerleader, editor, mentor, tutor, sounding board, sermon critic and lover. Her encouragement, determination and gracious love are why, after God's son, Ann has been the greatest gift to me. Why she agreed to marry me is still an amazing mystery to me – and many others!

Ann taught music and directed musical programs all over Baltimore in public schools and the churches I served. Even the Mayor came to hear her programs. The teachers, administrators, students and parents loved her and her work. She was also a concert pianist. I saw her on stage at the University of Maryland playing for more than an hour without a note in front of her. Wow! What a gift; what a memory! She was also the valedictorian of her graduation class.

Ann spent endless hours with our children to help them learn and achieve, which they all did mightily – all because of Ann and the guidance of God.

In the summer of 2005, Ann experienced a stroke which kept her from playing piano and limited her activities, yet she was never down or negative and always pleasant. She was an inspiration to all at Lutheran Haven.

Ann was the greatest gift to me, to our children and to all who knew her. If it were not for Ann, I would not be in ministry, not have served large and important congregations, and certainly would not have been elected District President where she too served and ministered to numerous pastor's wives.



We were often asked what our secret was for joyfully living together for 66 years. Well, we forgave a lot, we laughed a lot, and I travelled a lot! My children and I love Ann now more than ever even though she is with Jesus. Who wouldn't with a GEM like her?

There are two things that inspired Ann and me to a life of service:

- Christ died for our sins
- Christ rose from the dead

Jesus' commitment to us inspired us to support ministries like Lutheran Haven, which Ann loved dearly. I do as well and have lived at Lutheran Haven since 2007. We support this great ministry God has given to all of us, and I humbly ask you to join me in supporting the ministry of Lutheran Haven that supports so many."

In Christ,

Rev. Dr. Roy A. Maack

Rev. Dr. Roy Maack
Resident, Lutheran Haven

Mary Ann

Mary Ann McCunn
Development Coordinator
Lutheran Haven Foundation

A brief biography of Rev. Dr. Roy Maack:

Pastor Maack grew up homeschooled on the road because his father was a tent preacher throughout the US starting churches. He preached his first sermon at age 10. He served congregations in the DC area and in Maryland and received people from various countries and cultures. It was in college at St. John's, Winfield in Kansas where he met his beloved Ann. When Pastor Maack says his children achieved mightily with the help of the Lord and Ann, he is very accurate. All 4 of their children are doctors; 2 medical doctors and 2 in ministry.

Pastor Maack received his Honorary Doctorate in Ministry at Concordia College in Bronxville, NY and went on to serve as District President for over 200 congregations and 350 pastors in the mid-Atlantic states. He also served as the summer replacement speaker on the "National Lutheran Hour" radio show which broadcasts around the world.

In "retirement," Pastor Maack has led world tours which included 45 countries, and in addition, helps various congregations with fundraising and stewardship. Currently, he is working for "Food for the Poor" which is an interdenominational ministry that helps the poorest of the poor in the Western hemisphere. He states, "I would go back to being a parish pastor but who wants a 93-year-old pastor!"

Thank you, Pastor Maack. We at Lutheran Haven are so blessed and inspired by you and your beloved, Ann. We are honored that you are a part of our Lutheran Haven family!



Happy
Mother's Day

Thank you for your kindness.



**LUTHERAN
HAVEN
FOUNDATION**
Generations of caring - Caring for generations

I have already included Lutheran Haven In My Estate Plan.

I would like more Information on the following:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Including Lutheran Haven in my Estate Plan

For your privacy, Lutheran Haven Foundation does not release personal information to third parties.

Happy Mother's Day

The mission of Lutheran Haven is to provide a quality, Christ-centered haven of care for older adults.

Out of thanks to God for His many blessings, I/we enclose a gift to The Lutheran Haven Foundation for:

Benevolent Care General

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Church Affiliation _____

Payment: My check payable to LHF is enclosed

Please return this card with your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Credit card donations can be made directly through our website by visiting ***lutheranhaven.org***. Just click on the Faithful giving tab on the menu bar.

You can also scan our QR Code and it will take you directly to Faithful Giving.




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 at the address below. 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>

[SELC District Office 2623 Brookside Road Macungie, PA 18062](https://www.lutheranhaven.org)

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



Concordia University, Nebraska Class of 1974 and Class of 1975: You're Invited!

Dear Concordia University, Nebraska Classes of 1974 & 1975 Alumni,

It's time to celebrate! Your **Golden Reunion** is just around the corner, and we can't wait to welcome you back to campus for an unforgettable weekend of memories, laughter and re-connection.

Mark Your Calendar: June 10-12, 2025
Location: Concordia University, Nebraska

Reconnect with old friends, reminisce about your time at CTC and make new memories during this special milestone event. From nostalgic campus tours to celebratory dinners, exciting activities and plenty of time to catch up, this is a reunion you won't want to miss!

Secure your spot now to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration. Visit our **Golden Reunion website** to view the full schedule of events.

Register Today!



Student Aid Available

The SELC Student Aid Committee is dedicated to provide financial assistance to students from our district congregations who are preparing for full-time church work at our Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries. The members of the Student Aid Committee are appointed by the President and Board of Directors and are currently served by Chairman John Glanzer (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL) and Secretary Rev. Kevin McLeod (Resurrection, Malvern, OH).

Students planning to attend or are currently attending our synod's colleges, university, and seminaries (and are enrolled in full-time church work programs) should complete the accompanying application in order to apply for the SELC scholarship assistance. Students receive the grants once per year, typically for the academic year that begins in September and ends in May or June of the following year. The SELC District Application for Financial Aid must be filled out and returned each year that the student is enrolled in the institution. This form is separate from the District Financial Aid Form which the university or seminary uses; although, this form is also sent to the Student Aid Committee.

It is the student's responsibility to apply for aid. In addition to any scholarship aid granted by the district, we also hope you have inquired if your congregation provides financial assistance as well. Many of our congregations have scholarship funds for students preparing for full-time church work.

We are grateful to the Lord that the SELC Board of Directors and our congregations have demonstrated their concern for future church workers by allocating generous funds for financial assistance in the district's budget. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of our district's financial aid program, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rev. Kevin McLeod.

Sincerely,
John Glanzer, Chairman
SELC District Student Aid Committee
jglanzer@slcs.org

[Click here](#) to access the application on the SELC District website.



Evangelism and Family Discipleship

Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Are you afraid of evangelism? Many Christians are. That word causes pulses to rise, excuses to ensue and the flight instinct to kick in. It's common to think of Billy Graham preaching a bold, pulpit pounding sermon as what evangelism is all about. Or, maybe you think of knocking on the doors of strangers and telling them they need to repent or they'll go to hell. None of these ideas need to or should be associated with the term evangelism.

By definition, evangelism is speaking the "good news" of Jesus Christ as Savior from sin, death and hell. This can happen when Christians intentionally seek those who are not yet baptized children of God and speak the Gospel to them. That is a noble and valuable task. However, evangelism more commonly happens when Christians daily speak of Jesus as Savior in conversations wherever they go.

Family Discipleship is the perfect partner of evangelism. At CCF, we say that Family Discipleship is "Christ's gifts nurturing faith in God's children through the partnership of homes and congregations." So, Family Discipleship accomplishes evangelism as...

- Children are brought by parents to Christ's gift of Holy Baptism in which the saving name of Jesus is put upon that child.
- Parents daily remind their children of Holy Baptism and free forgiveness through Jesus' cleansing.
- Families read God's Word together daily and point out every time that Word speaks of Jesus as Savior (which is throughout the Bible).
- Families speak forgiveness in Jesus' name to each other every day (because it's needed that often).
- Families attend public worship and receive Christ's gifts of Holy Absolution, Gospel Word and Holy Supper together.
- Families go home from public worship and remind each other daily of the Gospel gifts they received...and continue to receive.
- Families speak of their salvation in Christ as they interact with friends, neighbors, coworkers, fellow students, teammates and casual acquaintances along life's way every day.

None of these activities need to be forced in an awkward way that causes us anxiety. They should all be part of habitually living as disciples of Jesus who are being nurtured by Him each day. Evangelism in this sense is speaking about the joy of salvation we

know every day as disciples of Jesus. Evangelism happens as we let the Holy Spirit work in our lives every day. The Spirit will do the work to change the hearts of sinners as we speak of Jesus who has changed our hearts.

As we approach the joy of Easter, I invite you to think differently about evangelism. Let the joy of your salvation through our resurrected Savior, Jesus, fill you daily in your growth with your family as a disciple of Jesus. Then, let that joy flow from you to everyone you encounter every day. You'll be practicing evangelism in a way that's truly effective. It allows the Holy Spirit to work in His way and time to bring more sinners to repentance and growing faith in Jesus.

Evangelism and Family Discipleship. Daily. Spirit-led. Powerful. Fulfilling. God-pleasing. Don't fear it. Enjoy it!

[Featured Resource of the Week](#) – To hear Dr. Biermann talk about the connection between Family Discipleship and evangelism, listen to the latest podcast, "Lift High The Cross – Ep. 41 with Ray Sexton and Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann," on the CCF website [HERE](#). You may want to pay special attention to minutes 25 through 44.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

The Story of Esther

The epic story of Esther begins this 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 **April 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)



“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

Grow Your Future *Grounded in Faith*

Opening an **Individual Retirement Account (IRA)** might not be on your radar, but it’s crucial for your financial future.



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WITH YOUR INVESTMENT



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PAID MONTHLY OR QUARTERLY



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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.

Bev Cahill, wife of Rev. Chris Cahill. Lodi, OH, as she begins a season of chemotherapy following cancer surgery. The Cahills are posting updates on "Caring Bridge" at <https://tinyurl.com/Bridge4Bev>.

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

When We May Not Know What to Say

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

In addition to what is obviously blatant misuse of God's gift of human speech especially when uttered behind another's back (however "true" the content), we have all seemingly found ourselves in the position of being expected to comment on serious personal situations *not* knowing exactly what to say or do, hopefully also proving helpful to all concerned.

Sometimes (as at a funeral) it is best at that particular moment to do or say little or nothing other perhaps than gently to "squeeze" a person's hand or say, "I'm so sorry for your loss!" Important also is to maintain contact with the grieving, being careful to *listen* to whatever they may have to say. As Christians we should also realize that there are things one does *not* say like "Don't cry!" or, yes, "You'll eventually *forget* him or her!" or tell anyone "from your own personal experience that you know exactly how they feel" when you clearly don't!

Often overlooked is our use of words also conjunction with God's *gift of music* (those convinced they "can't sing a note" do well to consider Martin Luther's home-spun statement about our Lord's apparent approval of the efforts of a braying donkey's "hee-hawing" over a backyard fence as being "the best it could do" vocalizing this otherwise gifted animal's peculiar praises to the glory of its (and our) mutual Creator.

A final unfortunately all too often *unused* gift of speech relates to our common *failure to respond positively* to our sinless Brother-Savior's **prediction** regarding His Spirit-empowered disciples (soon-to-become boldly confessing apostles) as expected faithful *witnesses* prior to His bodily ascension into heaven ten days before the first *Christian Pentecost*.

"You will receive power after (or because) the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and YOU WILL BE My witnessing martyrs (Greek for "witnesses") both in Jerusalem and all Judea and (hated) Samaria and to the end of the earth."



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

SELC District of LCMS | 2623 Brookside Road | Macungie, PA 18062 US

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