



# The Beacon Online

May 9, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 18

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

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## Join us for Easter Choral Evening Prayer!

May 11, 2025  
Live-stream available

Mark your calendars now for Easter Choral Evening Prayer! This service will feature a variety of choral accompaniment from **Laudamus** and Concordia Seminary's Children's, High School Youth and Chamber choirs. Reception to follow. Join us in celebrating the joyous sounds of Easter!

Easter Choral Evening Prayer will be live-streamed at [csl.edu/live](http://csl.edu/live). This service is part of the **Concordia Seminary Music Series**, which is free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there!

6 p.m. (CT) Sunday, May 11, 2025 from the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus.



## A Hymn for Good Shepherd Sunday May 11, 2025

Rev. John Telloni

Here is a new hymn, or Entrance Psalm, for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, commonly known as Good Shepherd Sunday. It is based on Jesus' words recorded in John 10:14-15b and the familiar and beloved Psalm 23. The verses are divided into two parts: 1) The Promise (Jesus' words) and 2) The Fulfillment (Ps. 23). It of course could be sung by

the whole congregation, or the "Promise" might be sung by the pastor or another soloist, with the congregation joyously singing the verses of the "Fulfillment." There are other variations that might be used. The tune is a very familiar one to many, "Gelobt sei Gott" (LSB 470,475). It is also appropriate for any other Sunday in the Church Year.

## **"I, the Good Shepherd, Know My Sheep"**

*(Based on John 10:14-15b; Ps. 23)*

### **Promise**

**"I, the Good Shepherd, know My sheep,  
My sheep know Me, their lives I keep;  
I give My life and heav'n they reap."  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Fulfillment**

**The Lord my Shepherd is my All,  
He lets me lie in grasses tall;  
Near quiet streams He lifts my soul.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**He escorts me on His pure way;  
Although death's shadow stalks each day;  
I fear no ill, Your staff my Stay.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your ample table shames my foes;  
My head anointed in repose,  
My cup of praise still overflows.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Your love and goodness follow me  
Each day until eternity;  
I dwell in God's house cheerfully.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

*(Words by John L. Telloni, Copyright @ 1999. Tune: Gelobt sei Gott.)*



## **Vocatio: High School Set for June 21-27, 2025**

**Students Explore Vocational Ministry  
During On-campus Visit**

High school students interested in attending **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** or who are considering vocational ministry are invited to **Vocatio: High School** June 21-27 on campus. This weeklong retreat provides prospective students the opportunity to explore God's calling and direction as they experience life as a seminarian.

During this retreat, participants will engage in theological conversation, hear from Seminary professors and attend a Concordia University System college fair. Group sessions will focus on thoughtful conversation about the Lutheran faith, aspects of

vocation and the call to pastoral or diaconal ministry. Participants also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area and engage in some fun and recreation.

"When I was in high school, my pastor brought me and a few of my friends for one of the high school events at the Seminary. Getting to spend time with other like-minded youth from across the country continued to instill in me a desire to serve in the Lord's church as a pastor," said **Rev. Craig Reiter**, admissions officer. "I'm excited now to lead Vocatio: High School and I look forward to encouraging our youth toward church work as others encouraged me."

The registration fee is \$200, which includes lodging and meals. The deadline to **register** is May 31, 2025.



## Disaster Response

Hurricane season begins on June 1st

The **LCMS has been growing the synod's disaster response ministry** each year and is offering help and mercy to those in need. The SELC District Disaster Relief Coordinator (DDRC) is Steve Lehenbauer. Steve is the Chief Administrative Officer at **St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Oviedo FL**. In the role of DDRC, he will coordinate any emergency needs in our district.

We encourage each congregation of the SELC District to:

- Designate a member to serve as a disaster information officer. This person will be the liaison when other churches need help and take the lead to communicate with the DDRC if help is needed.
- Promote, encourage and implement a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). This team should schedule regular yearly events to assist in your local community and prepare to travel regionally to assist other communities as needed.
- Make contact with the local geographical LCMS district to coordinate training for LERT certification.
- Designate at least one Sunday a year to promote disaster preparedness. This may include collecting flood buckets, collecting donations for disaster relief, providing FEMA disaster preparation information, encouraging LERT training,
- Create an emergency guide. See **example from St. Luke's Oviedo**.
- Create a disaster recovery plan. See **examples from FEMA**.

Look for information on the SELC District website at this link -  
**<https://selc.lcms.org/LERT>**



## LWML-SELC Monthly Bible Study

The LWML-SELC Monthly Bible study returns to the 3rd Thursday of May beginning at 10:30 AM Eastern. You can join in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio or you can participate on Zoom at the link below which begins at 10:30 AM Eastern.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746607019?pwd=V2t5a1BPQjFnUzJGRzRiS1ZVVVJsQT09>



## LWML National Convention

### Join us at the Lutheran Women in Mission Convention

**Date:** June 26–29, 2025

**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Convention Center:** CHI Health Center, 455 N 10th St, Omaha, NE, 68102

**Theme:** Growing in God's Grace

**Scripture Verse:** *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen (2 Peter 3:18).*

**Goal Statement:** Through Word and Sacrament, I will grow in grace to serve our Lord and proclaim His glory.

**Objectives:** Each convention attendee will be:

- Inspired to dig deeper in God's Word.
- Nurtured to share the love of Christ with enthusiasm.
- Encouraged to support missions and our mission goal with joy.

Anyone interested in attending the convention can register [here](#).

The LWML SELC delegates are Sue Hasselbring from the Western zone, Stephanie Biley from the Central zone, and Cyndi Vinovskis from the Eastern zone. Rev. Gordon Naumann is the Pastoral Counselor who is also attending. Anyone is welcome to attend the Convention. Only the delegates are able to vote.

For more, check out our website at [lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com](http://lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com)



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a church raise over \$500,000  
in four weeks!



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### **A 51 Year Tradition at Lutheran Haven!**

Mary Ann McCunn, Lutheran Haven Foundation

For the past **51 years**, the Lutheran Haven Auxiliary has raised money by hosting our fabulous Flea Markets to benefit our Haven community in numerous ways that often stretch or fall outside our budget. What began in 1974, is now a bi-annual tradition that brings in hundreds of people and more than \$20,000 per Flea Market!

In the Spring and Fall each year, flocks of eager shoppers' search for great bargains while supporting our Haven community. What the public sees at these events is the culmination of months of work by our residents who work year-round, meticulously sorting through the incredible amount of donations from our generous neighbors. They select items, categorize them and box them up to be delivered to the various areas of sale. You won't find a better organized Flea Market in all Central Florida!



We have clothing, small appliances, artwork, collectibles, antiques, electronics, jewelry, linens, bicycles, holiday items, household items of all types, games, computers, cameras, lamps, toys, books, plants and medical equipment. This includes tables bursting with homemade baked goods! (A personal favorite).

As you can imagine, this requires an army of volunteers and nearly a week of set-up. Tables and chairs are set, all items are transported to their respective areas, a tent is set up for prayer, signage is produced, press releases are sent along with other promotions, volunteers' direct traffic and parking, and our wonderful "chauffeurs" are recruited to help transport people and their packages to their cars by golf cart. This is just a small representation of what it takes to put our markets together!

Thankfully, we have the gift of not only our many residents, but also the young people of Oviedo High School, BETA Club and the St. Luke's Boy Scout Troop! Nearly EVERYONE is involved at Lutheran Haven, including staff members who volunteer along with our Culinary Department who bake their delicious scones in the morning and grill burgers and hot dogs at lunch for the attendees and volunteers. This is a well-oiled machine indeed!



The best part is what our Auxiliary has done over these many years to help our Haven community through the money they raise. They purchased a wheelchair-accessible

Plymouth, Grand Caravan several years ago, 25 special adjustable tables for the Harbor, our Assisted Living facility, new library furniture, a spectacular hydroponic wall of living plants in one of our dining rooms, upgraded bathroom vanities which became part of the renovation of the Harbor, and they financially support regular restaurant outings at establishments that cater to people with memory deficits for the residents in our Memory Care Unit. This is just a small list of the many, many things the Auxiliary has done for Lutheran Haven, and each one has blessed so many!

All told, our Flea Markets are much more than just a sale! They also foster the small-town friendliness and charm of Oviedo, (amid the big city of Orlando) and the faith-filled values of loving our neighbors, who so faithfully love us. Lutheran Haven has existed for more than 75 years in Oviedo and is part of the very fabric that makes our city the special place it is to live and work. We know this is reflective of God's heart and His spirit which is alive and well at Lutheran Haven and has been for decades. At the close of our Flea Markets, you will see a line of trucks from various charities who pick up the leftover items for their charities, so nothing is wasted!



*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 ESV*



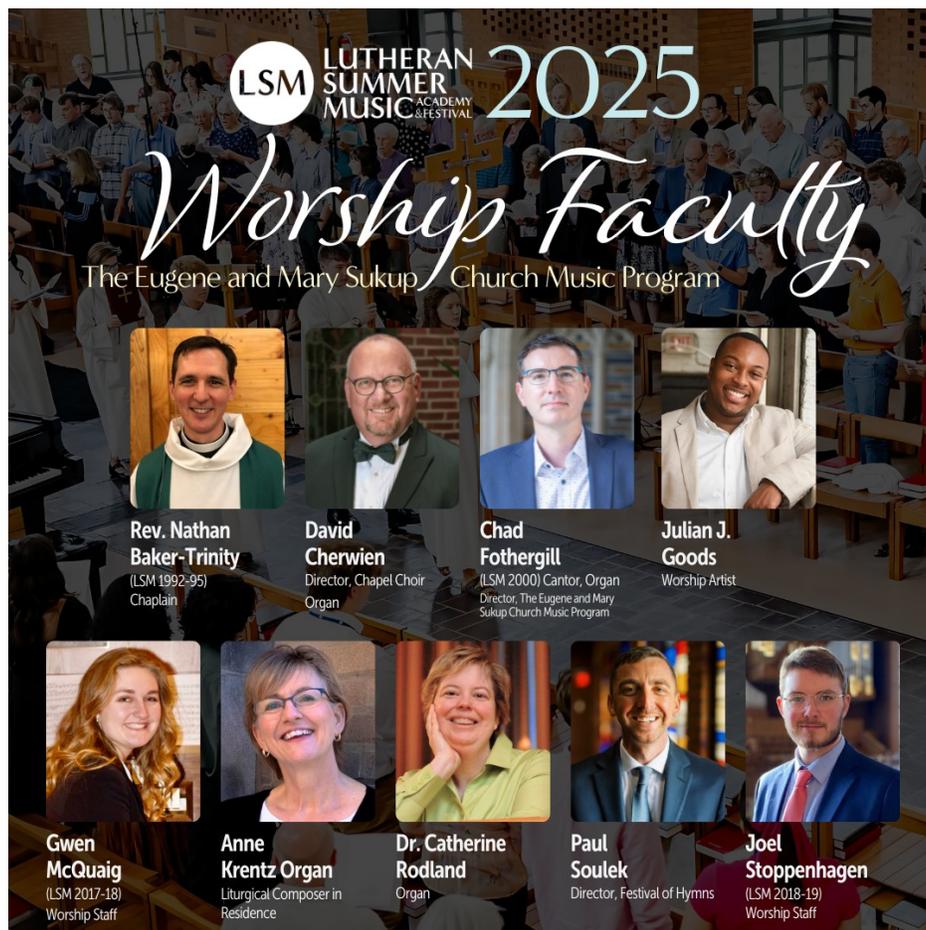
**Meet the Worship Faculty of LSM 2025—  
Join Us In Person or Virtually This  
Summer!**

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is delighted to announce the 2025 Worship Faculty of The Eugene and Mary Sukup Church Music Program, led by Cantor

Chad Fothergill (LSM 2000). These gifted and highly respected leaders will guide students and the broader LSM community through a rich tapestry of sacred music experiences during morning and evening prayer, rehearsals, concerts, and more.

Whether you can join us in person or tune in from afar, we invite you to be part of this vibrant, creative community that nurtures the next generation of church musicians and breathes new life into the future of sacred music.

Learn more at [LSMacademy.org](https://LSMacademy.org).



## Registration Opens for Fall Online Greek Course

Registration is now open for **Online Greek: Part I** for the 2025 fall semester at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** (CSL). The dates for the fall semester are Aug. 25-Dec. 12. Tuition is \$1,200 and the registration deadline is Aug. 1. The class size is limited to 15 students.

This noncredit course primarily serves three groups of prospective students: Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program graduates continuing to the General Pastor Certification (GPC) track, applicants to the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program and applicants to the Residential Alternate Route (RAR) Program. The course prepares students for the Entry Level Competency Exam (ELCE) in Greek, a prerequisite for admission to these

programs.

If space remains after SMP-GPC, M.Div. and RAR students have enrolled, others interested in learning Greek may register. While the course has no prerequisites and is not for credit, a solid understanding of English grammar is essential.

**Dr. John Genter**, assistant professor of theology at Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE), Seward, Neb., will lead the course. Dr. Genter currently teaches Greek at CUNE and previously served as a visiting professor at CSL in 2021. He earned his Ph.D. from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he also taught and contributed to four volumes of the "Baylor Handbook on the Greek New Testament" series and a recent Bible translation project.

Dr. Genter will shepherd students through the course using the textbook and videos developed by former instructor **Dr. James Voelz**, graduate professor of Exegetical Theology. Students will receive instruction, correction and insights as they prepare for the ELCE and build a foundation for reading the New Testament in Greek.

The course includes live online tutoring sessions from 4-5 p.m. (CT) Mondays and Thursdays, beginning Aug. 25. Students should expect to dedicate eight hours per week to study. Registration for Online Greek: Part II, offered in spring 2026, will open in October.

Required textbooks:

- **"Fundamental Greek Grammar", 4th rev. ed.** (Concordia Publishing House, 2019)
- **"Novum Testamentum Graece", 28th ed.** (German Bible Society, 2012)



## Family Bible Journey Podcast

Poor Job! His "friends" came to "encourage" him, but instead attacked him, blaming him for his misfortune. Contemplate the difficulties and reasons for human suffering as we work through Job on the podcast at [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com).



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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 has finished his low dose radiation treatments, and his healing is continuing from those treatments. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

**Rev. Edward Kucera**, Hermitage, PA, who is receiving long-term healthcare at home. Please keep him and his wife Irene in your prayers.

**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 wrote, Praise God for His healing graces: 5-year remission of colon cancer, then successful removal of a new tumor. Thank Him now for the improvement in blood tests. Pray boldly for complete healing from His mercy, yet desiring His will.

**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](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.*



## **Closing Thoughts** **Forgiveness and the JOY of Christ's Ascension** **Luke 24:44-53**

A few seldom satisfactorily answered Easter Season questions

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

To what extent do we joyously share with others our innocently crucified yet ever--living resurrected and ascended Christ as a "second Elijah" minus tears? (See 2 Kings 2)

Is our risen and ascended post-Pentecost Jesus truly still alive? (Surely the writer isn't the only forgiven sinner perceiving a general "Ho Hum!" attitude about our blessed Lord's decisive victory over Satan, sin and death once another Easter has passed).

Given weekly credal attestation of promised eventual realizations that some of our God's very best promised gifts are yet to come (1 Corinthians 2:9), why is it that His redeemed people don't usually celebrate our Lord's bodily ascension into heaven as being inseparably on the same level of theological importance as His resurrection?

What misconceptions (if any) may appear to occur to friends or neighbors whom we may be sincerely hoping to reach in the Name of Christ in conjunction with a wide variety of well-intended examples of Showing Everyone Life (or Love) in Christ?

Earthly landfills or eternity? Although undeservedly providing us all (just or unjust) with all sorts of transitory material blessings, our Triune God has a special vested interest in what Jesus told two beloved sisters, namely, that but one thing is or remains everlastingly needful! (Read Matthew 6:19-33; Luke 10:38-42; 1 Peter 1:1-12; 3:18-22; 4:7-11; 5:6-11).



## **SELC District - A District Without Borders**

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

### **SELC District of LCMS**

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