



The Beacon Online

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

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Do You have a Church Member who is Preparing for Full-time Churchwork?

The Student Financial Aid Committee was organized by the SELC District to assist young men and women preparing for full-time professional ministry or church work within the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This includes deaconess, lay ministry programs, as well as clergy preparation. Professional church workers who are working toward advanced degrees are not eligible for aid from the SELC District Student Aid Committee.

Please see the SELC website for an application and more information - <https://selc.lcms.org/mdocs-posts/financial-aid-form/>



Reminder of Address Change for SELC District Financial Secretary

We want to remind you that the address to send your mission pledges to the SELC District Secretary has changed following the District Convention elections. Please send your mission pledges to Irene Bray at the address below - **Thank you!**

Ms. Irene Bray, Financial Secretary
P.O. Box 292
15 Ironwood Drive
Westfield Center, OH 44251



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.



LWML-SELC Monthly Bible Study

The LWML-SELC Monthly Bible study returns to the 3rd Thursday of May beginning at You can join in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio or you can participate on Zoom at this link -

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

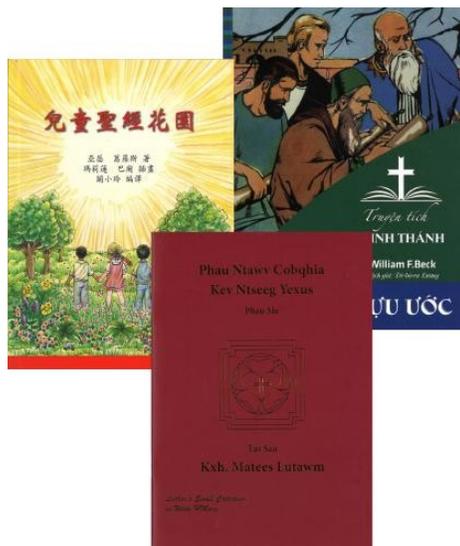
The monthly Bible study begins at 10:30 AM Eastern time.



Resources Available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation has a wide variety of resources available to share the Gospel with Asian immigrants in languages like Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), Vietnamese, and Hmong (Blue and White). From the *Book of Concord* and the *Small Catechism* to children's Bible storybooks, these resources are FREE for our LCMS congregations.

Visit LHFmissions.org to see what LHF can send you!



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 Bailey 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 register for the Convention. Only the delegates are eligible to vote.

For more, check out our website at lwmlselc.mystrikingly.com



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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.



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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 or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.



Closing Thoughts Things Christians Should or Should Not Be Good at Doing

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

For a surprising number of reasons, believing the still popular non-biblical saying supposedly stating, "God helps those who help themselves" as practically useful (whereas Scripture teaches that God stands ready to assist those who *cannot* help themselves who also believe, "I need You, Lord!") may only further muddy the waters of understanding. Next to wholeheartedly loving God, the second of the two greatest commandments is that we love our neighbors as ourselves (Leviticus 19:18). It has likely wrongly been concluded that one reason for so much hatred in our world is that so many inwardly may have an unnecessarily unhealthy opinion of themselves!

In addition to misusing our Creator's gift of time gazing into a mirror (or perhaps checking one's spiritual pulse wondering, "How am I doing, Lord?") as if still erroneously believing our eternal salvation depended even remotely on what we do or don't do by curtailing excelling at maintaining a largely self-centered mindset, reflect on the words "**the whole counsel of God**" our ascended Lord's apostle Paul referred to in his touching farewell address to the Ephesian elders at Miletus in Acts 20:27 (such comprehensive Scriptural teaching may even well call to mind for some C. F. W. Walther's classic Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel).

At the risk of over-simplification, one perhaps but need mention a sampling of common behavioral tendencies including *chronic reluctance* (procrastination) regarding one's degree of obedience to the Holy Spirit's promptings in *bringing to completion* expected, God-pleasing good works as paradoxically, conceivably routinely confessed "things left undone." In our sometimes misguided zeal of striving to please people more than God, we may even find ourselves being afraid of becoming "overly religious" foolishly excusing ourselves thinking that there is plenty of time to share the precious Gospel of Christ with others despite the fact most of us "cross paths" with many of them on a daily basis but one time during our fleeting earthly pilgrimage.

This side of heaven both "*Christian sins of omission*" as well, sadly, as a corresponding number of active even premeditated "*sins of commission*" continue to exist (Romans 3:23; 7:21ff.; James 2:10a; 4:17). Historically, the latter still feature blatantly *blaming others* including God Himself (Genesis 3). Lord, have mercy! Because of Jesus, under the broad creedal umbrella of the *forgiveness of sins* He, our sinless ascended Brother-Jesus, do we undeservedly continue to be showered with abundant pardon and mercy!

Taking even less time than most if not all of us daily expend vainly attempting to *digest* the largely depressingly negative world news, prayerfully take to heart this seriously pastoral challenge, dearly beloved forgiven baptized fellow-believing "sinner-saints" having been already given the mind of our once crucified now ever-living Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16): Do yourselves as well as those we all continue to love the most a huge favor by slowly reading Isaiah chapter **55** then back-tracking just a tad to Isaiah **53** before concluding with the New Testament opening two chapters of 1 Peter also perhaps tearfully joining with us in breathing, "**Thank You, Jesus!**"



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