



The Beacon Online

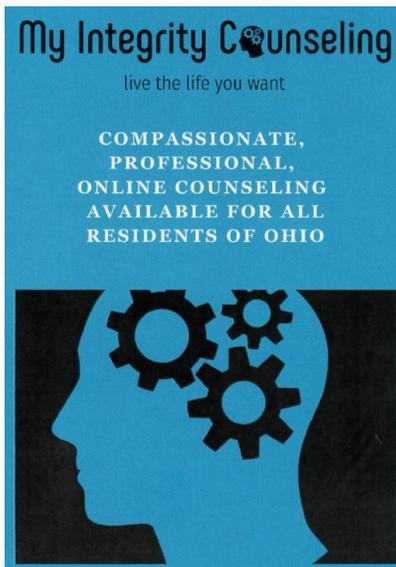
May 30, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 21

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

If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! A [printable version](#) of the newsletter is available on our website at selc.lcms.org/beacon Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



Care & Counseling is Available for Pastors in the SELC District



The SELC District has partnered with My Integrity Counseling Services to provide ministry to pastors who are experiencing Clergy-Specific Trauma. The Rev. Philip McClelland, a former SELC pastor, is available to pastors in the SELC in need of counseling services. Since we are a non-geographical district, he offers Professional counseling to those who live in Ohio and Pastoral counseling for those who live in states outside of Ohio. When you contact Rev. McClelland, please identify yourself as a SELC Pastor. For more information, please see the next page for a brochure about Rev. McClelland and My Integrity Counseling.

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Daily affirmations can be a powerful tool for supporting mental health by promoting positive thinking and self-empowerment. Here are some affirmations you might find helpful:

1. "I am worthy of love, happiness, and fulfillment."
2. "I choose to focus on the positive aspects of my life."
3. "I am in control of my thoughts and emotions."
4. "Every day, in every way, I am becoming better and better."
5. "I am strong, resilient, and capable of overcoming challenges."
6. "I deserve to take time for myself and prioritize my well-being."
7. "I am grateful for the small joys in my life."
8. "I trust myself to make the right decisions for my life."
9. "I am enough just as I am."
10. "I welcome peace and tranquility into my life today."

Repeating these affirmations can help cultivate a more compassionate and supportive mental environment, encouraging personal growth and emotional balance.

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A Not-to-be Missed Little GEM at Lutheran Haven!

Stepping into the Village Shoppe at Lutheran Haven is like stepping into a charming boutique that rivals any boutique in town except this one is entirely run by resident volunteers at Lutheran Haven and all proceeds go right back into enriching life at the Haven!

Over the years, the Village Shoppe has helped to provide wonderful amenities such as purchasing beautiful, new rocking chairs, and golf carts and many other items from the Haven's "Wish List" – all benefiting the entire community.



The Shoppe opened in March of 1981 with a simple idea: Sell handmade items and greeting cards to raise funds for Lutheran Haven. Initially, a small space for crafting and small sales has grown over the past 44 years into a delightful shopping destination filled with a wide variety of specialty items at fantastic prices. Everything except the broad selection of new greeting cards is generously donated by residents and community members. (Those cards, by the way, are perfect for those last-minute notes we all need to send.)



It's not uncommon for the Shoppe to receive items that have been donated to the Haven Flea Market that are a better fit for this boutique setting. You'll find men's and women's clothing, shoes, purses, jewelry, art, dishes, glassware and like-new kitchenware, plus seasonal décor' and the kind of eclectic treasures you didn't know you needed! There is even a "feature table" showcasing items for specific holidays or occasions.

The Village Shoppe is a proud part of the Lutheran Haven Auxiliary and is lovingly maintained by a devoted team of volunteers. These residents serve as cashiers and salespeople who tag and price merchandise, dust and tidy displays – and they do it all with care and pride. (You might even get a discount if you smile just right!) Manager, Sally Row shares, "We always want our buyers to go home happy with their treasures! This is a team effort, and we want to keep both our shoppers and our volunteers happy".

Currently, the Shoppe is open to the public from 1 to 4pm on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays with plans to extend these hours. They accept cash and checks and are working toward accepting credit cards soon. If you haven't visited the Village Shoppe while at Lutheran Haven, you're missing out on this great little boutique with a beautiful purpose!





Online Worship Opportunities

Worship Anew understands that you never stop growing in your journey with Christ. To help you on this journey, they are working to equip aging adults to go deeper with daily devotionals, Lutheran worship programs, and more. You that you're not alone. You're not forgotten.

Worship Anew offers alternatives for those unable to attend worship in person. They have weekly services and also offer daily devotions. They also publish a monthly magazine entitled *The Broadcaster*.

The LCMS Council of Presidents Choir, which includes President Vinovskis, recorded two hymns that will be used in future services. The picture of the Council of Presidents Choir is below.

Look for more information about the Worship Anew program in next week's issue.





LCMS Disaster Response - Volunteers Needed

Hurricane Season begins on June 1st

Tornadoes throughout the Midwest have caused damage across a wide area including the St. Louis Seminary. North Carolina is still recovering from last year's hurricane damage. Please visit lcms-lert.org/need/ and volunteer to assist. A wide range of skills are needed with everything from serving meals to using a chainsaw so prayerfully consider whether you are able to travel and help. If you are unsure, please contact the local leader listed on the event for more information. If you are not LERT trained, many sites are now offering the course onsite so don't hesitate to volunteer!

See what's already happening at facebook.com/LCMSDisasterResponse/

Additional resources can be found at these two links

- The LCMS Disaster Response—Strategic Use fund. Visit lcms.org/give/disaster or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)"; or
- The LCMS Disaster Response—Tornado Relief fund. Visit lcms.org/give/tornado or mail a check to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Tornado Relief (NM8050-26050)."



LWML-SELC Monthly Bible Study

Please note new monthly link

The LWML-SELC Monthly Bible study is on the 3rd Thursday of June. Free to Serve", the third one in the Spring edition of the LWQ on pages 20. 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/85956712410?pwd=2C5DTxh2rez6SD4sbfWeUCQU0tXCM4.1>

Meeting ID: 859 5671 2410
Passcode: 504061

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



**Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill
Retirement Celebration**

*You are invited to a retirement open
house for Pastor Chris Cahill
June 28th 11am - 5pm*



at

Christ the King Lutheran Church

8080 Lafayette Road, Lodi, OH 44254

Questions? Betty Olah at olahongarver@gmail.com or 330-441-1735

We're hoping you can join us celebrate his 36 years as Pastor as CTK as he and Bev embark on their next adventure. Light refreshments will be served.



Concordia Preschool Celebrates the End of the School Year

Concordia Preschool in Macungie, PA celebrated the end of the school year with graduations from seven classes.

Pictured to the right is the 5 day, 5 year-old-class. Pictured below from left to right in the top and bottoms rows are the three-year-old classes. The bottom row are the pictures of the pre-K 4 year-old-classes.



The preschool classes each held separate celebrations that family and friends attended. Each class sang songs and read stories for the audience and each class member received a certificate of graduation.





Nominations Open for Election at the 2026 Synod Convention



The Committee for Convention Nominations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) requests nominations of qualified members from Synod member congregations for officer, board, and commission positions to be elected by the Synod convention, which will meet July 18–23, 2026.

Officers, agencies, ordained and commissioned ministers, and member congregations of the Synod and their lay members are all invited to submit nominations, to be received preferably before August 18, 2025, and no later than October 18, 2025.

Please urge the members of your congregation to participate in the nomination process by identifying those individuals with the gifts and abilities to serve the Synod in one of the roles listed below. Download a bulletin insert to print and include in your worship folders and newsletters.

Nominees are sought for:

- Secretary of the Synod
- LCMS Board of Directors (at-large and regional)
- LCMS Boards for National and International Mission (regional)
- Commission on Theology and Church Relations
- Concordia Historical Institute Board of Governors
- Concordia Publishing House Board of Directors
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund Board of Directors
- LCMS Foundation Board of Trustees
- Concordia University System Board of Directors
- Synod University and Seminary Boards of Regents

Important information — including an explanatory memorandum, a detailed description of the offices to be filled (with present terms and incumbents), and instructions for use of the new online nomination system — is available at lcms.org/nominate. Any member of a member congregation with a valid email address may establish an account and submit a nomination.

To complete a nomination, visit forms.lcms.org and log in via a LISN ID (for rostered church workers and a few others) or an email address you control. If you need assistance logging into the system, please refer to the following documentation:

- [Instructions for logging in using an email address](#)
- [Instructions for logging in using a LISN ID](#)

If you have already created an account, you can follow this [direct link to the Nomination Form](#). Please distribute this call widely and urge participation.

Sincerely in Christ's service,
John W. Sias, Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



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/>



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



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Concordia University Chicago to Host Annual Maroon & Gold Gala

Event Supports Prepared to Serve Initiative and Honors Distinguished Alumni

River Forest, IL – Concordia University Chicago's signature fundraising event, Maroon & Gold, returns Saturday, October 18, at the elegant Eaglewood Resort and Spa in Itasca, Illinois. This inspiring evening will bring together alumni, donors, and friends of the university in support of the Prepared to Serve initiative.

This year's gala will celebrate three remarkable individuals who truly *Stand Tall*—living lives of unwavering faith, dedicated service, and a deep commitment to education.

• **JONATHAN SCHULTZ BA '90 – DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD**

Presented to alumni who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, leadership, and service in their vocation and community, reflecting the mission and values of Concordia University Chicago.

Jonathan Schultz is President & CEO of Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis, MO. Since joining CPH in 1998, he has served in various leadership roles, including Vice President and Corporate Counsel. A graduate of Concordia-Chicago and Loyola University School of Law, Schultz and his wife Susan BA '94 also served as volunteer missionaries in Guatemala. His career reflects a deep commitment to Lutheran education and service.

• **KAYE WOLFF – ONE HEART AWARD**

One Heart Award is drawn from the meaning of "Concordia" and celebrates a non-alum individual who embodies our core values, excels in their chosen vocation, and expands the University's impact through their association.

A retired information and technology professional, **Kaye Wolff** has dedicated decades of volunteer service to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), particularly in ministries serving minority communities. She played a key role in producing the LCMS docu-movie *The First Rosa* (2014), serving as unit production manager. Wolff has also held numerous leadership roles in the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) at local, district, and national levels.

• **REV. STEPHEN STARKE BA '77 – SPIRITUS CHRISTI**

The Spiritus Christi Award is presented to an individual who has performed his or her



Council of Nicaea Service 1700th Anniversary Vespers

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Johnstown is having a special Vespers service to commemorate the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The service will be at 4pm and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Hahn will serve as guest preacher.

We would like to have some food and refreshments afterward, and after having fellowship in our common confession of faith so please let us know if you plan to attend

by June 30. You can RSVP to holycrossjohnstown@gmail.com.

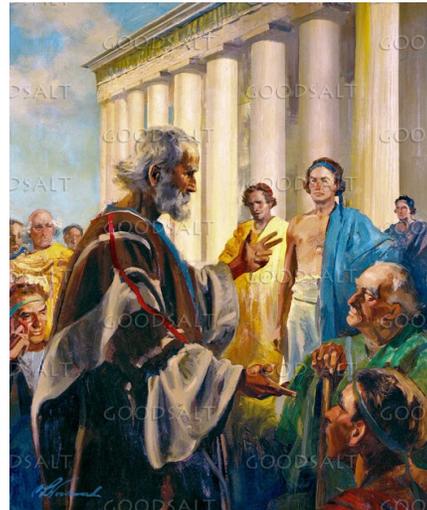
What is so special about this council?

In 325 AD, the Arian heresy was dividing the church. Arius taught that the Son of God, incarnate as Jesus Christ, was not coequally divine with the Father, and was the first created being. This led to Arius to deny Scriptural teaching that Jesus won for us the forgiveness of sins. Arius taught that Jesus did not fully atone for our sins on the cross but instead showed us that we need to be obedient to be saved. Emperor Constantine called for the church to have a council on this matter to try and settle this matter. At Nicaea, the bishops of the church met and argued for the Scriptural teaching that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and the Second Person of the Trinity, true God with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And thus, Jesus, the Son of God, made atonement for our sins upon the cross, fully and completely, for only the blood of the Son of God could do this! Out of that council comes the Nicene Creed, which we still confess today.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

Saul, who once persecuted the church, became Paul, and was persecuted for the church in our podcasts from Acts. Follow Paul on his journey throughout the Mediterranean carrying the message of the gospel everywhere he went. Listen to the Family Bible Journey on your favorite podcast platform at familybiblejourney.com.



Summer 2025 carillon concert series announced for Tuesdays in June Attend in person or listen via KFUF Radio

Music lovers of all ages are invited to the annual Summer Carillon Concerts at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**. Concerts are held at 7 p.m. CDT every Tuesday in June as part of the 2024-25 **Concordia Seminary Music Series**. For those who cannot attend in person, the concerts also will be broadcast live on **KFUF Radio**. All concerts are free and open to the public.

The carillon's 49 bells have been played atop Luther Tower since 1971 and are dedicated to all pastors who have served **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)**. The instrument is housed in the 156-foot Luther Tower, designed by architect Charles

Klauder and dedicated in 1970.

“Concordia Seminary’s carillon series each June is a gift to our neighbors and to the wider Lutheran community in St. Louis,” said Dean of Chapel **Dr. Jon Vieker**. “Our magnificent carillon is one of only 175 such instruments in North America, and it is a blessing to welcome world-class artists who make it sing!”

Concert schedule:

- Tuesday, June 3: featuring Wim Van den Broeck of Meerhout, Belgium
- Tuesday, June 10: featuring Toni Raats of Roosendaal, the Netherlands
- Tuesday, June 17: featuring Carson Landry of Rochester, N.Y.
- Tuesday, June 24: featuring Jeremy Chesman of Springfield, Mo.

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic supplies and enjoy the music from the Main Quadrangle or the Seminary grounds near the Luther Statue. In the event of rain, guests may gather under the archways and tower. Concerts will continue unless the carillonneur determines it is unsafe to proceed.

Ways to listen to the live broadcast:

- KFUO.org (**KFUO Radio**)
- The KFUO Radio App (**kfu.org/app**)
- On Alexa devices by saying, “Alexa play KFUO”
- 850 AM and 105.3 FM in St. Louis
- 104.5 FM in St. Louis and the Metro East
- 92.7 FM in St. Peters, Mo., and St. Charles, Mo.

Learn more at the **Concordia Seminary Music Series** page.

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*App access restricted to individual investors. Online access available for all others.

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Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, Orlando, FL. Please pray for him as he is gaining weight and strength.

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 continues 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 Closing Thought on a Major Sadly Neglected Christian Festival

Up through endless ranks of angels,
Cries of triumph in His ears,
To His heav'nly throne ascending,
Having vanquished all their fears,
Christ looks down upon His faithful,
Leaving them in happy tears.

Death destroying, life restoring,
Proven equal to our need,
Now for us before the Father
As our Brother intercede.
Flesh that for our world was wounded,
Living, for the wounded plead!

To our lives of wanton wand'ring
Send Your Spirit, promised Guide;
Through our lives of fear and failure
With Your pow'r and love abide;
Welcome us, as You were welcomed,
To an endless Eastertide.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to breathe the Spirit's grace!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to see the Father's face!
Alleluia, alleluia!
Oh, to feel the Son's embrace!

Hymn 491, LSB
Jaroslav J. Vajda
SELC District



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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