



The Beacon Online

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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.



Ordination Anniversaries



We give thanks to God for all of our SELC Pastors. The Pastors listed below are celebrating ordination anniversaries.

Rev. Jon Carpenter - 5 years

Rev. Brady Retzlaff - 5 years

Rev. Jacob Hoyer - 10 years

Rev. Christopher Johnson - 10 years

Rev. Kurt Steinbrueck - 10 years

Rev. Scott Coerber - 15 years

Rev. Stephen Bocklage - 20 years

Rev. Jerome Panzigrau - 25 years

Rev. Matthew Wallis - 25 years

Rev. Edgar Anthony - 30 years

Rev. James Douthwaite - 30 years

Rev. Robert Breitbarth - 45 years

Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill - 45 years

Rev. Ronald Meyr - 45 years

Rev. John Milligan - 45 years

Rev. Richard Ramirez - 45 years

Rev. David Triplett - 45 years

Rev. Richard Hill - 55 years

Rev. Gerald Kovac - 60 years



Two Pastors Accept Calls

Rev. Dr. Renato Hoerlle has accepted a call to Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, New Jersey. He will serve as the Pastor and Church Re-Planter.

Rev. Adam Barcott, Senior Pastor at New City Church in Orlando, Florida has accepted a call as the Associate Pastor at St. James Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Indiana.

We pray for God's guidance and care for both Rev. Dr. Hoerlle and Rev. Barcott as they prepare for these calls. We also ask God to care for Peace Lutheran Church as they prepare for Dr. Hoerlle to be installed and for the congregation of New City Church and Pastor Matthew Fitzpatrick, their Associate Pastor, as they prepare for Rev. Barcott to transfer to his new call in Indiana.



Counseling Available for the SELC District

Rev. Philip McClelland is available to the SELC District if you need counseling services. He has been contracted by the District to provide services. Since we are a non-geographical district, he is not licensed in all of our states but offers Pastoral counseling for those who live in states where he is not licensed. If you contact Rev. McClelland, please identify yourself as a SELC Pastor. For more information, please see the next page.

Here is some additional information about our SELC Care Partner in Counseling, Rev. Phil McClelland. Pastors and Church workers can contact him and My Integrity Counseling for confidential clinical or pastoral care. You can read more about Phil [HERE>>](#).



PHIL MCCLELLAND LPCC, NCC
FOUNDER, CEO & THERAPIST

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There is a Joyful Noise at Lutheran Haven!

Lutheran Haven's Music Ministry truly embodies making a "joyful noise" in praise to our God! This melodic ministry is led by residents Julia Cable and Kathie Zastrow who direct the Haven Choir and the Golden Bell Ringers. They perform 2 special concerts together each year: The annual Spring concert in May and a magnificent Christmas concert. They even performed at the Haven's 75th Anniversary Celebration with an original song that made everyone smile.

Our Choir Director, Julie, began singing at age 3. Her mother was a music major in college and a choir director all her life, so music was always a central part of Julie's life. Julie has always served in music ministry throughout her life, both in her home church and in other churches. When she moved to the Haven in 2019, she immediately joined the choir and eventually became the director.

The Haven choir is made up of 30 dedicated artists, a wonderful accompanist and even a flautist. Julie warmly says, "Music is a way for people to know God – it's another way to reach people. I love making a joyful noise to the Lord, it's how I praise Him – and it fills me!" (It fills us too, Julie!)

Pictured below is Julie with the Haven Choir.



Like Julie, Kathie Zastrow (pictured below with the Golden Bell Ringers) also has a lengthy history of serving in music ministry. Her mother was a gifted soprano, pianist and organist so Kathie was raised with showtunes, jazz and classical church music. She's sung in choirs since the time she was young and has a wonderful history of playing handbells. She remembers with fondness a great director who helped her learn the bells, so she has returned that sweet mentorship to the Golden Bell Ringers at Lutheran Haven.

Kathie has 14 bell ringers in her group, and she has served as the director for the past 5 years. She carefully considers her musical choices based on her ringers and what people will enjoy. Under Kathie's leadership, they are a 3-octave choir of bells which enables a wide variety of music. Kathie beams when she speaks of her bell ringers saying, "They are a gift to me! It's not just about them finding their notes and rhythm but mostly about having fun!" She says, "I never thought I would do this so long, but I love it! The Heavenly chorus will be well-served by our Haven players!"

Kathie's only challenge, "is we need to refurbish our bells, which is costly but continually playing them does keep them shape." Thankfully, her brother-in-law, who also lives at the Haven, can do basic repairs.

Our sincere thanks to both Julie and Kathie for their tremendous leadership of our Music Ministry at the Haven, and to each of our gifted residents who share their musical expressions of joy through music! Thank you for making a joyful noise to the Lord, and to us!

"Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing!" Psalm 100:2 ESV





St. Athanasius Holds 18th Annual Good Shepherd Seminar

Saint Athanasius held its 18th Annual Good Shepherd Seminar in May. Each year a seminary professor is invited to speak on a topic of interest in a Saturday Seminar and then to teach and preach in the Divine Service on Sunday. This year the Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith came and presented on "Confessing the Faith of our Fathers: Athanasius, Luther, and the 1,700th Anniversary of the Nicene Creed." You can listen to his presentation and many of the past seminars on the Saint Athanasius church website, saint-athanasius.org.



Online Worship Opportunities from Worship Anew Part 2

The weekly services are in 30 minutes in length and include music, scripture readings, prayers, and a weekly message delivered by a Pastor. It began as a television program over 50 years ago. Worship Anew can be found on many satellite, cable, and Public Access providers. You can also access the printable broadcast schedule on the Worship Anew website at www.WorshipAnew.org.

To watch the Worship services [Click Here](#)

To listen to Devotions each day, [Click Here](#)

To read the Daily Devotional [Click Here](#)



What makes our program **distinct?**

OUR BELIEFS

Worship Anew provides a traditional service, as we celebrate the new life all people have in Jesus. Christ's love is shared through scripture readings, favorite church hymns, prayers, and a pastor's message that reveals God's grace and truth.

OUR MUSIC

In addition to our Worship Anew choir, we welcome choirs and musicians from all over the country to record hymns in our studio for our weekly program. Our viewers often write to tell us how much they enjoy these talented musicians!

OUR PASTORS

Our regular rotation of six Lutheran pastors allows viewers to become familiar with each pastor's personality and preaching style. Our programs are available all over the country on your local stations, as well as online (through our website, TV app, and YouTube) and via DVD subscription, allowing viewers to watch their favorite sermons again. We also have occasional guest speakers. Our pastors are Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, Rev. Thomas A. Eggold, Rev. Shayne M. Jonker, Rev. Dr. Walter A. Maier III, Rev. William E. Mueller, and Rev. Paul E. Shoemaker.

OUR QUALITY

Our weekly service is recorded in a state-of-the-art studio for a high-quality program. The quality of our program is enhanced by the beauty of stained-glass windows, representing churches from across the country that are featured in each service.





LCMS Disaster Response - Volunteers Needed

Hurricane Season begins on June 1st

Welcome to the newest twenty-seven members of the LCMS Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Tampa hosted our training team on Saturday, May 31 for LERT Basic Training. After hurricane experiences over the last several years, members at Family of Christ were energized with creating a team so that they can begin reaching out with the mercy of Christ during disaster events.

If you are interested in holding a LERT training at your church, please email our District Disaster Response Coordinator (DDRC) Steve Lehenbauer at slehenbauer@slcs.org. If you have the ability to help with disaster response, please sign up on the LCMS LERT website at lcms-lert.org

Pictured at right from left to right are Charlotte G, Jim L, Cathy H, Steve L, Donnie M, Chad S, Bill L.





Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill Retirement Celebration

You are invited to help us to honor the ministry and observe the retirement of Pastor Chris Cahill on the weekend of June 28-29, 2025. Weekend events at Christ the King include an Open House, 11 am - 5 pm on Saturday, June 28th, including light refreshments, conversations, along with some fun and games.

AND

Pastor Cahill's final worship service as Pastor of Christ the King at 9:30 am on Sunday, June 29 Holy Communion included!

PLEASE NOTE - ONLY ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ON JUNE 29th at 9:30 AM.

RSVP your intention to attend either or both of these to ctklutheranlodi@gmail.com by Sunday June 15 (please tell us how many others will come with you).



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](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.



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/>



Want your church to grow?

Watch this video to see how we helped
a church raise over \$500,000
in four weeks!



www.genysys-group.com





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.



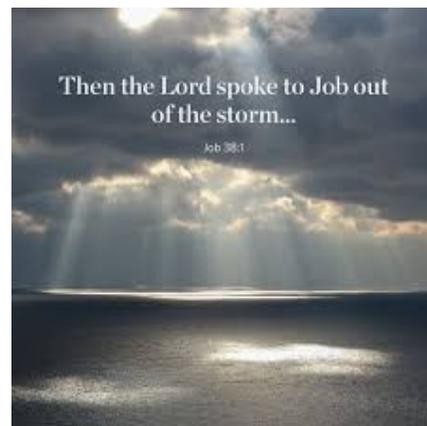
Family Bible Journey Podcast

Is God talking about dragons or dinosaurs? Listen as God speaks to Job and his friends in the closing chapters of Job.

Find us on your favorite podcast player or at familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



Together In Faith

God's blessings to all attending the LCMS Youth Gathering from the English & SELC Districts this July!

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is a proud sponsor of the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering.



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.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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