



The Beacon Online

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

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LWML National Convention

The 41st Biennial LWML Convention is being held in Omaha, Nebraska from June 26 - 29, 2025. Several from the SELC District will be attending, including President Vinovskis and LWML-SELC Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gordon Naumann. Carol Miksad, President of the LWML-SELC is attending. Please pray for all the attendees at the LWML Convention and for their safe travel home.

The theme of the convention is *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).



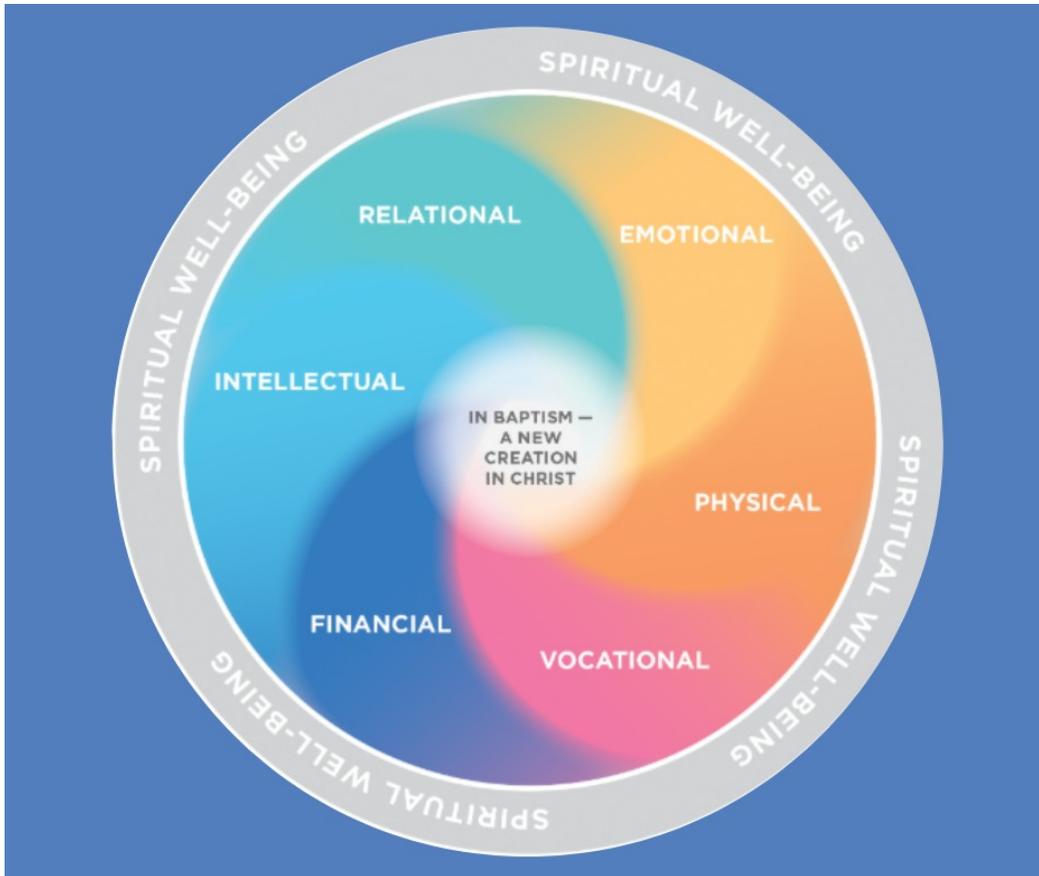
Is Your Congregation Interested in Participating in a Worker Wellness Program? Deadline is July 15th

In September, the LCMS will launch a program designed to help congregational lay leaders create a supportive and caring environment that will improve the well-being of those who serve the church. LCMS Worker Wellness is asking for congregations that are interested in participating in this pilot project to fill out the questions by July 15. More information will be provided in August.

Healthy church workers carry out their vocations with more energy and joy. When the church supports its workers, the whole Body of Christ is blessed.

As Christ has promised: "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matt. 25:40).

Click [here](#) to complete the questionnaire by **July 15th**. [Email](#) for more information or if you have any questions.



LWML-SELC Fall Rally Scheduled

Save the date for the LWML SELC district fall rally on Saturday September 27, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manchester, NJ. Details to follow.



Rachel Hart Accepts Position

Rachel Hart, nee McCloskey, has accepted a Position as Deaconess and Preschool Teacher at Salem Lutheran Church in Salem, Illinois in the Central Illinois District. We ask for God's blessings for Rachel as she begins at Salem Lutheran.



J. S. Bach Recital June 28, 2025 Live and On Demand

Join us on Saturday, June 28 at 7:30pm CDT for a recital featuring J.S. Bach masterworks and compositions inspired by his legacy. Much like Bach's enduring influence over classical and sacred music and the Church, this recital will honor LSM's J.S. Bach Society, a group of individuals who have committed to LSM's long-term impact by including LSM in their will or estate plans. Thanks to these individuals for their dedication to the sustainability and influence of LSM on students, congregations, and our community.



You can listen live or on demand at the links below.

Live from LSM is your source for streaming performances from the Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival, broadcast in real time throughout the season.

Introducing **LSM on Demand**—an archive of livestream recordings featuring recitals, concerts, and worship services from Lutheran Summer Music.



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Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill Retirement Celebration is Tomorrow!

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).



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
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Family Bible Journey Podcast

Podcast host Pastor Dan Lepley is leading a Journeys of Paul tour in Greece right now! Learn the significance of many Pauline sites as we continue through the Book of Acts in the Family Bible Journey. Photo is at ancient Philippi and the baptismal site of Lydia.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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

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 preparing for her second knee replacement in July.

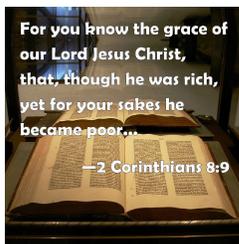
Megan Skelton in Oviedo, FL Please continue to pray for her and her doctors to find pain relief solutions for her jaw pain and severe headaches following her surgery.

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, let's praise God for bringing stage four cancer under control; then ask for more grace during a maintenance phase of treatments, that the Lord complete the healing while increasing Nita's energy and joy for each day.

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 Preposterous to Some, Surprisingly Liberating to Others

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

*"For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
that though He was rich, yet for your sake became poor,
so that you by His poverty might become rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).*

A novel, largely untested Spirit-motivated concept also to some practicing Christians regarding all God has graciously entrusted us to manage to His glory (including what at times we may think of only as "our money") is tactfully discussed by the transformed apostle Paul in middle chapters 8 and 9 of his *second letter* to Corinthian believers.

Sadly, much of this will remain meaningless to those who for whatever reason refuse to open an unread Bible conceivably perhaps out of fear of being challenged to alter, however slightly, a deeply ingrained train of thought or current way of life.

With good reason, Paul pastorally reminds his former parishioners in the ancient Greek seaport City of Corinth (Acts 18:17) by sincerely commending the positive example of the Philippian church and other Macedonian congregations. This for their forward-minded generosity in sacrificially assisting geographically distant famine-stricken believers in far off Jerusalem.

Regarding this, often in certain circles, largely avoided topic of "individual or corporate *financial stewardship*" (and in others seemingly "all they ever talk about!"), liberated Gospel-motivated Christians like the Philippians were "freed up" to think *beyond* customary seemingly forever-fixed 10% Old Testament "*tithing*" largely by kind; see Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30; Deuteronomy 26:32; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

Thus, for Spirit-rejuvenated baptized believing Christians, there is ***no law for or against*** doubling or even tripling what one prayerfully chooses to *return* to the Lord for a kind of “spiritual recycling” in His Kingdom. Paul simply says God also has good reason for loving His *hilariously cheerful* generous Christians (2 Corinthians 9:7). “Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15)



SELC District - A District Without Borders
Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing Everyone Love in Christ

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