



The Beacon Online

July 4, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 26

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

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LWML National Convention

The 41st Biennial LWML Convention was held in Omaha, Nebraska from June 26 - 29, 2025.

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).*

Pictured on the right is the LWML-SELC banner. LWML-SELC President Carol Miksad practicing carrying in the banner into the Convention Hall.





Pictured above the in the group photo from left to right: Former LWML-SELC President Milly Kwiatkowski, Jen Year, Dawn Kohler, Carol Miksad, LWML -SELC Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Gordon Naumann, Phil Miksad, Karen Ann Kowalski, SELC President Rev. Wally Vinovskis, and Cyndi Vinovskis.

Pictured below on the left is the LWML choir. Pictured below on the right is Cyndi Vinovskis at the choir practice.





Family of Christ Installs Director of Discipleship

Marcus Howard, a Director of Christian Education, was installed by Pastor Landon Ledlow as the Director of Discipleship at Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Tampa, Florida.

Marcus transferred to the SELC District from the Rocky Mountain District. Marcus is third from the right on the pictured below.



FAMILY OF CHRIST





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.



A Visit to CLM Villa St. Joseph in Baden, PA

Eleven members of Sts. Peter & Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sharon, PA, visited the residents of Concordia Lutheran Ministry's **Villa St. Joseph** (pictured below in the group photo) in Baden, PA, Sunday, June 22nd, serving ice cream sundaes, playing Bingo, and singing hymns. Items for Bingo prizes were donated by congregation members and were greatly appreciated by the residents. A Thrivent Action Team grant supplemented the prizes and helped cover other costs involved.

Pictured to the right is Pastor Jacob Deal leading the group in the hymn sing.



Participating from our congregation were Pastor and Ana Deal, along with their children Isaiah, Titus, and Loretta; Jonathan and Bekah Baisch, Catherine Carr, Elizabeth Haenftling, Diane Riefstahl, and Linda Tomko.

It was an enjoyable afternoon for all and those who participated expressed a desire to visit again in the future.



Pictured above is the group playing bingo.



Pictured above is Catherine Carr playing the keyboard.



Experience *Live from LSM* this July!

Join Lutheran Summer Music for our 43rd season at Valparaiso University, June 22–July 20! Can't attend in person? Experience over 30 inspiring concerts, recitals, and worship services online through [Live from LSM](#).

Highlights include the beloved Bach Cantata Eucharist, the Festival of Hymns, the debut Faculty Organ Recital, and Festival Week performances by the Festival Band, Orchestra, and Choir.

Explore the full schedule and tune in at LSMacademy.org/2025. All events are free and available to stream live or on demand. Don't miss this transformative celebration of music, faith, and community!



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



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

throughout the season.

Join us **Live from LSM** for our Half Session Concert, featuring the first performances of the season by our Festival Band, Choir, and Orchestra. This milestone event celebrates the incredible work of our students so far, with many more concerts, recitals, and worship services still to come. Attend in person or tune in online!



A business card for Phil McClelland. On the left is a portrait of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a blue vest over a patterned shirt. To the right of the portrait, the text reads "PHIL MCCLELLAND LPCC, NCC" in large blue letters, followed by "FOUNDER, CEO & THERAPIST" in smaller grey letters. Below this are three contact icons: a phone icon with the number "330-449-5020", an email icon with "phil@myintegritycounseling.com", and a globe icon with "www.myintegritycounseling.com". On the far right is a blue icon of a human head profile with gears inside, symbolizing thought or therapy.



2025 Alumni Reunion set for Oct. 9–10 Special Welcome Extended to Jubilarian, Silver Anniversary Classes, Class of 2020

The annual **Alumni Reunion** for graduates of **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** will take place Oct. 9–10 on campus. This year's event extends a special welcome to members of the Jubilarian class of 1975; the silver anniversary class of 2000; and graduates, spouses and widows of alumni from class years ending in "5" or "0."

In addition, the class of 2020 will be specially recognized. This class was not able to experience in-person **Call Day** or **Commencement** celebrations owing to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The reunion offers alumni a meaningful opportunity to reconnect with classmates and friends, reminisce and share memories of their life and time at their beloved alma mater, and celebrate all that God has made possible through their service since entering the mission field. It also provides time to rediscover the beauty of the Seminary campus and the global Gospel ministry taking place through their alma mater.

"It's that wonderful time of year again when our alumni are back on campus for the annual reunion," said Vicki Biggs, senior vice president of Seminary Advancement and

chief communications officer. "This is one of the highlights in the life of our campus. We look forward each year to welcoming our alumni back home to Concordia Seminary – and back to the place where the formation for their life's work began. We give thanks to God for each of our alumni and for their lives lived in service to the Gospel, and we look ahead with joy to all that God has in store for them yet to accomplish."

Highlights of this year's reunion include:

- Recognition of the Jubilarian and Silver Anniversary Classes and the class of 2020 during chapel
- An interactive presentation by Seminary President **Dr. Thomas J. Egger**
- A behind-the-scenes look at the chapel's stained glass windows with **Dr. Kent Bureson**, professor of Systematic Theology, and **Dr. David Schmitt**, professor of Practical Theology — both members of the window design committee
- A "Taste of St. Louis" supper featuring toasted ravioli and other local favorites
- Time for class gatherings
- A closing banquet with entertainment (to be announced)

Registration is \$150 per person for both days or \$85 per person for one day. Registration may be completed **online** or by mail addressed to Alumni Relations at the Seminary. The deadline to register is Sept. 19.

A limited number of hotel rooms are available at the nearby **Cheshire-Saint Louis** at a special group rate of \$125 per night, available through Friday, Sept. 19. Reservations may be made **online** or by calling 314-647-7300. Please refer to the "Concordia Alumni Block" when booking.

Alumni interested in connecting with their classmates through individual class gatherings may contact Alumni Relations for assistance. For more information, call 314-505-7626 or email alumni@csl.edu.



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!



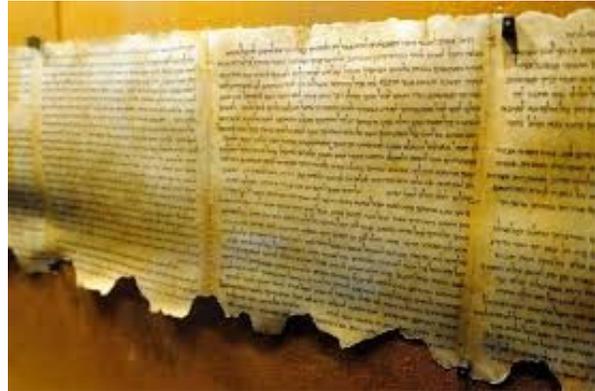
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Family Bible Journey Podcast

Hear some of the clearest prophecies of Christ found anywhere in the Old Testament as we explore the Psalms. Learn how the Dead Sea Scrolls give us great confidence in the promises of God expressed by David. Find us on your favorite podcast player or at familybiblejourney.com.



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of journaling through the Bible.

Our Mission

Your Ministry



LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND
FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS. TOGETHER IN FAITH.

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to **start, sustain and strengthen** LCMS ministries through financial and strategic partnerships.



INVESTMENTS



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SOLUTIONS



REAL ESTATE
SOLUTIONS



Sign up to receive updates at lcef.org/subscribe.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF Investments are not FDIC insured, are not a federally insured savings or deposit account or insured by any state or federal agency. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.





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. Pastor Ballas was hospitalized late last week and is now home. Please keep the Ballas' 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, and his wife Irene, who have moved to St. Louis, MO.

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.

THEREFORE LET IT BE KNOWN TO
YOU, BROTHERS, THAT THROUGH
JESUS THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
IS PROCLAIMED TO YOU.
- ACTS 13:38

Closing Thoughts Moses and Jesus

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through this Man [Jesus] forgiveness of sins is being proclaimed to you, and by Him everyone who continues to believe is freed from everything from which you couldn't be declared righteous by the law of Moses (Acts 13:38-39).

Surprising to some perhaps, one fails to find any mention of the family of Old Testament lawgiver, **Moses**, in Jesus Christ's genealogies in Matthew 1 or Luke 3. Moses, his brother Aaron, and sister Miriam were members of the *priestly tribe of Levi* while Jesus' parents, Joseph and the Virgin Mary were both legally or biologically descendants of Israel's King David and the *messianic tribe of Judah* (note Genesis 49:10; Deuteronomy 18:15; Psalm 90; Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:4; Luke 9:30; John 1:17; 5:46; Acts 3:23; 7:37; 13:32ff.; Romans 8:3; Galatians 2:16; Hebrews 11:23ff.).

Lois and I fondly recall the privilege of our first Call as a young American family between 1962-66 at a loving Slovak-English speaking parish at Montreal's still forward-looking Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church. To this day especially in that historic bustling metropolis in the predominately French-speaking Canadian Province of Quebec, residents observe June 24 as the birthday of our Lord Jesus' slightly older cousin, St. John the Baptist, six months before Christmas Eve as a provincial or even national holiday.

The prophetic forerunner of Moses' words in Deuteronomy 18:15 (also see Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:2-3), the at times stern wilderness preacher, John, admirably serves as the "human bridge" in demonstrating his incomparable redemptive role between the Old and New Testaments of the incarnate Son of God's essential messianic mission of Him whom the *evangelist John* also referred to as the sinless "Lamb of God" who was in the process of *taking away* the sin of a rebelliously hostile world (John 1:14-18; 25, 3:14-17; 5:46).

A final thought. Is it not perhaps an example of "societal secular confusion of Law and Gospel" that, intentionally or intelligently, televised "religious movies" during Holy Week or Easter Sunday are about notable figures like Moses rather than hardly a scintilla of reference to our sinless crucified, *resurrected* and ascended and eventually returning living Lord Jesus Christ?





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

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