



The Beacon Online

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

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FAMILY OF CHRIST

Principal Installed at Family of Christ Lutheran Church

James Wagner was installed as the Principal at Family of Christ Lutheran Church and School in Tampa, Florida. Jamie was installed by Pastor Landon Ledlow on August 10th. We welcome Principal Wagner to the SELC!





SELC Student Aid Committee Provides Financial Assistance

The Student Aid Committee is pleased to announce that they have awarded support for students in the SELC who are studying to be Ordained or Commissioned Ministers. This support is given annually to students to help support their studies at our Synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries. These students will pursue full time Church work following their graduation.



Three Confirmed at St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Three members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Dickson City, PA were confirmed on June 15th by Rev. Peter Richert.

We pray for Jill, Arthur, and Michael as they are confirmed.



Talking with Jesus — Devotions for Your Entire Household

30 Days of Household Devotions

Are you interested in starting a devotion in your home, but don't know where to begin? The 30 Days of Household Devotions Booklet opens with several tips on doing devotions in your home before leading into 30 daily devotions that can be used consecutively or occasionally per time and topic based on your household's needs.



180th Academic Year Opens September 8th

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), will open its 180th academic year with a service in Kramer Chapel Monday, September 8, at 10 a.m. (ET). The livestreamed service will include the installation of four new faculty and staff members. "As we embark upon our 180th academic year, I ask the whole church to keep us, and especially our students who are preparing for vocations, in your prayers," said CTSFW President Dr. Jon S. Bruss, who will preach at the opening service. "May the good and gracious Lord grant them success in their studies and form them into worthy servants of Jesus Christ for the congregations and missions of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

Faculty and staff members being installed at the service, all of whom are ordained or commissioned LCMS church workers, include:

- Rev. Michael Salemink, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions
- Deaconess Susan Knowles, Director of Deaconess Formation Programs
- Rev. Christian Schultz, Admission Counselor and Christ Academy Director
- Susan Habegger, Communications and Social Media Specialist

To view the livestream, visit the [event page here](#). You can also find the service on CTSFW's [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) pages.

[Visit the Event Page](#)



LWML-SELC Events

The monthly zoom Bible studies have a new link! These are held on the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 AM Eastern. The new link is below.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72432487731?pwd=icwzj2020cUyBV1e2Uj4e8t00nf4b2.1>

Meeting ID: 724 3248 7731
Passcode: 587538

Save the date for the LWML SELC **Central Zone** fall rally at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, Ohio on September 27th. More details will follow.

Save the date for the LWML SELC **Eastern Zone** fall rally on Saturday September 27, at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Manchester, NJ. See the flyer on the right for more information.

LWML SELC Eastern Zone Rally
Saturday September 27th at
Redeemer Lutheran Church
2309 Route 70, Manchester, NJ 08759
10am – 2.30pm
\$5 pp 
Register Today:
Karenannkow@hotmail.com
570-582-6046
Bible Study led by Deaconess Helen DeMaio on "Women of the Bible"
This Rally's Charity is 'Phits Friends':
In-gathering items to bring & donate as part of our Service Project for the day:
Blankets (\$4 at Walmart), fuzzy socks, puzzle books, deck of cards (no casino), and small size lotion (fragrance free).



Vocatio: Retreat set for Oct. 5–7, 2025 Prospective Students Explore Path to Ministry

College students and second-career adults who are considering future service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain are invited to Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 5–7, 2025, at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**.

The three-day retreat offers an introduction to life as a seminarian. Participants will worship in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, spend time in God's Word, engage in conversations with Seminary faculty and students, and explore the Seminary campus. The schedule includes chapel services, class visits, panel discussions on academic programs and ministry paths, an introduction to campus ministries, and presentations from Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) missionary and military chaplain recruiters. The retreat also provides opportunities to connect with others who are discerning a similar call.

"The Lord of the harvest invites us to pray earnestly for more laborers to be sent into His harvest fields," said Rev. Jesse Kueker, director of Enrollment. "The fields are ripe, and for those discerning the possibility of serving the church as a pastor, deaconess, chaplain or missionary, Vocatio: Retreat offers the perfect opportunity to come, pray

and get your questions answered. Please come! We cannot wait to welcome you, receive the Lord's gifts alongside you, and pray for you throughout all the steps ahead."

Registration is free and affordable lodging options are available, but space is limited. The registration deadline is Monday, Sept. 15. Learn more and register at [csl.edu/admissions/visit/vocatio-retreat/](https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/vocatio-retreat/).

College students and second-career men and women considering service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain are invited to Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 5-7, 2025, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This distinctively Lutheran retreat offers an introduction to life as a seminarian, time in God's Word and the opportunity to learn from some of the church's brightest theologians. Register by Sept. 15 at www.csl.edu/vocatio-retreat/, by scanning the QR code or by Googling "Vocatio: Retreat Concordia Seminary."



The First Notes of the Season St. Luke's Concert Series St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

Join the Brass Band of Central Florida for an unforgettable evening as they bring the spirit of the Celtic nations of Scotland, Ireland, & Wales to life! Experience the power and passion of music that has echoed through the ages.

The concert will be held on September 12, 2025 at 7 PM at St. Luke's in Oviedo, Florida or streamed on their YouTube channel which can be found at this link -

<https://silcs.us10.list-manage.com/track/click?u=e3b9d569770ed17fd5d765b86&id=73673977b9&e=93541bdeb2>





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Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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



New FREE Arrangement from Lutheran Summer Music by Anne Krentz Organ

Download a new free arrangement from Lutheran Summer Music 2025 by Anne Krentz Organ: *Beach Spring* for solo instrument with keyboard accompaniment. Based on the well-known shape-note hymn tune, this versatile work is this year's installment in the LSM Hymn Tune Project and can be performed either in full or as individual movements. Listen and download for free at LSMacademy.org/lsmpress



Resources Available from Lutheran Heritage Foundation

Does your church or school have families whose first language isn't English? Why not share a Lutheran book about Jesus with them in their heart language? Get **FREE** resources from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, including children's Bible storybooks and Luther's *Small Catechism* in more than 180 languages! Visit www.LHFmissions.org for more information.





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Resource of the Week from Concordia Center for the Family

“Back to School” Resource of the week:
CCF is very supportive of the work being
done by fellow LCMS RSO, Family Shield
Ministries. They’re especially good at
providing family-friendly written and
audio resources. As many children are
heading back to school in August, you
may find their **August
newsletter** especially useful. Dr.
Biermann has known the lead author,
Laura Langhoff Arndt, since college and
notes that she has GREAT insights!



Planting Seeds Of Faith

With the **Young Investors StewardAccount**[®], you can set your child up for financial stability while supporting LCMS ministries. They'll learn to budget, grow their money and give wisely, growing their faith and money simultaneously.



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Prayer Requests

Please pray for all the congregations in the Eastern Circuit of the SELC District.

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 the Ballas' in your prayers

Rev. Alan Mercer in Galloway, NJ for his ongoing health struggles.

Rev. Kevin Duff, Hilton Head, SC, who has returned to work at Island Lutheran Church and is planning to return to full time this month. Praise the Lord for His care and healing!

Rev. Edward Kucera, and his wife Irene, who have moved to St. Louis, MO.

Bev Cahill, wife of Rev. Chris Cahill. Lodi, OH, finished her chemotherapy. She is now recuperating from chemotherapy and awaiting testing and a doctor's appointment in

early September to determine next steps. 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 her second knee replacement and is preparing to begin physical therapy.

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.

Laura Bergmann, Munster, IN, please pray for her to continue to build strength in her injured knee.

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 **"I Believe, We Believe!" What Does This Mean?**

(Understanding this easily misunderstood entity called "church")

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

If you spend any time at all with Holy Scripture engaging in meaningfully personal or group Bible study, may I respectfully suggest avoiding simply focusing on "snippets" or a single passage. Instead give serious thought to using that same amount of time reading through a number of consecutive verses, even chapters in their original context. Why so? Because doing the former gives one the dubious freedom of "picking and choosing" eliminating beforehand what we presently may be dead set against remotely considering changing, anything that might even "hint" at our ever altering however slightly our current mindset or patterns of behavior. (Dare I even mention, for my privileged fellow pastors, a proven word of caution regarding a not uncommon tendency of offering as Christ's under-shepherded sheep a fairly steady diet of "topical sermons" which, however skillfully or entertainingly delivered, may run the risk of containing more however well-intended "words of men" than Word of God based on carefully selected textual lectionary lessons?).

When was the last time any of us may have read through our ascended Lord's "Seven Letters to the Seven Churches" of 1st Century Asia Minor to His aged evangelist, John, in Revelation 2 and 3 *none of which* was known to be a perfect Christian congregation and each of which was left pondering the exact same challenging instruction of responsible obedience: **"He who has an ear, let Him hear what the Spirit says to the churches!"**

Hopefully, we all know and firmly believe that Jesus Christ is our *personal crucified and risen Lord and Savior* who, however, also came into our rebelliously sin-sick world to establish and build His innocently blood-bought Church on earth of which He is and remains the Founder and ever-loving Head. Although thankfully it remains true that only because of Jesus is there is a sense in which baptized believers have *already been personally judged in mercy* (see John 5:24; Romans 8:1). And yet we are also told in Holy Scripture that this side of heaven the beloved **congregations** to which we claim some degree of affiliation or "membership" are also being judged or evaluated by Almighty God – speaking largely only for myself, a concept relatively few of us likely may have fully realized or perhaps even ever seriously contemplated. What might this say about our God's overall plan for our eternal salvation? And what may this tell us about our ongoing need to work together to His glory in what may be described as our mutual rehearsal for eternity?

I was again recently reminded of a dear church member many years ago who confessed to her pastor shortly before her death regretting never having accepted repeated invitations to attend Bible classes thereby seizing available opportunities for engaging in life-long, post-confirmation learning and failing to immerse herself **in the Word** not only for her sake but also for the benefit of others around her – reasons indeed for tearful sadness even among the holy angels of God. But be of good cheer!

Beside Revelation 2 and 3, prayerfully read Psalm 119:105; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 12:32; Acts 2:42; 20:27; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2:15; 3:14-17; James 3:1; 2 Peter 3:18 and Revelation 2:10. Thank You, Lord, for Your life-giving, faith-strengthening Word. May we never think of ourselves as too old or too ill-equipped to learn from Your blessed Word! For Jesus' sake! **AMEN!**



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