



The Beacon Online

September 26, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 38

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.



Hope in Melbourne Celebrates 20 Years of Serving and Bring Hope to their Community

On Sunday, September 14th, Hope Lutheran Church in Melbourne, Florida, celebrated 20 years since their first worship service back in 2005. Hope's founding pastor, Rev. Dr. Mark Moreno and his wife Raquel were able to come from Colorado to celebrate with both new members of Hope and some of Hope's charter members from across the country.

In his message, Pastor Mark reflected on the early years of Hope starting out as a "Viera West Mission" and meeting in an elementary school in Viera and celebrating all that God has done through the people of Hope over those 20 years. He reminded the saints at Hope how God continues to see, hear, and answer prayer as they seek to be people of hope in their community for years to come.



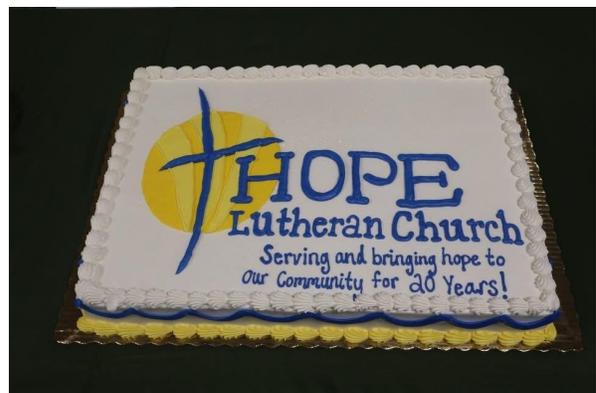
After the services on Sunday, Hope hosted a celebration dinner at Faith in Viera where Pastor Mark and Raquel were thanked for their faithfulness to the mission in those early days. Pastor James Fernandez and his wife Jackie were also recognized for 5

years of faithful service to God's people at Hope and to the people of in the community of Melbourne.

Hope moves into the next 20 years with the clear vision of **"Being People of Hope in the Community"** through **"Worship, education, service and fellowship."** Praise God for all the good things has done, and continues to do, through Hope in Melbourne!



Pictured above on the left is Pastor Moreno preaching at the anniversary service. On the right are Rev. Mark and Rachel Moreno and Rev. James and Jackie Fernandez. Pastor and Jackie received recognition for their work at Hope over the past 5 years.





Pentecost Celebrates Block Party with Hundreds of Neighbors

On July 26, 2025, Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, WI celebrated its annual block party by blocking off the street between the church building and the parish house, and inviting the neighborhood for food, fun, and fellowship. Hundreds of neighbors joined with church members to enjoy brats, hot dogs, corn, sides, and deserts. Music was provided by "Cross", the block party band. Activities included two bounce houses, a children's activity area, visits from the Racine Fire Department's fire engines, and the Racine Police Department's K-9 Unit. The reptile presentation was a favorite of the community, with children being able to learn about and interact with both small and large reptiles. And no block party would be complete without the children's and adult water balloon toss! Lots of door prizes were handed out during the day, and despite a rainy forecast, we had a beautiful, dry day for the event.

The block party is a great way for Pentecost to get to know their neighbors, as well as for neighbors to become acquainted with the church.



Pictured below left is Walter getting acquainted with a tortoise and on the right are the bounce houses.



Pictured below on the left are the adult winners of the water balloon toss and on the right are the youth winners of the water balloon toss.



Call for Nominations to Serve on Synod Boards and Commissions

Call for Nominations: National Synod Officer, Board, and Commission Positions

The **Committee for Convention Nominations** requests nominations of qualified members of Synod member congregations for the following positions to be filled by the Synod convention meeting 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**. 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

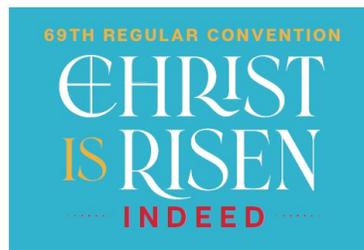
Important information, including an explanatory memorandum, a detailed description of the offices to be filled (with present terms and incumbents), and instructions for use of the **new online nomination system**, is available at lcms.org/nominate. Any member of a member congregation with a valid email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

Please distribute this call widely and urge participation.

John W. Sias, LCMS Secretary

In Preparation for the  LCMS Regular Convention

For general information on the upcoming convention, see lcms.org/convention/timeline. Congregation administrators, please make sure your leader emails are up to date at lcms.org so that important convention-related announcements will be received. Congregations will receive nomination ballots for the President and regional vice-presidents of the Synod in the fall of 2025.



Call for Nominations:
National Synod Officer,
Board, and Commission
Positions

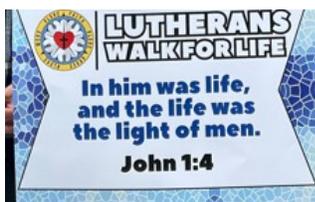
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
2026 LCMS CONVENTION
CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES





Family Discipleship Facilitator Training

Concordia Center for the Family, a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS, is uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus. Through foundational training events, Family Discipleship Facilitators are being equipped and inspired to strengthen the marriages and families served by our LCMS congregations and schools. *CCF wants YOU as a Family Discipleship Facilitator!* This training opportunity is for called and commissioned leaders of LCMS congregations and schools, along with lay family ministry leaders. **Find out more about our 2026 trainings [HERE](#).** Also consider CCF's *Faith & Life Survey* tool to assess how well you're serving families. Find out more [HERE](#).



March for Life in Harrisburg, PA

On Monday, September 22, members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Hazleton once again marched for life in Harrisburg, our state capitol, combining their voices with the thousands of citizens who hold life from conception to natural death as precious. The day started early with a breakfast at the local Hilton, sponsored by two gracious congregations, namely Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Lititz, PA and Good News Lutheran Brethren Church, McAlisterville, PA, at which Scott Licht, a representative from 'Lutherans for Life', and Ann Albertini, the advancement director of 'A Women's Concern Pregnancy & Parenting resource Center', gave some very moving speeches

about both the very real need for help and actual care that is given through so many charitable organizations that all hold to the God-given right to life. In the knowledge that we are all "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14), we combined our forces to make a noticeable impression as we walked to the capitol steps with our hats, our billboards, and our voices; to set up, get ready, and go on the march.

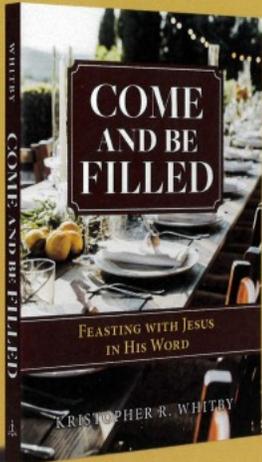
Every year it strikes me how unique our presence is felt as we are the one group that sings hymns as we march. Others join us and we bring extra song sheets for the purpose of giving them out knowing that every year there are others who find this a wonderful way to witness and join us in chorus, like no one had ever thought of it before, though we do it every year! It is also one of the few events that we can do on an ecumenical level, whereby we can stand side by side as Christians from every background, united together in our faith in God and in His creation according to the first article, which is so precious in itself, and a rare opportunity; whether we're Roman Catholics, of the Church of the Reformation, or just citizens of this blessed country that have been given the wisdom to know the difference between right and wrong, as the Lord's will is written on our hearts. Our voices are one and I am proud to stand next to anyone who will boldly stand up for truth, cry out for justice, and exercise their freedom in the American Way.





2025 Treasurer Manual Available

The Synod has issued the 2025 Treasurer Manual. They have not provided a downloadable link for the manual. If you would like the District to email you a file with the manual or send it to you on a flash drive, please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com.



Join Kristopher R. Whitby to explore eleven meals throughout Scripture and the lessons God teaches there around His table.

Your Lord invites you to come and be filled with His good gifts. Experience the joy of gathering around the table with His people, sharing together in the blessings of Christ. Through Jesus, your meals will mean more.



Want your church to grow?

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



genysys Group
Discovering New Life in Ministry

www.genysys-group.com



Family Bible Journey Podcast

Join an archaeological exploration of 1 & 2 Corinthians in the Family Bible Journey podcast. Fresh from his recent visit to Corinth, Pastor Dan Lepley brings fresh archaeological insight to these beloved scriptures. Join us!

familybiblejourney.com



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

Pictured below is the Temple of Apollo
in Corinth



Lutheran Haven Therapy Services

"REBUILD STRENGTH & CONFIDENCE – PERSONALIZED THERAPY SERVICES"

Recover and thrive in a peaceful, one-on-one therapy environment designed just for you! Whether you're healing after surgery, managing mobility challenges, or looking to prevent falls, our expert team is here to help you regain strength and independence.

- Physical Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Post-Stroke Rehabilitation
- Fall Prevention
- Strength Training
- Pre Surgical and Post Surgical Rehabilitation



**Now!
Open!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
407-706-1270



Everyday Access

Faithful Purpose

An **All Access Account** from LCEF offers easy access, online convenience and the opportunity to grow your investment while supporting LCMS ministries.



SUPPORT LCMS
MINISTRIES



INTEREST COMPOUNDED
AND PAID MONTHLY



NO MONTHLY OR
MEMBERSHIP FEES



OPTIONAL VISA®
DEBIT CARD



ONLINE ACCESS
AND MOBILE APP*



LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND



lcef.org/AllAccess

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

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. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. All Access Account is known as "StewardAccount" for investors in Washington.



Prayer Requests

Please pray for all the congregations in the Southern 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 for their health challenges.

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

Rev. Kevin Duff, Hilton Head, SC, who had surgery on Thursday. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as from this surgery.

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

Bev Cahill, wife of Rev. Chris Cahill. Lodi, OH, received good news from her doctor.

The CT scan showed no cancer and that she will be monitored every three months. The Cahills are grateful for all the prayers for Bev. 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 in physical therapy and will return to work in October.

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, praising God for a year of scans clear of tumors, we ask for strength during immunotherapy maintenance; may the Lord complete His healing, adding joy and thanks to each of Nita's days.

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 Scriptural Hymns as God's Cure for a Guilty Conscience

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest **for us,**
Else had despair reigned o'er us;
Have mercy on us, **O Jesus!**

Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.

All sins Thou borest **for us,**
Else had despair reigned o'er us;
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus!

The opening stanza of this venerable 16th century Lutheran Lenten passion setting of the **Agnus Dei** sadly often is only intoned at Good Friday **Tenebrae** services of darkness may be prayed or sung more than once.



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

SELC District of LCMS

2623 Brookside Road
Macungie, PA 18062
610-965-3265

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

SELC District of LCMS | 2623 Brookside Road | Macungie, PA 18062 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!