



The Beacon Online

October 24, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 42

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

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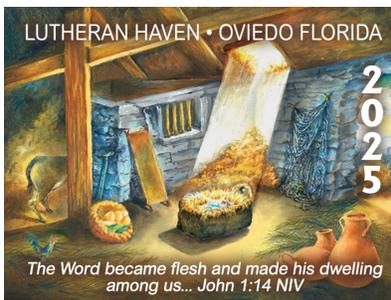


Lutheran Haven Announces Annual Appeal to Benefit the Benevolent Care Fund

The 2025 Annual Seals Campaign has begun! This is the 79th year of this campaign to support the Benevolent Care Fund at Lutheran Haven. This campaign supports the mission and ministry of Lutheran Haven:

To provide a quality, Christ-centered haven of care for older adults.

Our Benevolent Care Fund is critical in assisting retired Lutheran pastors, rostered church workers, retired Lutherans and others in need of our healthcare services. We also assist with things like Advanced Fees and Monthly Maintenance Fees along with assisting residents with emergency needs such as temporary healthcare assistance or even meals. It is only through the generosity of people like you who support the Haven that we can continue to come alongside these faithful servants.



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...

— John 1:14 NIV

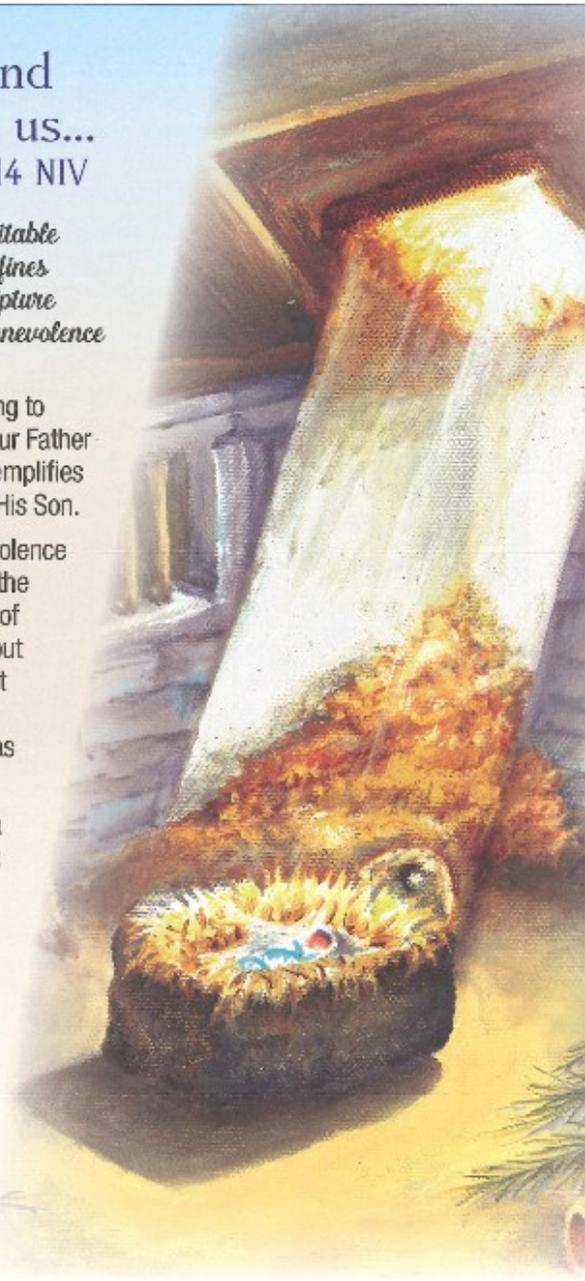
To call someone kind, well-meaning, or charitable is to call them benevolent. The dictionary defines benevolence as a disposition to do good. Scripture describes many of God's attributes, including His benevolence toward us.

In 1 Timothy 6:17: "He richly provides us with everything to enjoy." He satisfies "the desire of every living thing." Our Father not only provides for our earthly needs, but He also exemplifies the greatest benevolence of all time in the sacrifice of His Son.

During His earthly ministry, Jesus demonstrated benevolence through His actions. He healed the sick, the lame, and the blind, to name just a few. He gave up the perfect glory of heaven to come as a helpless infant to die on a cross out of His great love for us. He healed not only the body but also the heart and soul of sinful people who could not help themselves. He still does so today. His example has been our reason for being.

His was the guiding principle of our founder, Andrew Duda Sr. and remains our mission today: ***"To provide a quality, Christ-centered haven of care for older adults."***

It is your benevolence that has helped sustain Lutheran Haven for nearly eight decades! What began 79 years ago with our first Christmas Seal outreach is now a vital source of support for many in need through our Benevolent Care Fund. Saying "thank you" seems insufficient for all you've done, but please know that your prayers and gifts have made a monumental difference in the lives of our seniors. It is a blessing for us to *show* how benevolence is lived out in the lives of our precious residents, thanks to you:

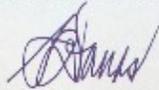


"Lutheran Haven's benevolent care fund has meant the world to me. My family is always telling me not to worry about the future and this program helps me to do just that. I talk to the Lord about things all the time and He helps me. I thank Him for bringing me here and providing me with the help I needed. Many years ago, God led me to Lutheran Haven and I'm so happy He did!" - A grateful resident

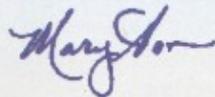
As you celebrate our Savior, the greatest gift of benevolence of all time, we invite you to consider a gift to Lutheran Haven. Every donation eases the burden of seniors in their sunset years, reaffirming their hope and faith in the Lord's provision. *They tangibly see His care through you.*

Have a blessed Christmas from our family to yours!

Our deepest thanks,



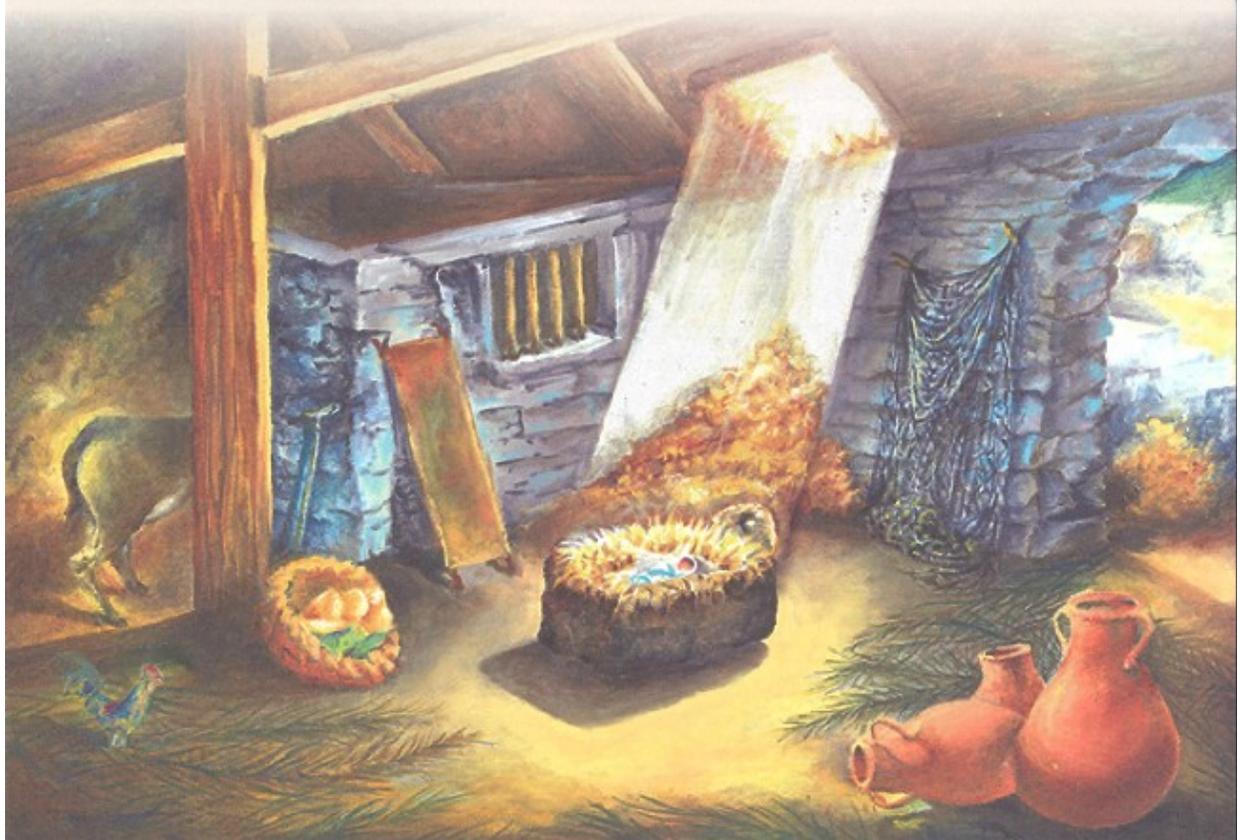
Mrs. Susan Duda Hanas
Chairperson
Lutheran Haven
Board of Trustees



Mary Ann McCunn
Development Coordinator
Lutheran Haven Foundation
407-706-1281
mmccunn@lutheranhaven.org



JESUS REPLIED: "LOVE the LORD your GOD with all your
HEART and with all your SOUL and with all your MIND."
THIS is the FIRST and greatest commandment. And the SECOND is like it:
'LOVE your NEIGHBOR as yourself.' — *Matthew 37-39 NIV*



Out of thanks to God for His many blessings, I/we enclose a gift to
The Lutheran Haven Foundation for:

Benevolent Care General

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Church Affiliation _____

Payment: My check payable to LHF is enclosed

Please return this card with your gift in the enclosed envelope.

Credit card donations can be made directly through our website by
visiting lutheranhaven.org. Just click on the Faithful giving tab on the
menu bar. You can also scan our QR Code and it will take you directly to
Faithful Giving.



You can mail your gift to the Benevolent Care Fund to the address below.

Lutheran Haven Foundation
2041 West State Road 426
Oviedo, FL 32765



Rev. Dr. Renato Hoerlle to be Installed November 15, 2025

Rev. Dr. Hoerlle will be installed at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway Township, NJ on Saturday, November 15th at 10 AM. A light lunch will follow the service. Peace Lutheran looks forward to celebrating the installation of Pastor Hoerlle with everyone.



Pastor Anthony Celia to be Installed on November 16, 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westport, CT is pleased to announce the installation of Rev. Anthony Celia. The installation service will take place on Sunday, November 16th at 2 PM. A reception will follow the installation service. Please join St. Paul Lutheran as they install their new Pastor.

SERVICE OF
INSTALLATION
FOR
**Pastor
Anthony
Celia**
SUNDAY | NOVEMBER 16 | 2 PM
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

ST PAUL WESTPORT



Disaster Response Update

There is still a need for help in North Carolina from the 2024 hurricanes! Sign up for one of the November events sponsored by SED Disaster Response in partnership with Mt. Pisgah, Hendersonville, NC, and Resurrection Mission, Spartanburg, SC.

The purpose of this event is to give participants an opportunity to serve their neighbor with the love of Christ by caring for their physical needs and helping with tree work, debris removal and rebuilding projects. Visit LCMS-LERT.org/need for more information.

Don't worry if you are not LERT trained!! There is training available at most sites on the first workday! Please sign up and notify the contact person about training.



Sloka Lutheran Church Choir Concert Tomorrow, October 25, 2025

THE SLOKA
Lutheran Church Choir
Concert
Saturday
OCT 25
Time: 3p
Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church



Experience the Soul of Latvia in Song!

Join us for an unforgettable evening as the passionate voices of the singing nation of Latvia rise in powerful worship.

Let their harmonies move your spirit and uplift your heart.

The concert will be available on St. Luke's YouTube channel at this link - [St. Luke's You Tube Channel](#)



Celebrate Reformation at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Dickson City, PA

A Reformation Service will be held at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Dickson, PA on November 2, 2025. The schedule is the Fellowship begins at 4 pm. The Divine Service begins at 5:00 PM and then we will continue fellowship following the service at 6:30 PM

In addition, St. Stephen's is celebrating their 100th Anniversary on October 18th. Please keep them in your prayers as they enter their second century.

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reformation, All Saints, & 100th Anniversary Celebration of Dickson City Mission & Ministry October 18, 1925 – October 18, 2025

Divine Service

Sunday, November 2nd at 5 pm

Fellowship & Light Refreshments before & after worship beginning at 4 pm

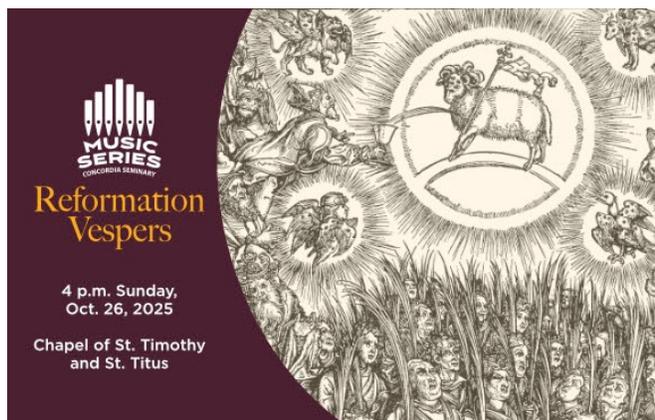
Rev. Peter A. Richert, Vacancy Pastor
Karen Muir & Sharon Laskosky, Organists



Join us for Reformation Vespers! 4 p.m. (CT) Sunday, Oct. 26, 2025 Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

This Service of Sacred Music will feature music performed by Laudamus, St. Louis Lutheran Chorale, Concordia Seminary Children's Choir, Concordia Seminary Youth Choir and talented instrumentalists! A reception will follow in Koburg Hall.

This service is part of the **Concordia Seminary Music Series**, which is free and open to the public. Reformation Vespers will be livestreamed at [csl.edu/live](https://www.csl.edu/live). We hope to see you there!





LCMS Council of Presidents Record Hymns for 'Worship Anew' Service on October 26th

The Worship Anew studio boomed from the awe-inspiring praise coming from the voices of the Council of Presidents of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS).

On Oct. 26 during Reformation Sunday, you will be able to hear those voices for the first time on "Worship Anew." You can watch at this link - [WorshipAnew.org](https://www.WorshipAnew.org)

This group of men, the Council of Presidents, are the presidents and vice presidents of the 35 LCMS districts across the country as well as the International Office in St. Louis, Mo. The Council of Presidents meets four times per year for "mutual counsel regarding the doctrine and administration of the Synod and to edify and support one another in the work that they share, those responsibilities found throughout the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod," according to the LCMS website. For their April meeting, they were at the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, which provided an opportunity to record at Worship Anew.

"I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for the visit to Worship Anew by members of the Council of Presidents. It was truly an honor to host the group, and their presence was a tremendous blessing to our ministry," said Matthew Leighty, Executive Director of Worship Anew. "The support and encouragement from the Council of Presidents means a great deal to us. The hymns sung by the Council of Presidents Choir will be a great blessing to our viewers."

They recorded two hymns, "The Church's One Foundation" and "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word," and both will be shown on the Oct. 26 program of "Worship Anew."

Since 1980, Worship Anew, headquartered in Fort Wayne, Ind., has been broadcasting weekly worship services for aging adults who seek to help them live an abundant life in Christ. Today, Worship Anew reaches thousands of people each week across the nation and around the world on television and streamed online. To learn more about Worship Anew and other ministries, including the care ministry and Hope-Full Living daily devotions, please visit [WorshipAnew.org](https://www.WorshipAnew.org).



"Basin and Towel"

Rev. Chris Cahill has been revising and expanding his online "Basin and Towel" offerings for ministerial care on various platforms. While some of these are still works in progress, you can find them at these links; we'll do a deeper dive into each of these in future Beacons:

- NEW **Basin and Towel 2025** website at bit.ly/bnt2025
- Read or subscribe to **Basin and Towel 2025** on Substack at bit.ly/bnt2025substack
- Listen to **Basin and Towel podcast** episodes at bit.ly/3INLzfF or on YouTube at bit.ly/ctcbntsermons



Did Your Church Receive the Official Nomination Ballot for Synod Elections?

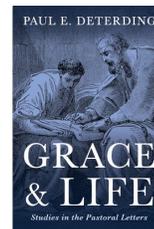
Each congregation should have received notice from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod regarding that it is time for **Your Congregation** to make nominations for the Synod President, First Vice President, and Regional Vice President.

Each congregation should have received a mailing sent via USPS labeled **LCMS OFFICIAL NOMINATION BALLOT**. This mailing includes the information you need to nominate for the Synod President, First Vice President, and Regional Vice President. Your ballot must be submitted by Wednesday, **February 18, 2026**.

If you did not receive this information by November 4, 2025, please contact the LCMS Office of the Secretary at lcmssecretary@lcms.org or call the office at 314-996-1417.



SELC District Pastor Authors Book Grace and Life



“Often the Pastoral Letters have not received the attention they deserve. In addition to being indispensable for understanding the pastoral office, these letters are rich in teaching regarding many of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith: Christology, soteriology, eschatology, ethics, and the church's worship life. In *Grace and Life*, Paul Deterding explores these topics through careful exegesis of these texts and a number of essays on the major subjects of these letters. His work will be of interest to pastors looking for help for preaching and teaching. It will also aid lay readers in understanding the responsibilities of the pastoral office and the divine authority that enables them to carry out their ministry.”

Rev. Dr. Paul E. Deterding is a distinguished Lutheran pastor, scholar, and educator known for his contributions to New Testament studies. He earned his M.Div., S.T.M., and Th.D. degrees from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he studied under Dr. Martin Scharlemann. Dr. Deterding has taught as an adjunct lecturer at both Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and has served as Dean of Chapel and Chairman of the Religion Department at Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri. A respected author, he wrote the Colossians volume in the Concordia Commentary series and several Bible studies published by Concordia Publishing House, widely used in Lutheran education and pastoral formation. He also served as associate editor and consultant for The Lutheran Study Bible. This, his latest volume “*Grace and Life: Studies in the Pastoral Letters*” (2025) gathers his reflections on pastoral-epistle theology. An active member of Faith Viera Lutheran Church, he sings in the choir and teaches Bible Class.

You can order the book here:

<https://wipfandstock.com/search-results/?contributor=paul-e-deterding>



Reformation in Germany: In the Footsteps of Martin Luther with Pastors Dan Lepley and Andy Currao | June 2, 2026

Follow the liturgy as we explore the land of the Reformation next June with Pastor Dan Lepley! This unique Lutheran heritage tour comes with a liturgical twist. We will begin considering the effects of pride and prejudice at Ravensbruck concentration camp. From there, we will be built up in our appreciation of our Lutheran forebearers as we visit many key sites of the Reformation. See all tour information and register [here](#). Or, email dlepley@genysys-group.com to be invited to our introductory ZOOM at 8:00pm EST on Tuesday, October 28.



LCMS Worker Wellness God's Mission Here Podcast

LCMS National Mission has just released a new season of God's Mission podcast. Please click on the link below to access the podcast.

[Season 10 of the God's Mission Here podcast](#)

These episodes are all about Worker Wellness. Listen in and find great insights on how to support and care for our church workers.



Family Bible Journey Podcast

Conflict and communion? How did those two topics end-up in the same chapter of the Bible? Learn how by listening to the Family Bible Journey podcast, as we explore a portion of scripture we hear every time we receive communion. Listen on your favorite podcast player or at familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



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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Dates to Remember

October 25, 2025 - Worship Anew Worship Service online featuring hymns sung by the LCMS Council of Presidents [WorshipAnew.org](https://www.worshipanew.org)

October 25, 2025 at 3 PM - Latvian Choir Concert live and available on the St. Luke's YouTube channel.

October 26, 2025 at 4 PM CT - Concordia Seminary St. Louis Reformation Vespers Service livestreamed at [csl.edu/live](https://www.csl.edu/live)

November 2, 2025 - Divine Service at 5 PM celebrating Reformation, All Saints & 100th Anniversary Celebration of Ministry at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Dickson City, PA.

November 15, 2025 at 10 AM - Pastor Renato Hoerlle will be installed at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, NJ.

November 16, 2025 at 2 PM - Pastor Anthony Celia will be installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westport, CT.

November 20, 2025 at 10:30 AM - Monthly LWML Bible Study via zoom

Invest with Purpose

Serve with Peace

A Church Worker StewardAccount® makes it simple to invest and manage your funds at your own pace and on your own time. If you work for an LCMS church, school or organization, you are eligible to open an account. **Start earning 3% on your investment today!**



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LUTHERAN CHURCH
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lcef.org/cwsa

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Prayer Requests

Please pray for all the schools, teachers, students, and administration of the schools in the SELC.

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 is recovering from surgery. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they prepare the next steps in his treatment.

Rev. Edward Kucera, and his wife Irene, 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 Vertical and Horizontal Aspects of Holy Communion

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

"They (the post-Pentecost Early Church) devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and prayers" (Acts 2:42).

It's easy for Lutheran Christians to view these words primarily in terms of the doctrinal content of Luther's Small Catechism and rest of The Book of Concord or Confessional writings. St. Luke's wide-ranging statement, however, also embraces the importance of God-pleasing, Christ-centered orthopraxy or practice.

All God's redeemed people at times need to be lovingly corrected. The ascended Christ's apostle Paul, for example, found it necessary to chastise his beloved former congregants, saying, "It isn't the original Lord's Supper you Corinthians are eating or drinking!" (1 Cor. 11:20; 2 Tim. 3:16).

Historically, arguably, it has been in this latter area of practice or conduct that the visible Church has floundered or been in disagreement even as Christian denominations. Without a clearly studied understanding of the written Word of God (this is most certainly true not only this Reformation weekend!), individually or corporately our spiritual lives are apt aimlessly to remain adrift like a rudderless ship of any size, a scary thought indeed!

Given our own only allowing the Spirit of God to do for us lasting good occasionally for less than the right or best reason, the first Christian Roman Emperor, Constantine, unfortunately waited until on his death bed to be baptized.

To help assure that Jesus Himself, ever be the primary reason 21st century baptized believers are still lovingly commanded to celebrate *together* the same sacramental Passover meal, He instituted for His Church on earth the very same night on which He allowed Himself to be betrayed scant hours before His *sinless self-giving sacrificial death* on Calvary's cross (John 10:17f.; 18:1ff.).

Though we find no specific biblical references to the current time-honored practice of individual or "private communion" to the infirm and dying, Holy Scripture contains scores of exemplary reasons for being tireless "Seelorsgers" or Christ-like *carers of souls* especially to institutionalized or home-bound persons of all ages with known special needs (all the more reason routinely to **commune with them!**)

Foremost among these reasons perhaps is our Lord's Holy Week "servant job description" recorded in Matthew 25:31-46 and *intentional* visitation of needy individuals in all sorts of life situations as if we were actually befriending the messianic Christ Himself!

All these things are said in the sincere hope that no *communicant or Christian family member today* ever sense feeling "all alone" or isolated from the rest of his or her blood-bought body of believers in Christ's one holy catholic apostolic Church or **Una Sancta**. Also, in cases involving those about to be transported from this transitory Church militant to the waiting room of the Church triumphant at which time ideally no one should be left all alone only to hear the nagging accusatory voice of the old Evil

Foe or his defeated fallen angels.

Instead it is our privileged duty to speak or loudly **sing** (even if only "Jesus Loves Me" and/or the Common Doxology off key!) into the departing loved one's heart and soul the last words they hear from our mercifully welcoming Lord's nurturing Church these or similar "relievingly" assuring Gospel words of absolving forgiveness:

"Baptized son or daughter of God, be of good cheer! All your sins have been forgiven you only because of the holy perfect life, substitutionary death and bodily resurrection of our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ! Depart into His everlasting arms of Peace! Amen!"



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

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