



The Beacon Online

November 14, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 45

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

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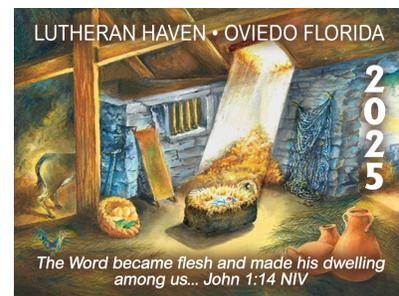
Two SELC Pastors to be Installed This Weekend

Pastor Renato Hoerlle will be installed tomorrow, November 15th at 10 AM at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, New Jersey. Pastor Anthony Celia will be installed on Sunday, November 16th at 2 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westport, Connecticut.

We welcome Pastors Celia and Hoerlle and their families to the SELC District!



Lutheran Haven Annual Seals Appeal to Benefit the Benevolent Care Fund



The 79th Annual Seals Campaign has begun! This campaign supports 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

T*o 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.*

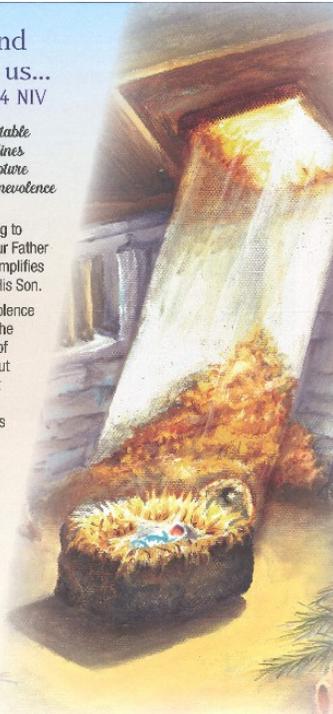
In 1 Timothy 6:17: "He richly provides us with everything to enjoy." He satisfies "the desire of every living thing." Our Father not only provides for our earthly needs, but He also exemplifies the greatest benevolence of all time in the sacrifice of His Son.

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



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



Setting Your 2026 SELC Budget Goal

"And you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8

Christ calls us to be witnesses of the Gospel throughout the whole world. One way we do this together is through our partnership with district and Synod missions, supported by the offerings of our congregations.

Your congregation should have received a letter for you to indicate your plans to support district and Synod missions. As your congregation completes its budgeting process, please return this information by mail, email, or [online](#) (preferred) by **January 15** to;

Rev. Bill Hale, Stewardship Committee
c/o St. John Lutheran Church
2001 St Clair Ave, Granite City, IL 62040
William.e.hale@gmail.com

Note that contributions should be sent directly to the District Financial Secretary:
Irene Bray
P. O. Box 292
Westfield Center, OH 44251



Corrections to Two Photos from the St. Stephen's Celebration

Two photos had incorrect identification information from the celebration. Below are the two photos with the correct information. The photo on the left is Pastor Brand and his wife Anita at dinner. On the right is Pastor Brand with John and Sandy Cwalina, whom he married 48 years ago.





Vicarage Applications due February 13, 2026

Vicarage applications are due to the SELC District office no later than February 13, 2026. If you are interested in applying for a Vicar, please contact the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com or 610-965-3265, press 6.

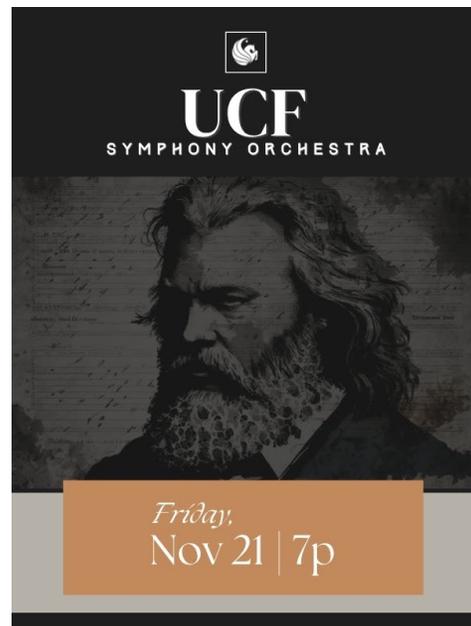


"From Academia to Adventure" UCF Symphony Orchestra Live!

The UCF Symphony Orchestra presents "From Academia to Adventure", featuring Brahms' Academic Festival Overture and Liszt's Les Préludes. Newly appointed faculty Ben Vasko will be playing the Concerto for Tuba by Bruce Broughton.

Open Dress Rehearsal: November 20th at 6p, Sanctuary
All concerts are FREE and OPEN to the public — no tickets needed!
Come enjoy the music and bring your family and friends — everyone's welcome!

WATCH ONLINE: [youtube.com/
@stlukesconcertseries](https://www.youtube.com/@stlukesconcertseries)



Save the Date - Concordia Seminary Celebrates 100th Anniversary at Clayton, MO Location

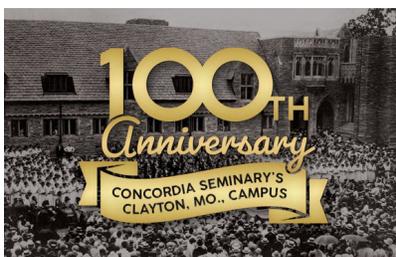
Celebrate 100 Years in Clayton with Concordia Seminary
3 p.m. (CT) Sunday, April 26, 2026
Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

Mark your calendars! Concordia Seminary is celebrating 100 years at its iconic Clayton, Mo., location — and we want you to be part of it. Plan to join us for a special chapel service Sunday, April 26, 2026, honoring our milestone anniversary with the theme: "O Christ the Living Stone – a lasting legacy, a firm future." Won't be able to attend in person? Plan to watch the livestream at csi.edu/live.

We'd love to hear your story.

Do you have a personal connection to the Seminary's history in Clayton, Mo.? Perhaps a relative who served on the original planning committee a century ago, helped design or construct our campus buildings, or even founded a club or ministry based here in Clayton. If so, we'd be honored to learn more about your family's connection to the Seminary. Please share your story by **clicking on the link below** — the form is simple and easy!

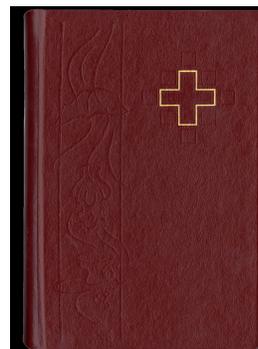
Share my story



Resource of the Week

The "Daily Prayer" section (pages 294-298) of **The Lutheran Service Book from CPH** is an excellent tool to use in your home daily to keep growing closer to Jesus. It would be an awesome way to keep all baptized children growing for life...eternal!

[Check it out here](#)



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.



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](#).



LWML-SELC Monthly Bible Study

The November Bible Study will be held on November 20th at 10:30 AM EST. The topic will be **"Sharing Our Gifts as We Work for the Lord"** from the LWQ. To join online, please click on the link below. You can also join in person at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lodi, OH.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

[https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72432487731?
pwd=icwzj2O2OcUyBV1e2Uj4e8t0Onf4b2.1](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/72432487731?pwd=icwzj2O2OcUyBV1e2Uj4e8t0Onf4b2.1)

Meeting ID: 724 3248 7731

Passcode: 587538



Nominate Students for Lutheran Summer Music

You're invited to [nominate a student](#) for LSM 2026! Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students (grades 8-12) who come together from all over the country to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build an intentional, supportive, and FUN community. LSM 2026 takes place at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN from June 21-July 19 (Full Session) or June 21-July 3 (Half Session). Priority Enrollment is open now through December 1. Nominate students at LSMacademy.org/nominate, and watch and share this [LSM Experience Video](#) to learn 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

Did you know that the Psalms follow the life of faith from birth through death, and end with everlasting songs of praise? Learn how the psalms end with heavenly praises by listening to the Family Bible Journey podcast.

Listen on your favorite podcast player or at familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



- Independent Living
- Assisted Living *(new apartments)*
- Memory Care

Visit our Community to experience the difference
Call **407-542-1637** to find out more

AL Lic. #12811



Dates to Remember

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.

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.



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*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 and schools 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 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.

Pamela Meyr, Rockledge, FL, wife of Pastor Ron Meyr retired from Faith Viera, for healing from kneecap surgery after a fall.

Milly Kwiatkowski, Parma, OH, who had surgery this week. Please pray for Milly as she recovers from her surgery.

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 Let Language Grammar Be Your Friend! Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

Long before existence of any written language there was a dynamic eventually *creatively revealed* **spoken language** read and heard by millions since: "**God said, 'Let there be light, and there was light!'**" (Genesis 1:3; **2 Corinthians 4:6**)

Think back to your elementary or middle school years and time spent with a rather drab, nondescript English grammar workbook. Our dedicated teachers (many of them returning post-WWII veterans, men and women who experienced *firsthand* the huge price of freedom and huge difference between life and death) were also well able to understand us students most of whom invariably enjoyed studying English *literature* far more than pondering the seemingly irrelevant necessity of distinguishing between indefinite relative pronouns like *whoever* or *whomever*.

One can almost still see their smiles at our meaningless obviously non-academic "considered solutions" of flipping a coin or carelessly guessing which *sounded better* neither of which were judged to be acceptable options. Strategies for pedagogical challenges to hold the attention of preteen adolescents on lovely spring Friday afternoons likely included simply scheduling teaching grammar earlier in the day or school week and slotting Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn and Becky Thatcher just before the closing bell. How brilliant is that!

Truth be told, though elements of English grammatical structures at our dear suburban Ohio school in 1949 (also confirmation year) were a bit of a struggle for most of us to master, the study of grammar actually became *fun* upon finding myself fortuitously enrolled in Mrs. Helen Blickle's surprisingly well-attended Latin class (a story in itself about the only foreign language curricular offering at our school at that time yet truly one of my best-taught and remembered courses ever!)

In addition to Latin remaining taught for nearly three millennia (Martin Luther and J. S. Bach were among those who studied Greek as well as Latin), Latin was also widely used as an spoken and written language throughout the 1500+ years of inspired composition of our biblical Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek Scriptures.

Though Latin arguably is just a little less precise areas than the Holy Spirit's choice of Greek for the New Testament Scriptures (**e.g.** Latin, like Slovak, does not have a definite article!), historically, both Greek and Latin obviously remain most influential as **highly inflected** languages the meaning being that both contain an admittedly initially bewildering number of specific verbal *prefixes* or concluding surprisingly eventually realized extremely *helpful word* endings English has unfortunately managed to avoid. Consider only our seemingly "lazy overuse" of the three-letter pronoun **YOU** as sentence subject *and* direct object, singular *and* plural second person verb constructions -- just one reason why intelligent people from other parts of God's world often struggle mastering our mother tongue as a second language!

Assuming that the God's gift of language was granted to us primarily for wholesome communication with Him and edifying discourse with one another, sadly only the opposite is often found to be the case. None of this was due but human heart's willful abuse of such a beautiful gift (see Matthew 15:19b; James 3).

Thus, just as it has been our intention, not merely to call attention to the obvious misuse of biblical language heard or read in normal daily discourse, but simply to help others grow in appreciation of the literary beauty, wisdom and power of the Spirit-breathed saving Gospel in those written Scriptures. When taught to regard as a trusted friend historical-grammatical Christ-centric Bible study, coupled with time-honored principles of interpretation, open-minded Spirit-guided students aren't only personally better able to appreciate the written and preached Word of God but also better apt to share with others **WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS!**



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

SELC District of LCMS

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