



The Beacon Online

November 21, 2025/ Vol. 6 / No. 46

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.



Pastor Renato Hoerlle Installed at Peace Lutheran Church

Pastor Renato Hoerlle was installed at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, New Jersey on November 15th. President Vinovskis installed Pastor Hoerlle and Rev. Dr. Mark Larson, SELC Mission Executive and Rev. Ron Meyr, were there for the installation. Both Pastors Larson and Meyr were instrumental in assisting the mission at Peace, as a SELC re-plant mission, as they sought a Mission Pastor and went through the call process. Several members of the Eastern Circuit were in attendance. Retired Pastor Alan Mercer, former Pastor at Peace, was also present for the service.



Pictured below from left to right back row: Rev. Ray Malec, Eastern Circuit Visitor, Rev. Jim Douthwaite, Rev. Allen Dass, and Rev. Dan Berteau. Front row: Rev. Mark Larson, Mission Executive, President Vinovskis, Rev. Hoerlle, and Rev. Ron Meyr.



Pictured above on the left are President Vinovskis, Mrs. Raquel Hoerlle, and Pastor Hoerlle. Pictured above on the right are Linda and Samantha who sang "Great is Thy Faithfulness".

Pictured below are the Hoerles, Pastor Larson and Pastor Meyr. Pastors Larson and Meyr worked very closely with Peace to lead the Church and the mission re-plant until Pastor Hoerlle was installed.



Prior to the service, many volunteers helped to set up for the luncheon and prepared the food for the luncheon that followed the service.



Pastor Anthony Celia Installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church

On Sunday, November 16th, Pastor Anthony Celia was installed at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westport, Connecticut. Pastor Celia was installed by President Wally Vinovskis.



Pictured below from left to right: Rev. Gary Danielsen, Rev. Ray Malec, Eastern Circuit Visitor, Pastor Celia, President Vinovskis, and Rev. Allen Dass.



Pictured above on the left is Pastor Celia holding his son Soren, President Vinovskis, and Mrs. Tanya Celia. On the right are pastor Celia and President Vinovskis.

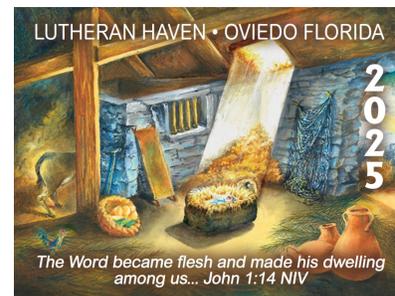


SELC District Supports Redeeming Life at Their Gala

The SELC District was in attendance to support the work being done by Redeeming Life Ministries in Sanford, Florida. The organization offers Christ-centered **maternity homes** to offer love, hope, and a future to single pregnant women in crisis. The organization provides a safe, family home with **one-on-one mentoring** to equip our mothers with critical life skills for their future independence. Their goal is to ensure our mothers and their children live happy, healthy, **hope-filled lives** rooted in Christ. Pastor Wally Arp hosted the table and was joined by the SELC District LCEF DVP John Hoover and his wife Jamie, pictured on the bottom right.



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

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.

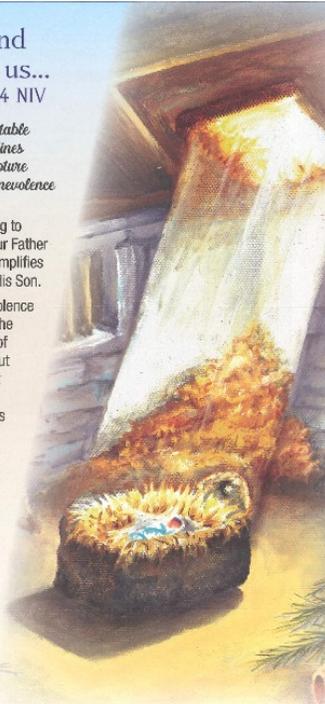
In 1 Timothy 6:17: "He richly provides us with everything to enjoy." He satisfies "the desire of every living thing." Our Father not only provides for our earthly needs, but He also exemplifies the greatest benevolence of all time in the sacrifice of His Son.

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



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



Business Skills for Faith Based Organizations



Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) is launching a cohort of Business Skills for Faith Based Organizations. There are some open seats available. **The deadline for applications is December 1**, with courses starting in early January. Costs are covered through a partnership between CUW and LCEF.

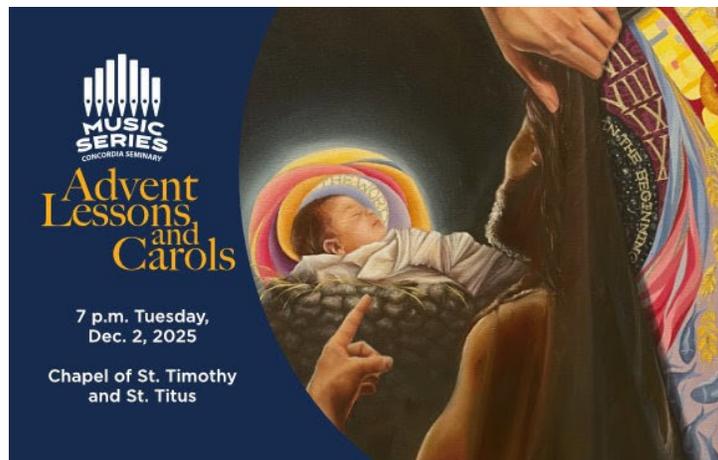
All the information is available in the link - <https://onlineinfo.cuw.edu/business-skills>



Join Concordia Seminary St. Louis for Advent Lessons and Carols 7 p.m. (CT) Tuesday, Dec. 2, 2025 Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus

As we prepare for Christ's birth this Advent season, come and enjoy beautiful music performed by the Seminary Chamber Choir, 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. Advent Lessons and Carols also will be livestreamed at csl.edu/live.





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.



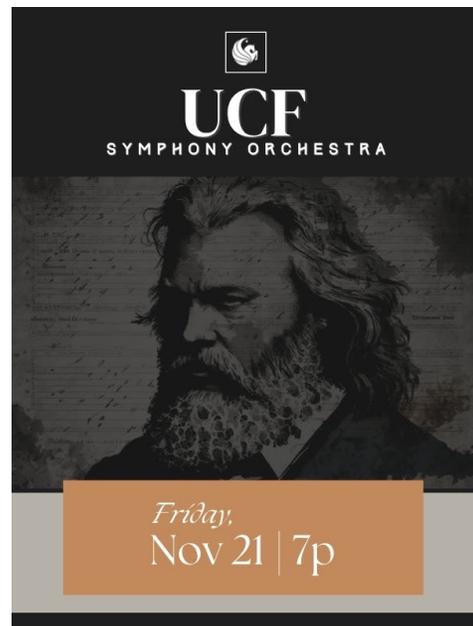
"From Academia to Adventure" UCF Symphony Orchestra Live is **Tonight!**

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.

November 21st at 7p, Sanctuary at St. Luke's

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 [csl.edu/live](https://www.csl.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



Preaching Retreat on Lent Scheduled

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines will be hosting a Preaching Retreat on the topic of Lent on January 19-20, 2026. We will delve into the why of midweek Lenten services, crafting sermon outlines, why Lutherans preach differently, and putting what you have learned into practice.

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary is located on the campus of Brock University near Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Registration Fee: \$225 CAD (deadline January 12, 2026)

Early Bird Registration Fee: \$200 CAD (deadline December 19, 2025)

For more info or to register: <https://concordia-seminary.ca/2025/11/10/lenen-preaching-retreat-coming-in-january/>

January 19-20, 2026

CONCORDIA ST. CATHARINES

RIBLE

Lenten Preaching RETREAT

Preaching Your Best This Lent

REGISTER HERE

RETREAT DATES:
Monday, January 19 and
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

REGISTRATION: \$225 CAD
Deadline January 12, 2026

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$200 CAD
Deadline December 19, 2025

Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary
470 Glenridge Ave, St. Catharines, Ontario
reception@concordia-seminary.ca (905) 688-2362

www.concordia-seminary.ca

PREACHING RETREAT SCHEDULE 2026

Monday, January 19, 2026

- 8:00-8:30 AM Registration
- 8:45-9:45 AM Session 1: Why Lent – and Why Midweek Lenten Sermons? (Presenter: Dr. T. Wagner)
- 10:00-10:45 AM Catechet
- 11:00-12:00 PM Session 2: Is That a Theme or Just a Vague Idea? (Presenter: Dr. T. Kovacs)
- 12:15-1:15 PM Lunch
- 1:30-2:30 PM Session 3: Sermon Outlines – Not Just Three Random Points (Presenter: Dr. J. Kellerman)
- 2:50-3:00 PM Break
- 3:00-4:00 PM Session 4: Fresh Vocabulary for Your Lenten Sermons (Presenter: Prof. D. Cook)
- 5:00 PM Supper (followed by Vespers and Evening Activities)

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

- 8:45-9:45 AM Session 5: Why Lutherans Preach Differently – and Ought To (Presenter: Rev. Dennis White of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheatfield, NY)
- 10:00-10:45 AM Catechet
- 11:00-12:15 PM Session 6: Putting What You Have Learned into Practice (Presenters: Dr. J. Kellerman / Dr. T. Kovacs)
- 12:15-1:15 PM Lunch
- 1:15 PM Departure

© Copyright by St. Catharines District
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary





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](#).



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

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 and schools in the Western 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.

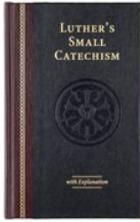
Nita Huffines, St. Louis, MO, wife of Rev. Warren Huffines, praising God for a year of scans clear of tumors, we ask for strength during immunotherapy maintenance; may the Lord complete His healing, adding joy and thanks to each of Nita's days.

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 last 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

Thanksgiving As Daily ThanksLIVING

Rev. Ken Ballas, EM

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day and that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen. (Luther's evening prayer)

Every morning Dr. Martin Luther taught his family and church family briefly to pray that God would guard and protect His redeemed children of all ages from all evil and keep us from all harm and danger that our daily walk would be pleasing to the Lord. How is it, then, that in the evening of the same day we likely find ourselves pleading for His forgiveness.

Did God "mess up" regarding our earlier appropriate prayerful petition as some have most sadly misleadingly, even rebelliously alleged? Preposterous thought that the sacrificial offer of His perfect Son be of no positive consequence! (See John 3:16f.; Romans 8:32; Galatians 2:20; 2 Corinthians 5:15-21; 8:9; 9:15)

Living as we all do in a far from perfect world, instead of our only needing to alter the words "night" and "day," the evening prayer necessarily deals with the polar opposite condition of what appeared to have been a sincere intention of blissful obedience to do God's will but hours earlier! Lord, have mercy!

With good reason Dr. Luther used the German word "taeglich" (meaning "daily") in his family oriented Small Catechism of 1529 nearly a dozen times calling to mind words from an old beloved hymn, "I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour!"

It is in this spirit that we wish one and all a truly God-pleasing, Christ-centered, people-helping thanksgiving and new Christian Church Year to come as we can do no better than to conclude than by saying repeatedly, "Thank You, Jesus!" and also by singing:

*Praise God, from who all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!*

Readers are invited to compare the Reformer's two closely related classic morning and evening prayers perhaps from a well-worn copy of a confirmation instruction catechism, page 327 of our Lutheran Service Book hymnal or the front pages of any issue of Portals of Prayer.



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

Share This Email

SELC District of LCMS

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

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.
com

Share This Email

Share This Email

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!