



# The Beacon Online

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

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**National Lutheran  
Schools Week is  
January 26 - 30, 2026**



Get ready for National Lutheran Schools Week during the last week in January. The theme is "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth" which was drawn from Psalm 98:4, is a powerful and vibrant call to action.

Psalm 98 is a psalm of celebration and praise. It invites us to lift our voices in response to the marvelous things God has done — from creation to salvation — and to His constant care in our daily lives. What a fitting focus for a week in which students, teachers, families and congregations join to reflect on the blessings of Lutheran schools. Each school — no matter the size or setting — is part of a beautiful symphony of joyful noise to the Lord.

Each day the schools will explore how our voices and lives express joy in the Lord through His creation, worship, acts of service, relationships, and most of all, through Jesus. The link to the Synod's resources can be found by [clicking here](#). There is a downloadable Resource Manual found at this link - [Resource Manual](#).

Please send us pictures and write ups showing how you celebrated Lutheran Schools Week.

## Called to LEAD Application Period is Open

**Called to LEAD** is taking applications for its second cohort.

LCEF, in partnership with CUW, is pleased to provide this unique experience in developing leaders and allowing the development of a hands-on-project. You can find all the details about the program here:

<https://onlineinfo.cuw.edu/called-to-lead>

### **L-Lift Others Up E-Empower with Faith A-Act with Integrity D-Demonstrate Compassion**

Called to LEAD - Faith-Filled Leadership is an immersive program designed to equip emerging church leaders with the essential skills necessary for transformational ministry. This comprehensive program spans one year, offering a blend of foundational leadership courses, expert speakers, and hands-on project development. Participants will be guided through a journey, from vision setting to practical implementation of a faith-based leadership project, supported by ongoing mentorship from their designated Cultivator. At the end of this program, participants will present their Leading and Growing project and, if chosen, will have six additional months to work with their Cultivator. Seed money will be provided to execute their plan for leading and growing their communities with purpose and passion.

Only 15 seats are available. **Application deadline is February 1.** The cohort begins May 1.

This is a unique program that blends the best of leadership development and mentoring with launching a new ministry opportunity.



## Concordia Center for the Family Facilitator Training

Concordia Center for the Family, a Recognized 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. **MORE** trainings have been recently added! **Find**

out 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](#). Find resources and sign up for our weekly emails by going to our website [HERE](#)



The flyer features a blue and orange color scheme. On the left, a QR code is provided for more information. The central text is organized into sections: 'LOCATIONS', 'What's it cost?', 'What's included?', and 'What's not included in the cost for the standard training?'. A testimonial from Pastor Ryan Maser, NE, is located in the top right. The bottom section includes the Concordia Center for the Family logo, contact information for Director Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann, and the website [concordiafamily.org](http://concordiafamily.org).

**LOCATIONS**  
Scan the QR code to view all upcoming training dates and locations.

*What's it cost?*  
\$500/each for standard training (use above QR code to see any available grants).

*What's included?*  
Registration, access to all training documents, free resources, certification as a CCF FD Facilitator, lunches, and at least one dinner. (And much more at Heit's Point Family Camp!)

*What's not included in the cost for the standard training?*  
Transportation, lodging and remaining meals.

"I cannot look at things the same in my home and ministry after having gone through this training."  
*Pastor Ryan Maser, NE*

**FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP FACILITATOR TRAINING**

**CONCORDIA CENTER FOR THE FAMILY**  
[concordiafamily.org](http://concordiafamily.org)

**CONCORDIA CENTER FOR THE FAMILY**  
3773 Geddes Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 | [concordiafamily.org](http://concordiafamily.org)

*Questions?*  
Please contact CCF Executive Director Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann at [toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org](mailto:toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org) or Cell 810-771-8837.



## Nominate Young Musicians for [Lutheran Summer Music](#)

Now is the time to nominate students for LSM 2026. Enrollment for next summer is filling quickly, and we expect most remaining spots to be filled by the **March 1 Standard Enrollment deadline**. At LSM, students connect advanced musical study with worship and the joy of Lutheran church music traditions. We welcome musicians on all instruments—brass, woodwinds, strings, percussion, piano, organ, voice, and harp—to study with nationally recognized faculty in a welcoming and supportive community.

**LSM 2026 takes place at St. Olaf College from June 21–July 19.** Know a young musician (grades 8–12) who would thrive at LSM? Nominate them today at [LSMacademy.org/nominate](http://LSMacademy.org/nominate).

Questions contact us at [admissions@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:admissions@lutheransummermusic.org).



## Holy Land Tour Available

Beloved in the Lord Jesus Christ, our New-Born King and Savior, you are invited to join me (on my 28th tour of the Holy Land Nour Tour.) A native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land for an experience of a lifetime to visit Israel for a spiritual NOUR-ishment. We will depart from Chicago on September 29 and return on October 12, 2026. During this 13-day NOUR TOUR You will experience the life of the land in new ways—sounds, smells, and sights of two civilizations the old and the new. You will stand at the crossroads of history—HIS STORY, why He came to earth; and know the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands; but more importantly your heart will be renewed, refreshed and rejuvenated with the love and truth of Holy Scripture.

Along the way you will....

- Walk where Jesus walked
- Cruise the Sea of Galilee
- Climb the Mount of Olives
- Walk the Triumphal road as Jesus enters Jerusalem
- See the Old City of Jerusalem
- Visit Tabgha, the site of the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes
- Visit the Mount of Beatitudes
- Visit the site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose the 12 disciples.
- Walk the Via Dolorosa (Road of suffering) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Stroll the Garden of Gethsemane
- Visit Bethlehem and the Church of the Nativity—the birthplace of the God-Man Jesus Christ.
- And much, much more!

On this journey you will learn of the three "Cs": 1. Context is king, 2. Culture is queen and, 3. Christ is the CENTER! We will do more than just visit sights. We will go off the beaten path and have personal and daily devotions and be spiritually NOUR-ished. The Bible will be our map, compass and guide. Experience the Holy Land—a place like no other. Please join me on this blessed adventure. The price is \$5, 290.00 p/p including: airfare from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy) tips, entry fees and all meals.

For further information contact:

Rev. Dr. Nabil S. Nour, Pastor, proud grandpa, and Foot Washer Phil. 1:6

7701 S. Tuscan Club Circle.

Sioux Falls, SD 57108

605-201-6998 (Cell)

[preachermandfootwasher@gmail.com](mailto:preachermandfootwasher@gmail.com)



## 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](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or 610-965-3265, press 6.



## 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](mailto: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



## 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](#).





## 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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# Let's discover your financial path together

Meet your LCEF representative

Your LCEF District Vice President (DVP) is

**John Hoover**

 314-276-3370

 john.hoover@lcef.org



I am here to help **start, sustain and strengthen** LCMS ministries through financial and strategic partnerships.



## Prayer Requests

**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, we request prayers for strength and healing while undergoing infusion chemotherapy for him, Holly, and family."

**Rev. Edward Kucera**, and his wife Irene, St. Louis, MO, for God's loving care.

**Rev. Stephen Bocklage**, Bel Air, MD, for care and healing for health concerns for his

left leg.

**Bev Cahill**, wife of Rev. Chris Cahill. Lodi, OH, continues her recovery. The Cahills are grateful for all the prayers for Bev. The Cahills are posting updates on "Caring Bridge" at <https://tinyurl.com/Bridge4Bev>.

**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. John, Granite City, IL. Praise God with us for 6 grace years (2019 colon surgery - 2024 remove metastasis to ovary); now we reach a pause in therapy. Pray for daily grace to live with Jesus among those in His dear Church, in worship and service and waiting and looking up – to see the full grace to come - for we all see Him face to face.

**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.

**Milly Kwiatkowski**, Parma, OH, who had surgery. Please pray for Milly as she continues to recover from surgery.

*If you have people you would like to be included in the prayer list, please send the information to [selc.lcms@gmail.com](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com) or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.*



## **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](mailto:selc.lcms@gmail.com)

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