



The Beacon Online

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

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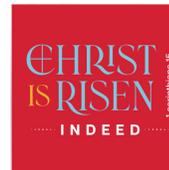


Nominations for Synod President and Vice Presidents Ends February 18, 2026

Each congregation should have received a Nomination mailer from Election-America/ Yes Elections to nominate candidates for the President of the LCMS and its Vice Presidents. This is a separate online nomination system and has its own unique credentials for logging in. If you did not receive this and wish to nominate for these Synod positions, please contact lcmspresidentvite@lcms.org



Make Sure Your Congregation is Registered to Vote for the Synod President



It is time to have a Voter's Meeting with your congregation to elect the two representatives from your congregation to vote for the Synod President. You need to elect one Pastoral Voter and one Lay Voter from your congregation to vote for the Synod President and Vice Presidents.

Once you have elected your Voters, please go to this website

<https://pvr.lcms.org/>

to verify/update your two attesting officers. Please make sure all this information is correct. If you need to add or change attesting officers, you can do that under **Manage Attesting Officers** and **Add Attesting Officers** on that website. Multiple officers can

be listed, but you need to note the two Attesting Voters.

If your congregation expects to welcome a new Pastor after March 8th, please register the current Pastor and then a new Pastor can be registered if he has replaced the Pastor that was registered. It must be filed 7 days before (**May 29, 2026**) the President Election opens.

If you need help with accessing and using the registration site, please contact Rosters.Stats@lcms.org or by calling 314-996-1366.

The Voter Registration must be completed by **March 8, 2026**.



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](#)



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

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

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.



CONCORDIA CENTER FOR THE FAMILY
3773 Geddes Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 | concordiafamily.org

Questions?
Please contact CCF Executive Director Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann at toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org or Cell 810-771-8837.

CONCORDIA CENTER FOR THE FAMILY
concordiafamily.org



Luther Classical College

Luther Classical College educates Lutherans in the classical, Lutheran tradition and prepares them for godly vocations within family, church, and society, fostering Christian culture through study of the best of our Western heritage.

In August 2025, more than thirty students began pursuing their degrees in Classical Liberal Arts (the only major at LCC) at our downtown campus in Casper, Wyoming. The staff and faculty appreciate your prayers and support as we continue preparing these young men and women for life in all three estates.

If you would like more information, or would like a college representative to present at a Winkel or congregational bible study, please contact Rev. Jacob Benson, Chief Advancement and Admissions Officer via email at jacob.benson@lutherclassica.org



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.

Questions contact us at 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



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.



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

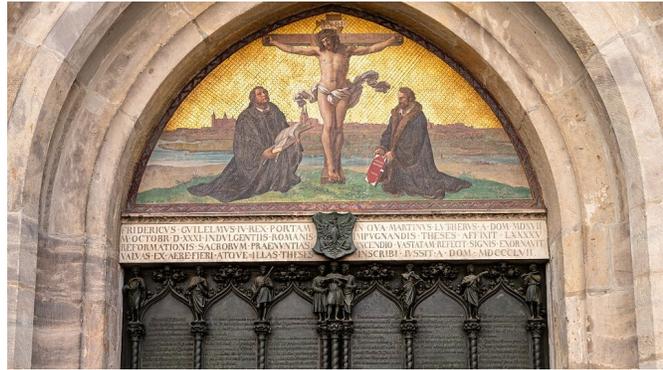
Note that contributions should be sent directly to the District Financial Secretary:

Irene Bray
P.O. Box 292
Westfield Center, OH 44251



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 Ravensbrück 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](#).



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lcef.org/SELC



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.

 LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND



Prayer Requests

Rev. Brian Roberts, Orlando, FL. Please continue to pray for him as he continues his journey following cancer treatment.

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.

Rev. Arthur H. Baisch, Sharon, PA, dealing with an open wound on his left foot, near the ball of the little toe, which may, in the not-too-distant future, require surgery.

Bev Cahill, wife of Rev. Chris Cahill. Lodi, OH, recovering from an upper respiratory infection.

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 or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.



Closing Thoughts A Major Minor Festival: The Conversion of St. Paul

Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Next Sunday, January 25, marks the conversion of one **Saul of Tarsus** from the Asian Minor (modern Turkey) Roman province of Cilicia. Feared persecutor of a predominately Jewish steadily growing early Christian movement headquartered in Jerusalem, Saul's namesake was the first king of Israel. Also a proud descendant of Israel's tribe of Benjamin (cf. 1 Samuel 9ff.; Romans 11:1; 2 Corinthians 11:22; Philippians 3:5), the second Saul, contemporary of our sinless Brother-Savior Christ Jesus notoriously rose to prominence very soon *after* his exalted Lord's bodily resurrection *and ascension* into heaven.

Arguably the most selflessly focused missionary-pastor of Christendom, there is no good earthly reason for Lutheran Christians *not* to commemorate or thank God for the life and ministry of this miraculously changed final *post-ascension* apostle and model missionary to our Gentile world who, next to the only *Gentile New Testament* author-evangelist of Luke-Acts, St. Luke, was privileged to compose more pages of that segment of the written Word of God than anyone including St. Paul.

Initially sadly mistaken, Saul (Paul) believed he was doing God a favor zealously persecuting his own Hebrew people many of whom had been led by the Holy Spirit to accept God's incarnate Son in the person of Jesus of Nazareth as the promised long-awaited anointed messianic Christ.

Saul's dramatic spiritual transformation is indeed nothing short of miraculous (see Luke's three-fold account in Acts 9, 22 and 26 each telling of which adds something to the previous narrative) which took place en-route to the ancient Syrian city of Damascus where he intended to arrest for trial and possible execution in Jerusalem also scattered early Jewish believers in Jesus.

Luke's interventional dialogue between our ascended Lord and this obviously still misguided rabbinically trained enemy of Christ, and key Damascan Jewish Christian intermediary or second of three Ananias, mentioned in the evangelist's second expanded letter to Theophilus (Book of Acts) is positively priceless. "**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting ME?**" That it was impossible for the Head of Christ's Church to remain separated from her beloved blood-bought members of the body of besieged believers was a lesson a temporarily blinded baptized Paul instantaneously experienced that day and never forgot!

Perhaps the only other time when Saul/Paul was initially somewhat wide of the mark concerned his early opinion as a newly baptized believing Christian regarded his estimated timing of his and our ascended Lord's promised *return* (cf. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Philippians 1:21 properly understood). Thank God Paul was only temporarily mistaken (and never doctrinally) about that or where we would be today as our forbearing and patient Lord waited for each of be born and reborn in Holy Baptism in Christ's all-atoning substitutionary death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4; also see 2 Peter 3 where that apostle also appears to refer to the letters of Paul on a similar level with the Old Testament Scriptures (the New Testament not yet completely written and codified).

Understandably often conflicted, the Lord's apostle Paul still understandably loved His Jewish people as well as the Gentile world with the precious powerful Gospel of forgiveness. As the Lord's special ambassador He was used by God to create a new Israel of sorts consisting of both Jews and Gentiles (see Romans 1:16; chapters 9-11; 1 Corinthians 1:18ff.; 9:16-23; 15:1-11; 2 Corinthians 11 (Paul's *mid-term* report card!); Galatians 1:11-24; 1 Timothy 1:15; Revelation 14:13). Thus, we see in the totally transformed Saul of Tarsus a life full of blessed paradoxes including His being born a Roman citizen enabling him to be all things to all men that by all means he may save some! God be praised!



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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