

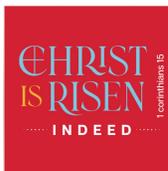


The Beacon Online

February 27, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 9

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.



Only One Week Left Make Sure Your Congregation is Registered to Vote for the Synod President Deadline is March 8, 2026

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**.

Just for You - A podcast to help you register to vote

Lead Time Podcast on "How to vote, nominate and submit overtures."

<https://youtu.be/GRSubZf2hb0?si=kzje8tzvT2mBkRcN>



President Vinovskis Presents at Best Practices

SELC District President Wally Vinovskis spoke as part of a panel, entitled "Ask a District President", at the Best Practices Ministry Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. President Vinovskis spoke about the District President's role to over 90 workshop attendees. The District Presidents on the panel are pictured below.

Pictured on the right is President Vinovskis with Genysys owner Rev. Dan Lepley with his wife Wendi and son Marcus. Pastor Lepley presented "An Exciting Adventure Awaits!" They discussed the excitement created when we are doing something new together.



Best Practices is a FREE conference to remind professional and lay church workers that you are loved, you are not alone, and you matter.



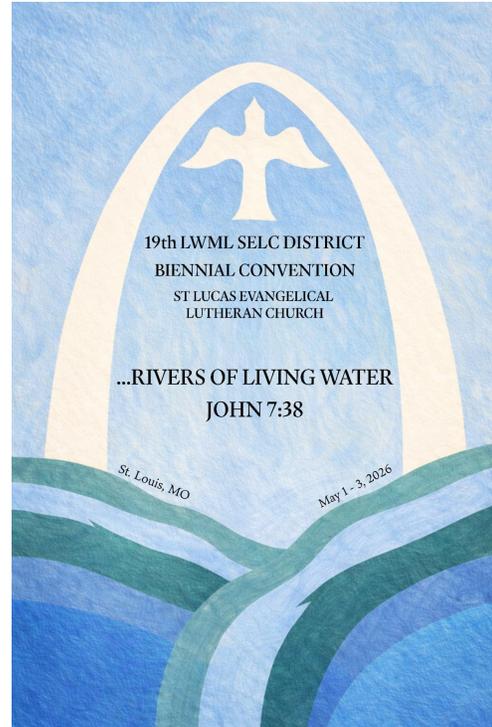
Pictured on the left, from left to right, are the members of the Panel Discussion "Ask a District President": District Presidents Rev. David Davis - Michigan, Rev. Mike Gibson - Pacific Southwest, Rev. Mike Lange - California Nevada Hawaii, Rev. Bill Harmon - Southeast, President Vinovskis, and Rev. Mike Von Behren - Northwest District.



LWML Convention May 1 - 3, 2026

The LWML-SELC is holding their convention in St. Louis, Missouri May 1 - 3, 2026. The theme of the convention is "Rivers of Living Water" based on the Bible verse: John 7:38 - Jesus declares, he that believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his belly will flow Rivers of Living Water.

The convention will be held at St. Lucas Lutheran Church at 7100 Morganford Road St. Louis, Missouri 63116. Overnight rooms are available at the River City Casino and Hotel and rooms must be reserved by **April 16, 2026 at 8:00AM** is the last day for guests to reserve their hotel rooms through the booking link **River City Hotel Booking Link** CODE: **STLC26E**. Individuals may also call 855-785-4263 for reservations using the same code STLC26E.



One of the speakers at the convention is Donna Snow. Donna worked in the legal field until she chose early retirement to focus on her passion. She now devotes full-time to her writing, teaching, and speaking ministry through Artesian Ministries, a nonprofit ministry dedicated to providing Bible studies and biblical materials to encourage people to study God's Word. Donna's passion is writing and teaching Bible studies.

Artesian Ministries is focused on the expository teaching of God's Word and practical application of His life-giving truths in our everyday lives.



LWML SELC DISTRICT 19th BIENNIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

St. Lucas Lutheran Church 7100 Morganford Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63116

"RIVERS OF LIVING WATER"

JOHN 7:38

May 1-3, 2026

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

(Each registrant must complete a separate registration form)

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX:

Registration form fields: Badge Name, Mailing Address, City/State/Zip, Phone, Email, Group, Church, Church City, Zone

Registration options: Group Delegate, General Registration, Guest Spouse, LWML SELC District President, LWML SELC District Board of Directors, Pastoral Counselor/Clergy, Young Woman Representative, Teen, Special Guest

Registration Choices (Includes a tote bag and manual)

NO EMAILED REGISTRATIONS AFTER APRIL 16, 2026

Table with 5 rows: 1. Registration \$125.00, 2. Late Registration \$130.00, 3. Teen Registration \$75.00, 4. Late Teen Registration \$80.00, 5. Guest Spouse (Meals Only) \$50.00

NO MEAL ORDERS AFTER APRIL 22, 2026

Total Payment \$.....

List any special needs/diets

Please make checks payable to LWML SELC District. Currently we are not able to accept credit card payments.

Mail this form(s) with payment to: LWML SELC District Treasurer, Stephanie Bailey, 737 Redwood Drive, Canal Fulton, Ohio 44614-8882, jlsb123@sssnet.com

Note: Please keep a photocopy of your completed registration form(s) for your records.

Confirmation will be emailed to all who register prior to April 24, 2026. NO REFUNDS AFTER APRIL 16, 2026



2026 Take Heart Scholarships Available

The Take Heart Scholarship was developed for high school seniors who will soon advance to your next level of higher education. During these times of excitement, anxiousness and uncertainty, "take heart!" As Christians, we cannot anticipate that life will be perfect or familiar, but when we feel that the world has become difficult, take comfort in knowing that our God has overcome it all!

As you begin your new journey, LCEF wants to assist your transition by offering financial support through the Take Heart Scholarship. Three individual awards are available: **\$3,000, \$1,000, and \$500**. Applications close May 1, 2026, and winners will be announced by May 30.

How to Apply

Complete the [application form](#).

In 1,000 words or fewer, answer this question in essay form:

Other than Jesus, pick one person from the Bible you would want to talk with for an hour. Why would you choose this person? What would you talk about? What questions would you ask them? What would you hope to learn?

Scholarship recipients will be selected based on the thoughtfulness and creativity of their response.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR
Scholarship Opportunity

High school seniors who have a Young Investors StewardAccount® with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) are eligible to apply for the Take Heart Scholarship. Answer this question, and you could receive up to \$3,000.

Other than Jesus, which person in the Bible would you love to talk with?



 • Recipients awarded up to \$3,000
• Apply by May 1, 2026
• Visit lcef.org/scholarship

 LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND

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. The recipients of this scholarship award will be notified by LCEF. Funds are awarded to be used to defray expenses for tuition, books, laboratory expenses and/or related educational expenditures. The award amount will be deposited into the student's LCEF investment. Any amount awarded will be taxable as ordinary income to the recipient to the extent it is not used for "qualified tuition and related expenses" under Section 117 of the Internal Revenue Code. Some expenses, such as room and board, will not qualify. The recipient should consult with his or her tax advisor regarding what expenses are "qualified tuition and related expenses" and to determine whether any part of the award will be taxable. If the recipient misrepresents any information, LCEF reserves the right to revoke the scholarship.



Registration open for Vocatio: April 12–15, 2026 Prospective Students Explore Path to Ministry

Vocatio: Retreat, an annual visit event held on campus at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**, is set for April 12–15, 2026. The three-day retreat offers college students and second-career adults an introduction to life as a seminarian.

The retreat provides opportunities for participants to explore preparation for service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain through time spent at worship services, in

conversation and at sessions focused on ministerial formation, with an optional fourth day to extend the visit. Participants will worship in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus, spend time in God's Word, engage in conversations with Seminary faculty and students, and explore the Seminary campus. The retreat also provides opportunities to connect with others who are discerning a similar call.

"The Lord of the harvest invites us to pray earnestly for more laborers to be sent into His harvest fields," said **Rev. Jesse Kueker**, director of Enrollment. "The fields are ripe, and for those discerning the possibility of serving the church as a pastor, deaconess, chaplain or missionary, Vocatio: Retreat offers the perfect opportunity to come, pray and get your questions answered. Please come! We cannot wait to welcome you, receive the Lord's gifts alongside you, and pray for you throughout all the steps ahead."

Registration is free and low-cost lodging options are available, but space is limited. The registration deadline is Sunday, March 22.



Mark Your Calendars

February 28, 2026 - LWML Mission Grant requests are due.

March 8, 2026 - Your congregation's Voters, Pastoral and lay, must be registered.

March 9 - 11, 2026 - Veterans of the Cross Gathering in Titusville, FL

March 19, 2026 - LWML in person and zoom monthly Bible study. 10:30 AM EST

May 1 - 3, 2026 - LWML District Convention in St. Louis, MO



Family Bible Journey

The family Bible journey podcast is walking through the pages of Isaiah, a mini Bible within the Bible. Learn how the book of Isaiah is an Old Testament summary of the entire scripture including 27 chapters of prophecy, promise and hope in a Messiah that correspondence perfectly with the 27 books of the New Testament.

Listen on your favorite podcast platform or go to the website 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!

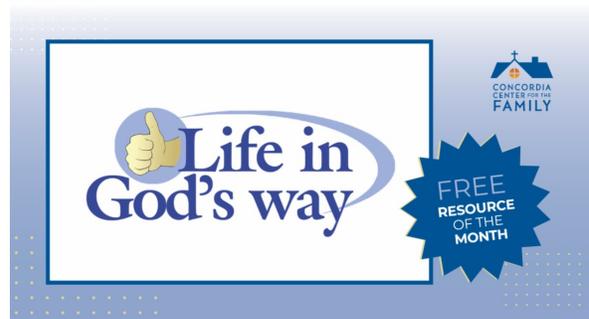


www.genysys-group.com



Center for the Family Resource

The second booklet from our Life in God's Way series, written by CCF Executive Director, Todd Biermann. This booklet emphasizes how deeply you are loved by God even when you fail to love Him, others, or even yourself. He continues to love you with a love that is perfectly sacrificial, unconditional, and incarnational. We see this love most clearly in one person. As the booklet states, "... the one true God still loves us perfectly and completely. He shows this most clearly as He became love in a living person. That person is Jesus Christ." So, in this month of February and Valentine's Day, we're giving you a word about Jesus, the one who loves you perfectly!



[Read it and even download it for later from HERE.](#)



- 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

Let's discover your financial path together

Meet your LCEF representative

lcef.org/SELC



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. 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, please pray for Pastor Kevin and Holly Duff, asking Him for peace and courage in coming months as doctors figure out course of treatments for brain tumors and other issues.

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, spent 7 days at UPMC Presbyterian Hospital MICU, Pittsburgh; received treatment for multiple blood clots in lungs; now recovering at home, while also receiving further treatment for chronic open wound on left foot, which may need future surgical care. Thanks for prayers and good wishes!

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. We praise the Lord for healing of 2019 colon cancer and 2024 metastasis to ovary. Praying for grace to live out God's callings, while watching and waiting to see Jesus 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.

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 **The Road to Calvary** What God gave up for Lent (John 3:16; Galatians 2:20; Romans 8:32) Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

The first recorded words of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel reflect deep awareness of our Brother-Savior's messianic mission. Imagine the sinless incarnate Son of God asking His blood-relative cousin, John, to undergo a "sinner's baptism" in order to fulfill every single aspect of God's saving righteousness in behalf of an otherwise woefully lost and fallen world -- this before successfully enduring without fail a lifetime of intense temptations to disobey His and our Heavenly Father (Matthew 3:15; 4:1-13; 21:28-32; 26:59ff.; Romans 5:19; Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 2:9-18; 4:15; 5:7-9; 1 Peter 18-20; 2:22; Revelation 7:9-17).

With the passing of Transfiguration Sunday and Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of another Lenten/Easter season and taking to heart our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus' repeated detailed predictions of His purely sacrificial death and glorious bodily resurrection as also inspired in Matthew's beautifully written Gospel, see for yourself in Matthew 16:21; 17:20; 20:28f. the eternal importance of obediently hearing the redemptive voice of the messianic prophet to come as foretold in Deuteronomy 18:15 and further revealed on the Mount of Transfiguration and Acts 3:23, 7:37 and 2 Peter 1:16-21).

Although relatively few may be familiar with the names of hymn-writers like 30 Year War contemporary Paul Gerhardt, Johann Heermann, or skilled translators like Catherine Winkworth, Christ's blood-bought Church has always found reason to *sing at any season of the year* or circumstances especially Lent. For example, well worth home devotional use year-round are LSB hymns 438-440: Pastor Gerhardt's "A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"(cf. 142, TLH); "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?" and "Jesus, I Will Ponder Now on Your Holy Passion."

Liturgically/sacramentally speaking, the **Agnus Dei** may conceivably be regarded as "the frosting on the cake" of our celebration of the precious baptismal faith-strengthening gift of our Lord's Supper as paradoxically with "repentant joy" we sing or say, "O Christ, **Lamb of God**, You do *take away* the sin of the world; have mercy upon us and grant us Your never-ending Easter Peace" also on our annual or weekly journey to Calvary's holy mountain and well beyond! **AMEN!**

Written in loving memory of Pastor Thomas Soltis



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

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

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



Try email marketing for free today!