



The Beacon Online

February 20, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 8

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

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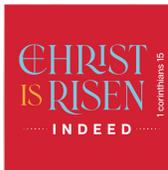


Ascension Lutheran Church Bids Adieu to Pastor Charles St-Onge

The congregation at Ascension Lutheran Church in Montreal held a thank you reception for Pastor St-Onge and his family following his last service prior to his moving to his new call on February 8, 2026. The mission work at Ascension has been busy and productive bringing many people, from a variety of cultures, to hear the words of the Bible and learn more about Christianity.



Pictured below on the left is the Jerusalem cross that was a gift to the St-Onge family. On the right is an album that commemorates the time the St-Onges served the mission at Ascension.



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.**



St. Luke's Concert Series A Salute to Ukraine

Join the St. Luke's Concert Series as we welcome the UCF Symphony Orchestra and their program "A Salute to Ukraine" on February 21st at 2 PM.

Music includes works by Myroslav Skoryk, Charlie Parker, and Peter Tchickovsky. Directed by Robert G Hasty, conductor.

WATCH ONLINE: youtube.com/@stlukesconcertseries



BRAVO for "Haven's Got Talent!"

Recently, our Fellowship Hall was filled with music, laughter, and enthusiastic applause as friends and neighbors gathered for an afternoon of entertainment and togetherness. Our residents took to the stage for another "Haven's Got Talent" performance to showcase their amazing abilities, delighting the audience with beautiful piano performances, lively "Haven Steppers" routines, and cheerful tunes from our ukulele group which is made up of both residents and staff.

It was a wonderful celebration of creativity and community spirit! One of the highlights of the afternoon was a stirring piano rendition of "God Bless America" which had the crowd proudly singing along while holding hands. The "Haven Steppers" had everyone smiling and tapping their feet as they performed to favorites like "Knee Deep" and "That'll Be the Day." The ukulele group also brought plenty of fun and sing-along moments with their charming "Donut Song," the beloved "You Are My Sunshine," and the heartwarming "Smile."



"Haven's Got Talent" was once again a roaring success and an afternoon of celebrating the community spirit and creativity of Lutheran Haven! A heartfelt congratulations to all who participated and helped make this event such a memorable and joyful afternoon. A huge "well-done" to all who took part and made the event such a memorable success! BRAVO!



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.



Concordia Lutheran Church Celebrates Scout Sunday

On February 8th Concordia in Macungie, PA celebrated Scout Sunday. The Scouts meet at Concordia every week. The Scouts read the Scout Law during the service and were present to answer questions and interact with the congregation after the service.



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



 TAKE HEART
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.



Deadline for LWML Mission Grant Request is February 28, 2026

Your 2026 - 2028 Mission Grant requests are due February 28, 2026. You can access the form by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions please contact the Mission Grant VP Karen Ann Kowalczyk, her contact information is on the form on the LWML-SELC website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



Mark Your Calendars

February 21, 2026 - 2 PM Salute to Ukraine St. Luke's Concert Series

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



Deadline for LWML Mission Grant Request is February 28, 2026

Your 2026 - 2028 Mission Grant requests are due February 28, 2026. You can access the form by clicking [here](#). If you have any questions please contact the Mission Grant VP Karen Ann Kowalczyk, her contact information is on the form on the LWML-SELC website, which can be accessed by clicking [here](#).



Family Bible Journey

God is faithful, even when His people are not. In each podcast, you will get to know the characters personally. We will learn how God works through successes and failures, highs and lows, in good and difficult times, for the blessing of His people.

With six Old Testament podcasts and three New Testament podcasts dropping each week, we will work through the Bible in two years. Each podcast is 7-14 minutes long, so you can listen in the car, working out or anywhere.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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Grace Place Podcast
Candid stories and spiritual encouragement for church workers.
lcef.org/listen

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND



Lutheran Summer Music Academy Applications Due March 1, 2026

LAST CALL for LSM 2026! Enrollment for this summer is over 80% full, but there's still time for young musicians to **apply**, and for you to **nominate students**. Lutheran Summer Music is the nation's premier faith-based music academy for high school musicians. Students come together from around the country for a joyful summer of music-making through large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, elective classes (conducting, composition, jazz, musical theatre, handbells, pipe organ) and use their musical gifts in performance, and in worship.

Nominate music students for LSM 2026



LSMacademy.org/nominate



Prayer Requests

We ask you to remember the family of Rev. Thomas Soltis who was Called to Glory on February 13th. WE also ask you to keep the family of Rev. Dr. Douglas Fountain in your prayers following his passing.

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, please pray for him as he receives treatment.

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 7 years of health,

from 2019 colon cancer surgery through 2024 removal of ovary (stage 4). Nita's life improves daily; doctors wait and watch without chemical therapy; our Savior-Doctor reigns!

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.

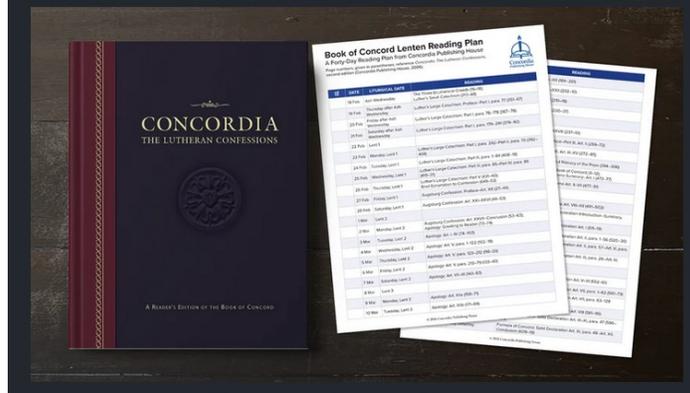
If you have people you would like to be included in the prayer list, please send the information to selc.lcms@gmail.com or call the District Office at 610-965-3265 and press 6.



Book of Concord Lenten Reading Plan

Book of Concord Lenten Reading Plan

Download a free PDF containing a forty-day reading plan for the Book of Concord for the season of Lent. This convenient guide offers calendar dates, liturgical dates, and daily readings, as well as checkboxes to mark each day's progress. Page numbers refer to *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions, second edition*.



To download your free Lenten reading plan, [click here](#)



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

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