



# The Beacon Online

March 6, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 10

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

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## **Congregations Must Register to Vote for Synod Elections Deadline is March 8, 2026**

**This is your opportunity to have a voice in the leadership of the Synod!**

**Congregations - YOU ARE the Synod. Please take time to participate in the process. Please VOTE!**

**Only 2 days left to register your congregation's voters for the LCMS Presidential election.**

You need to make sure your Pastoral Voter and Lay Voter from your congregation are registered to vote for the Synod President and Vice Presidents.

Please go to this website - <https://pvr.lcms.org/> to verify/update your two attesting officers. Please make sure all this information is correct.

There is a [step-by-step video](#) found here that will help you complete this important task!

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

<https://youtu.be/GRSUbZf2hb0?si=kzje8tzvT2mBkRcN>

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](mailto:Rosters.Stats@lcms.org) or by calling 314-996-1366. Please note that many congregations are contacting Rosters and they are quite busy. Do not wait until Friday to contact them.

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

Your votes from the SELC District count! Your vote plays a role that impacts who is elected to the Synod leadership positions and gives voice to the direction of mission and ministry of our Synod. Please exercise your right to vote and have input into who is elected the next President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



## **A Lenten Meditation**

Rev. John L. Telloni, Massillon, Ohio

Speaking words of comfort to the members of the Church in Corinth, St. Paul wrote, *"For your sake [God] made [His Son] to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God."* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

It is hard to fathom the depths of Jesus' suffering on Calvary. We confess that Jesus "carried" our sins up that lonely, agonizing hill, that He "died" for our sins, that He "paid" for them somehow on the cross – yes, paid for them with His human life. We also know that He took the punishment we deserved. We marvel with sorrowful awe over the physical pain and torture He endured during those six long hours nailed to that dry piece of wood pounded into the ground on Calvary's hill.

But can we imagine how Jesus became "sin" during His Good Friday sacrifice? And that God the Father "made" Him the personification of the object of His righteous wrath over sin – all for our sake – we who are guilty of unfaithfulness and trespasses?!

How far would you go to reconcile someone alienated from you? Or to rescue someone from certain death, especially if that person is your enemy? Parents will give up their very lives for their children. Soldiers will jump on a grenade to save their buddies in the trenches.

God hates sin and must punish it, destroy it, obliterate it. Throughout Scripture God reminds His people of His sure and certain judgment over the sin and guilt of His people. That judgment was exercised on Jesus in that sad hour on the tree. When God looked at Him whom He once called His *"beloved Son, in whom [He] is well pleased,"* as He hung breathless and lifeless between earth and heaven, He saw nothing but human sinfulness in all its awfulness and ungodliness! This is the great import of the words *"made Him to be sin who knew no sin."* Yes, for an eternal moment He "forsook"

Him to the abyss of hell.

This is the mystery of the atonement. Jesus, the innocent, now the guilty, the righteous, now the unrighteous. The Son of God absorbed hell's blows and destroyed the curse of sin and the power of death by His death so that *"in Him we might become the righteousness of God."* By Jesus' death we, the truly guilty and unrighteous, are viewed by our Father as righteous, Christ-like, reconciled.

Jesus rose from the dead to give the walking dead eternal life. The crucified and risen Savior now comes in Word and Sacrament to bestow that life to those who receive Him by Spirit-given faith.

Be what you are today – the righteous! May this Lenten season be filled with devotion – daily devotions, faithful worship on Sunday, feasting on the Sacrament, and fellowshiping with your dear brothers and sisters in Christ, and witnessing your faith in Christ with family and friends and others in word and deed.

I end with the first and last verses of a *"prayerful"* hymn appropriate for this solemn season:

*"O Christ of the Cross, You have  
died in our place;  
Your love and devotion are  
signs of Your grace.  
You love us, You save  
us Despite our great sins!  
Our only response is our  
praise now begins.*

*"O Christ of my life, You  
bestow truth and grace  
Through Gospel so clear I  
see even Your face!  
You wake me, You take  
me to Your path of love;  
Forgiven, empowered, I  
seek things above!"  
(John Telloni, @ 2002)*



## **Congregational Statistics are Due March 31, 2026**

The deadline has been extended a month

The annual congregational statistics are due to the Synod by March 31, 2026. If you are having trouble logging in to [lc.lcms.org](http://lc.lcms.org) or that need other assistance can use the on-screen help or email Rosters at [Rosters.Stats@lcms.org](mailto:Rosters.Stats@lcms.org) or call (314)996-1366 and Synod staff will assist them. If you need help, please wait to contact the Synod until Monday, March 9th after the Presidential Voting registration ends.



## A New Pathway for LCMS High School Seniors: CUC Announces Direct Admission Program

Concordia University Chicago recently announced its participation in the new Direct Admission program, sponsored by the Concordia University System (CUS). The Direct Admission program streamlines the application process for graduating seniors from any Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) high school, homeschool, or partner school. The program takes effect immediately for seniors in the class of 2026, with more robust offerings beginning in the 2026-27 academic year.

"Going from an LCMS high school to Concordia-Chicago should be as easy as moving from one room in the family home to another. It's all one family, one home, just different rooms. That's the goal of the Direct Admission program," said University President Dr. Russell Dawn. "The Direct Admission program is one of many ways that Concordia-Chicago stands tall for the Church."

In addition to Concordia-Chicago, other participating institutions include Concordia University, Nebraska; Concordia University, Saint Paul; and Concordia University Wisconsin.

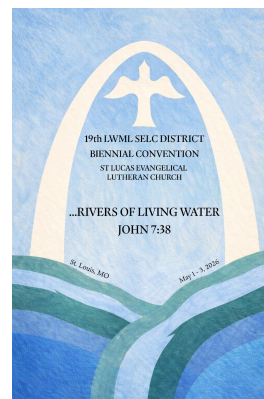
"To all our LCMS high school students, I would like to say that CUS universities are your universities," said Rev. Dr. Jamison Hardy, president of CUS. "Direct Admit is a great way for you to continue your studies at a university committed to the Lutheran confession of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you are considering college, consider attending a Concordia University System school. Direct Admit makes your move to college easier than ever."

Additional information regarding academic programs, scholarships, campus visits, and admission timelines is available at [cuchicago.edu](http://cuchicago.edu). Questions and information related to the Direct Admit program may be directed to Kyle Thoms, assistant vice president of undergraduate enrollment, at [kyle.thoms@cuchicago.edu](mailto:kyle.thoms@cuchicago.edu).



## 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 8:00 AM** 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.



Karol (Gill) Selle has a bachelor’s degree in **social studies** and a Lutheran Teacher Diploma from the Concordia Nebraska. She currently serves as vice president of special focus ministries for Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML). She now serves as editor for the LCMS North Wisconsin District’s supplement to The Lutheran Witness and serves as a substitute teacher in her local Lutheran school.

“I love being with others and love helping others with editing and writing. I truly love teaching, but retirement came!” she laughed. “I love witnessing to Jesus’ love for us, and always saying I am blessed!”



**LWML SELC DISTRICT 19<sup>th</sup> 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:

Badge Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name       First Name

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 NOTE: Your email address will not be shared. It is needed only for registration confirmation. Please print legibly.

Group \_\_\_\_\_

Church \_\_\_\_\_

Church City \_\_\_\_\_

Zone \_\_\_\_\_

Group Delegate

General Registration (LWML Member)

Guest Spouse – (Non LWML Member)

LWML SELC District President

LWML SELC District Board of Directors

Pastoral Counselor/Clergy

Young Woman Representative (Zone or District)

Teen (ages 12-17) State age \_\_\_\_\_

Special Guest (Please identify) \_\_\_\_\_

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Are you a first time LWML SELC District Convention attendee?     Yes     No

Registration Choices (Includes a tote bag and manual)

NO EMAILED REGISTRATIONS AFTER APRIL 16, 2026

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  
[jpb123@ssnet.com](mailto:jpb123@ssnet.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](http://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.



### Mark Your Calendars

**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

**March 31, 2026** - Congregational Statistics reports are due

**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](http://familybiblejourney.com).



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of journaling through the Bible.



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a church raise over \$500,000  
in four weeks!



[www.genysys-group.com](http://www.genysys-group.com)



## St. Luke's Concert Series America's 250th Tonight at 7 PM

The Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra presents a high-energy concert celebrating America's 250th. Featuring Aaron Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man and John Philip Sousa's The Stars and Stripes Forever, this joyful program honors history and heroism.

WATCH ONLINE: [youtube.com/@stlukesconcertseries](https://youtube.com/@stlukesconcertseries)



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## Let's discover your financial path together

Meet your LCEF representative

[lcef.org/SELC](http://lcef.org/SELC)



Your LCEF District Vice President (DVP) is

**John Hoover**

 314-276-3370

 [john.hoover@lcef.org](mailto: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

The SELC Family mourns with the family of Joel Elowsky at the passing of his brother, Paul. Paul passed away peacefully at home on February 14, 2026. Paul was a member of Faith Lutheran Church, Prescott, Michigan.

**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. Praise the Lord for 7 years of healing, the name *Jesus* is greater than *Cancer*. We thank Him for His presence in daily victories, while we all watch and wait 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](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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