



The Beacon Online

March 27, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 13

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

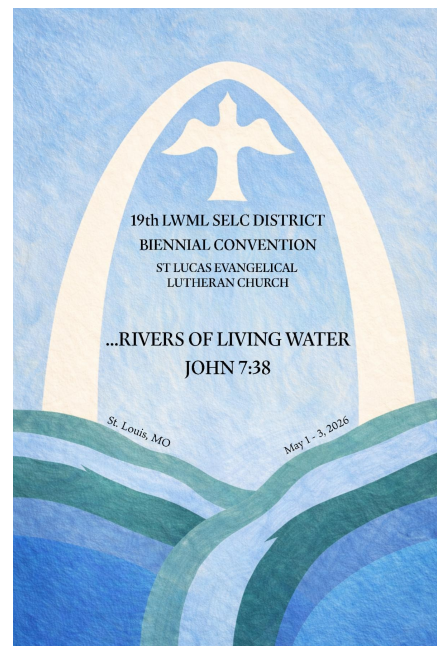
If you are a first time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. 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.



LWML-SELC Convention May 1 - 3, 2026 Only 3 weeks left to register!

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.





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:

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 _____

<input type="checkbox"/> Group Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> General Registration (LWML Member) <input type="checkbox"/> Guest Spouse – (Non LWML Member) <input type="checkbox"/> LWML SELC District President <input type="checkbox"/> LWML SELC District Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Counselor/Clergy <input type="checkbox"/> Young Woman Representative (Zone or District) <input type="checkbox"/> Teen (ages 12-17) State age _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Special Guest (Please identify) _____ <hr/> Are you a first time LWML SELC District Convention attendee? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> 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
jsb123@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



Congregational Statistics are Due

March 31, 2026

Only 4 days left to file your report

The annual congregational statistics are due to the Synod by March 31, 2026. If you are having trouble logging in to lc.lcms.org or that need other assistance can use the on-screen help or email Rosters at Rosters.Stats@lcms.org or call (314)996-1366 and Synod staff will assist them. If you would like to submit your statistics using a paper form, please email the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com



Concordia Center for the Family Training and Support

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, NOW with follow-up cohorts and coaching options, 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 added! **Find out about our 2026 trainings [HERE](#).** *Your District is offering funding to cover part of the cost of Training. Contact the SELC District office for more information.*

Also consider CCF's *Faith & Life Survey* tool to assess how well you're serving families and receive support as you seek to better serve them. Find out more [HERE](#). And please remember we have resources for you. You can head to our website or sign up for our weekly emails where we share resources by clicking [HERE](#).





Multiethnic Symposium

May 5 - 6, 2026

**Celebrating God's Love and
Faithfulness Across All Nations**



In the context of a multiethnic church, praise becomes a powerful witness to the rich tapestry of peoples who together glorify Him. Through expressions of praise in music, dance and art, the 2026 Multiethnic Symposium will explore how the church is equipped to bear witness to God's love and faithfulness across all nations. "Praise the Lord, all nations!" (Ps. 117:1 ESV).

Registration is now open for the 2026 Multiethnic Symposium, May 5-6, 2026 here at Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

Learn more on this YouTube video is an invitation from Dr. Ely Prieto: <https://youtu.be/oRHIS61bwh4?si=LZzmVI314PI25hg2>

Register <https://www.csl.edu/resources/continuing-education/multiethnic-symposium/>.



Called to Serve Event St. Luke's Lutheran Church Oviedo, Florida

Please join us for a meal and presentation by [Rev. Jesse Kueker](#), director of Enrollment, on the doctrine of vocation and the status of enrollment at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#).

Who should attend?

- Those exploring or interested in pursuing pastoral ministry
- The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) clergy and laity interested in helping recruit the next generation of church workers

St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School
Oviedo, FL
5-7 p.m. Saturday, May 23, 2026


There is no cost to attend, but space is limited. Please [register online](#) or by calling 800-822-9545.


2026 Take Heart Scholarships Available

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 educated 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: High School June 20–26, 2026

Students explore vocational ministry during on-campus visit

Vocatio: High School, an annual weeklong visit event for high school students held on the campus of **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**, is set for June 20–26, 2026. The visit provides an introduction to Seminary life and the ministerial formation process.

Specifically, the retreat offers young people the opportunity to explore the vocations of pastor and deaconess and consider future service in the church. Participants will engage in theological conversation, hear from Seminary professors and attend a Concordia University System college fair. Group sessions will focus on thoughtful conversation about the Lutheran faith, aspects of vocation and the call to pastoral or diaconal ministry. Participants also will walk through the admissions process, learn about the St. Louis area, and engage in some fun and recreation!

"As I went through high school, I thought about pursuing several different vocations, including helping with my dad's business, going into youth ministry or studying to become a Lutheran teacher. While the idea of becoming a pastor was on my mind as well, it wasn't until I visited the Seminary campus that the idea became a real possibility," said **Rev. Craig Reiter**, admissions officer. "It's a joy now to lead Vocatio: High School and I pray our youth are blessed by their time on campus and are encouraged toward considering church work like I was."

The registration fee is \$300, which includes lodging and meals. The deadline to **register** is May 15, 2026.



Mark Your Calendars

March 31, 2026 - Congregational Statistics reports are due

May 1, 2026 - Take Heart Scholarship Applications due

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

May 5 - 6, 2026 - Multiethnic Symposium, Concordia Seminary St. Louis

May 15, 2026 - Vocatio for high school students registration ends

May 23, 2026 - Called to Serve Event, St. Luke's Oviedo, Florida



Family Bible Journey

Join us as we explore the "New Testament of the Old Testament" in the Family Bible Journey. The last 27 chapters of Isaiah are full of hope and promise in the Messiah. We will even hear details of Christ's suffering and death that are more detailed than the gospel accounts!



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

Listen on your favorite podcast platform or go to the website familybiblejourney.com.



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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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

We ask for your prayers for the Teuscher family. Paula Teuscher, wife of Rev. Dr. Timothy Teuscher, President of Lutheran Church–Canada was called to His loving arms last week.

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

Rev. Wally Vinovskis, Macungie, PA, who is continuing his recovery from hip replacement surgery.

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, who is receiving physical therapy and is working on healing a foot injury he had before the hospitalization and blood clots.

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

Closing Thoughts
Jesus' Holy Week in an Unholy City for an Unholy World
Rev. Kenneth Ballas, EM

Try to recall enduring your most busy week ever in comparison with that of the world's only truly blessed sacrificial Substitute. Surely there is no comparison.

Entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday and again days immediately following and fully knowing what awaited Jesus in those self-appointed eventful hours, our sinless Brother-Savior willingly experienced for us all a week like no other!

The long-predicted road to Golgotha's Skull Hill (better known by many of us by its Roman Latin name of "Calvaria") by way of the unholy city's corrupted temple, a designated upper room for teaching His still much-to-learn chosen student-disciples (and us!) and, lest we forget, institution of

His New Testament Church's most Holy Supper was followed by Gethsemane's anguish of soul, unjust arrest, denial and sleepless night of ever condescending, unprecedented, physical and, yes, no less excruciatingly painful verbal humiliation all of which culminated in His substitutionary innocent suffering and death by crucifixion.

Ever teaching us even from His cross, thankfully the partially described events of that most holy week's required obedience even unto death for us baptized believers is thankfully not the end of the story. Our Church's Lenten/ Easter poets like Johann Herrmann say it so well in his passion hymn, "O Dearest Jesus, What Law Hast Thou Broken?" (Hymn 439, LSB):

What punishment so strange is suffered yonder!
The Shepherd dies for sheep that loved to wander
The Master pays the debt His servants owe Him,
Who would not know Him.

I'll think upon Thy mercy without ceasing,
That earth's vain joys to me no more be pleasing;
To do Thy will shall be my sole endeavor
Henceforth forever.

And when, dear Lord, before Thy throne in heaven
To me the crown of joy at last is given.
Where sweetest hymns Thy saints forever raise Thee,
I, too, shall praise Thee.



SELC District - A District Without Borders
Showing Everyone Life in Christ, by Showing
Everyone Love in Christ

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