



# The Beacon Online

April 10, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 15

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

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## **Lutheran Haven Resident, Carl Roth Makes National News!**

It was a full-circle moment for Carl Roth on his 108th birthday watching history being made with the launch of "Artemis 2" recalling his history with NASA!

What a celebration at Lutheran Haven for Carl Roth on his 108<sup>th</sup> birthday - particularly as we also celebrated the launch of the "Artemis 2" Mission to space on the same day! While Carl was in the military, he worked for the Naval Research Laboratory on satellite development and later went on to work at NASA during the 1960's with the Apollo Space Program. He managed the ground station which monitors all aspects of what it takes for successful launches. He continually communicated critical data from Telemetry to Mission Control toward the safety of many missions in space - including the 1969 history-making Apollo 11 mission where Astronaut Neil Armstrong landed on the moon!

As we celebrated with him, several local news media covered his story and his many contributions to our space



program. His story also aired on ABC news nationally and was even posted on Instagram! As Carl was being interviewed, he wore his Apollo 11 ball cap and a T-shirt that read: "108 looks GOOD on you!" He was asked by one of the reporters what it felt like to be 108 and in his usual humorous and humble style, Carl remarked, "Not much different than at 107!"



[Click here](#) to watch the news story.

[Click here](#) for a story on Instagram.



What a gift it was for everyone to not only celebrate this remarkable man who was surrounded by family and friends, but Carl also reminded us that it's been more than 50 years since we've sent astronauts on a mission to the moon. What a blessing for all of us to witness this full-circle moment, not only for him but for our nation as well as we anticipated the launch back to the moon that evening.

Carl, whose work helped put astronauts on the moon is a man who dedicated decades of his life to the safety of space flight. He spoke so eloquently of the technological developments that we enjoy today often came out of our missions to space. Carl was a part of the team that made communicating with astronauts possible. When Neil Armstrong famously said, "One step for man, one giant leap for mankind," Carl said, "I didn't really feel the impact of that at the time because I was more concerned with making sure the equipment was working right!"

With the "Artemis 2" program, Carl's life comes full circle at the remarkable age of 108 as humanity once again aims to return to the moon. "They are building Artemis to land





## New Lutheran Haven Video



We are excited to announce a new Lutheran Haven video that focuses on what Lutheran Haven is and who it serves. It also speaks about the relationship Lutheran Haven has with the SELC District and with St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School. Many thanks to LCEF who produced the video to share with anyone looking to learn more about what Lutheran Haven is all about!

To view the video, please [click here](#).



## The Apostolic Fathers Educational Opportunity Dr. Joel Elowsky August 10 - 12, 2026 in Macungie, PA

Dr. Joel Elowsky will be in Macungie, PA to lead a study of the primary literature of the Apostolic Fathers with application to the life of the church today. The study will primarily focus on the texts themselves, with attention given to issues of authorship, dating, the integrity of the text and the occasion for the writing, as well as major theological, ecclesiological and social issues that the writings address, such as martyrdom, church order, orthodoxy and heresy, and early Christian rituals.

Dr. Elowsky is a member of the SELC District and is the professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is the director of the Seminary's Center for the Study of Early Christian Texts and is a researcher for the Center for Early African Christianity at the Oden House in New Haven, Conn. He has been a faculty member at Concordia Seminary since 2014. His interests and areas of expertise include early church studies, the history of exegesis, mission work and African Christianity.

The course will be held from August 10 - 12, 2026 at [Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA](#). The schedule is

August 10 - 1 PM - 4 PM

August 11 - 9 AM - 4 PM

August 12 - 9 AM - 12 noon

Registration is \$160 and you must register by July 27, 2026. Please contact [District President W.R. Vinovskis](#) with any questions.

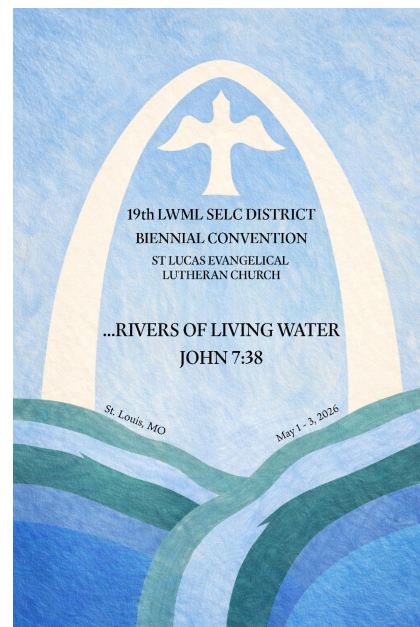
[Click here to register](#)



## LWML-SELC Convention May 1 - 3, 2026 Register by April 16th

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 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 \_\_\_\_\_

<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)	
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  
[ijsb123@ssnet.com](mailto:ijsb123@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



## La Dolce Vita Sip and Bid Event Held to Benefit Holy Cross Lutheran Academy in Sanford, Florida

Holy Cross Lutheran Academy held a fundraising event on March 27th to benefit the school. The SELC District Vice President for LCEF, John Hoover, sponsored a table at the event. Several of our Southern Circuit Pastors and their wives attended the event - Pastor Troy Countryman and his wife Andrea, Pastor James Fernandez and his wife Jackie, Pastor Ben Hoyer and his wife Megan, Pastor Russ Peterson and his wife Jen, and John Hoover and his wife Jamie. Thank you to LCEF for their support of the Holy Cross Lutheran Academy.



Pictured above, from left to right: Jackie and Pastor James Fernandez and Pastor Troy Countryman and his wife Andrea.



Pictured above is Jen and Pastor Russ Peterson.

Pictured below is the HCLA Band



Pictured below are the Silent Auction table and the stage.



## 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 interested in pursuing a career in church work...
- 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

Applications are due by May 1, 2026

**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?**



**TAKE HEART SCHOLARSHIP**

- Recipients awarded up to \$3,000
- Apply by May 1, 2026
- Visit [lcef.org/scholarship](http://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

**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

**August 10 - 12, 2026** - The Apostolic Fathers, Concordia Macungie, PA



## Family Bible Journey

Paul's letters to Timothy and Titus are now referred to as the Pastoral Epistles because they were written to young pastors who are being trained by Paul to lead congregations. Learn how the lessons he taught 2000 years ago are just as appropriate for Christians, Pastors, and congregations today.

Listen on your favorite podcast platform or go to the website [familybiblejourney.com](http://familybiblejourney.com).



Join the journey  
of journaling through the Bible.



Is your church considering how to make a greater impact in your community? Talk to the professionals at [genysysgroup.com](http://genysysgroup.com) to learn how our teams of consultants are equipping churches to make real impact in their community for Christ and the blessing of those they serve.



### 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

**Christ Has Risen!**  
**Alleluia!**



LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EXTENSION FUND

JOHN HOOVER  
LCEF District Vice President | English & SELC  
314-276-3370 | john.hoover@lcef.org



## Prayer Requests

**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. He is back to work, and he appreciates all of the prayers from the District.

**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. Mrs. Ballas is recovering from a fall at home.

**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](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

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

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