



The Beacon Online

April 17, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 16

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.



St. Stephen Lutheran Church Hosts Mission Sunday

The second Sunday of Easter at St. Stephen's was also Martin Luther's Evening Prayer Radio and Podcast Mission Sunday in Dickson City, PA. They hosted Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile and his wife Barbara. Dr. Zeile preached on Sunday, and the congregation had the opportunity to meet and speak with Dr. Zeile.



Support & Listen to


Martin Luther's Evening Prayer

Radio & Podcast

presented by Dr. Richard Zeile, LC-MS 810.215.1019


A half-hour of Preaching, Worship, and Hymns from the Confessional Lutheran Church to renew YOUR faith in the Christ of the Bible.

(This ministry is made possible by your gifts to)
Martin Luther's Evening Prayer, LLC
P. O. Box 85, Fenton, MI 48430
(email) martinlutherseveningprayer@gmail.com
(website) www.martinlutherseveningprayer.net



SCAN ME for the Podcast! Now on 20 radio stations



Dr. Richard Zeile 

Martin Luther's Evening Prayer
 Station Log Dec. 1, 2025

City/State	Station	Frequency	Day/Time
Detroit, MI	WRDT	am680	Sun. 6:30pm
Detroit, MI	WKMM	am1440	Mon. 8pm
Evansville, IN/Cincinnati	WKID	fm95.9	Sun. 6:30pm
Wilkes-Barre, PA	WTK	fm94.7	Thur. 7pm
Scranton, PA	WTK	am1550	Thur. 7pm
Philadelphia, PA/Wilmington, DE/Trenton, NJ	WNWR	am1540 & fm95.3	Sun. 7pm
Richmond, VA	WDZY	am1290 & fm103.3	Fri. 8am
Ashville, NC	WSKY	am1230 & fm102.9	Sun. 2pm
Waynesville, NC	WEZZ	am970 & fm97.5	Sun. 2pm
Memphis, TN	WUMY	am830 & fm105.5	Sun. 7:30pm
Council Bluffs, IA	KLNG	am1569	Sat. 6:30pm
Omaha, NE	KLNG	fm101.5	Sat. 6:30pm
Dallas/Ft. Worth, TX	KCLE	am1460, fm95.7 & fm83.1	Sat. 4am & Sun. 10am
Bakersfield, CA	KERI	am1410	Sun. 10:30am
Miami, FL	WRMI	International Short Wave	77.80/157.70mghz Mon.5pm (EST)

PODCAST anytime Buzzsprout.com/34718, or Spotify



The Last St. Luke's Concert of the Season is Saturday Evening!

Join St. Luke's for our season finale of our concert series featuring the Orlando Concert Band. This year's theme is Inspired by the Sea. Don't miss this special closing performance of the season! The concert begins at 7:00 PM Saturday evening.

You can [click here](#) to watch the concert on YouTube

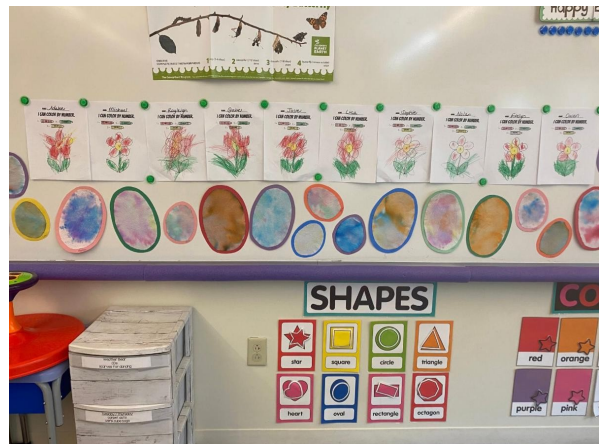




Concordia Preschool Holds Family Night in Macungie

Concordia Preschool in Macungie, PA hosted Family Night for the preschool families and the congregation. The preschool students had an opportunity to give their families a tour of their school and to show them their classroom and what they have been working on. From symmetrical butterflies to flying mosaic dinosaurs in the hallways, the students had a lot to share!

In addition, there was a basket raffle and two food trucks were there to feed everyone delicious food and yummy ice cream.





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](#)

The flyer is a rectangular graphic divided into several colored sections. At the top left is the "PROF INSIGHTS FACULTY-LED WORKSHOP SERIES" logo. Below it, on a light green background, is the text "AUG 10-12 2026". To the right of this, on a red background, is the title "The Apostolic Fathers" in yellow. At the bottom left, on an orange background, is the address: "Concordia Lutheran Church, 2623 Brookside, Macungie, PA 18062". On the right side of the flyer is a portrait of Dr. Joel Elowsky, a man in a suit and tie, smiling. Below the portrait, on a teal background, is his name and title: "Dr. Joel Elowsky, Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis".



Women's Monthly Bible Study

The monthly in-person and zoom Bible study will be held on May 21st at 10:30 AM ET. To access the zoom link, [click here](#). The **May 21st** study will be "Who Is My Neighbor And What Does This Mean?" from the Lutheran Women's Quarterly on page 18 and **June 18th** will be "Out of Sight But Not Out of Mine" on page 22.



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?



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



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: 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 21, 2026 - LWML monthly zoom Bible study at 10:30 AM

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.



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 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!



- 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

Two Podcasts. One Goal.

Stronger Church Workers and Ministries

Ministry Moments Podcast
Real conversations about vision, planning and ministry health.
lcef.org/forward

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



Prayer Requests

Rev. David Triplett, North Ridgeville, OH, had cervical fusion surgery on February 27th and is still recovering with post-surgery complications within the Cleveland Clinic System in Cleveland Ohio.

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



Closing Thoughts The Gospel in a Nutshell

Rev. Kenneth M. Ballas, EM

The background is a story in itself, it happened many years ago on a beautiful Canadian Sunday morning not far from the Lake Superior port city of Thunder Bay, Ontario, as overnight guests at the comfortable summer cottage of current Lutheran Haven resident, Sylvia Marcis and her sainted husband, long-time SELC District President, Dr. Al Marcis.

In the absence of a local pastor that Lord's Day at what was locally known as the "Lappie(?) Finnish Lutheran Church," five minutes before the beginning of the well-attended 10 am worship service, President Al said to me, "Kenny, you preach!" Okay. Unencumbered by a written manuscript, I was blessed to deliver a textual life-related message to God's redeemed people and good neighbors to the north based on the "The Familiar Five Verbs of John 3:16."

For God so loved the world with the result that He gave His one and only special Son in order that whoever continues to believe in Him not perish but have or be the possessor of eternal life (note also verse 17).

This is the Gospel of our blessed loving and ever-living LORD!

Thank you for your continuing prayers! K & L



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!