



The Beacon Online

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

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LERT Basic Training Available

Family of Christ Lutheran Church in Tampa FL is sponsoring a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) BASIC CHAINSAW TRAINING on Saturday, June 27, 2026. This training is intended to increase LERT volunteer's skills, knowledge and safety in chainsaw operation so they can provide a critical service to those who do not have the skills or means to perform this dangerous work following a disaster. The training is for those who want to operate a chainsaw on a LERT event. It is being held at:

Family of Christ Lutheran Church, 16190 Bruce B Downs Blvd, Tampa, FL
33647 (Building 3)

Participants may arrive at the site at 7:30 a.m. to register. Class will begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. and conclude at 4:30 p.m. Your LERT Trainer will distribute all material for, and after, the class.

You must have previously completed the LERT Basic Training Class to participate in this class.

During the morning classroom training, participants will learn:

- Safe operation of a chainsaw
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Injury prevention
- How to buck and limb storm-damaged trees
- How to properly clear debris in a safe and beneficial manner and
- Proper saw maintenance

The afternoon session is hands-on training in field chainsaw operation, where participants will learn and demonstrate chainsaw skills. This training is limited to 10 participants.

To be an authorized LCMS LERT Chainsaw Operator and use a chainsaw on LERT disaster response sites, you must attend BOTH the morning classroom and afternoon "hands-on" sessions.

Class registration must be made at www.lcms-lert.org

Cost of Training:

- Registration (includes training, lunch and snacks) -- \$50. (Couples: \$85)
- Pay at the time of training; Checks payable to "Family of Christ Lutheran Church – LERT" or [pay online at FGLER.org](http://payonlineatfgler.org)

Participants should bring (if you have them):

- Chainsaw, bar oil, gas/oil or synthetic fuel mix.
- Chaps and other Personal Protective Equipment (helmet, eye protection, ear protectors, gloves, and steel-toe boots).
- Participants must wear steel-toed boots. Tennis shoes or sandals/flip-flops are not allowed in the afternoon field session.
- Outdoor work clothes and boots appropriate for the weather at the time. Shorts are not allowed.

LCMS LERT Chainsaw Trainer Joel Mathews will lead the training event.

If more information is needed, contact the site coordinator, Donnie Moore, dmoore@familyofchrist.org, 615-981-1162 (Cell / Text)



Memorial Service for Rev. Thomas Soltis is Scheduled

The memorial service for Rev. Tom Soltis will be held on June 8, 2026 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Parma, OH. The service will begin at 7 PM.



SELC—LCMS STUDENT AID COMMITTEE POLICY The Application Deadline is August 15

Dear Friends in Christ:

The SELC Student Aid Committee is dedicated to provide financial assistance to students from our district congregations who are preparing for full-time church work at our synod's colleges, universities, and seminaries. The members of the Student Aid

Committee are appointed by the President and Board of Directors and are currently served by Chairman John Glanzer (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL) and Secretary Rev. Kevin McLeod (Resurrection, Malvern, OH).

Students planning to attend or are currently attending our synod's colleges, university, and seminaries (and are enrolled in full-time church work programs) should complete the accompanying application in order to apply for the SELC scholarship assistance.

Students receive the grants once per year, typically for the academic year that begins in September and ends in May or June of the following year. The SELC District Application for Financial Aid must be filled out and returned each year that the student is enrolled in the institution. This form is separate from the District Financial Aid Form which the university or seminary uses; although, this form is also sent to the Student Aid Committee.

It is the student's responsibility to apply for aid. In addition to any scholarship aid granted by the district, we also hope you have inquired if your congregation provides financial assistance as well. Many of our congregations have scholarship funds for students preparing for full-time church work.

We are grateful to the Lord that the SELC Board of Directors and our congregations have demonstrated their concern for future church workers by allocating generous funds for financial assistance in the district's budget. If you have any questions or concerns about any aspect of our district's financial aid program, please do not hesitate to contact me or Rev. Kevin McLeod.

Sincerely,

John Glanzer, Chairman
SELC District Student Aid Committee
jglanzer@slcs.org

Rev. Kevin McLeod, Secretary
SELC District Student Aid Committee
kamcleod99@yahoo.com

[Click here](#) for the overview and application.



Registration Opens for 2026 Fall Online Greek Course

Registration is now open for **Online Greek: Part I** for the 2026 fall semester at **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** (CSL). The dates for the fall semester are Aug. 24-Dec. 11. Tuition is \$1,200 and the registration deadline is Aug. 1. Class size is limited to 15 students.

This noncredit course primarily serves three groups of prospective students: Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program graduates continuing to the General Pastor Certification (GPC) track, applicants to the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) Program and applicants to the Residential Alternate Route (RAR) Program. The course prepares students for the Entry Level Competency Exam (ELCE) in Greek, a prerequisite for admission to these programs.

If space remains after SMP-GPC, M.Div. and RAR students have enrolled, others interested in learning Greek may register. While the course has no prerequisites and is not for credit, a solid understanding of English grammar is essential.

Dr. John Genter, who will join the faculty of CSL as an associate professor of Exegetical Theology beginning July 2026, will lead the course. Genter currently teaches Greek at Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb., and previously served as a visiting professor at CSL in 2021. He earned his Ph.D. from Baylor University in Waco, Texas, where he also taught and contributed to four volumes of the "Baylor Handbook on the Greek New Testament" series and a recent Bible translation project.

Genter will shepherd students through the course using the textbook and videos developed by former instructor **Dr. James Voelz**, professor emeritus of Exegetical Theology. Students will receive instruction, correction and insights as they prepare for the ELCE and build a foundation for reading the New Testament in Greek.

The course includes live online tutoring sessions from 4-5 p.m. (CT) Mondays and Thursdays, beginning Aug. 24. Students should expect to dedicate eight hours per week to study. Registration for Online Greek: Part II, offered in spring 2027, will open in October.

Required textbooks:

- **"Fundamental Greek Grammar", 4th rev. ed.** (Concordia Publishing House, 2019)
- **"Novum Testamentum Graece", 28th ed.** (German Bible Society, 2012)

In addition to this online course, CSL also offers residential Greek courses during the summer term.

For more information, contact Rev. Joel Heckmann, admissions officer, at 314-505-7224 or heckmannj@csl.edu. For registration inquiries, contact Gina Matzenbacher, assistant registrar, at 314-505-7107 or matzenbacherg@csl.edu.



Discover the 2026 Lutheran Summer Music Season

Lutheran Summer Music is thrilled to announce its 2026 season, featuring over 40 free concerts, recitals, and worship services open to the public.

Hosted at St. Olaf College from June 21 to July 19, this season offers a vibrant lineup of musical experiences, also shared online via Live from LSM—bringing this summer's transformational work to audiences around the world.

Highlights this season include a guest appearance by **Cantus**, a series of events dedicated to the music of J.S. Bach—including the **St. Matthew Passion**—the inaugural **LSM Choral Gathering**, the **Alumni Gathering**, and music celebrating the United States Semi-quintennial.

[Click here](#) to explore the catalog.





Rev. John L. Telloni Retirement

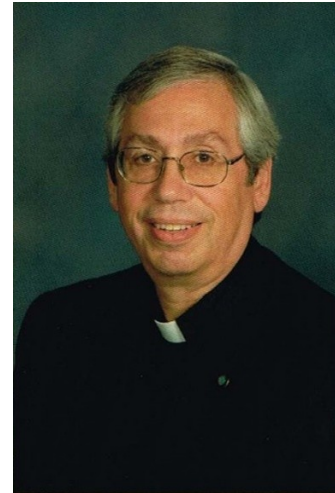
On Sunday June 28, 2026, Rev. John L. Telloni will preach his final sermon at St. John Lutheran Church Massillon.

You are invited to join us in celebrating his 39 years of service and bid him farewell! A special luncheon will be held following the 10am Divine Service at St John Lutheran Church 1900 Wales Road NE Massillon, Ohio 44646

Cards and expressions of memories, blessings, and well wishes may be sent C/O Pastor Telloni to:

Mary Kay Pershing at 2717 Eaton Dr NW, Canton Ohio 44708.

or email at mkpikulik@sbcglobal.net



Honduras Mission Connection

The Honduras Lutheran Mission Network, which has partnered with Faith *Viera*, Rockledge, FL and St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL, establishes a formal support system for U.S. churches, equipping them with resources and training to engage in missions that strengthen both Honduran and American congregations. It seeks to connect God's people to His mission by using global partnerships to awaken believers to opportunities for discipleship both abroad and in their everyday lives. Rather than focusing solely on mission trips, the network emphasizes building relationships across borders that deepen faith and strengthen the Church on both sides. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pastor Micah Steiner at Msteiner@oflc.net.



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.

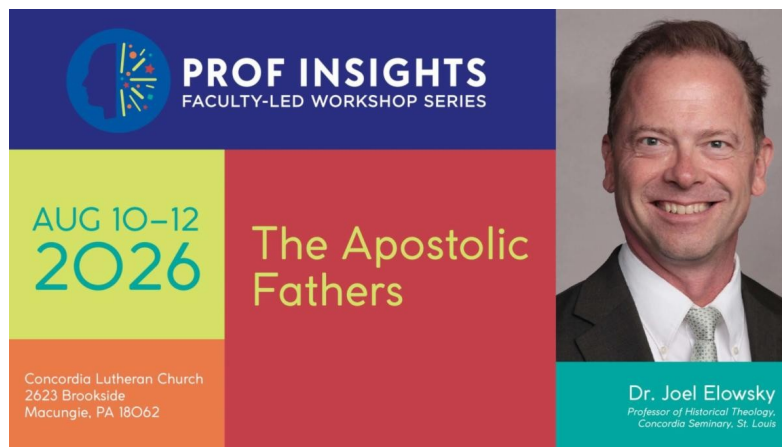
Dr. Elowsky is a member of the SELC District and is the professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He also is the director of the Seminary's Center for the Study of Early Christian Texts and is a researcher for the Center for Early African Christianity at the Oden House in New 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](#)



Family Bible Podcast

Love and Strength,
Jeremiah 11-12

The love of the Lord is our strength! In these chapters, we hear a beautiful description of the Lord's love that went all the way through the cross and the grave to earn our salvation. We draw strength from His love when we struggle in this life, because Christ has overcome the world! In Him, even when we lose, or feel like we're losing, we still win! Listen on your favorite podcast platform or go to the website familybiblejourney.com.



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



Women's Monthly Bible Study

The monthly in-person and zoom Bible study will be held on June 18th at 10:30 AM ET. To access the zoom link, [click here](#). The **June 18th** session will be "Out of Sight but Not Out of Mine" on page 22.



Mark Your Calendars

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

June 8, 2026 - Memorial Service for Rev. Thomas Soltis at Holy Trinity, Parma, OH at 7 PM

June 18, 2026 - LWML monthly zoom Bible study at 10:30 AM

June 28, 2026 - Retirement service for Rev. John Telloni

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



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A landscape illustration featuring a range of mountains in the background and several evergreen trees in the foreground, all rendered in a soft, painterly style.

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Prayer Requests

Mrs. Joyce Ongstad, widow of Rev. Chris Ongstad, who cancer has metastasized. She will begin targeted chemotherapy. Please pray for her strength, patience, and healing as she deals with a new treatment plan. She is thankful for her supportive family.

Rev. David Triplett, North Ridgeville, OH, had cervical fusion surgery on February 27th and is receiving rehab treatment provided by Cleveland Clinic with the goal of being discharged soon.

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.

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.



SELC District - A District Without Borders

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

SELC District of LCMS

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Macungie, PA 18062
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