



The Beacon Online

May 8, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 19

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

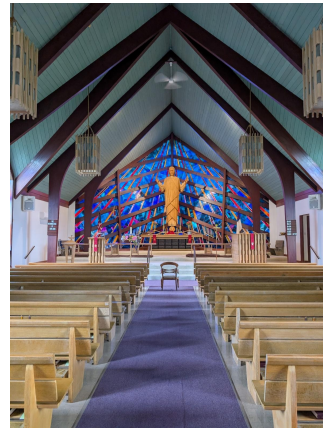
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Rev. Peter Haenftling Installed in Multi-Parish in Northeast Pennsylvania

Rev. Peter Haenftling was installed as the Pastor of the Dual Parish of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church (SELC District) and Saint Peter's Lutheran Church (Eastern District), both in Northeastern PA, on Saturday, May 2, 2026 at Saint Peter's Lutheran Church in Hanover Twp, PA. A large number of people from both congregations were in attendance for the service. Rev. Christopher Cahill, Second Vice President of the SELC District, was the preacher; he also installed Pastor Haenftling. Rev. Ray Malec, Eastern Circuit Visitor of the SELC District, was the liturgist. Pastor Haenftling was the celebrant for Holy Communion.

Pictured on the right standing are Pastor and Mrs. Haenftling and seated is Pastor Haenftling's mother and son.





Pictured left from left to right are Rev. Alan Dass, Rev. Peter Richert, Rev. Raymond Malec and Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill.



Lutheran Haven Mother's Day Appeal



"Generations of Caring and Caring for Generations" is not just a slogan at Lutheran Haven. It truly reflects the lives of many of our residents who share a long history of family and friends who have chosen the Haven as their home. **Each story is unique, but all share the common thread of deeply caring for one another in a place that deeply cares for them.**

Lutheran Haven is honored to share Marilyn von Schlichten's heartfelt memories with you:

"I first heard about Lutheran Haven in the early 1970's when my mother-in-law, Louise von Schlichten moved to the Haven. Through her, my husband Bill and I learned of the vision to help retired Lutheran pastors and teachers. (Bill's father was a missionary pastor in India and served as a military chaplain in Germany). By the early 1980's, my parents, Bill and Charlotte Lohse also moved to the Haven.




Through our many visits over the years, we were impressed with the friendliness and care given to the residents. I live by the saying "God is in control" and I believe that every day. The Lord has blessed me and my loved one's lives so much. That's why we decided long ago to become donors to Lutheran Haven.

In 2000, Bill and I decided to invest in a trust fund that would benefit Lutheran Haven in the future. After 25 years, I decided to give the trust fund to the Haven to benefit the Restricted Endowment Fund for Benevolent Care and the Aging-In-Place initiative. This will assist residents in need for years to come.



Throughout the years I've thought of our parents and especially our moms on Mother's Day and how they were so well cared for and loved living at the Haven. It brings me such comfort now that they're with the Lord. Some say the "Haven" is just short for "Heaven" and I witnessed that for many years. That's why my husband and I shared such a passion for this mission and ministry.







Out of thanks to God for His many blessings, I/we enclose a gift to The Lutheran Haven Foundation for:
 General Benevolent Care

Name (s) _____
 Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-Mail _____
 Church Affiliation _____

Payment: My check payable to LHF is enclosed

Please return this card with your gift in the enclosed envelope.
 Credit card donations can be made directly through our website by visiting lutheranhaven.org. Just click on the Faithful giving tab on the menu bar. You can also scan our QR Code and it will take you directly to Faithful Giving.


Thank you for your kindness.

I have already included Lutheran Haven In My Estate Plan.

I would like more Information on the following:

- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Including Lutheran Haven in my Estate Plan

For your privacy, Lutheran Haven Foundation does not release personal information to third parties.

Happy Mother's Day
The mission of Lutheran Haven is to provide a quality, Christ-centered haven of care for older adults.





Additional Call Day Pictures

We wanted to share more pictures from last week's Call Day at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, MO. Pictured below on the left are members of the Council of Presidents getting ready for the start of the Call Day service at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.



Pictured below on the left is Garrett Robison and his family with President Vinovskis. Pictured on the right is Eddie Krez who was the Vicar at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School, 2024 - 2025, who received a call as Associate Pastor to St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, MI. We ask for prayers for all who received calls and for the congregations where they are called to serve.



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 Semiquincentennial.

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





Rev. John L. Telloni Retirement

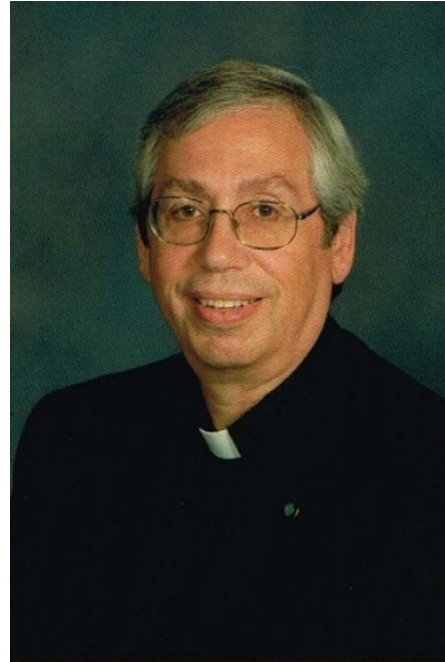
On Sunday June 28, 2026, Rev. John L. Telloni will preach his final sermon at St. John Lutheran Church Massillon.

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.

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.



A New Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Center is Opening

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat (a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS) is in the process of closing on a new Missouri property, and their first Missouri retreat is scheduled for June 9–16, 2026. Additional retreat dates for both Missouri and Arizona can be found here: <https://www.shepherdscanyonretreat.org/2026>

The property is located in the northeast corner of Missouri near the Iowa and Illinois borders. Its location is within driving distance of roughly a dozen states, making it especially accessible for many church workers in the Midwest and beyond. This property is part of a pilot model intended to keep year-round overhead costs low while still providing a meaningful setting for retreat ministry. Under this model, the two therapists and chaplain will serve at the property throughout the day while staying at a nearby hotel overnight.

It may be most helpful to think of this property as a parsonage-style ministry home that can host several retreats each year, rather than as a full-sized, year-round retreat center with a large full-time staff like they have in Arizona.

This Missouri location, and potentially others like it in the future, is intended to include a host couple (most likely a retired pastor and his wife) who would live in a portion of the home. In exchange, they would serve as the on-site hosts during retreat weeks and help represent the ministry throughout the year by speaking at area churches, attending church worker conferences, and building relationships with supporters in the region.



**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](#)



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.



The DOXOLOGY Classic Series June 1-4, 2026

DOXOLOGY is a professional continuing education program for LCMS pastors, their wives, and congregational lay leaders. Participants consistently describe it as transformational for both life and ministry.

The DOXOLOGY Classic Series (June 1-4 in Wichita, Kansas) offers advanced training designed to:

- Strengthen pastors for the holy calling of shepherding souls
- Ground learning in the classic care of souls
- Integrate insights from contemporary Christian psychology
- Provide time for meaningful conversation, encouragement, and worship

The next Classic Series begins June 1st. We hope you'll prayerfully consider joining your brother pastors in being renewed and refreshed for the work of the Gospel.

Registration & Grants

- Tuition: \$2,900
 - Covers 10 days of instruction, lodging and meals for pastors (three events)
 - Covers instruction, lodging and meals for wives and lay leaders
- **LCMS Worker Wellness Retreat grants provide assistance for pastors who desire to participate in a retreat program. Please complete an online form to apply for a grant. Inform your District President about your interest and then [apply online at this link](#).**
- Thanks to generous LCMS grants every registration is a fraction of the true cost.
- Additional district, LCMS, LWML, and PALS grants available. Visit the registration pages for more information on these opportunities.



Concordia Preschool Celebrates Teachers as Students Welcome Their Teachers



Concordia Lutheran Preschool in Macungie, PA celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week and the children honored their teachers throughout the week. Each day was a different activity or treat for the teachers. On the right is a student standing the artwork she helped color with chalk thanking the teachers as they arrived at school.

The preschool also had each student give their teacher flowers on the way into class thanking them for helping the children grow and bloom!



Pictured below on the left are students who visited the Fish Hatchery and on the right is the breakfast that awaited the teachers on their arrival at school.



The SELC District appreciates all the teachers who are in the District, those who are currently teaching and for those who have retired, all who have had an impact on the lives of so many children in our District.



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.



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 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

In the military, there is a clear chain of command. Everyone knows to whom they report. IN this life of competing allegiances, how can we live confidently, trying to please all who are over us? By endeavoring to serve Christ in all things. we will be fulfilled and approved. Listen to A Worker Approved by God, from II Timothy 2



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.

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



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!



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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. Rates as of May 2026. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.



Prayer Requests

We ask for your prayers for the family of Daniel McLean, the husband of Deaconess Emily McLean, as they prepare for his Memorial Service on May 9th and for God to be with the family as they mourn his death and find comfort that he is in God's loving arms.

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 later this month.

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
610-965-3265

Contact Us
selc.lcms@gmail.com

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