



The Beacon Online

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

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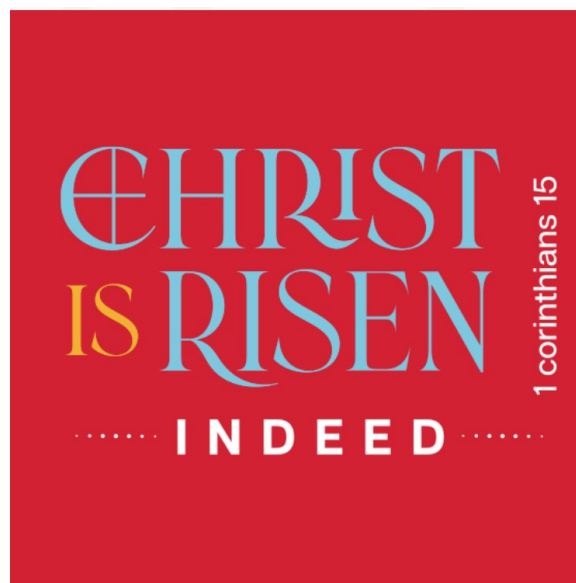


Synod President Elected on Third Ballot

The election for the Synod President is complete. Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison has been elected with 50.1% of the votes received. Rev. Dr. Joel Biermann received 47.9% of the vote.

Ninety-two percent of eligible voters completed the third round of voting compared to 85.4 % in the first round and 88.4% in the second round of voting.

President Harrison commented following the announcement of his election to his sixth term - *"Thank you for this amazing opportunity to serve a final term. Please forgive me my many faults and sins. I plead for your prayers for fidelity to the Gospel of Christ's blood-bought forgiveness, and prayers that I may serve all of you as Christ would have me do in these final three years."*





A Fundraiser for Lutheran Haven!



Corn Fest was once again a great success in raising funding to refurbish our handbells for our amazing Hand Bell Choir! Our handbells are quite old, and refurbishment has been drastically needed. Our amazing Lutheran Haven Bell Choir performs throughout the year, but especially at Christmas. This is a well-loved and long-standing tradition to hear these exquisite bells that never fail to put a smile on people's faces. They truly create a joyful noise!

Corn Fest was organized by the Foundation Resident Advisory Committee and was held on June 5th with just under 200 in attendance. This was a free lunch thanks to our many donors and everyone who gave to our Silent Auction and Raffle. Residents enjoyed a delicious lunch of pulled chicken, corn on the cob, BBQ beans, coleslaw, cornbread and watermelon. We also received so many gifts for our auction and raffle which included several local restaurants, golf courses, the Orlando Solar Bears Hockey tickets and even Kennedy Space Center, among many more!



Thanks to the Lord's providing hand and those who participated, we raised just over \$8,000! Resident Roy Colston served as our Master of Ceremonies and kept everyone entertained with a litany of "corny" jokes! All in all, it was a great afternoon of fellowship, enjoying good food, lots of belly laughs - and all in the spirit of giving to a great cause that blesses us all with the gift of music once again!



Hispanic Mission of Metro St. Louis

Rev. Miguel Torneire

Six months have passed since we began holding Divine Services in Spanish at St. Lucas Evangelical Lutheran Church ([7100 Morganford Rd](#)). During this time, we have experienced various challenges and blessings; we started in the sanctuary and currently gather in the church's basement hall.

We are deeply grateful to the Spanish-speaking Lutheran brothers and sisters in St. Louis who have supported us, as well as to bilingual pastors Nilo Figur, Daniel McMiller, Stephen Heimer, Douglas Rutt, Zabdi López, and Germán Novelli for their constant support. We also extend our gratitude to the LCMS SELC District and St. Lucas Church, whose support has been fundamental to this mission.

It is an honor to highlight the work of Pastor Idjon Regnier, a graduate of El Reformador Lutheran Seminary, who is working on planting this church and reaching out to the Haitian community. We also recognize our brother Martín Arreola, an incoming student at Concordia Seminary, who has faithfully collaborated in this mission under the mentorship of Pastor Daniel McMiller.

To strengthen this project, we have founded the St. Louis Hispanic Lutheran Mission organization. If you wish to make a donation, you may do so under this name.

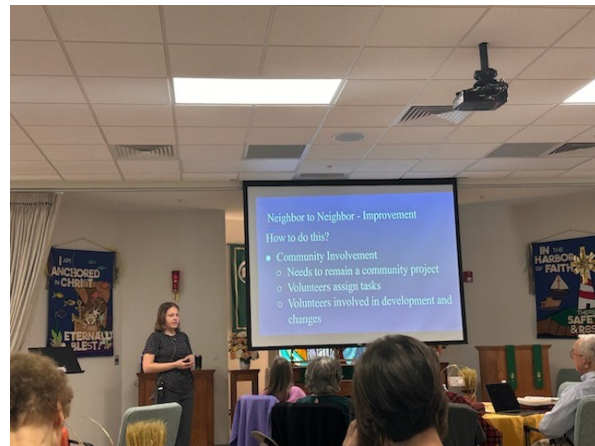
We currently have an average of 25 attendees from various nationalities, including Haiti, Brazil, the USA, Nicaragua, Mexico, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Honduras. Although we have celebrated baptisms and confirmations, there is still plenty of room for growth. We cordially invite you to join us—ideally once a month—to strengthen this emerging community.

We ask that you keep us in your prayers and consider supporting us with your presence at the Divine Services, which take place every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. This Sunday, Pastor Idjon Regnier will serve as liturgist and preacher, and Pastor Heimer will assist with the music.



My Experience as the Deaconess Intern at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School in Oviedo, Florida

Hello, I'm Rachel Burnham. It has been such a blessing to serve as the deaconess intern at St. Luke's Lutheran Church and School this past year! I have never experienced a congregation anywhere near this size, so I was excited to learn and also a bit nervous. It took a while to make connections and feel at home, but the congregation has been incredibly welcoming and supportive!



I spent the first half of my internship mainly at the Lutheran Haven. I was able to do lots of home visits, lead a Wednesday evening Bible study, provide morning devotions in the Assisted Living Facility, and help with Sunday services.

One of my favorite things was planning a mini retreat – a 3 hour time of games, Bible study, and fellowship for residents (pictured above). My time at the Haven was especially a time of growth because my direct supervisor went on a sabbatical for 6 weeks. I learned to make decisions on my own, reach out for help when needed, and keep things organized.

Moving over to the church office in January was a complete change of pace! I was encouraged to get a little taste of everything, so I helped plan a women's retreat, assisted with confirmation class, led women's Bible study a few times, did regular hospital visits, and led one session each of both high school and middle school youth group. Our women's retreat in February was definitely a highlight as we stayed at a hotel on Daytona Beach and I led one of the Bible study sessions. I also enjoyed our retreat with the confirmation students – even though it went down to 20 degrees and I had to borrow winter gear!

God works in pretty incredible ways and led me to a completely unexpected but wonderful role. When I came to St. Luke's, I had no idea they were considering starting a Stephen Ministry. I actually worked at the Stephen Ministries headquarters while I was studying at Seminary. When the main person here had to step aside to take care

of personal matters, I was encouraged to jump in as the only other trained person. I ended up leading most of the training for our group of 11, and found so much joy in spending time with that group!

It was such a busy year, full of so many great experiences! Other favorites include joining the seventh grade field trip to Sea World, spending time with our growing young adult ministry, helping with a VBS with 400 children, and doing a shortened VBS with the residents of the Haven's memory care unit! My husband served as the vicar here at St. Luke's, so we will be returning to the seminary for his final year of classes. It will be hard to leave this place and all the people I've come to love, but I am excited to see what God has in store for the future.



Concordia Center for the Family Training and Support

November 12 - 14, 2026

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, 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. Upcoming training will be November 12-14 in Rockledge, FL. Find out about our 2026 trainings at this link: <https://fd-training.concordiacenterforthefamily.org/>



SELC—LCMS

Student Aid Committee Policy

The Application Deadline is **August 15**

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.

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



Concordia Center for the Family

Free Resource

Your FREE RESOURCE from CCF this month is Marriage, another booklet from our Life in God's Way series, written by CCF Executive Director, Todd Biermann. This booklet provides God's simple, memorable approach to marriage as He designed it. It starts out with this...

Marriage!

...A beautiful thing. Smiles. Laughter. Companionship. The "happily ever after" at the end of so many stories.

... Ugly. Heartache. Pain. Betrayal. The "ex" that will plague me all my days. Which is it?

By God's design, it's everything good and wonderful.

In the hands of broken sinners, it's the place for the worst of the evil we can muster. So, how do we have the "beautiful thing" instead of the "ugly"?

You'll need to open it up to read the answer... and you'll be glad you did! The author of life and marriage freely gives His wisdom for all who will receive it, and with it, the key to peace, contentment and lasting joy. His way awaits you.

[HERE is the Marriage booklet](#)
so you can know the way, the truth and the life.



Lutheran Summer Music Academy J. S. Bach Concert

The J.S. Bach Faculty Recital features works by Johann Sebastian Bach and composers inspired by his enduring musical legacy. It will be June 27, 2026 at 7:30 PM. You must pre-register to watch all the live stream concerts throughout the summer. Register by [clicking here](#).



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

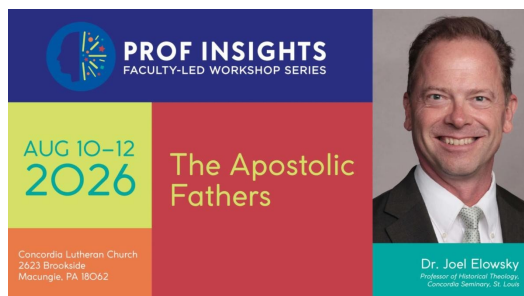
Dr. Joel Elowsky will be in Macungie, PA to lead a study of the primary literature of the Apostolic Fathers with application to the life of the church today. The study will primarily focus on the texts themselves, with attention given to issues of authorship, dating, the integrity of the text and the 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 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, and **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

Hebrews is a mini Old Testament in the New Testament! Hear how God's love and truth hasn't changed because it doesn't need to. We walk confidently in faith because God faithfully shepherds His people now as He always has.

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



Join the journey
of journaling through the Bible.



Mark Your Calendars

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

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

August 15, 2026 - Deadline for student aid applications

October 6, 2026 - Retreat in Sun Prairie, WI for retired pastors, wives, and widows

November 12 - 14, 2026 - Concordia Center for the Family Training at Faith *Viera* in Rockledge, FL



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.



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a church raise over \$500,000
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- Memory Care

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View rates and terms at lcef.org/OurRates



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.



Prayer Requests

Rev. and Mrs. George Dolak, Cabot, PA, both have recently suffered falls. Thankfully no bones were broken. They are living at Concordia Lutheran Ministries in Cabot, PA. Please keep the Dolaks in your prayers as they heal from their falls and adjust to a new phase in their earthly journey with Christ.

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, was hospitalized for three days and is now in a rehab center following his hospitalization.

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 begins his retirement after his last service on Sunday.

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 and Holly Duff, and their children Leo and Oliver, as they battle brain cancer. Please keep them in prayer during this long journey.

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. and Mrs. Otto Baker, Brodheadsville, PA for God's healing and care.

Rev. Arthur H. Baisch, Sharon, PA, continues his recovery from recent hospitalization for blood clots in lungs, and long-term treatment for healing of chronic left foot open wound. Thanks to all for thoughts and prayers!

Andrew DeMario, Galloway, NJ, son of Deaconess Helen DeMario, who is having medical tests.

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.



SEL District - A District Without Borders

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

SEL District of LCMS

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