



The Beacon Online

July 3, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 27

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

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Deaconess Lisa Moyer Installed at Faith Viera Rockledge, Florida

Sunday, June 28, 2026, Faith Viera Lutheran Church joyfully celebrated the commissioning and installation of our first deaconess, Lisa Moyer, marking a meaningful moment in the life of our congregation. The service was made special with her uncle, Rev. Mark Barz, delivering the sermon, and her Aunt Connie Barz, blessing the service with her musical gifts by playing hymns on our newly installed organ. Pictured on the right is Rev. Barz, Lisa, and Connie Barz.

Deaconess Moyer was installed by Rev. Troy Countryman, and the readings were delivered by her husband, Rev. Jonathan Moyer and Rev. James Fernandez of Hope Lutheran.

We give thanks to God for this new chapter in our congregational life and look forward to the many ways her gifts will bless our church family and our neighbors.



She was pinned by Deaconess Lois Diebel of Hope Lutheran and joined by Deaconess Liz Borth, the LWML president for the Florida/ Georgia District who are pictured on the right.

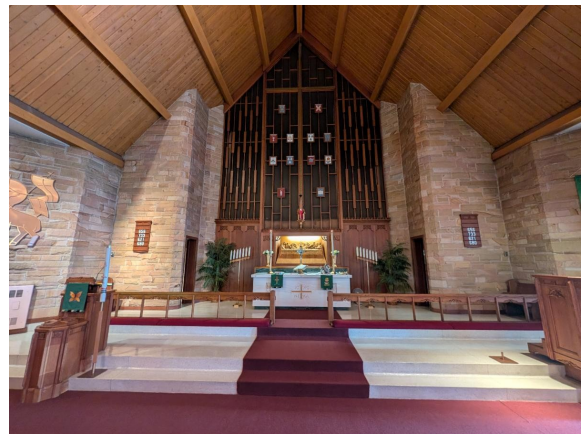
Pictured below from left to right are Pasto James Fernandez, SELC Southern Circuit Visitor, Rev. Mark Barz, Deaconess Lisa Moyer, Rev. Jonathan Moyer Associate Pastor at Faith *Viera*, and Rev. Troy Countryman, Senior Pastor at Faith *Viera* and SELC District Pastoral Representative to the Board of Directors.



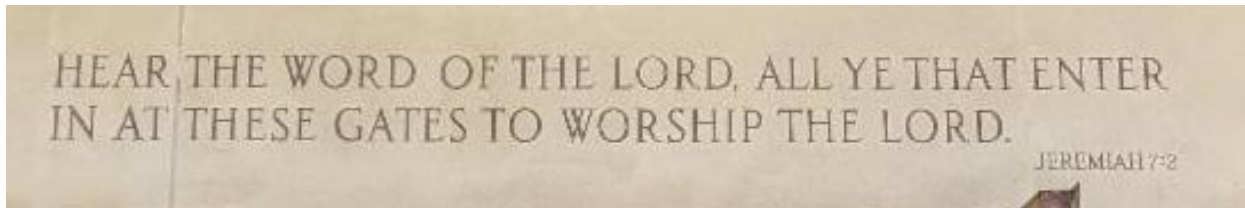


Zion Lutheran Church in Norridge, Illinois Closes Its Congregation SELC District Held Visioning Meeting for the Future

The congregation of Zion Lutheran Church in Norridge, Illinois held its last service on June 28, 2026. The congregation held the closing service where President Vinovskis officiated at the dissolution of the congregation. Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger preached at the service. The service included the removal of sacramental vessels and the service book from the altar, symbolizing the end of ministry of Zion Lutheran Church. The congregation held a farewell luncheon following the service.



On Monday, the SELC District held a gathering meeting of 20 people including SELC Board members, as well as representatives from the Northern Illinois District, LCEF, and other leaders from around the Synod. This group began the visioning and planning process for mission and ministry at this site.



The Kindness of Children: A Story about Ruby McCurdy

So often, what looks like an ordinary day, the Lord turns into an extraordinary day with one seemingly simple moment. Today was a day like that when 8-year-old Ruby McCurdy stopped in at the Landings building with her dad to bring the proceeds from a lemonade stand that she had. Her dad said it was her idea to donate the proceeds to senior living here at the Haven. As you see, she has an "official" brochure that was given to the Foundation along with her donation of \$186.91. Ruby and her dad also stopped in our dining room, and she introduced herself to the few residents who were still there after lunch. Staff member, Deborah Jones even introduced her to Chef Eddy who asked her for her lemonade recipe!

Our sincere thanks to sweet Ruby and her family and to Webb's Honey! Ruby and her mom went to Webb's Honey in Orlando and Ruby prepared a whole speech asking if they might help sponsor her with a gift of honey for her famous lemonade. They said yes, (but then who could say no to this adorable 8-year-old!), so Webb's honey is a part of Ruby's extra special lemonade as well!

Thank you, Ruby, for all your hard work! You are certainly a "honey" of a young lady with a very sweet heart!



"But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.'"

Matthew 19:14 ESV



Pentecost Celebrates Youth Sunday May 31, 2026 The Stone the Builders Rejected has become the Cornerstone

On May 31st, 2026, we celebrated the end of the Sunday School & Bible Class year with a youth-led service. The teen class selected the theme, hymns, and readings. The youth performed a skit based on the "Parable of the Tenants" (Luke 20:9-19), inspired by their journey through the streaming series "The Chosen".

The youth participated in several ways. Shyann, Thomas, Sienna, Izzy, Quinten, Simon, Josette, Nathaniel, and Cullen used their acting skills. Several youth served as stand-ins for rehearsals, including Lenox, Landon, and Levi. Shyann and Lucy assisted with costumes, props, and creative vision. Brody and Deacon read the Old Testament and Epistle lessons.



In the "Parable of the Tenants", a man plants a vineyard and rents it to some tenants. When he sends his servants to collect some of the fruit, they are mistreated. Finally, he sends his son, and his son is mistreated and killed. The servants symbolize the prophets, and the son symbolizes Jesus. The parable concludes with "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone".



In his sermonette, Pastor Brady Retzlaff used the cornerstone to show the spiritual alignment with the Word of God. Jesus is the cornerstone that the whole Christian Church is built upon, and we should never reject God's Word. He showed a picture (left) of our building's cornerstone and emphasized that Christ is our cornerstone not just in 1908 when the congregation was formed, or 1963 when our current building was built, but today, in Racine, Wisconsin and all the years to come.



Announcing Our New Concert Series Season!

The new season of the St. Luke's Concert Series is announced!

For more than 30 years, St. Luke's has shared the gift of music with our community through free public performances in our beautiful sanctuary. What began as a commitment to use this remarkable worship space for God's glory has grown into a beloved tradition each year.

This upcoming season continues that tradition with inspiring performances from talented musicians and ensembles, offering opportunities for fellowship, enrichment, and the joy of live music.

You are invited to explore the new season lineup in the [flyer](#) to the right and mark your calendars for these special events. St. Luke's looks forward to sharing another wonderful season of music with you!



WOULD YOU
like to be a **PART**
of our **VOLUNTEER**
team?

EMAIL US!
concertseries@slcs.org

ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES
Season 2026-27

2026

SEPT 11, 7P & SEPT 12, 2P
Brass Band of Central Florida
Open Dress Rehearsal: Sept 10 at 7p

OCT 10, 2P
Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra

NOV 20, 7P
UCF Symphony Orchestra
Open Dress Rehearsal: Nov 19 at 6p

DEC 4, 7P & DEC 5, 2P
Brass Band of Central Florida
Open Dress Rehearsal: Dec 3 at 7p

2027

FEB 20, 2P
UCF Symphony Orchestra
Open Dress Rehearsal: Feb 19 at 6p

MAR 5, 7P
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

APR 16, 7P
Orlando Concert Band
Open Dress Rehearsal: Apr 15 at 6p

Keep Community Music Alive!
These concert are made possible by community support. Thank you for your generosity!



SCAN ME

St. Luke's
CONCERT SERIES

All concerts are FREE and OPEN to the public. WATCH ONLINE: [@stlukesconcertseries](https://youtube.com/@stlukesconcertseries) For further information about the Concert Series, visit slcs.org/concert-series



Concordia Center for the Family Training and Support November 12 - 14, 2026

Concordia Center for the Family (CCF), an RSO of the LCMS led by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann, invites YOU to come and bring a team (pastor, staff, lay leaders) to **CCF's Family Discipleship Facilitator Training** at Faith Viera LCMS in Rockledge, FL on Nov. 12 (12:30pm) - 14 (Noon), 2026. This training will give you the biblical knowledge, skills and attitudes you need to inspire and equip every home (starting with yours) to grow in vibrant faith every day...revitalizing your congregation and the LCMS! Register NOW using discount code **SEL26** and pay ½ off, only \$250/each! To register, go to: <https://secure.qgiv.com/for/familydiscipleshipfacilitatortraining/event/nov12-142026-rockledgefl/>

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Biermann at 810-771-8837 or email toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org.



**LCMS TTNG
GRANTS**



Matching LCMS Convention Offering Funds of \$1K to \$10K are available 8/1/26 - 9/15/26 to congregations, districts or RSO's. Go to LCMS.ORG for application information.

Grant-worthy proposals can include:

- Send a team to **CCF Family Discipleship Facilitator Training** (using some great discounts available now!)
- Use CCF's **Faith & Life Survey** and other resources
- Train parents & caregivers to pass faith to the next generation daily using CCF's biblical knowledge, skills & attitudes



SCAN THE QR CODE TO DISCOVER...

- MORE ABOUT CCF
- CCF'S RESOURCES FOR YOU
- ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS



CONCORDIAFAMILY.ORG EMAIL: OFFICE@CONCORDIAFAMILY.ORG PHONE: 888-553-5133



Thursday, Nov. 12

12:30pm	Registration
1:30pm	1-Welcome, Orientation & Devo.
2:45pm	2-FD Starts with Me!
3:30pm	Break
3:45pm	3-Paradigm Shift
4:45pm	4-Where Are You Now?
5:15pm	"Family" Daily Prayer - Early Eve. (LSB)
7:00pm	Socializing & Coaching (Optional)

Friday, Nov. 13

8:30am	"Family" Daily Prayer - Morning (LSB)
8:45am	5-Biblical Mandate-Home & 6-Cong.
9:45am	Break
10:00am	7-FD & CCF's Mission & Purpose
10:45am	8-New Creational Wisdom
11:45am	"Family" Daily Devotion (Handout)
Noon	Lunch
1:00pm	9-Family Friendly Tweaks
2:00pm	10a-Introduction to Action Plans & 10b-Action Plan Brainstorming
2:30pm	11-Action Plan Outlines/Samples
3:00pm	Break
3:15pm	12-The Faith at Home Milestone Series
4:15pm	13-Biblical Faith Formation at Home
5:15pm	"Family" Daily Prayer - Early Eve. (LSB)
7:00pm	Socializing & Coaching (Optional)

Saturday, Nov. 14

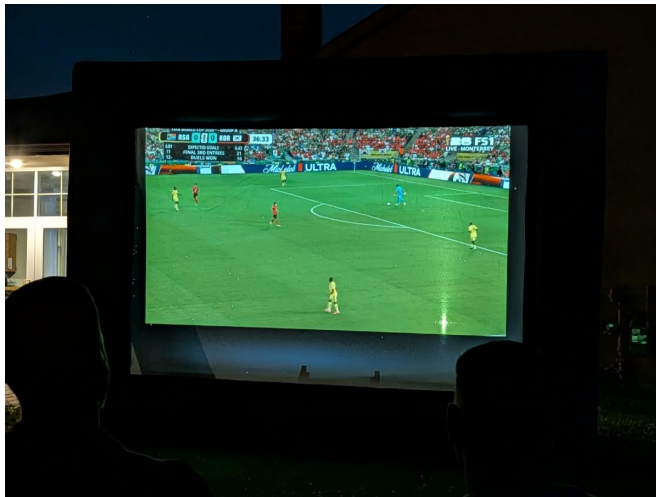
8:30am	Digital Devotion
8:45am	14-Cultural Context
9:30am	15-CCF Resources & Services
10:00am	Break
10:15am	16&17-More Tweak Ideas
10:45am	Action Plans Wrap-up with Q&A
11:15am	Final Words & Evaluations
11:45am	Blessing & Sending of New FD Facilitators
Noon	Lunch & Go

Heather Biermann - Assistant to the Exec. Dir.
Todd Biermann - Executive Director
Matthew Knehans - Research & Operations
Larry Yochum - Coaching & Implementation



Concordia Lutheran Church Hosts FIFA Match Watch

Concordia Lutheran Church hosted an outdoor FIFA match watch between South Africa and South Korea. Concordia's Vicar, Rowan Turner is from South Africa, and his wife is from South Korea. A screen was set up outside for the viewing party. South Africa was victorious and everyone had a great time!



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.



Summer at Lutheran Summer Music is in Full Swing

Here is the upcoming schedule for the third week of concerts at Lutheran Summer Music this year. You can click on the link to watch the concerts online.



Miss a performance? **LSM on Demand** provides access to archived livestream recordings, allowing you to enjoy recitals, concerts, and worship services whenever it's convenient for you.

Movere Woodwind Faculty Recital  
Sun, July 5 • 7:30 pm • Urness Recital Hall

Week 3

Sine Nomine Voice Faculty Recital  
Mon, July 6 • 7:30 pm • Urness Recital Hall

Praetorius Brass Faculty Recital  
Tue, July 7 • 7:30 pm • Urness Recital Hall

Student Recital  
Wed, July 8 • 7:30 pm • Urness Recital Hall

Harp & Organ Recital 
Thu, July 9 • 12:30 pm • Boe Chapel

Cantus in Concert  
Fri, July 10 • 7:30 pm • Boe Chapel

Faculty Organ Recital & Evening Prayer  
Sat, July 11 • 7:30 pm • Boe Chapel

Musical Offering & Bach Cantata Eucharist  
Sun, July 12 • 10:00 am • Boe Chapel



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

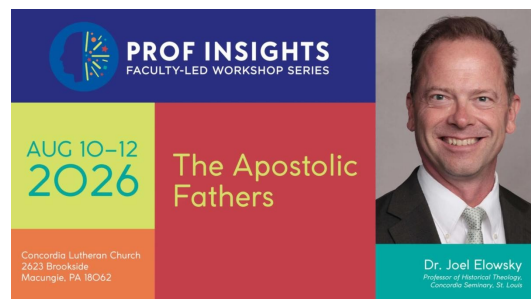
Dr. Joel Elowsky will be in Macungie, PA to lead a study of the primary literature of the Apostolic Fathers with application to the life of the church today. The study will primarily focus on the texts themselves, with attention given to issues of authorship, dating, the integrity of the text and the 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 12

Building on the Hall of Fame chapter of the Bible, we are encouraged to run with endurance the race that is set before us. Great training and discipline go into training. Distance running is a test of physical strength, determination and endurance. We should not be shocked that even more discipline and training go into life and death spiritual exercise.



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



Mark Your Calendars

July 18 - 23, 2026 - LCMS convention, Phoenix, Arizona

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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Watch this video to see how we helped a church raise over \$500,000 in four weeks!



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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 most recent hospitalization.

Rev. Brian Roberts, Orlando, FL, please continue to pray for him as he continues his journey following cancer treatment as he continues to gain weight and strength.

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 cancer. Please pray for peace, strengthening, and healing the Lord has in mind. It is impossible to know the mind of God, just trust in His purposes being always good.

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.

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.



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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