



The Beacon Online

July 10, 2026/ Vol. 7 / No. 28

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

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Pentecost Celebrates "Toy Story Night" at Kenosha Kingfish Game

The Board of Missions and Evangelism of Pentecost Lutheran Church sponsored this event where they celebrated "Toy Story Night" at the Kenosha Kingfish Baseball game on June 24, 2026. Thirty-nine participants signed up for the outing, which included food, soft drinks, ice cream, games, and a Woody or Jessie cowboy hat. (The cowboy hats worked great for keeping the rain out of our eyes before the game, while we braved the food lines!)





Despite raining almost all day, the weather cleared up just in time for fans to enjoy nine innings of Northwoods League baseball at Historic Simmons Field in Kenosha, WI. Our very own Kyle & Walter Jacob (below left) were chosen to compete in the Lee Mechanical Toilet Bowl Race, with the Jacobs emerging as the proud champions! Many autographs were signed, lots of team apparel was purchased, countless hamburgers and hotdogs were consumed, and much fellowship was shared. Thanks to Katy Wagner (below right) for organizing the event again this year; a good time was had by all who attended!





Memory Maker Café Takes Flight at First Off-Campus Adventure

Lutheran Haven's Memory Maker Café reached an exciting milestone with its first off-campus outing on Tuesday, March 24, 2026—creating a morning filled with wonder, creativity, and connection.

Fifteen residents, accompanied by two staff members, set out from the Harbor porch aboard Lutheran Haven transportation, eager for a new experience. The destination was Lukas Nursery's enchanting Butterfly Encounter, where the group was welcomed with a brief introduction from the nursery staff. Each participant received a butterfly identification guide, adding an engaging and educational touch to the day.



Inside the beautifully maintained enclosure, residents were surrounded by vibrant plants, tranquil water features, and countless butterflies fluttering gracefully throughout the space. A highlight of the visit was stepping into a small, screened room where residents applied a sweet solution to their hands to attract the butterflies. Delight and laughter filled the space as butterflies landed gently on hands, clothing, and even heads—creating magical, up-close moments that many participants will not soon forget.

The experience also offered fun photo opportunities, including a display of oversized butterfly wings where residents could pose and capture joyful memories from the day.





Following the butterfly encounter, the group gathered in the picnic area for a creative activity. Each resident received a terracotta pot and painting supplies, inspired by the colorful beauty they had just experienced. The butterflies served as the perfect muse, as residents expressed themselves through art. Once the pots were complete and dried, a blooming begonia was planted in each one, giving participants a living reminder of their special outing to take home.

As the group boarded the bus for the return trip, the atmosphere was filled with smiles and conversation. Residents later shared many positive comments, reflecting the meaningful impact of the day.



This first off-campus Memory Maker Café event was a wonderful success—offering not only a change of scenery but also opportunities for sensory engagement, creativity, and social connection. It marks an exciting step forward in expanding enriching experiences beyond campus and creating lasting memories together.



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

SCAN ME

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 7p

Keep Community Music Alive!

These concert are made possible by community support. Thank you for your generosity!



All concerts are FREE and OPEN to the public.
WATCH ONLINE: 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



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.

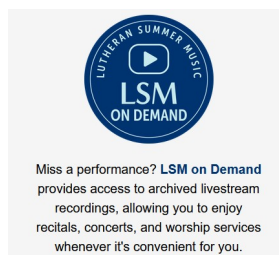
[Click here](#) for the overview and application.



Lutheran Summer Music

Music Available on Demand

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.



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	



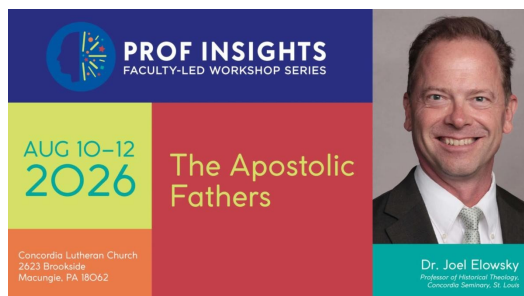
The Apostolic Fathers Educational Opportunity Dr. Joel Elowsky August 10 - 12, 2026 in Macungie, PA

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 Jeremiah 52

Jeremiah ends with a summary of Jerusalem's demise. Only hundreds were left of a nation that once numbered in the millions. But there is a ray of hope at the end of the book as a former king of Judah is restored to honor. This brief foreshadowing show that there is hope for God's people.

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.



Want your church to grow?

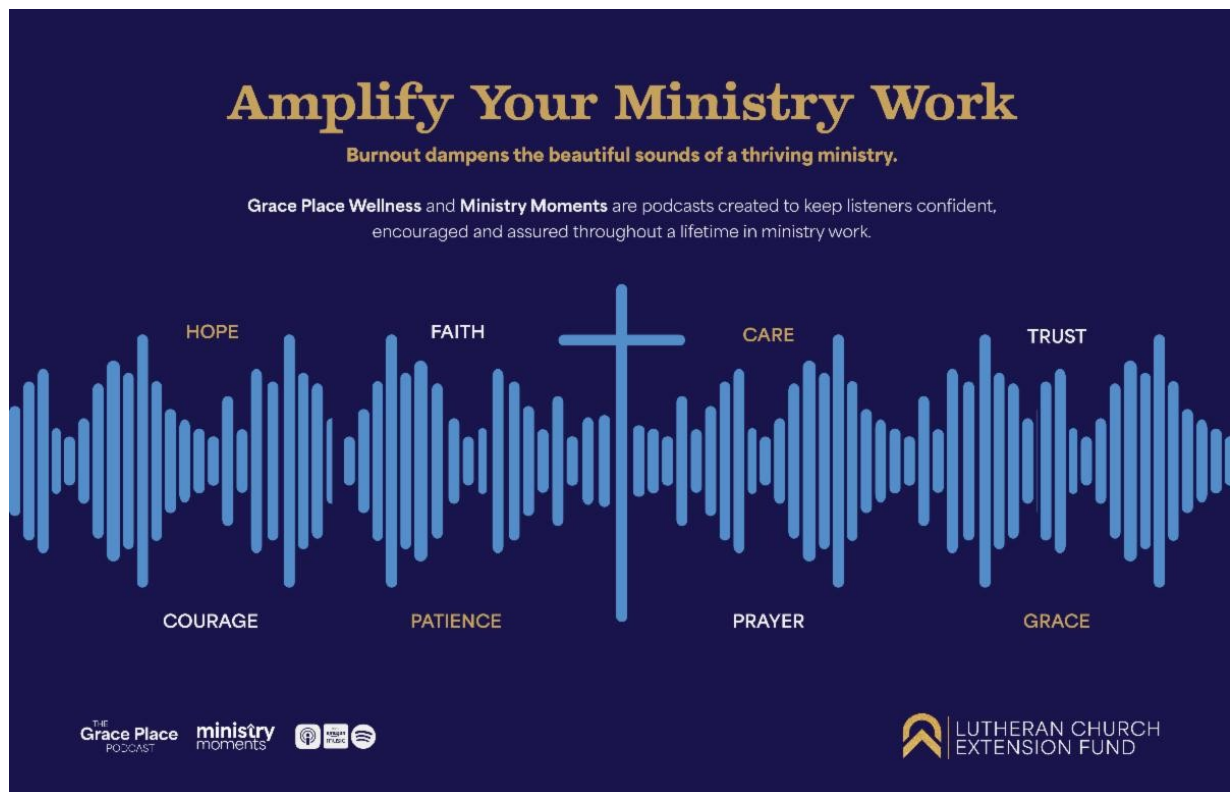
Watch this video to see how we helped a church raise over \$500,000 in four weeks!



- 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



Prayer Requests

Rev. and Mrs. George Dolak, Cabot, PA. 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.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Ballas, Parma, OH. Please keep the Ballas' in your prayers for their health challenges.

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, Brodheads ville, 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.

Rev. Michael Croon, Mt. Prospect, IL as he begins his retirement from ministry.

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 as they 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

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

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