



The Beacon Online

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

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2026 Professional Church Workers Conference October 5 - 7, 2026

The 2026 Professional Church Workers Conference will be held October 5 - 7, 2026 at Faith Viera Lutheran Church in Rockledge, FL. The theme is Christ and Culture in Paradox: Sharing the Same Jesus in an ever-changing world.

Overnight rooms have been blocked at Homewood Suites by Hilton Viera Melbourne at this link - [Homewood Suites by Hilton Viera Melbourne](#)

The room rates are \$149 for single occupancy and \$159 per night for double occupancy. Please [click here](#) for the conference agenda and registration site. The conference features Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann who teaches at Concordia St. Paul, Brenda Jank from Run Hard, Rest Well, and Orion Netsanet with Children's Hope Chest.

LCMS • SELC DISTRICT
PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKER CONFERENCE

Christ *and* Culture *in Paradox:*

Sharing the same Jesus in
an ever-changing world.

OCTOBER
5-7, 2026

FAITH VIERA LUTHERAN CHURCH
5550 Faith Dr
Rockledge, FL 32955

SELCLCMS



Follow-up From the 2026 Synod Convention

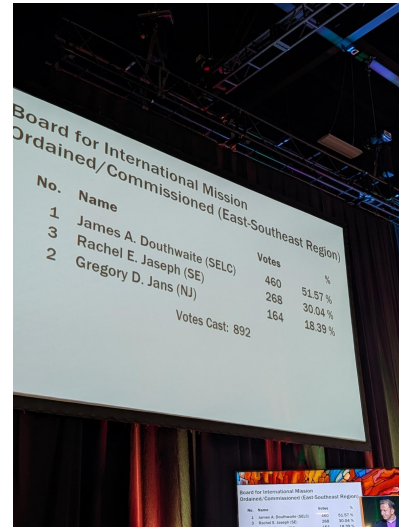
The Synod Convention ended on July 23, 2026 in Phoenix. The final day included action on Resolutions from Floor Committees 1 (National Witness) and 3 (Mercy). The convention ended early on the last day of the convention.

Pictured below on the left are the convention delegates, staff, and spouses at the convention. Pictured on the right below is Rev. Allen Dass during the convention.



On the right is the screen indicating Pastor Jim Douthwaite was elected to the Board of International Mission from the East-Southeast Region.

Below are three men that have worshiped at the three churches President Vinovskis has served. From left to right - Rev. Jonathan Holmes, Rev. Rako Zech, President Vinovskis, and Rocky Mountain District President James Maxwell.



No.	Name	Votes	%
1	James A. Douthwaite (SELC)	460	51.57 %
3	Rachel E. Joseph (SE)	268	30.04 %
2	Gregory D. Jans (NJ)	164	18.39 %
Votes Cast: 892			





Our Own Carl Roth Makes History Again!

Lutheran Haven's own Carl Roth is listed in "The oldest living men in the United States" by [Gerontology.fandom.com](https://gerontology.fandom.com). Carl is the 20th oldest living man in the United States at 108! He is certainly one of our treasures at Lutheran Haven, and not just for his age. Anyone who knows him knows his keen sense of humor, great stories and genuine smile.

If you recall, Carl was covered by ABC national news along with our local news media when his 108th April birthday fell on the same day as the launch of the Artemis II mission off the coast of Florida. His extensive history with NASA coupled with this perfect timing made for a great story about this amazing man! Some say that "the stars aligned" for all these incredible events to occur simultaneously, but we know who created the stars and everything else!

Congratulations Carl! You are making history once again!

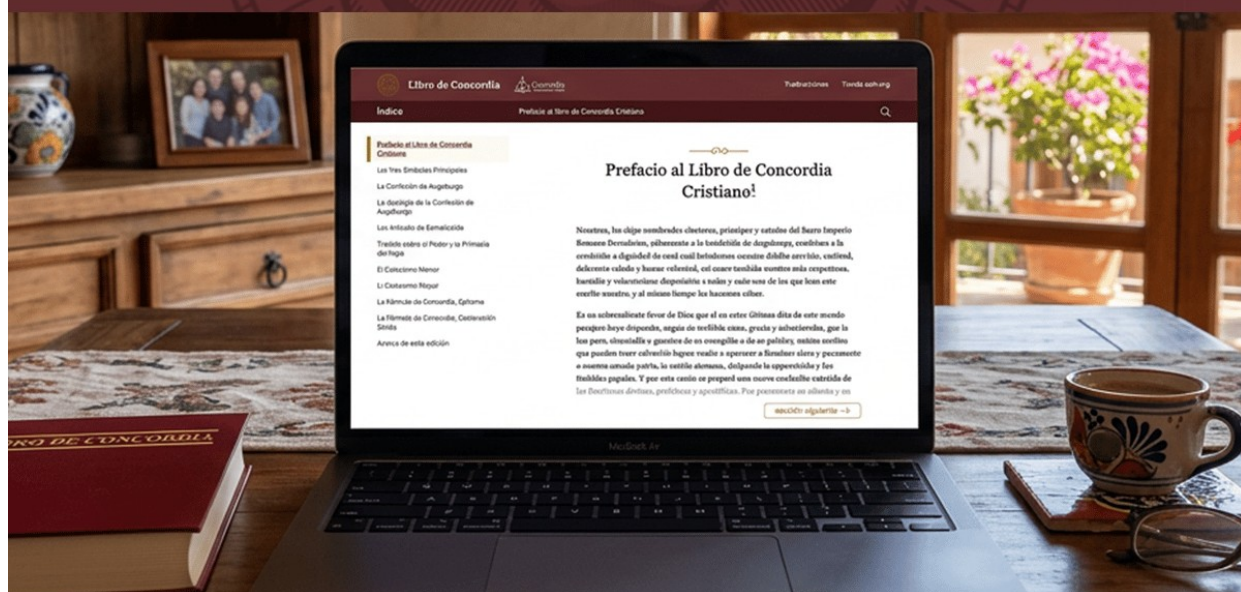
Pictured below on the left is Carl with family members. Pictured below on the top right is Carl with his Great Granddaughter Alana and on the bottom right he is with Great Granddaughter Addie.





Book of Concord Available in Spanish

The Book of Concord Online



The Lutheran Confessions are now **available in Spanish** on our free website, **bookofconcord.cph.org**, extending this resource to more readers and communities.



Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday is October 4, 2026

Traditionally, Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday is the first Sunday in October, but it can be celebrated any time. The focus of this year is **Supporting Missions**. The theme is based on Ecclesiastes 3:9 - 15, Galatians 2:1 - 10, and Mark 10:35 - 45. Christ Jesus asks us to be wise stewards of His good gifts.



Concordia Center for the Family Training and Support

November 12 - 14, 2026

**Additional Financial Support Available beginning
August 1st**

Concordia Center for the Family, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, is uniting homes and congregations in making lifelong disciples of Jesus by **training** called, commissioned and lay church leaders to be **Family Discipleship Facilitators**. The basic training, with optional follow-up cohort support and professional coaching, will inspire and empower *Facilitators* to practice and teach family discipleship in their home, congregation, school and beyond. This proven biblical training is effective at **reviving church leader mission zeal** and **guiding every type of family to grow and stay in Christian faith daily for life**. CCF's trained Facilitators report families daily in Christian worship, service, and winsome witness, leading to vibrant congregations and schools. Another key outcome is new eager church workers. The usual rate for foundational 3-day training and cohort support is \$500. However, thanks to District support and a generous SELC LWML Grant, **pay only \$150/each** to attend the **November 12-14, 2026 training in Rockledge, FL**. Use **discount code "SELC26"** when registering (by 11/4) at: www.concordiafamily.org/FD-Facilitator-Information Also receive discounted housing at Homewood Suites Viera-Melbourne: [Click HERE to book rooms for Concordia Center for the Family Room block](#)

Faith & Life Survey - Also consider this CCF tool to assess strengths, gaps and opportunities in serving families. Find out more at: concordiafamily.org/Faith-Life-Survey

We're Eager to Speak, so keep CCF in mind for Dist., Circuit, and local events. Our experience, knowledge, and zeal will bless any group. For the full, current list of speaking topics, visit and freely share: <https://www.concordiafamily.org/Speaking-Engagements>

NOTE that **matching LCMS Convention Offering Funds of \$1K to \$10K** are available **8/1- 9/15/26** to congregations, districts or RSO's to "Tell the Next Generation." A great grant-worthy proposal can include: sending a team to CCF's Facilitator Training, using CCF's *Faith & Life Survey*, inviting CCF to speak for your event, and/or providing CCF resources to families! Go to **LCMS.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



SELC—LCMS Student Aid Committee Policy The Application Deadline is **August 15 Only Two Weeks Left to Apply**

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.



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

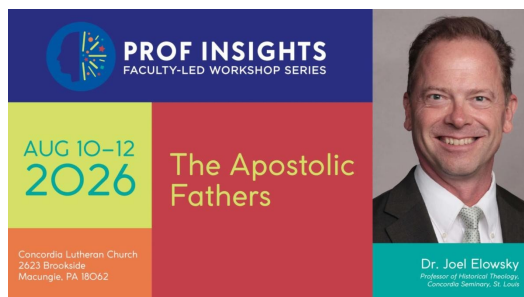
Dr. Joel Elowsky will be in Macungie, PA to lead a study of the primary literature of the Apostolic Fathers with application to the life of the church today. The study will primarily focus on the texts themselves, with attention given to issues of authorship, dating, the integrity of the text and the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

The family Bible is now in Ezekiel and James! Ezekiel shares great visions of our future in heaven. James, not Luther's favorite epistle, encourages us towards godliness, a good encouragement living for those living in times of declining morality and lax faith.



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



Mark Your Calendars

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

August 15, 2026 - Deadline for student aid applications

October 5 - 7, 2026 - SELC District Professional Church Workers Conference

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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LUTHERAN CHURCH
EXTENSION FUND



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.





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 is home following a recent hospitalization.

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, 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.

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 cardiac surgery September 1st.

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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