



The Beacon Online

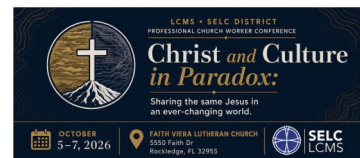
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The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

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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](#). The room rates are \$149 for single occupancy and \$159 per night for double occupancy. **Book your room by September 3, 2026.**

Please [click here](#) for the 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.

The registration fee is \$175 until September 3, 2026. The fee goes to \$200 beginning September 4, 2026. Emeriti Pastors have free registrations!

Conference schedule

Monday - October 5

1:00 – 5:00 Registration (FVLC) and Hotel Check-in

5:00 – 6:30 PM Dinner on your own

7:00 PM Evening Prayer: Southern Circuit (Homewood Suites)

7:15 PM Fellowship (sponsored by LCEF - at Homewood Suites)

Tuesday - October 6

Breakfast (at hotel)

8:30 – 10:00 AM – Opening Worship and Divine Service (FVLC)

Break

10:15 – 10:30 AM – Welcome and Introductions

10:30 – 12:00 – Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann - *Concordia St. Paul/True Light Lutheran Church NYC*

12:00 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 1:30 PM – Midday Prayer: Central Circuit

1:30 – 2:00 - President's Report

2:00 – 2:45 PM – Circuit Breakouts

Break

3:00 – 4:30 pm – Orion Netsanet & Scott Coerber - *Children's Hope Chest*

4:30 LCEF & Grace Place

4:45 – 5:15 PM - Evening Prayer: Eastern Circuit

6:00 PM – Dinner (sponsored by Thrivent)

7:00 Fellowship (sponsored by LCEF - at Homewood Suites)

Wednesday - October 7

Breakfast (at hotel)

8:30 – 9:00 AM – Morning Prayer: Western Circuit

9:00 – 10:00 AM – Brenda Jank - *Run Hard, Rest Well*

Break

10:15 – 11:00 AM – Brenda Jank - *Run Hard, Rest Well*

11:00 – 12:00 Taking it Home

12:00 – Itinerarium

12:15 – 1:30 Lunch and Conference ends



Concordia Lutheran Installs a New Vicar



Concordia Lutheran Church in Macungie, PA installed their second Vicar, Zachary Johnson, on August 9, 2026. Vicar Johnson returned from studying in Germany for the past year. He is from South Dakota and arrived here last week. Concordia looks forward to having Vicar Johnson with them for the upcoming year.

On the left is President Vinovskis installing Vicar Johnson. They are also pictured below.



Following the second service a party was held to welcome Vicar Johnson to Concordia.



Holy Cross Lutheran Academy Opens the 2026 - 2027 School Year

Holy Cross Lutheran Academy began their school year this week on August 12th. They have almost 600 students enrolled in the Academy! Pictured below is Mrs. Moon, the Executive Director at the school, making announcements to the students of the Upper School at Holy Cross Lutheran Academy in Lake Mary, Florida! We give thanks to God that all these students, and all students within the SELC District, are receiving their education in schools where they also receive God's Word.





Apostolic Fathers Class Held at Concordia Macungie

Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky, Professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, presented on the texts and their integrity. He also addressed how they address martyrdom, church order, and early Christian rituals. The education was held from August 10 - 12, 2026.

The SELC District was glad to host Dr. Elowsky who is a member of the SELC District!





St. John's Celebrates 250 Years of America

In July, St. John's Lutheran Church had a service to commemorate the 250th anniversary of America. Government officials were sent invitations to attend and, where they could not, they had given proclamations with certificates, recognizing the occasion, and our own contribution to the city of Hazleton. Utilizing the patriotic song section within the Lutheran Service Book, and coming together to pray for our church, town and nation, a special focus was given to thanking our Lord for the freedom we've been given to exercise our Christian faith and Lutheran traditions in this blessed country of ours.



With a luncheon afterwards, overall it was a good day of celebration and a fitting tribute to what the Lord has done and, God willing, will continue to do for the United States as His faithful children continue to gather and worship in His name and to His glory throughout America.

This is what Member of Congress, Rob Bresnahan, Jr., for the U.S. House of Representatives, had to say with regard to our congregation: *"St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hazleton has faithfully served as a beacon of Christian faith, hope, and compassion, strengthening both its congregation and the broader community through worship, service, and a steadfast commitment to the principles that have long guided our Nation".*

This is what State Representative, 116th District, Dane Watro, for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, had to say with regard to our congregation: *"St. John's Lutheran Church of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, stands as a devoted community of faith that has faithfully served its congregation and the Greater Hazleton community through worship, fellowship, outreach, and compassion."*

We are honored by these proclamations and we ask that you thank God with us and that we may have many more years for which to praise, adore, and give thanks to our Lord, Jesus Christ, Whose name is above every name, to the glory of God the Father.



Book of Concord Available in Spanish Concordia Publishing House Sale Extended



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

The sale at Concordia Publishing House has been extended through August 31st. You can get Pew Editions of the Lutheran Service Book, in addition to several other editions that are available. Click below to see what is available.

Shop the Sale



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

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PHONE: 888-553-5133



Lutheran Women in Mission Applications for Mission Grants 2027 are due September 1, 2026

Applications for Mission Applications to be Awarded at the 2027 Lutheran Women in Mission Convention in 2027 are due September 1, 2026, midnight Central Time. The application to apply is found here - [Submit a Mission Grant Proposal](#)

The 2027 Convention is being held July 8–11, 2027 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. More information on the convention can be found at lwml.org/convention



Concordia University Irvine Offers Virtual Financial Planning Workshops

Is 2026 the year to finalize (or start) your Estate Plan?

Join Concordia University Irvine, in partnership with Financial Planning Ministry for a FREE Virtual Estate Planning Session

Concordia University Irvine, in partnership with Financial Planning Ministry (FPM), is pleased to offer **TWO FREE Virtual Estate Planning sessions!** No matter where you are at in your estate planning journey, Concordia's partnership with FPM will be able to help you complete your estate plan documents **at no cost!** This is a savings of thousands of dollars that we are able to pass on to you.

Register TODAY for one of the below:

Each session will last approximately 75 minutes with optional Q&A after

THURSDAY, SEPT 10 at 6:00 pm PDT

REGISTER HERE

SATURDAY, SEPT 12 at 10:00 am PDT

REGISTER HERE

Should you have any questions, please reach out to Jonathan Howard at jonathan.howard@cui.edu/ 949-214-3535



Join us for Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 4–7, 2026

Registration closes Sunday, Sept. 13

College students and second-career men and women considering service as a pastor, deaconess, missionary or chaplain are invited to Vocatio: Retreat Oct. 4–7, 2026, at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This distinctively Lutheran retreat offers an introduction to life as a seminarian, as participants spend time in God's Word and join in sessions with the Seminary's renowned faculty. Register by Sept. 13 at csl.edu/vocatio-retreat, by scanning the QR code or by Googling "Vocatio: Retreat Concordia Seminary."





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 15, 2026 - Deadline for student aid applications. [Click here](#) for the overview and application.

October 4, 2026 - Lutheran Women in Mission Sunday

October 4 - 7, 2026 - Vocatio Retreat

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.



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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Planting Seeds Of Faith

With the **Young Investors StewardAccount**®, you can set your child up for financial stability while supporting LCMS ministries. They'll learn to budget, grow their money and give wisely, growing their faith and money simultaneously.



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. 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

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