



The Beacon Online

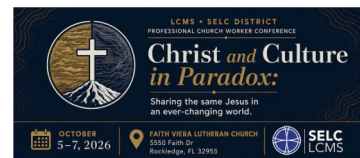
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The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

If you are a first-time visitor to the Beacon Online, we invite you to subscribe by emailing the District Office at selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please feel free to share the Beacon Online and encourage others to subscribe. Please send your articles, announcements, news, and pictures to selc.lcms@gmail.com. Please submit your articles in Word format and by Thursdays for inclusion in the next Beacon Online. We look forward to sharing your submissions! A [printable version](#) of the newsletter is available on our website at selc.lcms.org/beacon Please use the printed version from our website to post and/or share the newsletter with others.



2026 Professional Church Workers Conference October 5 - 7, 2026



**Registration and Overnight room block pricing ends on
September 3rd - Register today before prices increase!**

Meet one of the speakers at the 2026 Professional Church Workers
Conference - Brenda Jank!

As a catalyst for personal and organizational change, Brenda is high energy and story driven, equipping God's people to explore transformative rhythms of work and rest for themselves and those they lead, love, and serve. Brenda speaks from coast to coast and is a thought leader in the arena of Restorative Wellness. Brenda is a 1990 graduate of Concordia Nebraska in the DCE program, founder of **Run Hard. Rest Well.**, and the mother of five of the finest, feistiest children ever assembled under one roof. Brenda and her family have called Northeast Indiana home for the 33 beautiful years.



"Run Hard. Rest Well." is the battle cry of people on the front lines. **Run Hard. Rest Well.** makes rest simple and strategic because God made it sacred, and through it He

fuels His best work in us and through us. Vibrancy transpires in hearts, homes, schools, and churches when God's people run with passion and rest on purpose – routinely refueled, refreshed, and replenished. Too many have grown accustomed to “running on empty,” forfeiting their best self and shortchanging those they lead, love, and serve. **Run Hard. Rest Well.** introduces no-cost, high-yield restorative rhythms that equip God's people to navigate 24/7 from a place of strength, transformation, and joy.

Learn more at www.RunHardRestWell.org

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 schedule can also be found there. 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!



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

**Additional Financial Support Available Through
September 15th - Only 2 Weeks Left to Apply**

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





Request for Prayers for the Nevada and Hawaii Following Wildfires and Hurricane Lala

Please pray for those being impacted by wildfires and the recovery efforts from Hurricane Lala. Pray for first responders as they carry out their duties: that they would be kept safe, the necessary resources would be available, and their efforts would be fruitful. For the survivors, pray for the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts with God's peace, for the congregations within the incident parameters to discern how God would have them be instruments of His mercy, for the resources in the form of caregivers and material support to be available, and for God's blessings to prevail as His mercy becomes manifest in both word and deed.



Lutheran Bible Translators Offer Virtual Seminar September 30, 2026

Lutheran Bible Translators will host the free Back to the Bible Summit on Wednesday, September 30, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Central. Now in its second year, the virtual-first gathering brings 12 pastors, educators, and ministry practitioners into three moderated panel conversations built for leaders who want practical next steps, not another diagnosis.



The 2026 theme is **Empowering Your Church Through Scripture**. Registration is free and open now at <https://www.LBT.org/Summit>. "The conversation about Bible engagement usually starts with what is missing," said Rev. Dr. Rich Rudowske, Executive Director and CEO of Lutheran Bible Translators. "We want to start somewhere else. People are often more open to Scripture than the numbers suggest, and leaders are frequently closer to a breakthrough than they realize."

This Summit is a chance to sit with that possibility alongside people who are working on it every day." Lutheran Bible Translators has spent more than 60 years working alongside language communities so people can read and hear Scripture in the language they understand best. That work abroad has changed how the organization views and understands Bible ministry domestically. "The questions we ask with a translation team in Southern Africa turn out to be the questions a congregation in Omaha is asking," Rudowske said. "Can people get to the text? Do they understand it when they do? Is there anyone walking with them? Those are not international questions. They are church questions." Three panel conversations The Summit is structured as three panel conversations, each anchored to a different part of the challenge.

Scripture Engagement: God Speaks at the Table looks at how people are actually encountering Scripture now, what is changing, and what remains essential.

God Speaks Your Language takes up discipleship as a long walk rather than a program, and how churches build cultures where people keep growing.

Practical Tools: God Speaks Every Language slows down the rush toward new platforms and AI-generated solutions to ask a plainer question: what actually helps people engage God's Word?



New FREE Sheet Music from LSM 2026 *by Anne Krentz Organ, Liturgical Composer in Residence*

Download the new arrangement: ***Kingsfold*** for solo instrument with keyboard accompaniment. The third annual offering from the LSM Hymn Tune Project, this expressive traditional English folk tune was collected by Ralph Vaughan Williams in the village of Kingsfold, Sussex, and introduced as a hymn tune in *The English Hymnal* (1906). Its lyrical character and adaptability have led to its use with a wide range of hymn texts.

The work can be performed in its entirety or as individual movements.

[Download Now](#)



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.



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

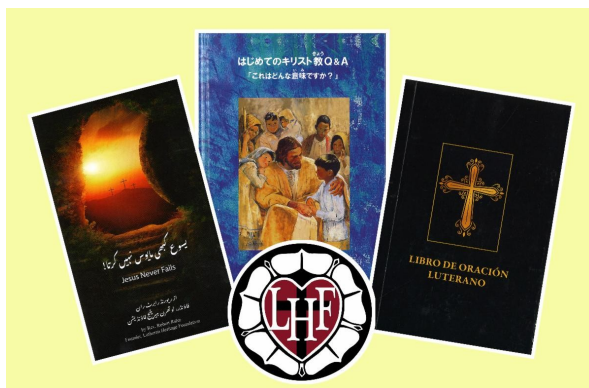
REGISTER HERE

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



Lutheran Heritage Foundation Offers Free Books

Do you have immigrants living in your area or attending your church or school who need books about Jesus in their heart languages? Contact the Lutheran Heritage Foundation for FREE books about Jesus available in over 180 languages. LHF just received a huge new shipment with books in languages like Japanese and Haitian Creole (Luther's *Small Catechism*), Farsi [Iran] and Korean (A *Child's Garden of Bible Stories*), Spanish (prayer books), Arabic and Urdu [Pakistan] (devotion booklets). Visit LHFmissions.org to request your free books today!





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 csi.edu/vocatio-retreat, by scanning the QR code or by Googling "Vocatio: Retreat Concordia Seminary."



Family Bible Podcast St. John the Apostle

We are blessed by the wisdom of St. John the Apostle, as we explore his epistles in the Family Bible Journey. He wrote as a loving father to His beloved children in the faith. We listen to him as we would a wise grandfather, whose only interest is our well-being.



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



Mark Your Calendars

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



Discovery Where is He Leading?

Learn about the joy of discovery, and how fun it is to watch God work when we discover where He's leading! Genysys Group founder Dan Lepley shares some of his experience in this video.

[Click here](#) to watch the video.



Want your church to grow?

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




www.genysys-group.com



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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

The family of **Rev. David Mennicke** who passed away on Tuesday, August 25, 2026. Rev. Mennicke was a resident at Lutheran Haven. He was a member of Hope Viera Lutheran Church in Melbourne, Florida. His graveside service will be held next week.

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. 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.

Andrew DeMario, Galloway, NJ, son of Deaconess Helen DeMario, who is having cardiac surgery September 1st. Please keep Andrew and his parents Deaconess Helen and John DeMario in your prayers as they are with him during and after his surgery.

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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