

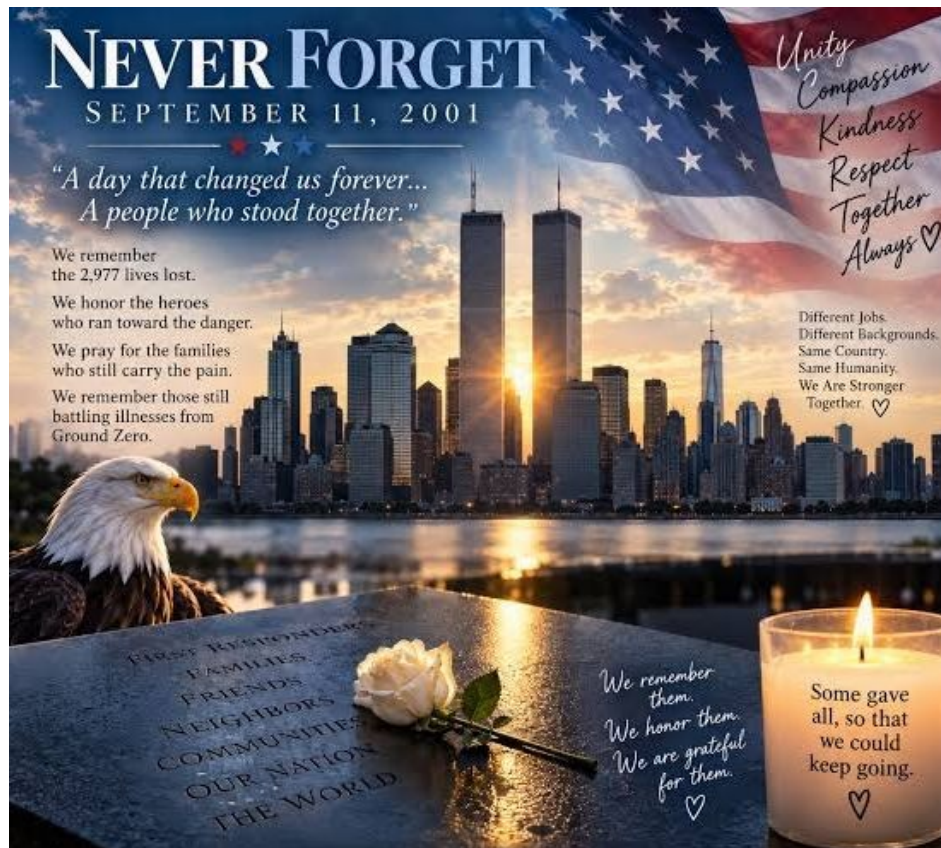


The Beacon Online

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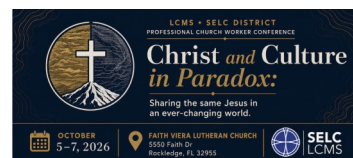
The Beacon Online is the communication source for the SELC District.

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



Just a reminder to register for the 2026 SELC District Professional Church Workers Conference by September 28th. It is being held at Faith *Viera* in Rockledge, Florida.

Please go to the PCWC website - <https://www.faithviera.org/pcwc26> and click on the [Register link](#)

Opening Worship will be held Tuesday morning at Faith *Viera* at 8:30 AM. Evening Prayer on Monday evening will be at the Homewood Suites at 7:00 PM.



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

**Additional Financial Support Available Through
September 15th - Less than 1 Week 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



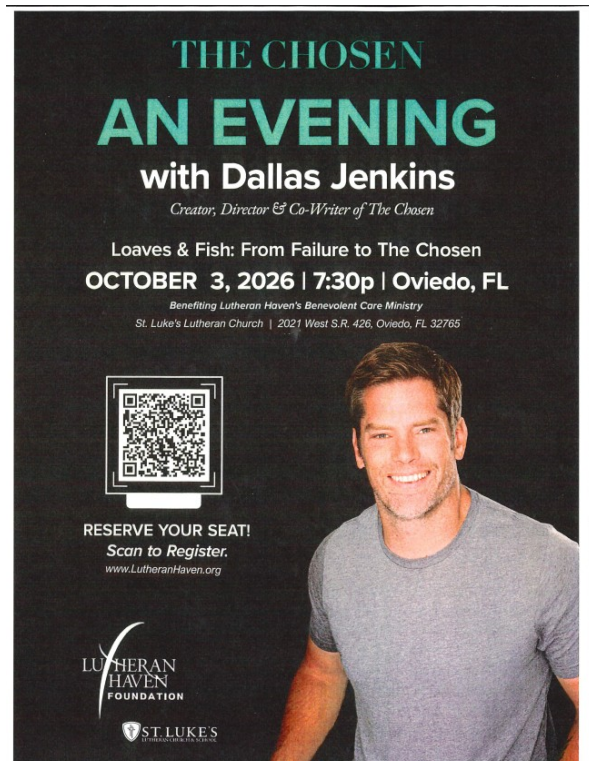


**An Evening with Dallas Jenkins,
Creator, Director and Co-Writer of
The Chosen!
October 3rd**

**The
CHOSEN**

Lutheran Haven has partnered with St. Luke's Church to present, **"An Evening with Dallas Jenkins, Creator, Director and Co-Writer of *The Chosen*."** His compelling presentation will be held on October 3rd, 2026, at St. Luke's Church and is titled: **"Loaves & Fish: From Failure to *The Chosen*."**

The Chosen is a groundbreaking historical drama based on the life of Jesus seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of Roman oppression in first-century Israel, the multi-season show shares an authentic and intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings. With over 250 million viewers, *The Chosen* is one of the most watched shows in the world. The series is consistently a top performer across several streaming platforms including Amazon Prime, Peacock and *The Chosen* app among others. What started as a crowdfunded project has now garnered over 800-million-episode views and more than 16 million social media followers.



"Loaves & Fish: From Failure to *The Chosen*" will take you behind the scenes in detail of how God is working through this amazing series. Before God took *The Chosen* to tens of millions of people in every country in the world, God first broke down Dallas Jenkins, the creator of the show. God continues to work in Dallas Jenkins' life even as He works through *The Chosen* to touch viewers around the world.

Because of the global impact of *The Chosen*, we anticipate a great turnout! Our goal for this event is to raise funding for Lutheran Haven's Benevolent Care Ministry which benefits our residents who outlive their resources along with funding various programs which promote healthy aging. Tickets are available now on our website at www.lutheranhaven.org or you can use the QR code below.



Concordia University, St. Paul, Slashes 2027-28 Tuition by \$5,500 for the Nation's First "Tuition Reset 2.0"

Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), today announced it will lower traditional undergraduate tuition by \$5,500 for the 2027-28 academic year, reducing its listed price to \$21,700. The 20 percent reduction in tuition for traditional undergraduate programs underscores the university's commitment to making a college education affordable and accessible for more students. It also puts tuition at CSP on par with many Minnesota public universities.

When implemented next year, the tuition price will match the university's 2006 rate. When adjusting for inflation, a 2027-28 CSP education will ultimately cost approximately 40 percent less than what it did at that same point in time. The end result helps reduce the amount of debt a student may have upon graduation, keeping more dollars in their pockets. Tuition costs and anticipated debt after graduation are key drivers that keep many prospective students from enrolling in college. Keeping tuition prices low helps eliminate the sticker shock that prevents students from enrolling, and enables their financial aid to go further, helping them finish college on a stronger financial footing.

The reset takes effect for the 2027-28 academic year and applies to new and returning undergraduate traditional students.



Annual School Statistics are Due November 1, 2026

LCMS Rosters and Statistics and LCMS School Ministry request that you submit your statistics for the new school year (2026–2027).

To submit your statistics, log into the LCMS Information Support Network (LISN) for Schools website at: lisn.lcms.org.



Holy Cross Welcomes 8 New Members and Hosts a Blood Drive

Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Alsip, Illinois welcomed 8 new members. Pictured below are **Front row** - Laura Bergmann, Naomi and Sophie Hooper, Laura Hooper, and Kathy Wood **Back row** - Alison Bergmann, Pastor Bergmann, James Hooper, and James Hooper.



Pictured below is the blood drive held at Holy Cross.





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?



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.



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 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

September 28, 2026 - Last day to register for the SELC District PCWC

October 3, 2026 - Dallas Jenkins Event - St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

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



Life

Mark Twain once wrote, "the reports of my death are greatly exaggerated." Like Mark Twain, many headlines proclaim the death of the Church in North America, when many are so alive! Be encouraged by the faithful ministry of Pastor Jerry Ingalls who watches God work in His community when First Baptist of New Castle shares the life they have in Christ!



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



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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. All Access Account is known as "StewardAccount" for investors in Washington. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.



Prayer Requests

We ask for your prayers for the family of **Joan Sitler**, of Zion Lutheran in Clark, New Jersey, who was called to heaven on September 4th. She now rests from her labors in the arms of Jesus, and we give thanks to the Lord for the earthly life He gave to her and for the many faith years of ministry and leadership she carried out at Zion, guided by His strong zeal and Spirit and has now welcomed her with all the Saints in Glory.

Rev. Kevin Bergmann, Munster, IN, who was hospitalized and is now at home. Please pray as he recovers.

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 for continued strength.

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 had successful surgery on September 1st. We give thanks to God for watching over Andrew in surgery and we ask for His loving care as Andrew recovers.

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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