



The Beacon Online

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

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

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



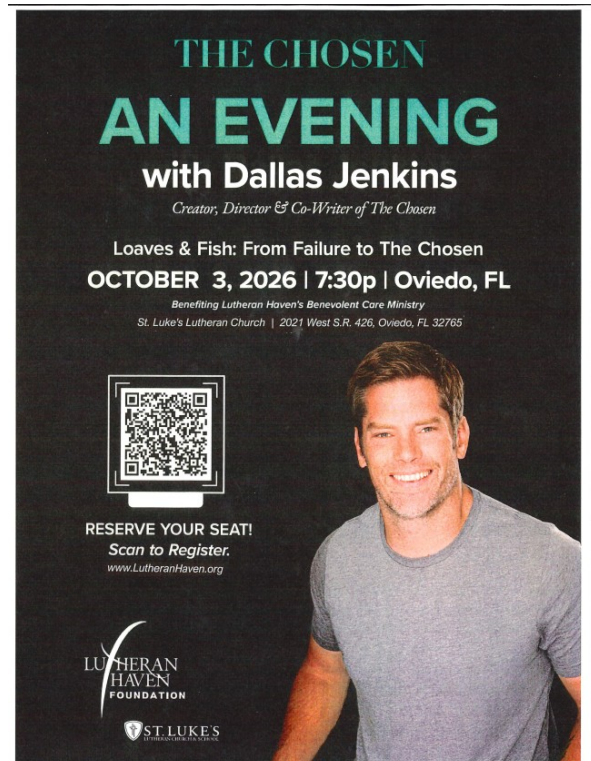


**An Evening with Dallas Jenkins,
Creator, Director and Co-Writer of
The Chosen!
October 3rd**

**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.



2026 Professional Church Workers Conference October 5 - 7, 2026 Only 10 days left to register



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.



Celebrating 30 Years of Zion Lutheran Preschool

In September 1996, Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, NJ opened the doors to Zion Lutheran Preschool. On September 11, 2026, they opened those doors for the **30th time!**

For three decades, Zion Lutheran Preschool has been a place where children have learned, grown, played, and experienced the love of God in a nurturing Christian environment. What began 30 years ago as a small ministry has blossomed into a cherished part of Zion's church family and the Clark community, touching the lives of countless children and families along the way.

As Zion reflects on these 30 years, they are grateful for the dedicated teachers, staff, church leaders, volunteers, and families whose faith, support, and commitment have made this ministry possible. Together, they have shared laughter, celebrated milestones, built lasting friendships, and experienced the joy of watching young children discover the world around them while growing in faith, confidence, and compassion.

To celebrate 30 years, the 30th of each month will feature a special activity designed to bring the anniversary to life. Each month's activity and lesson will offer a unique way to recognize the journey, celebrate the people and moments that have shaped the past three decades, and create new memories together.

Thirty years is more than a milestone—it is a testament to God's faithfulness and to the many people who have believed in and supported this ministry. They are looking forward with gratitude and excitement to the years ahead, trusting that God will continue to bless Zion Lutheran Preschool and all the children and families who become part of its story.

Happy 30th Anniversary, Zion Lutheran Preschool!

Here's to 30 years of learning, growing, loving, and sharing God's light—and to many more wonderful years to come!





St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Celebrates Rally Day

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Dickson City, PA celebrated Rally Day on Saturday with Bible Story time, good fellowship, and FUN!



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.



Online Life Ministries Conference Scheduled February 26 - 27, 2027

Join the 2027 LCMS Life Ministry Conference, which will be held online from Feb. 26–27, 2027. The conference will feature video presentations on life issues for the strengthening and support of lay members and church workers as they advocate, educate and share the truth of God’s Word, the sanctity of life at all ages, and Christ’s mercy for all people.

Registration for the conference is free, although attendees may choose to purchase extended access to the library of presentations for on-demand viewing. Several sessions conducted in Spanish will be included. Congregations are encouraged to host watch parties during the conference to facilitate further discussion of the presentations. Please [consider joining us online in February](#) to be strengthened and supported in our shared confession of God’s creation and value of all human life. More information will be shared in the coming months, including a lineup of presenters. With any questions, email lifeministry@lcms.org.



"FAN THE FLAME" LWML Rally
 Saturday, Oct 10 from 10-2:30 (registration @ 9am)
 St John's, 621 North Vine Street, Hazleton, PA
\$10 Registration - call Karen Ann @ 570-582-6046



LWML
 Lutheran Women in Mission

SELC
 LCMS

*Ingathering for
 Orphan Grain Train kits:
 Bath size towels,
 washcloths, toothbrushes,
 paste, heavy combs,
 clippers, solo tissue packs*

SING + STUDY 2 Timothy 1:6-7
*with LC-MS musician and speaker **Wendy Sue***



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

October 10, 2027 - LWML Fan Into Flame Eastern Zone Fall Rally, Hazleton, PA

November 1, 2026 - Annual School Statistics are due

November 12 - 14, 2026 - Concordia Center for the Family Training at Faith *Viera* in Rockledge, FL

February 26 - 27, 2027 - Online Life Ministries conference



In Ministry Video Featuring President Vinovskis

In a world where LOUD is often confused with leadership, District President Wally Vinovskis shares what it means to be great in the kingdom of heaven. Be blessed by his perspective in your walk with the Lord.

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



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Prayer Requests

Rev. Kevin Bergmann and Laura Bergmann, Munster, IN. Pastor Bergmann is regaining his strength at home after a hospitalization. His wife Laura is hospitalized. Please pray for the Bergmanns.

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, is home and working to regain his strength.

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 Pastor Duff as he travels to MD Anderson in Houston, TX for bi-weekly treatments.

Rev. Edward Kucera, and his wife Irene, St. Louis, MO, for God's loving care.

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 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.

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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