

## From the President

The Parish Nurse is, and can be, an indispensable asset to the pastor and members of any congregation. As the Parish Nurse offers physical, emotional, and spiritual care for members of the congregation, she/he can not only lighten the load of the Pastor but also prevent hurting people from falling “through the cracks.” In many regards and instances the parish nurse becomes the eyes and ears of the congregation’s shepherd, informing the pastor, or other appropriate professional church worker, of the special needs of a member of the flock. The ministry offered by the Parish Nurse is, and will become, one of the most vital ministries in the church. It is a ministry that every congregation should deliberately get information on and implement as soon as possible.

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier  
President

## Resources

**Michigan District, LCMS**  
[michigandistrict.org/parishnurse](http://michigandistrict.org/parishnurse)

- Educational Networking
- Health & Wellness Blogs
- Resources
- Regional Directory

**The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**  
[lcms.org](http://lcms.org)

- Basic Preparation Programs
- Continuing Education Opportunities
- Additional Associations and Fellowship

**Michigan District, LCMS**  
Sign-up to receive the Parish Nurse newsletter, a quarterly publication created by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, at [lcms.org/enews](http://lcms.org/enews).



## For More Information:

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# Parish Nursing

Guide to Parish Nursing



“Carry each other’s  
burdens, and in this way you  
will fulfill the law of Christ”  
- Galatians 6:2 (NIV)



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## What is Parish Nursing?

Congregational Health Ministries/Parish Nursing is committed to promoting and supporting the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being as part of the Christian stewardship of the whole person.

There are **over 60 congregations** with active health ministries in the Michigan District.

## Why Should Your Congregation Have a Parish Nurse?

**The healing ministry of Jesus was an integral part of His redemption**, restoring the whole person to God. He continues this ministry today calling women and men to healing vocations to care for the sick and to support health and well-being.

Health is not the absence of disease, but instead a holistic way of living. The parish nurse seeks to promote an understanding between faith and health by lifting up lifestyle practices as a matter of stewardship, and works directly with the pastoral staff to provide professional care.

As each LCMS congregation is unique in parishioner demographics, the parish nurse/health ministry is individualized to meet the needs of your congregation.



## How do Parish Nurses Serve?

- **Health Educator** - provides opportunities for individuals and groups to learn about health issues, teaches safety classes, and develops/facilitates support groups for the church and community.
- **Health Counselor** - discusses health concerns, answers health-related questions, and encourages a healthy lifestyle.
- **Referral Advisor** - provides referrals to health care and social service resources within the community.
- **Integrator of Faith & Healing** - helps members of the congregation and community obtain needed health-related services. Empowers people with information and resources to make wise health care decisions within a Lutheran Christian context. Encourages and assists the congregation in sharing the Gospel.
- **Visitation** - provides Christ-centered home and hospital visitation upon request to offer prayer, support, and encouragement of parishioners and family caregivers.
- **Volunteer Coordinator** - recruits, prepares, and oversees congregational volunteers who help those in need with meals, transportation, and other identified needs.



## Parish Nurse Qualifications

- Registered nurse, licensed in Michigan, functioning under the American Nurses Association Scope and Standards of Practice for Faith Community Nursing
- Member in good standing of the congregation
- Person of spiritual maturity
- Two or more years of nursing experience
- Completion of a recognized parish nurse preparation program which consists of 30 contact hours



## Are Parish Nurses Compensated?

Compensation and hours of the parish nurse vary among congregations. Some parish nurses are salaried, while others work on a volunteer basis. Some compensation is encouraged to give credibility to the ministry.