



Presented by

Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

#theological18



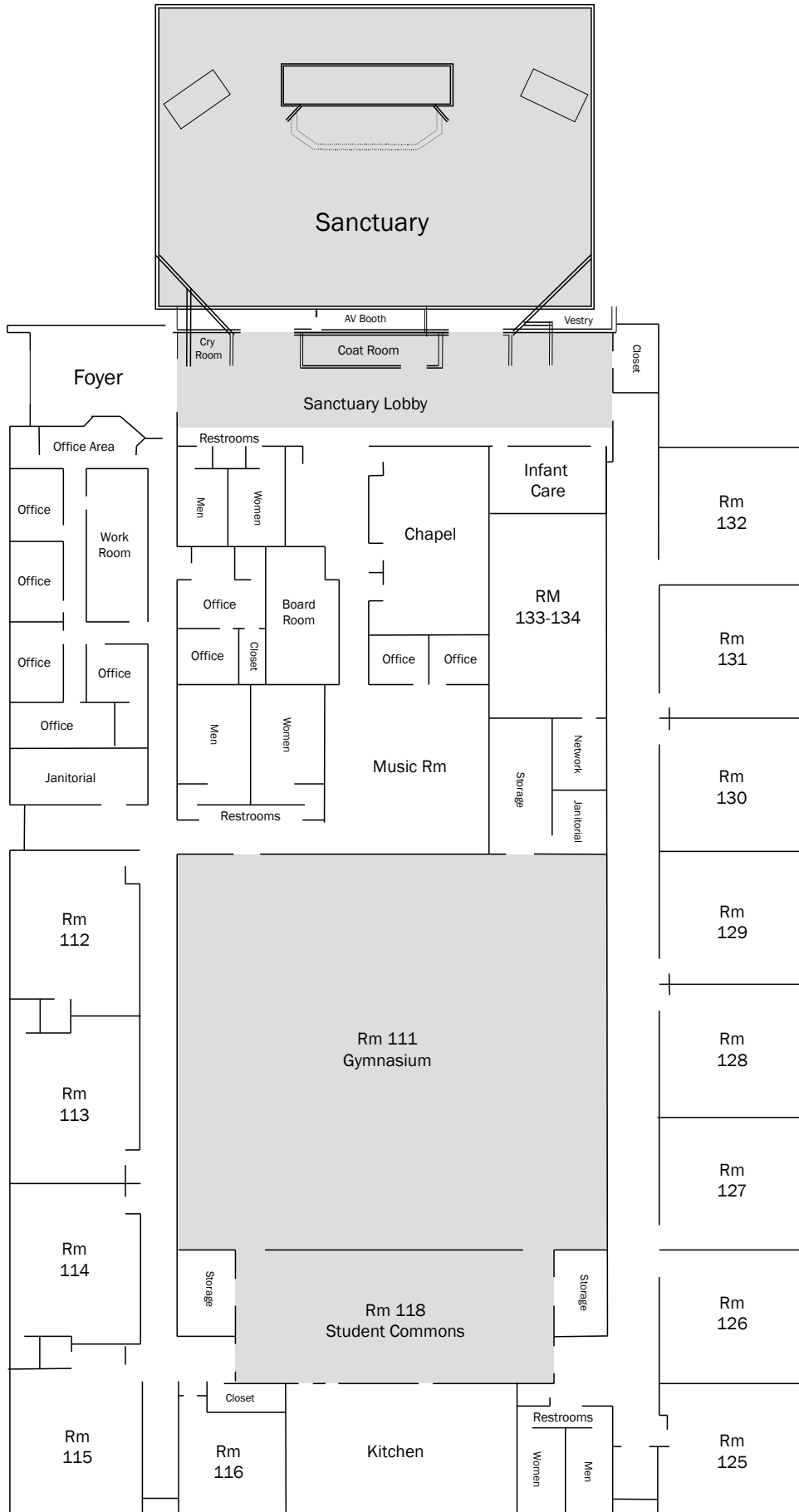
**TAKE
HEART**



TAKE HEART, TAKE ACTION

Saturday February 24, 2018
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lansing

Map of Our Savior



President's Welcome



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

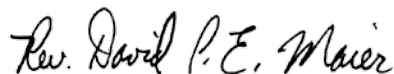
I am privileged to welcome you to this year's Theological Conference presented by the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We are thankful to have with us outstanding presenters who will share their unique perspectives on what it means to be a witness of Jesus Christ.

My prayer is that the laypeople and church workers attending this conference will gain biblical insight in to our calling as witnesses of the Gospel, as well as practical advice on how to share Jesus' love in our communities.

A special thanks to Rev. Bill Wangelin and Our Savior Lutheran Church for hosting the Theological Conference again this year. Without their hard work and efforts, this important conference would not be possible.

May God bless your travels to and from Lansing. I look forward to being with you at the *Take Heart, Take Action* conference on witnessing.

In Christ,



Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Michigan District, LCMS



Keynote Speakers



Rev. Todd A. Jones is a 1989 graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. Prior to accepting the call to serve as Assistant to the President – Mission Education and Support for the Michigan District, LCMS he served Concordia Seminary in St. Louis as Assistant Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Resident Field Education. Prior to that, he served two congregations before accepting a call to the Mid-South District as an Executive Assistant to the District President. His areas of interest and expertise include mission work, children's ministry, and ministry health.

Jones and his wife, Susan, have been married since 1982 and have two children, Timothy and Jessica.



Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. serves as president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), and professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism. Dr. Rast joined the Department of Historical Theology in the fall of 1996 after serving as pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tenn. (1992–96).

He received his B.A. in Theological Languages from Concordia College, River Forest, Ill. (1986), and his M.Div. (1990) and S.T.M. (1995) from CTSFW. In 2000 he received the M.A. degree and, in 2003, he earned his Ph.D. in American Church History from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn.

Dr. Rast's favorite hobbies include Civil War history, music, and trains. He and his wife Amy have three children.



Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood serves as director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry and as director of the LCMS Revitalization initiative. In his roles he identifies, develops, and promotes resources for assisting congregations with inviting, welcoming, and receiving people who are disconnected from the church, equipping Lutherans to be more effective witnesses in their everyday lives, and aiding congregations with revitalization.

Dr. Wood is passionate about understanding how we can plant new authentically Lutheran churches and revitalize existing ones in creative ways in order to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity to non-churched people.



Rev. Gregory A. Finke is the founder and Executive Director of Dwelling 1:14 and author of the books “Joining Jesus on His Mission” and “Joining Jesus – Show Me How.” Dwelling 1:14 is a non-profit ministry which helps leaders disciple their people to join Jesus on His mission in the places they already live, work, and go to school (www.dwelling114.org).

Before founding Dwelling 1:14, Finke had been the senior pastor of Messiah Lutheran in Midland, Mich. for 18 years and Gloria Dei Lutheran in Houston, Texas for three years. Greg and his wife, Susan, have three daughters and enjoy life as neighborhood missionaries in League City, Texas.

Finke is a graduate of Concordia University Chicago (1985) and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1989). He is a frequent presenter at conferences for Synodical, District, and regional gatherings.

Schedule

2018 Michigan District, LCMS Theological Conference

Take Heart, Take Action

8:30 a.m.	Registration/Fellowship	
8:55 a.m.	Opening	Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier
9:15 a.m.	Session 1 – “You Shall Be My Witnesses”	Rev. Todd A. Jones
10 a.m.	Q & A	
10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:30 a.m.	Session 2 – “Missouri in Mission”	Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr.
11:15 a.m.	Q & A	
11:30 a.m.	Lunch	
12:15 p.m.	Session 3 – “Identity and Witness: Speaking of Christ Because of Who You Are”	Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood
1 p.m.	Q & A	
1:15 p.m.	Break	
1:30 p.m.	Session 4 – “What’s Missing in Our Mission Strategy?”	Rev. Gregory A. Finke
2:15 p.m.	Q & A	
2:30 p.m.	Panel Discussion	
3 p.m.	Final Comments	

→ Video recordings of all sessions and PowerPoint slides will be available after the conference. You will be notified by email of their availability.
 → A conference evaluation will be emailed to you today; please take a moment to share your comments with us. Thank you.

You Shall Be My Witnesses

Rev. Todd A. Jones

I. Obstacles to our Witness

A. The lack of urgency

1. This assertion arises from an effort to resolve two apparently contradictory concepts in Scripture.

	Election	Heart of God
Scripture	Ephesians 1:3-14	John 3:16-17
	1 Peter 1:1-2	1 Timothy 2:4
	Acts 13:48	2 Peter 3:9
	Romans 8:30	Romans 10:14-17
		1 Corinthians 9:19-23
		Acts 26:24-32
Confessions	Solid Declaration XI	Ep XI.12
	Epitome, XI	Ep XI.17, 18
	Luther's Bondage of the Will	

B. Uncertainty over the call to be a witness

Only _____ do the Work of Evangelism

1. Matthew 28:19-20
2. Preaching - vs - Proclamation

1 Peter 2:9

C. Confusion over the purpose of our witness:

1.

2.

3.

4.

II. Take Heart – Take Action

- A. God's heart for the captives:
Understanding the imagery of captivity:

Captives and the heart of God:

Urgency:

Ability:

Power:

- B. God's call for action to live as Exiles: 1 Peter 1:1–2

Obedience

Blood (Exodus 29:21; 4:6; 5:9; 14:6–8)

- C. God's call for action to live as Priest: 1 Peter 2:9

Luther on the witness of the Priesthood:

As an example of such life the Apostle cites Christ, saying, "Have this mind among yourselves, which you have in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death" [Phil. 2:5–8].

Paul means this: Although Christ was filled with the form of God and rich in all good things, so that he needed no work and no suffering to make him righteous and saved (for he had all this eternally), yet he was not puffed up by them and did not exalt himself above us and assume power over us, although he could rightly have done so;

but, on the contrary, he so lived, labored, worked, suffered, and died that he might be like other men and in fashion and in actions be nothing else than a man, just as if he had need of all these things and had nothing of the form of God. But he did all this for our sake, that he might serve us and that all things which he accomplished in this form of a servant might become ours.

So a Christian, like Christ his head, is filled and made rich by faith and should be content with this form of God which he has obtained by faith; only, as I have said, he should increase this faith until it is made perfect ... Although the Christian is thus free from all works, he ought in this liberty to empty himself, take upon himself the form of a servant, be made in the likeness of men, be found in human form, and to serve, help, and in every way deal with his neighbor as he sees that God through Christ has dealt and still deals with him. This he should do freely, having regard for nothing but divine approval.

He ought to think: "Although I am an unworthy and condemned man, my God has given me in Christ all the riches of righteousness and salvation without any merit on my part, out of pure, free mercy, so that from now on I need nothing except faith which believes that this is true. Why should I not therefore freely, joyfully, with all my heart, and with an eager will do all things which I know are pleasing and acceptable to such a Father who has overwhelmed me with his inestimable riches? I will therefore give myself as a Christ to my neighbor, just as Christ offered himself to me; I will do nothing in this life except what I see is necessary, profitable, and salutary to my neighbor, since through faith I

have an abundance of all good things in Christ.”

Behold, from faith thus flow forth love and joy in the Lord, and from love a joyful, willing, and free mind that serves one’s neighbor willingly and takes no account of gratitude or ingratitude, of praise or blame, of gain or loss. For a man does not serve that he may put men under obligations. He does not distinguish between friends and enemies or anticipate their thankfulness or unthankfulness, but he most freely and most willingly spends himself and all that he has, whether he wastes all on the thankless or whether he gains a reward.

As his Father does, distributing all things to all men richly and freely, making “his sun rise on the evil and on the good” [Matt. 5:45], so also the son does all things and suffers all things with that freely bestowing joy which is his delight when through Christ he sees it in God, the dispenser of such great benefits.

Therefore, if we recognize the great and precious things which are given us, as Paul says [Rom. 5:5], our hearts will be filled by the Holy Spirit with the love which makes us free, joyful, almighty workers and conquerors over all tribulations, servants of our neighbors, and yet lords of all. For those who do not recognize the gifts bestowed upon them through Christ, however, Christ has been born in vain; they go their way with their works and shall never come to taste or feel those things.

Just as our neighbor is in need and lacks that in which we abound, so we were in need before God and lacked his mercy. Hence, as our heavenly Father has in Christ freely come to our aid, we also ought freely to help our neighbor through our body and its works, and each one should become as it were a Christ to the other that we may be Christs to one another and Christ may be the same in all, that is, that we may be truly Christians ...

See, according to this rule the good things we have from God should flow from one to the other and be common to all, so that everyone should “put on” his neighbor and so conduct himself toward him as if he himself were in the other’s place. From Christ the good things have flowed and are flowing into us. He has so “put on” us and acted for us as if he had been what we are. From us they flow on to those who have need of them so that I should lay before God my faith and my righteousness that they may cover and intercede for the sins of my neighbor which I take upon myself and so labor and serve in them as if they were my very own. That is what Christ did for us. This is true love and the genuine rule of a Christian life. Love is true and genuine where there is true and genuine faith. Hence the Apostle says of love in 1 Cor. 13[:5] that “it does not seek its own.”

... We conclude, therefore, that a Christian lives not in himself, but in Christ and in his neighbor. Otherwise he is not a Christian. He lives in Christ through faith, in his neighbor through love. By faith he is caught up beyond himself into God. By love he descends beneath himself into his neighbor.

–1520, The Freedom of a Christian

Rev. Todd A. Jones

todd.jones@michigandistrict.org

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Session 2 Notes

Missouri in Mission

Rev. Dr. Lawrence Rast, Jr.

I. Missouri in Mission

- A. Impossible Circumstances
- B. God Provides
- C. God Does More than Anyone Can Imagine
- D. Present-Day Challenges
- E. Our Faithful God

II. Lutheran Churches: 1850

- A. Pre-1825 Migration Routes to the West
- B. Post-1825 Migration Routes to the West

III. Friedrich Wyneken (1810–1876)

IV. Wilhelm Sihler (1801–1885)

V. August Crämer (1812–1891)

VI. Missouri Growth

VII. Leading Lutheran Church Bodies, 2000

VIII. Lutherans as a Percentage of all Residents, 2000

Identity and Witness: Speaking of Christ Because of Who You Are

Rev. Dr. Mark A. Wood

1 Peter 2:4–10 ESV

“⁴ As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture: ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.’ ⁷ So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,’ ⁸ and ‘A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.’ They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. ¹⁰ Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”

I. Introduction

Addressing the both/and:

- A. Witness and Outreach
- B. Individual and Corporate
- C. Every One His Witness and re:Vitality

Often asked: *Why don’t Lutherans witness?*

II. Who are You?

- A. Starts with “Who is Jesus?”
- B. Who you were informs who you are (1 Peter 2:10)
- C. Who you are now (1 Peter 2:5, 9–10)

III. Our Call to Be Priests

- A. We are priests

*It would please me very much if this word “priest” were used as commonly as the term “Christians” is applied to us. For priests, the baptized, and Christians are all one and the same.
(Martin Luther, LW, Vol. 30, Page 63)*

- B. Two distinct priesthoods
- C. Our role as priests

IV. There's No "I" in Priesthood?

Well, there's no "I" in Team 0 the point is the same.

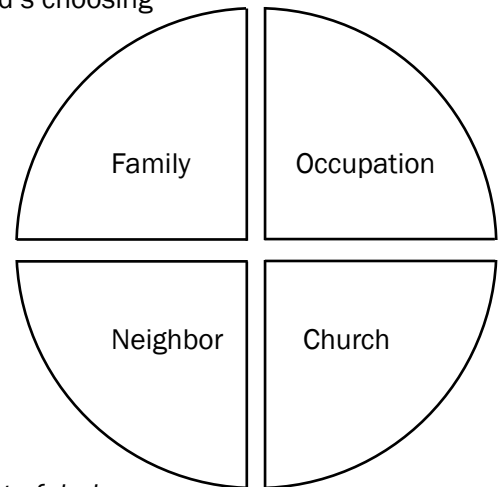
- A. The 'you' of 1 Peter 2 is plural
- B. Our identity is expressed in collective terms.
 - 1. Not to the exclusion of being individuals,
 - 2. but to the fullness of who are in Christ.

"For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another"
(Romans 12:4-5 ESV).

V. Priesthood and Vocation

- A. Vocation = God's calling = who we are
- B. We are priests at a time, in a place, and with the people of God's choosing
- C. Four vocational areas make up our everyday lives

- 1. Family
- 2. Occupation
- 3. Neighbor
- 4. Church (Disciple)



VI. This is Who We Are

"that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9b ESV).

- A. This is your calling
- B. This is your purpose
- C. This is who you are.

*"We live on earth **only so that we should be a help to other people.** Otherwise, it would be best if God would strangle us and let us die as soon as we were baptized and had begun to believe. **For this reason, however, He lets us live that we may bring other people also to faith as He has done for us ...** Everything then should be directed in such a way that you recognize what God has done for you and that you, thereafter, **make it your highest priority to proclaim this publicly and call everyone to the light to which you are called.**"*

Martin Luther, Sermons on 1 Peter 15:23 Cited in The Church Comes from All Nations, p. 20

VII. For more information:

A. Everyone One His Witness: Lutheran Evangelism

Online: lcms.org/witness-outreach

Email: witness-outreach@lcms.org

Facebook: search for “Every One His Witness” or go to facebook.com/LCMSE1HW

To order resources: www.cph.org/everyonehiswitness

B. Re:Vitality Lutheran Revitalization

Online: lcms.org/revitalization

Email: wor@lcms.org

Facebook: search for “LCMS reVitality” or go to facebook.com/LCMSreVitality

Session 4 Notes

What's Missing in Our Mission Strategy?

Rev. Gregory A. Finke

I. Introduction

- A. Why does the thought of being a neighborhood missionary scare us?
- B. We have something very simple but very important backwards.
- C. **Jesus is pursuing his Father's mission and he invites us to join him.**

We don't go *for* Jesus. We go *with* Jesus. He does all the heavy lifting of redeeming and restoring human lives. We just get to help. "*Come, follow Me...*"

II. Mission Friendship

- A. What is missing from most mission strategies?
- B. How to get started ...
 - 1. Wherever God has already placed us, this is where we start—neighborhood, workplace, school, etc.
 - 2. If we are going to join Jesus on His mission in our neighbors' lives, we need to get to know our neighbors and spend time with our neighbors: What's their name? What's their story? What's Jesus already up to in their life? How can I join Him?
 - 3. The Neighboring Formula: Unhurried Time + Proximity + Activity (food) = Conversation x Over Time = Friendship
- C. So what is your next step? What will you do first and soon?

III. Mission Support

A. To stay intentional and consistent for this mission lifestyle, we need a little help from our friends (Hebrews 10:24–25). So we regularly gather with other everyday missionaries for **Missional Community**. Missional Community in its various forms gives us a place for reflection and conversation about how life on mission with Jesus is going. What's working, what's not, what's next?

We use the **5 Questions** to help prompt our reflection and conversation together:

1. How did you see God at work in your life this week?

What has He been up to around you? Who has He been bringing across your path? Who is He inviting you to pay attention to?

2. What has God been teaching you in His Word?

As you followed Jesus around in the Gospels this week, what did He invite you to believe or do? What happened when you put it into practice?

3. What kind of conversations are you having with your pre-Christian friends?

A conversation with anyone God brings across your path is important. But a conversation with someone living without the grace and truth of Jesus is especially important. What did you learn

about the person's story? What might be the next step in your interactions?

4. What good can you do?

As you reflect on last week's observations and conversations with the people around you, how can you serve, bless, or encourage someone next week? What's their name? What's your plan? How can we help?

5. What do you want us to ask you about next week and how can we help you in prayer?

B. The **5 Questions** help us tell our mission stories and our stories come from putting the 5 Practices into play in daily life.

1. There are various ways to participate in Missional Community: family meals, using Take-10 in existing church groups, or meetings with other missionaries in our "neighborhoods."
2. So what is your next step? What will you do first and soon?

IV. How Can Dwelling 1:14 Come Alongside You?

A. Are you ready to go from inspiration to implementation?

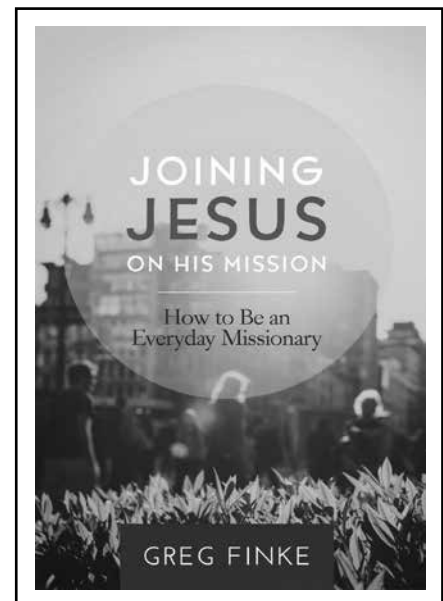
1. Utilize "Joining Jesus on His Mission" in your congregation.

Available in English, Spanish, video, ebook, and audio versions
(ask about our various quantity discounts for the book)

2. 18-month, Missional Lifestyle Training Process

3. Check out Greg's new book on how to disciple people the way Jesus does in the Gospels. "Joining Jesus – Show Me How: How to Disciple Everyday Missionaries."

4. Go to www.dwelling114.org for more information and, while you're there, sign up for our e-newsletter



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Rev. Gregory A. Finke, Executive Director, Author, Mission and Discipling Trainer

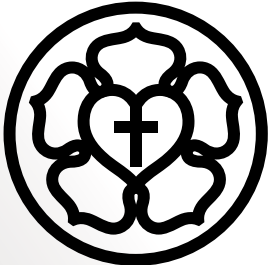
www.dwelling114.org | finkeonthemove@aol.com | 281-844-7644

Facebook, "LIKE" Author Greg Finke | Twitter & Instagram @Joining_Jesus

Notes

Here We Stand

- Professional Church Worker Scholarships
- Innovative Missional Ministry
- Michigan District Endowment
- International Ministry



Here We Stand

herewestand.michigandistrict.org

Campaign Goal: **\$10 million**
 Campaign Progress: **\$5.12 million**
 (as of February 1, 2018)

Participating Congregations: **113**
 As of 1/23/18 there were **7,023** people participating in the Reformation Bible Reading Program; **800** completed as of 1/23/18:

Bible verse: Psalm 71:17-18
"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to Come."

Calendar of Events 2018

michigandistrict.org/events

MARCH

3-4 State Basketball Tournament
Concordia University Ann Arbor

APRIL

21 Metro West District Convention Regional Meeting
St. Paul, Ann Arbor
21 West District Convention Regional Meeting
St. Matthew, Ada
21 North & East District Convention Regional Meeting
St. John, Pinconning

MAY

5 Metro East District Convention Regional Meeting
Hope, Warren
12 District Convention Floor Committee Meeting
District Office, Ann Arbor

JUNE

1-3 Michigan District Junior High Gathering
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
24 7 p.m. District Convention Opening Worship
Concordia University Ann Arbor
24-26 Michigan District Convention
Concordia University Ann Arbor
25-29 A2E Sports Camp VBS
East Side, Detroit

JULY

16-20 A2E Sports Camp/VBS
West Side, Detroit
22-26 Special Friends Camp
Camp Copneconic, Fenton
July 30-August 3 A2E Sports Camp/VBS - Tentative
Pontiac

OCTOBER

12-14 Lutheran Adult Gathering
Grand Hotel, Mackinac Island



Michigan District Convention Opening Worship
Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, preacher
Concordia University Ann Arbor
Chapel of the Holy Trinity
June 24, 2018 | 7 p.m.





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→ michiganintouch.com

The Michigan District blog delivers content that awakens, connects, challenges, and inspires. Articles are written to support the District's critical targets: Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Workers. The blog can be easily shared through social networks and email. We are always looking for authors; click on *Submit Article* tab to find content sought and writing guidelines.

The Michigan In Touch supplement to The Lutheran Witness is the printed version of the blog. It also contains news and events. Discount subscriptions are available. For more information, visit michigandistrict.org/connect/publications/lutheranwitness.



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