

APRIL 2019

# michigan

IN TOUCH

A publication of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
The Lutheran Witness Michigan District, LCMS Supplement

## HEALTHY WORKERS

# Everyone is Ultimately a One

by Travis Grulke

If I asked you to share the books that have had a lasting impact on your life, what would they be? Obviously, all of you are good Lutherans so the Bible is always number one, but what would come next? Number two on my list is *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Steven Covey. I read it when I began my career as a young educator, and last summer the principals in our district gathered at Higgins Lake for our annual conference to take part in an intense training from Franklin/Covey on the seven habits. We also chose to read through the book and go over the habits in our principal regional meetings that take place throughout the state. Although it is considered by many to be a classic on the subject of leadership, it has its critics ... mainly because Steven Covey was a Mormon.

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IN TOUCH

Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
April 2019, Volume 18, No. 4  
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)  
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

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This short article isn't going to try to look at all the reasons why you should/shouldn't read Covey's book. It is, however, going to focus on my favorite part of the book. Dr. Covey wrote a powerful little story in reference to how we deal with those around us (especially those that can test us at times):

*When my son Joshua was quite young, he would frequently ask me a soul-searching question. Whenever I overreacted to someone else or was the least bit impatient or unkind, he was so vulnerable and so honest and our relationship was so good that he would simply look me in the eye and say, "Dad, do you love me?" If he thought I was breaking a basic principle of life toward someone else, he wondered if I wouldn't break it with him.*

*As a teacher, as well as a parent, I have found that the key to the ninety-nine is the one—particularly the one that is testing the patience and the good humor of the many. It is the love and the discipline of the one student, the one child, that communicates love for the others. **"It's how you treat the one that reveals how you regard the ninety-nine because everyone is ultimately a one."***

I love that last sentence and, reading it from a Christian perspective, it is easy to relate it to Christ's parable of the lost sheep. It convicts me of my failures in dealing with the *one*—the person I find difficult to care for and show compassion towards. If you are like me, many times you don't want anything to do with the one lost sheep. You enjoy the other ninety-nine. They are the mass of people who appreciate your company, cooperate instead of complain, and maybe even sing your praises once and a while. I foolishly convince myself that they are the only ones that deserve my time and attention. But my lack of concern for the one communicates to the ninety-nine how little I value them as well because as Covey states above, we all are "ultimately a one."

So what compels us to not only care for the ninety-nine but to also treat the *one* with an equal amount of love and compassion? God's love for us! *"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again"* (1 Corinthians 5:14–15). Dr. Covey's quote means so much more to us as Christians. We know that, because of Christ's death and resurrection, we no longer live for ourselves. We live for Jesus, and if that is the case, then

we can't help but be filled with compassion for those we find most difficult to love.

When I find myself struggling to live my life as Paul describes in 1 Corinthians, I go to my heavenly Father with words of thanksgiving. My heart is softened when

it is surrounded by His blessings, and my spirit is strengthened when I am reminded of everything He has done for me.

**"It's how you treat the one that reveals how you regard the ninety-nine because everyone is ultimately a one."**

**- Dr. Steven Covey**

## PRAYER

Thank you, God, for the moments you give us to care for the people in our lives who challenge our patience ... for the grace and forgiveness you pour out on us every day when we selfishly live for ourselves ... for treating each one of us as your precious child despite our faults and failures ... for the opportunities to reach the masses through the individual relationships we have with those we are called to serve ... and for sending your Son, who left the ninety-nine to come and find me. ■

*Travis Grulke is the Michigan District's Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools. But his more important titles are the husband of Lori and the dad to three crazy and lovable girls. The four ladies in his life are by far his most absolute favorite blessing!*



# Spring Cleaning

by Michael Stahl

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

It’s spring! The weather is getting nicer, and many of us have taken to the task of “Spring Cleaning.” Some are working on their yards and are clearing away the dead branches and the remnants of the winter months. Regularly, systematically, and purposefully, we move around the yard raking, picking up, and cleaning up. Soon there will be a pile of branches and debris ready to chip or have hauled away. Soon there will be a yard that’s clean and crisp—one that children can walk on in bare feet, and one that we can sit on the deck and look out upon while we eat our dinner without thinking about the work left to do on it. Things will soon be clean on the outside.

There’s more cleaning to be done than just what’s visible in the yard, though. How many of us will clean out the garage, too? The garage can easily become a receptacle for extra “stuff” during the winter, and now that spring is here, many of us will attack this area as well, going through it purposefully and being fairly liberal with throwing away a number of things. When we’re done, our garages will be swept clean and put in order.

But the garage can’t organize itself, and the yard can’t clean itself up. One who knows more than they do has to do the work of setting things right and putting things in order. Without that person, the yard and garage would not only remain in the states they are but they would continue to get worse.

We are a lot like the yard and garage, I think. For some of us it’s been a long “winter,” and we’ve

been covered with a lot of debris and extra stuff other people have put on us. For some, we’ve been shoving more and more deep down inside of us, and we’re just now beginning to see the effects of letting so much stockpile inside. It’s time for a cleaning, both inside and out, and it’s going to take One bigger than we are to do it fully and properly.

It will take time (isn’t that irritating?). The results won’t be immediately visible on the outside (again, how irritating!). As the clutter inside is dealt with, our outsides will subtly change to reflect the new person we are on the inside.

It might be painful. Just ask the branches as they go through the chipper, or the extra stuff as it gets tossed into the trash!

No, it’s not something we can do on our own. It will take the fresh breath of the Holy Spirit moving deep within us. It will take a dying to the old, sinful ways, and a coming alive to the new life available in Christ. This new life came to us in our Baptism when the Old Adam was drowned and the new person emerged. It comes again and again every time we eat the bread and drink the cup, hearing and believing those life-changing, soul-saving words of the Savior, “Given and shed for you.”

In the washing we were born anew, and Luther urges us to remember that. In the Supper we lay at the altar



It’s time for a cleaning, both inside and out, and it’s going to take One bigger than we are to do it fully and properly.

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all the clutter that needs to be dealt with and the sin from which we need to be cleansed yet again. We do so trusting Jesus’ promises to be there not only in the bread and wine, but also in sending the Holy Spirit to us to do the work we cannot.

Since Jesus is willing and able to do that for us, then that must mean He thinks we’re worth it. If He thinks we’re worth it, then that must mean He loves us. If He loves us, then that must mean He meant what He said when He told us He was going to come back and take us to be with Him. If He plans on taking us Home, then we need the Holy Spirit to get us ready.

## PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, and clean us from the inside out! ■

*Rev. Michael Stahl teaches Theology at Valley Lutheran High School in Saginaw, Mich.*

# A Valuable Life

by Alex Hoffmeyer

*“And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12 ESV).*

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Our Lord who was placed into the tomb did not remain dead but now lives and reigns to all eternity! Truly, this message of the Easter season warms our hearts and reminds us of the joys we await in the coming kingdom of our Lord. But this season is also a time for reflection. As we remember the wondrous deeds of Jesus on the cross and His miraculous resurrection from the tomb, we must ask how this affects us even today. This devotion will tackle one aspect of this reflection with the following question: in whom or what do you place your trust?

For some, this question is philosophical, and yet for others it is a question asked in order to sell a product. The Texas Armoring Corporation (or TAC for short) manufactures bullet-proof windshields and glass for various cars that are used for diplomats, dignitaries, and the rich and famous. They are very proud of their product, and they heartily endorse its use. Their work may save your life. If you don't believe them, then just speak to the CEO, Trent Kimball. He was so eager to prove to the consumers that his product was stronger and safer than the competition that he sat in the driver's seat one of their armored cars while an employee fired an AK-47 at him. The company created a video showing Trent sitting calmly behind the steering wheel while the windshield takes the impact of bullet

after bullet, many of which would have killed him if they penetrated the glass. After the firing was done, Trent got out of the car, and said simply: “Life is valuable. Protect it.”

I have to agree with Trent's last statement. Life is valuable, and we should take every step we can to protect it. God recognized this as well when He sent His Son down to earth. After sin entered this world, God knew He would need to act in order to restore mankind to Himself. Someone would need to crush the head of Satan, but in doing so He would also have His heel bruised. However, if this were done, our lives would be reclaimed, and humans could then die to sin and be made alive. So God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to bear our sin on the cross and pay our whole debt of sin. Just like the bulletproof windshield protected Trent Kimball from death, so also Christ placed Himself in harms' way and bore the judgment of sin on the cross so that we could live. Our lives are valuable because they are valuable to God, and He gave everything for us so that we could be with Him again.

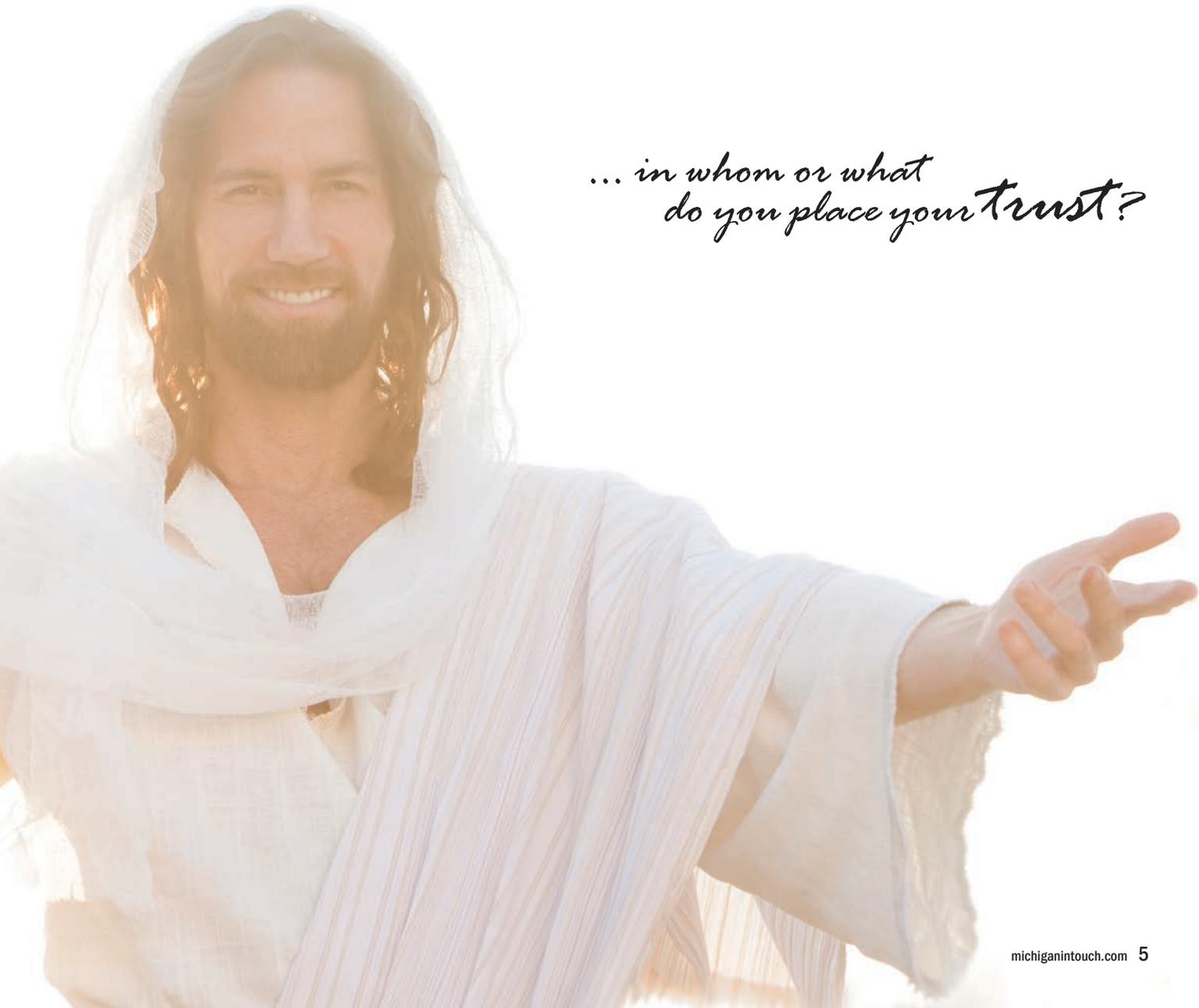


When I saw Trent sitting in the car I was reminded of the confidence we have in Christ, especially in light of the Gospel of Easter joy. No matter what happens on this earth, no matter what forces of evil may attack us, and no matter how often it seems that sin has power over our lives, we can be assured that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We are in the hands of the One True God, and in Him alone our trust is well-placed, for there is salvation in no one else. May this confidence help you to face the trials in life with strength, for God Almighty is with you. Christ is risen, and He dwells with you in joy and in trouble.

## PRAYER

Dearest Jesus, we thank You that, through Your death, You have rescued us from sin and spared us from eternal death. In Your name we have confidence, for there is no other name under heaven by which we can be saved. You have called Your children by Your Word and sealed them in the waters of Baptism. May this confidence be our stay, O Lord, as difficulties arise around us, that we may always be faithful witnesses to Your glory. Amen. ■

*Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer serves as pastor at Salem, Coloma.*



*... in whom or what  
do you place your trust?*



# Do You Miss Me?

by Randy Johnson

*“Do you miss me?”* Yes, that is all he said to me. I looked straight at him and thought to myself, of course I miss you. Then I had to think, wait a minute, when was he gone? How often had he been gone? How could I have missed that he was not here? Yet, it can be easy for a pastor not to miss one person because of all the other people who are there and demanding a piece of his time—so many who want to say just a word or two to you, or who want you to come visit them. Yet, I should have missed him.

So, how did I not miss him? Maybe another question is how no one else in the congregation missed him. The people who sit next to him, the people who sit behind him, the people who sit in front of him, how did they not miss him?

Yes, that is an interesting question. But there is another question to ask as well—Why did he feel it necessary to not come to church? Why did he put his fellow Christians to the test?

Have you looked at the membership rolls of your church lately? How many people are on those lists that are no longer coming? How many are asking the very question I was asked, *“Do you miss me?”*

I have heard the following statements over and over

in many churches when it comes to those who are no longer coming to church: *“Come on now, these people know where the church is and they know that they receive the greatest gifts of all. They receive the Lord’s Supper and the forgiveness of sins and the fellowship that God calls us to there. They know all this so, why are they testing us? After all the church’s doors are open, aren’t they? They can come in anytime they want.*

*Our doors are open.”* That is very selfish on our part to think this

**Everyone wants to be wanted and needed.**

way about our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and those whom Christ is seeking. Everyone wants to be wanted and needed. If the place where you are doesn’t seem to care about you then you will look for a place that does care.

As the family of God, we are supposed to care about everyone. As followers of the God who cared enough about each one of us to send His one and only Son to die for us, we are supposed to care about others. The man who came up to me really wanted to know if the family of God he was participating in was truly a



Photo courtesy of Elisa Schulz Photography

family. If you are a family, you know when something is not right with a family member. You know and you do something about it; you call or go over and find out. You attempt to help because that person is family and that is what families do for one another. In the church, however, we say we are a family but then what happens? Well, in this case, no one missed him.

Why didn't I miss him? Why didn't those who know him miss him? The easy answer is we are so busy with our own lives that we didn't notice. A sad answer but probably the truest one to give for why we didn't know he was gone.

Here is the reason for writing about this incident in my ministry: We are called to care for our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We are called to make disciples. We are called to share the Good News of what Jesus has done for all. Yet, once a person comes into the family of God, we all too often run back to our comfort zone and ignore the new person. We run back to those we know best instead of inviting the new person to become a part of our circle of friends. Or maybe we pick up with the new person and we move into his/her circle of friends and we ignore our old friends and suddenly our old friends are gone. Maybe

your old friends or the new friend are just like the man who came up to me and asked, *"Do you miss me?"* Then we have to say, *"What? You were gone?"*

As you sit in your pew or chair this Sunday and the many Sundays to come, look around you. Notice who is there and, more importantly, notice who is *not* there. But don't stop there, **do something**: call, send a note, an email, a text, or just go over and see if there is something you can do to help. Make sure you bring it to the attention of your pastor. Make sure you tell others so it is not just you who miss them but the whole church misses them.

Make sure no one comes up to you one day and says, *"Do you miss me?"* Or worse yet, you never even noticed they were gone. ■

*Randy Johnson serves as Assistant to the President – Congregation Mission and Ministries North Zone.*

APRIL 2019

## CEF Helps Trinity Monitor Keep Up With Growth



*“We can count on them. CEF supports ministries, and supports places where people can learn about Jesus.”*

– Susan Klauer, Principal

### When blessings keep coming, what do you do?

This was the challenge facing the congregation and leadership at Trinity Lutheran Church and School: in an era when many schools are experiencing declining enrollment, Trinity's numbers keep climbing, leaving them looking for ways to accommodate the swelling numbers.

“God keeps blessing us with more students,” says Susan Klauer, Principal at Trinity Monitor, which serves pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade children. “We have a tremendous family atmosphere,” she notes. “And the congregation has always encouraged people of the community to come. We invite anybody interested in Christian education.”

And, since the 1880s, the community has responded to that open invitation. But, in recent times, the influx of students — Trinity currently has 156 enrolled — has strained the classroom space, especially as amenities such as science laboratories and improved gymnasiums become necessary to offer the well-rounded education both parents and Trinity staff desire.

For a time, the school made due by shifting classrooms, dividing classes and utilizing whatever free space was available. But it became apparent that such patchwork approaches would not be sustainable in the long-run.

“We got to the point where we needed expansion,” Klauer explains. “Along with being the principal, I also am a teacher, and I was holding my classes in the cafeteria — so I couldn’t have classes during lunch periods.”

With Pastor David Sherry’s help, Klauer approached the congregation and received pledges and support for a significant expansion.

“It became evident that with the growth of the school, the current facility couldn’t meet our needs,” Pastor Sherry says, echoing Klauer’s concerns. “We went back and forth looking at solutions, and I said ‘what’s the simplest and easiest fix?’ – knowing that this church is very supportive of what we need.”

And with the congregation’s vote of support in hand, they also reached out to an old friend of Trinity’s — Church Extension Fund.

“We knew from an expansion we had done about 15 years ago that Church Extension Fund was a great partner. We had actually paid off that loan earlier than anticipated, and when we went back to them for the current project, they stepped right in,” Pastor Sherry says. “Our congregation relies on CEF as a partner.”

When permit delays pushed the full project back several months, Trinity’s contractors and staff simply made the expansion happen in two phases.

In phase one, they totally shut down the cafeteria and made it a 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom; they then moved the computer lab to the old 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade room. Next, they remodeled the old computer lab and put up temporary dividers for 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes, and moved the library and converted that space into a 5<sup>th</sup> grade classroom. All of which bought time until permits could be secured and construction could commence.

Finally, on Labor Day of 2018, the groundbreaking for the new middle school wing of the school formally took place.



The lead contractor, who had worshipped at Trinity as a youngster visiting his grandparents, wasted little time getting things moving. The construction team added a wing to the school that aesthetically matches the existing structure and adds classrooms for 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. It also has much-needed storage space, room for staff and new bathrooms.

The new wing was dedicated on January 27, with final inspection in February, and occupancy to follow quickly.

Klauer is quick to credit the construction team and contractor for their excellent work — but also recognizes the important role CEF played.

“This wouldn’t happen without CEF,” she is quick to point out. “We can count on them. CEF supports ministries, and supports places where people can learn about Jesus.”



Church Extension Fund • Michigan District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod  
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## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

### Bringing Christ to Everyone Outreach Seminar

All Michigan District, LCMS ordained pastors and laypersons are invited to a special event featuring Lutheran Hour Speaker, Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, on Saturday May 4, 2019 at the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth. Dr. Zeigler will take attendees through the process of local evangelism, sharing effective ways and resources to invite the unchurched to your local congregation.



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Dr. Zeigler grew up in a military family and graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Col. He served for five years in the Air Force before leaving active duty to enter Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 2006. Dr. Zeigler served two congregations in St. Louis before becoming the Lutheran Hour Speaker in October 2018. He continues to serve part-time as an Air Force Reserve officer, and as a guest instructor at Concordia Seminary and for the Concordia University Network. He also serves as a ministry leadership course coordinator for Christian Friends of New Americans.

#### Event schedule

- 11:30 a.m. – registration opens
- Noon – a free lunch will be served
- 1–2:30 p.m. – Dr. Zeigler's Outreach Seminar
- 4:30 p.m. – Social Hour
- 5:00 p.m. – Banquet with Dr. Zeigler and Elaine Bickel

There is no charge for the luncheon, but RSVPs are required. All LCMS pastors, laypersons, and first-time attendees are invited to attend the banquet free. For all others, the banquet cost is \$20/person. Please RSVP to Phil Krauss II at [happykrauss@msn.com](mailto:happykrauss@msn.com) or 734.560.9337. Participants have the option to attend the lunch/seminar only, the banquet only, or both.

The Lutheran Hour is the world's longest-running Christian radio program and currently airs on more than 1,800 stations throughout North America as well as the American Forces Network. The program reaches more than one million listeners each week and is also available online, through a mobile app, and on various new media platforms.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

### Lutheran Women's Missionary League Invites You To 38th Biennial Convention in Mobile, Alabama



Come sing & rejoice in celebration of His Word; Tell of His salvation for all; Declare His glory among the nations; Go forth in His joy!

**Thursday, June 20 through  
Sunday, June 23, 2019**

*Sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations.*  
1 Chronicles 16:23-24a

Convention Logo: To declare His glory among the nations is the heart of who we are as Lutheran Women in Mission. Guided by the Holy Spirit and God's marvelous works, we will be equipped in 2019 at Mobile, Alabama, to tell of His salvation from day to day. The Cross and the Heart mark the work of Christ Jesus to all the Earth and lead us In Praise to the Lord.



## Here We Stand

### Here We Ride—Bay City by Chris Garcia

Our annual Michigan District *Here We Ride* event is changing locations! Immanuel Lutheran Church & School and Zion Lutheran Church in Bay City are excited to be the co-host congregations for this wonderful opportunity to get out and enjoy a bike ride while raising funds for local congregations and ministries supported through the *Here We Stand* campaign.

#### What is *Here We Ride*?

*Here We Ride* is a FREE bike riding event that will take place the morning of Saturday, August 3, 2019. Participants will hit the Bay City Rail Trail system for a family-friendly ride—at your own pace and distance.

#### How experienced of a rider do I have to be?

The Bay City trail system is paved with little elevation change, perfect for even the most novice rider. It is well marked with plenty of locations to take a break and enjoy the scenery. A portion of the loop will take you along the Saginaw River and through the Bay City boardwalk. Multiple locations will be stationed with volunteers who will have snacks and water for all riders on the trail that morning.

#### Why would I ride?

There are two wonderful reasons to participate in *Here We Ride*. First, to have fun in the great outdoors with friends and family. Second, participants are encouraged

(but not required) to raise funds through pledges for their local congregation or school and for the *Here We Stand* campaign.

Donations gathered will be split 50/50 between your local ministry and the ministries being supported through *Here We Stand*. In the past, teachers have raised funds for school scholarships, and congregations have generated funds for new and ongoing ministries.

#### Why drive to Bay City to ride?

You can certainly sign up to participate in *Here We Ride* and do it in your own town. However, we will be celebrating this event in Bay City with a prayer service to begin and a community lunch to conclude the event. We would love to see LCMS congregations and schools from all over the state join us and fill the Bay City Trail with friendly faces enjoying a fun ride together. Our volunteers will be all over the loop to make sure every participant has a fun and safe ride.

#### Interested and want more info?

Registration and more details about the event are available at [michigandistrict.org/hereweride](http://michigandistrict.org/hereweride).



## Here We Ride

### A “By the Numbers” look at the *Here We Stand* Campaign

(through March 5, 2019)

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| \$6,000,533.22 | Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals                                 |
| \$5,283,719.05 | Cash received which includes \$400,000 CEF Matching Funds                |
| \$585,438.68   | Outstanding commitments (pledges)  |
| 1,349          | Total Contributors   |
| 1,203          | Individual Contributors  |
| 146            | Congregations Contributing   |
| 39.7%          | % of Michigan District Congregations currently participating             |
| 10,265         | Participants in the “Crafted By Truth” Bible Reading Program             |
| 1,467          | Participants who have completed the Bible Reading Program                |
| 13,300         | Attendees at the 500th Anniversary Worship Service at the Breslin Center |
| \$1,206,384.57 | Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships          |
| \$2,376,951.62 | Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry                    |
| \$ 891,410.17  | Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment                      |
| \$1,394,411.38 | Total given/pledged for International Ministries                         |

#### 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.”*

[herewestand.michigandistrict.org](http://herewestand.michigandistrict.org)



## Here We Stand

### Serve at Camp Restore Detroit this Summer

The week of June 23-29 is going to be one of the busiest for Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) this summer. They need to recruit over 150 volunteers to serve in all the areas that are asking for assistance.

Are you interested in a mission trip but do not want to travel far? At CRD, there are opportunities for all ages to serve in VBS, one sports camp, construction, and urban blight clean-up. You can restore hope in Detroit's 9th Precinct by serving individually, as a family, or as a church group! Campers have found that joining the CRD community in service is rewarding in many ways.

Campers can stay overnight or commute, whatever works best for you. Cost is \$240/person for six nights and includes lodging and all meals. Commuters pay \$15/day (includes lunch). Children under 12 are free (ratio 1 adult



per child). Book soon, as prices go up on May 15. For more information or to register, visit [michigandistrict.org/camprestore](http://michigandistrict.org/camprestore).

Lutherans in Michigan, let's love on Detroit!



### Operation Barnabas Training Workshop

Operation Barnabas is a network of care to our nation's military members and their families. Barnabas was Paul's companion, who helped him in his missionary journey, and his name means "son of encouragement." Called by Christ's love, Operation Barnabas engages, empowers, and equips LCMS faith communities to provide hope, healing, and support to military-connected persons living in their community.

Operation Barnabas reaches out to all components of the military, with a special emphasis on our Reserve members and their families. Our nation has 1.4 million military men and women serving on active duty, and another 850,000 in the Reserve. Many members of the Reserve community live across the country in locations that are not near a military base. This means that these soldiers do not receive much of the same services and support as active duty soldiers when they return from a tour of duty. However, most of them have a Lutheran church in their community.

What an opportunity to touch Reservists and their families with Christ's love!

Would you and your congregation like to reach out to these military families during challenging times in their lives? The

Michigan District, LCMS and the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces' Operation Barnabas will conduct a workshop on April 6, 2019 at Christ our King, Saline, to train and assist local congregations in the care, support, and outreach to all military-connected people in their congregations and their communities. The event is FREE, but you must register to attend. For more information and to register, click on events at [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org).



## St. John, Rochester's Future City Team Competes at Nationals

The St. John, Rochester's Future City Team traveled to Washington, D.C. in February to compete at the National Future City Competition. Nationals are held in conjunction with National Engineer Week each year in D.C., and teams from all over the nation and from around the globe attend the National Competition. St. John earned a spot in Nationals by winning the Regional Competition in January. The team also earned People's Choice Award and Best Project Design Award at Regionals.

St. John's Future City teams have a long history of success. They've placed in the "Top 10" eight times and in the "Top 5" five times. Additionally, they are the only back-to-back National Winners (2014-2015).

The 2019 team provided an impressive presentation, even if they didn't place in the Top 5 this year—they won two of the top three awards, including Best Essay and Best Virtual Design. Presenters are Emerson Kerska, Lily Myers and Anna Bochenek, with alternates Brandon Raikes and Jake Matthew. Jake is also the team's SIMS city designer. The team was accompanied by Mr. Tim Grothaus, teacher mentor; Dr. Linda Gerhardt, Team Engineer Educator and GM Engineer, and William Abramczyk, Engineer Mentor and FCA Engineer.



## The Summit Worship Conference Comes to Michigan

The Michigan District encourages you to attend The Summit Worship Conference, a gathering place created to promote connectivity for shared learning, common support, and professional inspiration.



The conference is presented by the Center for Worship Leadership from Concordia University Irvine (formerly known as Worship Arts Leadership Institute). It is intentionally designed to address the needs of worship arts ministry staff, volunteer leaders, team members, pastors, and students preparing for church worker vocations. Through built-in time for one-on-one conversations with friends and presenters/clinicians alike, our hope is that the Summit will give you the opportunity to find helpful answers and supportive people.

Guest plenary session speakers will deepen your understanding of worship theology; sharpen ministry leaders; and inspire artistic skill. Breakout sessions include: theology, leadership, worship band, individual instruments and vocals, songwriting, and more.

The Summit will take place at Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton on July 24–26, 2019. Register at [cwl.churchcenter.com/registrations](http://cwl.churchcenter.com/registrations).

## Coming Together to Assist Those in Need

Orphan Grain Train of Ohio and Michigan partnered with volunteers from Trinity, Clinton Township's LERT team to gather flood buckets and hygiene kits from storage facilities in Sebawaing and Marine City. These relief materials were put to use in Southeast Ohio to help with the flooding in that area. It is a blessing to see different organizations come together to assist families and communities in need.

We are thankful for the congregations and schools that assembled the buckets/kits over the past several months and took them to one of our three storage locations. We are always in need of more. If you are interested in assembling the buckets/kits at your congregation, contact Travis Grulke at 888.225.2111 ext. 258. For a list of materials needed for each kit, visit [michigandistrict.org/lert](http://michigandistrict.org/lert).

Volunteer team from Trinity, Clinton Township



### Stacy Hoeft is LEA's 2019 Christus Magister

Stacy Hoeft was selected by LEA's board of directors to receive LEA's top honor, the Christus Magister Award. Since 1965, this most prestigious Lutheran Education Association award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education. Stacy is president/CEO of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, a national LCMS RSO serving thousands of special education students in more than 60 schools across the United States. She previously served Lutheran education as a principal, early childhood director, teacher, and athletic director. Previous honors and recognitions include Van Lunen Fellow, SLED Mentor, LCMS Michigan District Principal of the Year, and keynote speaker on the topics of documentation and a U.S. Supreme Court case in protection of the ministerial exception. Stacy earned a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Concordia University Wisconsin. She is currently working on a Master's Degree in Special Education at Madonna University.

As president/CEO of Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Stacy faces many challenges every day. She says, "My greatest challenge in my current ministry is finding the funding to make special education resources available to as many Lutheran students and schools as possible."

Stacy's nominator said, "Perhaps Stacy's greatest impact for Lutheran schools and educators was her role in the US Supreme Court case 'Hosanna-Tabor



Evangelical Lutheran Church & School v. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.' In this landmark case, Stacy successfully worked with legal counsel to defend the ministerial exception that allows our church and schools to call workers without the interference of the federal government. Stacy dedicated eight years of her life to this legal effort, which ultimately led to the church's victory with a unanimous 9-0 decision in January of 2012. By answering, 'Here am I, send me,' Stacy has been given the opportunity to impact Lutheran education at the local, regional, and national levels."



Deacon Ronald Nieman was ordained and installed as the associate pastor at St. Mark, Flint, on February 24 for the purpose of being deployed to area sister congregations in need of pastoral care. Clergy who attended include: (first row l-r) Deacon Mike DeVries, Deacon Joe Schierlinger, Rev. David Winningham, Rev. Ronald Nieman, Deacon Dave Hoffmann, and Rev. Dr. Gary Beck; (second row l-r) Rev. Paul Kollek, Deacon Steve Sparks, Deacon Bob Geisler, Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper, Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann, Rev. Steven Helms, Rev. John Kassen; (third row l-r) Rev. Randall Schultz, Rev. Matthew Schuler, Rev. John Mackowiak (preacher), Rev. Russell Tkac, Deacon Dave VandenBurghe, and Rev. Mark Gawura. Not pictured were Rev. Norman Koy and Deacon Jim Schurig.



St. John's, New Boston installed their new associate pastor, Rev. Kyle Jones, on Sunday, February 10. A dinner followed the service with about 200 members and friends attending. Pastor Jones and his wife, Melissa, are pictured here with their two sons.

# Share the GOSPEL with NASCAR Fans

## Michigan International Speedway

Sunrise Worship Service Sunday, June 9, 2019 at 10 a.m.

Saturday race at 1 p.m. • Sunday race at 2 p.m.

### Early Bird discount ticket packages include:

|                            |                  |       |
|----------------------------|------------------|-------|
| Sunday-only ticket         | <del>\$50</del>  | \$40  |
| Weekend ticket w/o camping | <del>\$85</del>  | \$75  |
| Weekend ticket w/ camping  | <del>\$202</del> | \$175 |

New  
Reduced  
Pricing!

\$5 of each ticket to benefit *Here We Stand*

Contact Josh Belt at 517.592.1226 or [jbelt@mispeedway.com](mailto:jbelt@mispeedway.com)  
to purchase tickets today!



# Calls and Roster Update

# Calendar of Events

## ORDAINED

### Calls Accepted

Rev. Mark Doede (Southfield) to Huntington Woods, Huntington Woods  
Rev. Kyle Jones (North Wisconsin) to St. John's, New Boston  
Mr. Dennis Kreil to SMP Colloquy, Messiah, Midland  
Mr. Gary Lyvere to SMP Colloquy, Our Savior, Midland  
Rev. Sean McCoy (Oklahoma District) to Ascension, East Lansing  
Mr. Ronald Nieman (Colloquy) to St. Mark, Flint  
Mr. Daniel Wojtowicz to SMP Immanuel of Frankentrost, Saginaw

### Change of Status

Rev. Mark Doede SMP to M Div.

### Transferred Into District

Rev. David Loeschke (Rocky Mountain District) as Emeritus  
Rev. Lawrence Matro (Missouri District) as LCMS Board for International Missions Area Facilitator, Papau, New Guinea

### Called Home

Rev. Armond Schoof

## COMMISSIONED

### Calls Accepted

Belongia, Nathan (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Guardian, Dearborn  
Frisco, Eric (Immanuel, Alpena) to Our Redeemer, Kokomo, IN  
Meier, Jessica (St. Matthew, Walled Lake) to St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
Roth, Sarah (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Mark, Battle Creek  
Schmit, Steven (St. John, Fraser) to St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
Thomas, Julie (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Paul, Royal Oak

### Change of Status

Baughman, Terry (St. Stephen, Waterford) to Candidate  
Rasmussen, Sarah (Zion, Bay City) to Candidate  
Stoelting, Daniel (St. Michael's, Richville) to Candidate

### Transferred Out of District

Hinz, Rachel (Candidate) to Missouri District  
Rasmussen, Sarah (Candidate) to Indiana District

### Transferred Into District

Brandon, Katherine (Northern Illinois District) as Emeritus  
Lucas, Krista (Northern Illinois District) to Trinity, Traverse City

### Reinstated to the Roster

Heins, Dawn  
Pfund, Susan  
Sitas, Rebecca

### Called Home

Freudenburg, Curtis  
Roggatz, George  
Wenzel, Pamela



## APRIL

- 5–7 The Katie 2019  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City Riverfront
- 6 Operation Barnabas Training  
Christ Our King, Saline
- 7–9 Office Personnel Conference  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City Riverfront
- 14 Palm Sunday
- 19 Good Friday  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 21 Easter
- 24 Administrative Professionals' Day
- 26 Early Childhood Cabinet  
District Office, Ann Arbor

## MAY

- 2 Supervising Pastor/Deacon & MAP Conference  
Faith, Grand Blanc
- 4 Seasons of Change Meeting  
District Office, Ann Arbor
- 7–8 South & East Pastors' Conference  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 8 Joint Lutheran Schools Celebration  
Saginaw Valley University
- 8–9 Circuit Visitors' Conference  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 12 Mothers' Day
- 13–14 West Pastors' Conference  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Grand Rapids
- 15–16 Intentional Interim Ministry Continuing Educ.  
Conference  
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 20–22 North & East Pastors' Conference  
Little Bear East/Breakers Resort, St. Ignace
- 27 Memorial Day  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 29 Board of Directors' Meeting  
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 5/31–6/2 Jr. High Gathering  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth

## JUNE

- 1 State Track Meet  
Frankenmuth High School
- 6 Ascension Day
- 9 Here We Stand Worship Service  
Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn
- 13-14 Teacher Supervision Training  
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 16 Fathers' Day
- 17-19 Future Lutheran Administrators -- Midwest  
Educators  
Concordia University Ann Arbor
- 23-29 Camp Restore Michigan District Week  
Mount Calvary, Detroit

For more detailed information, visit [michigandistrict.org/events](http://michigandistrict.org/events).