

September 2019

# michigan IN TOUCH

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



## HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

# Connecting College Students With Local or Campus Ministries

by Benjamin Ulledalen

Back-to-school season is right around the corner. Many young Michigan Lutherans are off to college for the first time, leaving home for life on their own. Whatever school they may attend in the state, there will be a campus ministry or local congregation ready to welcome them as they start this new chapter of life.

*continued on page 2*

Photo by Elisa Schulz/Michigan District, LCMS

## michigan IN TOUCH

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It is a truism that we lose many young people during this time of transition. Some experiment with other Christian traditions; many experiment with not attending church at all. Sometimes fleshly or ideological temptations lead them away. Other times it's more subtle or seemingly mysterious—not seeing value in church attendance, personality reasons, lack of connection, and the like.

Indeed, some young people know next to nothing about the Christian world outside of their local congregations. It is not uncommon for a college student to know that he is Lutheran, but unsure of which denomination. It is not uncommon for a young Lutheran to feel a little weird or intimidated attending a church other than the one in which he or she grew up.

Parents, grandparents, church workers, home pastors, campus pastors, and all types of congregations can each do their own thing in their own way to help bridge this gap. Some can “push,” others can “pull.” All can invite, welcome, equip, encourage, suggest, nudge, follow up, and reach out, listen, and pray.

The Michigan District makes it easy to connect a college-bound young person with a local church or ministry. With the help of the simple web form found at [michigandistrict.org/campusconnect](http://michigandistrict.org/campusconnect), it only takes a few moments to enter a student’s contact information. After clicking the “submit” button, a local LCMS congregation or campus ministry will receive his/her contact information and have an opportunity to connect with the young person.

Congregations, lay people, pastors, and others can walk alongside college students in a variety of creative ways. Simple kindness means a lot. Students at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel on the campus of Central Michigan University appreciate the hospitality they receive from members of Zion Lutheran Church in Mount Pleasant. Regarding worship services with students and a diverse age-range of worshippers, one student said, “*Christ the King has been extremely welcoming to me, and everyone has gone out of their way to introduce themselves and get to know me.*”

Another student likewise valued warm welcomes from laity and pastors alike: “*My experience at Christ the King has been welcoming, supportive, and engaging. I appreciate the Christ-centered, genuine staff and the friendly congregation.*”

Something as simple as a welcome, a name remembered, a smile—these things mean a lot to a college student who may feel uneasy or awkward about setting foot into a brand-new sanctuary.

Although over an hour and a half away from Central Michigan University, the Evangelism Board from Trinity, Reese has provided college students with a home-cooked meal, as well as Christian fellowship, twice each year for the

past several years. They let their CMU students know they will be on campus and invite them to attend a meal open to all students.

According to Pastor Daniel Burhop, “*While our congregation has a handful of students that go to school at CMU, it’s wonderful to also connect with students from other congregations that attend the campus chapel and to give them not only a home-cooked meal, but to also sit and chat with them about life at school, struggles they are going through, and to give them a chance to talk to and get to know someone who isn’t between the ages of 18 and 22. From serving meals twice a year for about four years now, we’ve been able to get connected to these students and look forward to seeing them, along with the young men and women from our congregation.*”

### Connect your college-bound student to a campus ministry at [michigandistrict.org/campusconnect](http://michigandistrict.org/campusconnect).

College can and should be a time of spiritual growth for our young people. In the face of difficulty, we are not to hide in a cave like Elijah (1 Kings 19:9), but step out in light of the Lord’s call to do the work of His Kingdom (1 Kings 19:15–18). There are friendships to be made, opportunities to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord, and the amazing *Good News* to enjoy and share with others.

Jesus Christ is King of heaven and earth. He upholds the entire universe. All things were created through Him, all things exist because He upholds them, and all things flow back to Him and give Him glory. He made a beautiful, orderly, complex, mysterious world. For the Christian, the universe is not an accident or a mistake; it is neither cruel nor cold. Every area of study receives new meaning for the Christian. Every area of service, every station in life, indeed, every aspect of life looks different in light of Christ. Our Lutheran college students have a tremendous opportunity to thrive as they step out into God’s world.

Please pray for our college-bound young people. Help them get plugged into a congregation or campus ministry. Encourage them to learn more about their Lord as they learn about God’s world around them in class. Perhaps you can care for college students in some creative way, whatever your gifts, commitments, or circumstances. Together we can each play a part in keeping our young people connected to Christ and His church, so that even while in college they can grow up into Christ and share His love with others. ■

*Rev. Benjamin Ulledalen is associate pastor at Zion, Mount Pleasant, and campus pastor at Christ The King Lutheran Chapel on the campus of Central Michigan University.*



# While Gearing up for Fall, Take Time to Slow Down

by Alex Hoffmeyer

*“O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath! Surely a man goes about as a shadow! Surely for nothing they are in turmoil; man heaps up wealth and does not know who will gather!” (Psalm 39:4–6).*

Today is a gift; that's why it's called the present. So many people believe that, no matter what, everyone should take time to enjoy the present. People should slow down, stop and smell the roses. One man has taken this to the extreme: Jedidiah Jenkins, a man now in his mid-30's, quit his job in 2015 to ride his bike from Oregon to Patagonia over a period of 16 months. He has written a book about the journey (*To Shake the Sleeping Self*), and he has published a video entitled, “The Thousand-Year Journey” documenting his trip. And why did Jedidiah do this, you may ask? His words say it all: “*The routine is the enemy.*” Jedidiah was worried that he would get so caught up in his routine that years would pass by in his life without him noticing. In fact, he knew many people who had already experienced that phenomenon for themselves.

I have to agree with his worry in part. It's easy to get into a routine that

makes time fly by, only to realize months or years later that so much time passed in what seemed like an instant. If we're not careful, the things that we do every day may distract us, leaving little to no time to slow down and unwind.

We need time to slow down. This is when we recharge and rejuvenate ourselves to continue on in life. For Christians, this comes from worship. Too often, we find ourselves packing our schedules with activities and events that, before long, take up all our time. Then we have to make decisions. So what if I skip devotions today? Does it matter? What's the harm in missing church one week? One month? Two months? Then, before we know it, our daily “routine” has shut out our chance to hear God's Word at all.

Psalm 39 gives a strong exhortation. Our life is fleeting. We do not know the number of days we have on earth. In earnest, then, we pray that God reminds us how fleeting our lives are, so that we will not delay to slow down and unwind in worship, devotion, and prayer with God in heaven. We are not called to heap up treasures on earth, but to give thanks to the one who gives us life. So slow down; take time to spend with the Lord in prayer this day, so that when you go back to your routine you will be ready to serve God, fully aware of His blessings around you.

**Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, You are the Alpha and the Omega, and I stand as a mere speck of mortal life. May I never delay to seek Your Word, and may my desire be to step out of my routine and spend time in fellowship with You, so that Your blessings may be made known to me in abundance. Grant this for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.* ■

*Rev. Alex Hoffmeyer serves Salem, Coloma.*

# Sorting Through Current Prolife Petitions in Michigan

by Dennis Matyas

*Trigger warning: this article contains graphic imagery regarding a particular type of abortion called Dilation and Evacuation Abortion (D & E).*

Right to Life of Michigan is near the end of a petition drive to end Dismemberment abortions in Michigan. You may remember the ban on partial birth abortion that Gov. Snyder signed in 2011. You may know that the Michigan Heartbeat Coalition is organizing a petition drive to ban all abortions after a heartbeat is detected, similar to what has been signed in Georgia and Alabama. What you may not know, however, is that Michigan *already has a law that bans all abortions* (unless to preserve the life of the mother). It is MCL 750.14, signed in 1846 when the state itself was less than a decade old, and remained a firm precedent several times afterwards. Essentially, MCL 750.14 makes it a felony for any doctor to willfully use whatever means to produce a miscarriage, and if the woman dies as a result it becomes manslaughter.

Then came Roe v. Wade in 1973, which superseded the state law. Now here's the tricky part: if the Heartbeat bill is successful and goes into law in Michigan, it will be immediately enjoined (a legal term meaning "basically useless"). If Roe is overturned with the heartbeat bill in effect, **the heartbeat bill may supersede the 1846 ban and make pre-heartbeat abortions legal in Michigan.** Current estimates place 50–78% of abortions occurring before 9 weeks, and that does not even include abortifacients like the morning after pill and birth control pills, which cannot be accurately tracked.

Let me say that again, because this blew my mind: If and when Roe v. Wade is overturned (because it's a garbage law based tenuously on the fourteenth amendment), **all abortions would be illegal in Michigan automatically.** If, however, there were said heartbeat bill, then if and when Roe v. Wade were overturned, **50–78% of abortions performed would still be legal in Michigan** (if, as I said, the heartbeat law superseded the 1846 ban).

Pick your jaw up. What an interesting time we live in, when an anti-abortion petition could actually shoot the cause for life in its own foot.

Enter Right to Life of Michigan, which is an extremely well organized and successful pro-life organization. It has put together a different petition, one that would not

supersede the original ban should Roe be overturned, and one that would go into effect immediately without being enjoined and without the ability for the governor to veto it (and she has pledged to veto all pro-life bills).

The petition bans the procedure of dismemberment. (See <https://michiganvalueslife.org/> for a detailed description, and <https://rtl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/DismembermentBanFAQ.pdf> for a quick-sheet.) Basically, in a D & E procedure, the cervix is manually dilated over the course of a couple days. The abortionist then reaches into the womb with a long, toothed clamp and grabs onto the baby. The baby's body parts are then ripped off piece by piece and the uterus scraped. The body parts are reassembled like a puzzle on the table to make sure there are no parts left over to rot and infect the mother. The body parts are then either thrown in the trash or (at least until September of 2018 when the Department of Health and Human Services terminated its contract with Advanced Bioscience Resources) sold for scientific testing.

Around 1,770 Dismemberment abortions are performed in Michigan each year (see <https://www.mdch.state.mi.us/pha/osr/abortion/intro.asp>), assisting abortion's boastful claim as the number one cause of death in the Great Lakes State (<https://rtl.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/AbortionDeathComparison.pdf>). That's 4-5 babies per day having their limbs ripped off while our countrymen celebrate a woman's "right to choose".

Are you a registered voter in Michigan? Do you believe that dismembering a baby piece by piece as he bleeds to death in his mother's womb should be illegal?

Sign the petition. Request a Dismemberment Abortion Petition at <https://michiganvalueslife.org/> or track one down by contacting Right to Life of Michigan affiliate in your area and find out where and when you can sign the petition.

What can we do as the church? Here's another quick-sheet with some legalities: <https://rtl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/WhatChurchesCanDo.pdf>.

I am blessed to be a pastor of God-fearing people who love the Word of God. So here's what I'm doing in that

*continued on page 15*

**“We have a unique opportunity in Michigan to take a stand for Life by signing and distributing the Petition for the Dismemberment Abortion Ban. This is a particularly barbaric and gruesome procedure that ends the life of a baby in the womb. If the necessary signatures are gathered, this bill has a good likelihood of being upheld and withstanding a court challenge.”**

Rev. Paul Clark  
*President, Lutherans For Life of Michigan  
Life Coordinator, Michigan District, LCMS*

# Camp Restore Detroit: *The Best Vacation Ever!*

by Amy Fanta



*“What happens when we die?”* asked an eight-year old girl when a Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) volunteer was teaching about the resurrection of Jesus. “All who believe in Jesus Christ will be in heaven with him,” came the answer. How amazing it is to witness this young girl’s attention and eagerness to understand and how wonderful that CRD volunteers could share the Good News of Jesus Christ with her.

This was just one of the many opportunities to share the love of Jesus in word and deed that came to CRD volunteers each and every day during THE BIG WEEK, June 23–29.

As the week approached, over 200 children and community members were getting excited to participate in many ways on the east side of Detroit. These events and ministries included:

- Three vacation Bible schools (Mt. Calvary, Outer Drive Faith, and East Bethlehem);
- Two Sports Camps/VBS (Acts 2 Enterprise and Mt. Calvary);
- Bicycle safety training for each recipient of the 50 bikes that were given away to kids and very surprised and happy adults!
- Various construction and landscaping projects in the 9th Precinct;
- Two community barbeques;
- Toy and clothing giveaway;
- One kid’s night event;
- Community gardens being built on CRD property;
- Various speakers teaching about the community that was being served;

- Daily worship time with the Barefoot Beths, the praise team for the week.

As the first day drew near, however, there were not enough volunteers signed up. CRD staff prayed, made phone calls, and planned. No one knew quite what to expect, but when THE BIG WEEK started, through the grace of God, each day had exactly enough volunteers to work. There was not one extra person, nor was there a shortage to cause something to be cancelled.

Despite the long hours and the 90-degree heat, over 40 volunteers loved being at camp and serving the community. Many of these amazing individuals worked 11+ hour days in order to help meet all the needs. Some would work at a morning and afternoon VBS program, toil at blight clean up or construction, and make it back to CRD and throw on clean clothes in order to make it on time to work with the children at the A2E Sports Camp/VBS in the evening. Every available hand mattered!

One volunteer father shared, “*I grew up on a farm and never had to work as hard as I did at CRD. I couldn’t understand how I had the energy, but it was the best vacation ever! Just sensing God’s presence in the community was worth all the hard work and sweat.*”

A young adult volunteer shared, “*For me, this was a great week where I was able to show God’s love to the people of Detroit. I have been touched by everyone at CRD as well as the people I served ... I was able to see God’s hand at work ... it was truly an experience that I will treasure and will come back to help further God’s work in Detroit.*”

A mother of five (who all came to camp) reports, “*The opportunity to serve [on a mission trip] in our own country is what drove us to CRD. When we arrived, we were blessed in many more ways than we expected. As God’s people joining together to help our brothers and sisters in Christ, God also renewed our family’s connection with Him and with each other. Our children were able to help their ‘neighbor,’ give a hug, exchange a smile, and renew hope for little children at VBS.*”

Another volunteer shared, “*I loved seeing God work*

*through the community, VBS, and sports leaders. They were great role models and displayed God’s love to each and every person.”*

The community also took note. One resident shared, “*I noticed the recent activity in the neighborhood and all that was happening around the church. It brought hope and encouragement to us to see people at work helping others and the improvements being made by those serving.*”

One man said, “*The church feels more relevant simply by spending time in and with our community.”*

Another man made himself vulnerable enough to ask if CRD could offer reading lessons for adults.

The children delighted in receiving their own picture Bible and other materials to take home so much so that one child exclaimed, “*God DOES help us to find joy in the day and I feel joy at VBS!*”

It is exciting to see the community take note of all that is going on and to feel comfortable turning to CRD as a beacon of hope, a partner in the community bringing the hope of Christ, and helping make Detroit a better place to live.

Thank you to the volunteers who made THE BIG WEEK possible. Thanks also to the Michigan District for partnering with CRD to bring THE BIG WEEK to the kids and Detroit. If you are interested in serving Detroit through CRD, there IS something you can do no matter your age (youngest age 10 months, oldest thus far is 82!). There is work appropriate for each person’s interest and ability; you can come for the day or stay overnight. CRD would love to see you at THE BIG WEEK next year—or any of the other 51 weeks of the year! ■

For more information, visit [camprestore.org/detroit](http://camprestore.org/detroit).

Amy Fanta serves Camp Restore Detroit as its Ministry & Service Coordinator.



SEPTEMBER 2019

## Church Extension Fund Goes to Camp!



Camp Arcadia's new beach revetment wall protects the remodeled facilities from rising lake levels.



*We reached out to banks and other institutions, but CEF understood our ministry and the dynamics of capital campaigns, which made them very easy to work with.*

**Chip May**  
Executive Director  
Camp Arcadia

Church Extension Fund has played a major role in the expansion of many Michigan Lutheran churches and schools, helping to fund mission work that is vital to building God's kingdom. However, CEF is not limited to these traditional roles. Recognizing that ministry takes many forms, they recently provided funding for needed improvements at Camp Arcadia — a 110-acre Lutheran-affiliated beachfront camp. The camp includes three main buildings, as well as cottages and recreational facilities offering summer retreats for teens, families and seniors.

Nestled among the beautiful dunes of Lake Michigan, Camp Arcadia has been providing Christ-centered camping and activities since 1922. But, the camp's scenic location became a double-edged sword as lake levels rose to record highs in recent years, and erosion threatened its facilities.

"We saw that erosion was going to be a problem, and had a plan in place, but the lake level came up so quickly that we had to act even sooner than we anticipated," explains Executive Director Chip May. "We moved in 6,000 tons of rock to essentially save the camp."



*CEF helped to make construction move quickly before Camp Arcadia's opening weekend.*

Before the water forced such quick action, Camp Arcadia already had begun a capital campaign to buffer the shoreline and remodel and expand their Inn building. The ambitious campaign—the largest in its history—was designed to raise funds to remodel and improve the kitchen and laundry facilities.

"When we started the campaign, we had hoped to fix the shoreline and improve the kitchen and laundry areas," says May. "The generosity of our donors let us also remodel the rooms on the first floor of the Inn to include bathrooms, so that many more folks can enjoy the camp experience."

Knowing that capital campaigns can have gaps between pledge dates and receipt of money, they had asked CEF to provide funding to bridge the gap between pledges made and checks sent.

"CEF's support was central to the project," May states. "The lake level rise made us move more quickly than we had planned, and it was important to do the shoreline work without any delay — and to make sure funding was available for the project."

With the money secured, the reinforcement of the shoreline was completed and the building improvements stayed on time and within budget. Crews finished up the remaining renovations during the first weeks of Camp Arcadia's 97th season.

"Everything was done by early June," May says, pointing out that special care was taken in every phase of the project to keep Camp traditions intact.

"Change can be stressful," he emphasized. "So we made sure to not lose special features or traditions that have been a part of Camp Arcadia." One in particular, the cross

that serves as the center of the main patio, was retained in the new design.

"Everyone has been very positive about the changes ... and when you look at the renovated areas, they look like they were always there — like they were always part of Camp," May notes. "We tried not to change the feel at all."

May is quick to praise the work of CEF, and their willingness to support the project.

"When we looked at loan opportunities, we reached out to banks and other institutions," he says. "But, CEF understood our ministry and the dynamics of capital campaigns, which made them very easy to work with. We chose them because they do it not just because they like to loan money, but because they like to support ministries that make an impact ... and it made really good financial sense!"



Church Extension Fund

Church Extension Fund ▶ Michigan District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod  
3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098 ▶ [www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org)  
Offices: 800-242-3944

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## Here We Stand

### Third Here We Ride Bike Event a Grand Success

by Ray Zavada

Zion Lutheran Church in Bay City served as the host site for the *Here We Ride* Event on August 3, 2019. *Here We Ride* was first done in 2017 in Charlevoix as part of the Michigan District's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation, and has become a popular activity each summer since then.

Under the outstanding leadership of Rev. Chris Garcia (Immanuel, Bay City), who served as event chairman, and Rev. Steve Schilke who did the onsite coordinating at Zion, the event was carried out wonderfully. A special thank you also is extended to the pastors and congregations of the Bay City circuit for their personal participation and efforts to promote the event in their congregations and communities.

Fifty-two riders registered to participate in the event. Riders gathered on Saturday morning at Zion for check in, some morning nourishment, an opening devotion by Pastor Garcia, an orientation to the day (including safety measures and understanding the Bay County Riverwalk/Railtrail System), and then the sendoff. Long-distance riders departed earlier at 7:30 a.m. to allow time for their rides, and the majority of riders left for their day of fun, fellowship, and exercise between 9:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Riders began returning around 11:30 a.m. and were welcomed back to a delicious cookout at the pavilion on Zion's property. Those responsible for setting up, preparing, and serving lunch were part of an army of volunteers, numbering well over 30, who were involved in some aspect of the event either on Friday evening during early registration, or throughout the day on Saturday. Many were on site carrying out a variety of duties and many were off site manning one of the four volunteer "run, rest, and refreshment" stations spaced around the trail to serve event participants and anyone using the trail on Saturday. A special thank you to Rev. Kevin Jones from Immanuel for his help



in many ways on Saturday, such as delivering supplies to the rest stations and being an emergency contact for anyone needing assistance on the trail.

Many attending the event asked if *Here We Ride* will again take place next summer, and the answer is a resounding YES! Pastor Garcia will again serve as chairperson and, as details are worked for another Bay City-based event, they will be passed along by the Michigan District Communications Department.

*Here We Ride* is a free event. However, participant riders are given the opportunity to raise as many donations as they can through pledges for miles ridden or as one-time gifts. These donations are then divided equally between the church or school of the riders' choosing and the Michigan District's ***Here We Stand*** campaign. Donations will continue to be received for the next two or three months as they are collected by the riders.

One rider said as she was leaving for the day, "*I will be recruiting many more riders from my church and neighborhood for next year. This was a fun day.*" Please consider this your early invitation to join us next summer for a day of fun and fellowship with a worthwhile purpose.

Campaign Goal: **\$10 million**  
Campaign Progress: **\$6.16 million**  
(as of August 7, 2019)  
[herewestand.michigandistrict.org](http://herewestand.michigandistrict.org)



## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

### Help Build the 2020 LHM Rose Parade Float

Join the Petal Pushers® and help decorate the 2020 Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) float entitled *Anchored in Jesus*—the only Christian-themed float in the Rose Parade. This year, LHM is celebrating its 70th Anniversary of witnessing the gospel message at the parade.

On December 28, you will be welcomed to sunny California and stay at the Holiday Inn West Covina for the next 5 nights. Float decorating takes place December 29–31. You will be transferred each day by private motor coach to and from the nearby decorating pavilion. Decorating takes place for three days, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

The 131st Rose Parade, *The Power of Hope*, takes place on January 1. Petal Pushers® attend the world-famous parade and share an unforgettable day cheering from reserved grandstand seats along Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena. What an opportunity it will be to see firsthand the amazing floats, the precision and music of the marching bands, and equestrian groups. Imagine what it will be like to see the beautifully decorated LHM float as it passes by and jump to your feet to applaud, knowing that you have helped make it happen.



2020 Pasadena

In an age that questions Christian values and messages, the LHM Float Committee has remained dedicated to its mission for 70 years. What a way to begin the New Year—making new friends and taking home the lasting memories of a-once-in-a-lifetime week of new experiences and Christian fellowship.

For more information or to sign up, visit [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org).

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

### 2019–2021 Mission Grants Voted in at National Convention in Mobile, AL

- 1: Water and the Word for Rural Schools in Kenya \$80,000
- 2: Teach Me Too — Preschoolers with Learning Needs \$100,000
- 3: Mission Outreach for At-Risk Young Women in Africa \$100,000
- 4: God's Grace for This Generation \$100,000
- 5: God's Word Changes Everything \$95,000
- 6: Mobile Medical Mercy Mission Bus for Guatemala \$100,000
- 7: Restoring Hope for Detroit Children and Families — Camp Restore \$100,000
- 8: Lights for Christ Scholarships \$95,000
- 9: Wind River Indian Reservation Transportation \$40,000
- 10: Ministry in Motion \$58,000
- 11: Touching the Living Word \$100,000

**TOTAL GOAL  
\$2,100,000**



- 12: Women's Witness and Mercy Asia \$100,000
- 13: Digital Media Development \$30,000
- 14: Hope and Healing Hub of Downtown \$50,000
- 15: Pre- and Post-Seminary Training for Local Church Workers \$62,650
- 16: Preparing Leaders for Tomorrow \$80,000
- 17: Christ for You, Anytime, Anywhere — KFUO Radio \$60,000
- 18: Sri Lanka Multipurpose Building Construction \$50,000
- 19: Making Jesus Known in the United States Ethnic Communities \$100,000
- 20: Music Outreach, Classes, and Resources on the Border \$98,400
- 21: LCMS Deaconess Ministry \$39,523

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6600 Constitution Blvd. #402, Portage, MI 49024.

Visit the LWML Michigan District web site for information about us. <https://lwmlmichigan.org/>

### Michigan District Launches Thought Leader Podcast

© svetlikid/Stock



The Michigan District is pleased to announce the launch of its podcasting stream. The Thought Leader Podcast is an eclectic collection of episodes

produced or curated by the executive staff of the Michigan District. The podcast will cover topics including theology, leadership, church and/or school administration, and ministry tips. The purpose of the Podcast stream is to equip servant leaders (both professional church workers and lay leaders) for effective ministry by discussing trends in applied theology and sharing ministry tools. The

10- to 15-minute audio episodes are designed to be easily incorporated into a daily commute or workout routine. To access current episodes and/or to subscribe, visit [michigandistrict.org/podcast](http://michigandistrict.org/podcast) or search for “Michigan District LCMS” in your favorite podcasting app.

Current episodes include:

- Measuring the Health of Your Ministry (Part 1 & 2)
- Unaddressed Conflict
- Church is Not a Spectator Sport
- Conversational Evangelism (Part 1 & 2)
- The Small Church – Must be my Fault?
- Development of a Ministry Website

If you are new to podcasts, download the Podcast Tutorial in Resources at [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org).

### Hinz to Speak at Practical Ideas for Outreach VI

Have you ever looked at how your church has presented itself on the web? Have you compared your church’s website to those of other nearby churches, especially those in your area that seem to be attracting new members? How good of a job does your church do in spreading the word of who you are, what you do, what you believe, and how you serve in the community? Does your church have a sense of mission, and is that clearly communicated on your website or through other Social Media platforms?

Two decades ago, churches that wanted to attract visitors made sure they were listed in the Saturday religion section of the local newspaper and paid for a listing in the Yellow Pages. Those options are no longer as available to us today, but have we all adapted to the change that has taken place and become effective in messaging?

Practical Ideas for Community Outreach VI (PICO VI), sponsored by Messiah, Saginaw; Bethlehem, Saginaw; and Faith, Bay City, has chosen Seth Hinz to share his expertise in outreach and communication. Hinz, former Web/Media Director of the Michigan District, is now serving at Pathfinder Lutheran Church, Ellisville, Mo.

PICO VI will be held at Faith, Bay City on Saturday, October 26 from 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Cost is \$25/congregation. The workshop is especially useful for pastors, lay leaders, and members interested in outreach/communication. For more information, or to register, visit [faithbaycity.org/PICO](http://faithbaycity.org/PICO).

### Flood Buckets for Detroit

In June, Redeemer, Jackson assembled 100 flood buckets for the Michigan District’s Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) to be used by those affected by flooding in the Detroit area. Servants from the age of 1 through 90 worked together to assemble the buckets.

The Detroit area experienced record breaking flooding this spring and summer with an estimated 3,000 homes being affected in Wayne County in May alone. These buckets were distributed in the Jefferson Chalmers area, which experienced extreme flooding as retaining walls were not able to withstand the ongoing high waters. Please continue to pray for the families affected by the flooding this year.

For more information on how your congregation can be involved as early responders, visit [michigandistrict.org/lert](http://michigandistrict.org/lert).



Photo courtesy of Redeemer, Jackson

## Camp Restore Detroit Annual Fundraiser

Camp Restore  
Detroit (CRD)  
was established  
in late 2016



with the mission of demonstrating hope while working together to restore the Detroit community. In 2018 alone, more than 25 groups of campers stayed at Mount Calvary Detroit, which equates to 2,000 hotel nights! During daylight hours, the campers help with homeowners' projects, clean up blight, work at nursing homes and missions for at-risk children, and serve in numerous VBS programs and Sports Camps. There are so many opportunities to share God's amazing love to those in need (see related story on page 6).

CRD will hold its annual fundraising dinner and silent auction on Sunday, October 13, 2019 at St. Thomas, Eastpointe at 4 p.m. Your donation of \$25 includes \$10 for the dinner. \$15 goes to CRD to help defray expenses. If you would like to attend the dinner and/or donate items for the silent auction, contact Susan Riske at 586.286.0025 or [riskese@comcast.net](mailto:riskese@comcast.net) to make your reservation.

## Former Elected Official Leads Class on Christian View of Politics

How can a sincere Christian, or any person of integrity, participate in politics? And why do politics seem to turn up even in the office, the church, or the family? These and other questions of immediate concern will be discussed in a study of Second Samuel at St. John's, Taylor on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. through November 27.

The class is unique and timely as it will be led by a former statewide-elected official, Rev. Dr. Richard Zeile, who served on the State Board of Education 2010–18 (being Co-President the last two years).

Second Samuel chronicles David's emergence from an outlaw in mercenary service to leader of the defeated and feuding tribes of Israel. David is the traditional example of God's man in the fields of war and government, and his conduct offers many suggestions as to how to approach the complexities of war and politics.

Those interested may register by calling the church office at 734.287.2080; drop-ins are welcome.

## Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like Peace, Rogers City.



*“We appreciate CEF and their generosity. Without their grant programs, projects may have stayed on the back burner rather than becoming a reality. They are a blessing for our district.”*

— Pastor Riddle,  
Peace, Rogers City



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## Special Recognition

### Introducing our new District Workers

The Michigan District, LCMS has been blessed with the addition of four new staff members this year. Here's a little bit of information on each of them.



**Rev. Christian Jones**  
**Missionary at Large - Flint**

Rev. Christian Jones grew up in St. Clair, Mich. and is a graduate of both St. Clair County Community College and Oakland University. He graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. and completed his vicarage at Woodbury Lutheran in Woodbury,

Minn. While on vicarage, he was also deployed to Trinity Lutheran, Corpus Christi, Texas to serve as a site coordinator for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

Christian has been installed as Missionary at Large serving at Franklin Avenue Mission, Flint. He is a young man with a godly passion to reach the least, the lost, and the last in one of our most challenging urban centers. He comes alongside our veteran missionary, Rev. Dr. Brad Yops, and will be working closely with him as Brad transitions into retirement from the day-to-day operations of Franklin Avenue Mission over the next few months. Christian is most capable, and he has eagerly embraced this new calling to lead this tri-circuit-supported mission endeavor. Christian is married to Krysti and they have one child, Jasmine. Please pray for Christian and his family and the ongoing mission at Flint's East side.

#### **Rev. James Richter**

#### **Missionary at Large - Grand Rapids**

On June 3, 2019, Rev. Jim Richter accepted God's call through the Michigan District, LCMS to serve as a Missionary at Large - Grand Rapids.

Jim received his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo. in 1995. Since then, he has served in Minnesota and helped plant new churches in Georgia, Michigan, and Illinois. His wife Sara is a certified Early Childhood Teacher. In addition to helping raise their five children, Sara has been an important mission partner in all the churches the Lord has called the family to serve.

Jim and Sara are passionate about helping families connect to Jesus and one another so they can be healthy now and forever. They are excited about the Lord's call to help plant a new church as well as serving the saints in Christ at Mt. Olive.



**Christie Hansard, RN, BSN**  
**Mental Health Case Manager/Parish Nurse Ministries**

Christie Hansard is a Registered Nurse with a BSN from Oakland University. She has been serving in Parish Nursing for over eleven years. She is a member of the LCMS Parish Nurse Council and of the Michigan State University

Care Management conference committee.

Christie isn't exactly new to the Michigan District, LCMS staff—she has been our Parish Nurse Ministries representative for a number of years, and has now added on the title of Mental Health Case Manager, in which she will facilitate a confidential process for church workers and their families when they are going through a difficult time. After gathering some basic information, she will be able to connect them with vetted counselors in their geographical area. You can learn more about the Mental Health Case Manager at [michigandistrict.org/mentalhealth](http://michigandistrict.org/mentalhealth).

**Jeff Heisner**  
**Video Journalist/Digital Media Director**



Jeff Heisner joined the Michigan District during Holy Week 2019. He came to the District from Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Twp. where he worked in the communications department doing video production and community relations. He also owned and ran BottomLine Media Coaching, a communications business that specialized in media training and video production. For two decades, Jeff worked in local television all across the state of Michigan and in Phoenix, Ariz. He was an award-winning journalist and Sports Anchor/Multi Media Journalist.

Jeff is now the Video Journalist/Digital Media Director for the District. He will be telling stories about the great people and ministries of the LCMS within our state. He also helps create the podcasts and content for social media and the website. If you have a great story to tell, send Jeff an email at [jeff.heisner@michigandistrict.org](mailto:jeff.heisner@michigandistrict.org).

## Hill Installed

On Sunday, July 14, Rev. James Hill was installed as the first called pastor of Family of God, Detroit. Rev. Hill served Lutheran City Ministries (2005–2008); Mt. Calvary and St. John, Detroit (2008–2015); and Christ Our Savior, Livonia as a deployed pastor to Family of God, Detroit (2015–2018). He has been a guiding light and spiritual force of Family of God as well as chief architect behind the purchase of the building the congregation now calls home. Rev. Hill also initiated and continues to oversee support for Vicar Tyler Cronkright, who is currently working towards ordination as a Specific Ministry Pastor.

Rev. Dean Davenport (Christ Our Savior, Livonia) and other brothers in Christ celebrated the ministry and leadership of Rev. Hill as did the Family of God congregation, many members of supporting congregations, and the community.



Photo courtesy of Family of God

Pastor Hill and Sue Hatcher (a founder of the Family of God ministry in southwest Detroit who encouraged Pastor Hill to "come and see" many years ago)..

## New District Office Hours

The Michigan District, LCMS has new office hours: 8:45 a.m.–4 p.m.

Church Extension Fund office hours will remain the same, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

[michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org) | 888.225.2111

## Sorting Through Prolife Petitions continued from page 4

role: I have two volunteers that set up tables at both church entrances. I have been quite vocal about our vocation as Christians to protect those who cannot protect themselves. That petition will be in our church until either the requisite signatures are met or the legal petition time allotted is expired.

You can do the same.

If every Lutheran church in the Michigan District made the petition available, the drive would be over in a week.

*May the God of life, who formed us all in the womb, guard and protect us in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

For more information, please go to [michiganvalueslife.org](http://michiganvalueslife.org) or [rtl.org](http://rtl.org) or contact Rev. Paul Clark at [revpmclark@charter.net](mailto:revpmclark@charter.net) or 517.420.4826. ■

*Rev. Dennis Matyas serves St. Paul, Bay City.*



## Urban Ministry Conference

September 16, 2019 | Camp Restore Detroit  
11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Nearly a dozen Michigan District-sponsored urban ministries will share about their efforts to serve their communities in the name of Jesus through short (10–15 minute) presentations. You are invited to the campus of Mt. Calvary, Detroit to enjoy lunch and discover what God is doing through His people in Detroit, Lansing, Flint, South Macomb, and Benton Harbor. You will also learn how you can participate!

**Cost: \$15**

Includes lunch

For more information and to register visit

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

# Calls and Roster Update

## ORDAINED

### Calls Accepted

Rev. Greg Griffith (Clinton Twp.) to Sr. Pastor, King of Kings, Omaha NE  
Rev. Paul Koehn (Albany, NY) to St. Paul, Albion  
Rev. Richard Laeder IIM (Lansing) to Grace, Leslie  
Rev. Michael Podeszwa (Freedom, PA) to Immanuel, Wheeler  
Rev. David Schmidt (Royal Oak) to Faith, Bentonville, AR  
Rev. Larry Warsinski IIM (Clyde) to Pilgrim, Burton

### Change of Status

Rev. John Kaiser (Columbiaville) to Emeritus  
Rev. Roger Kilponen (St. Ignace) to Emeritus

### Transferred Into District

Rev. Phillip Phifer (Alpena) Candidate

### Transferred Out of District

Rev. Greg Griffith (Clinton Twp.) to Nebraska District  
Rev. John E. Merrill (Emeritus) to South Dakota District

### Called Home

Rev. John C. Kromer

## COMMISSIONED

### Calls Accepted

Heins, Dawn (Candidate) to St. Paul, Royal Oak  
Pomroy, Paige (Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Matthew, Walled Lake  
Sharman, Ian (Bethlehem, Saginaw) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

### Change of Status

Davis, Kathryn (St. John, New Boston) to Emeritus  
Dembeck, David (St. Peter, Macomb) to Emeritus  
Dickinson, Melinda (Trinity, Traverse City) to Emeritus  
Hermann, Randi (Christ The King, Southgate) to Emeritus  
Kolberg, Deborah (St. John's, Grand Haven) to Emeritus  
McClatchey, Rita (St. Paul, Royal Oak) to Emeritus  
Meseke, Steven (Lutheran High School Association, Rochester Hills) to Emeritus  
Moehring, David (Trinity, Manistee) to Emeritus  
Moehring, Mary (Trinity, Manistee) to Emeritus  
Paluch, Beth (Trinity, Muskegon) to Emeritus  
Ritz, Wanda (St. Peter, Macomb) to Emeritus  
Schnack, Deborah (St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to Emeritus  
Schwecke, Shirley (Candidate) to Emeritus  
Twork, Clara (St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to Emeritus  
Werschky, Sharon (Immanuel, Sebewaing) to Emeritus  
Wolf, Charles (Lutheran High School Association, Rochester Hills) to Emeritus

### Transferred Out of District

Bartok, Kimberly (Candidate) to Missouri District  
Celmer, Katrina (St. John, Fraser) to Kansas District  
Frisco, Alexandra (Candidate) to Indiana District  
Frisco, Eric (Immanuel, Alpena) to Indiana District  
Longmire, Sarah (Trinity, Traverse City) to Missouri District  
McDonald, Deborah (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
McDonald, Ian (Emeritus) to Indiana District  
Neumeyer, Amanda (Christ, Stevensville) to Pacific Southwest District

### Transferred Into District

Pfeil, Nathanael (Northern Illinois District) to Holy Cross, Saginaw  
Phifer, Jennifer (Indiana District) as Candidate

A complete up-to-date listing of Calls and Vacancies can be found at [michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org).

# Calendar of Events

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 Labor Day DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED  
3–4 Emeriti Conference Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth  
4–5 Circuit Visitors' Conference Peace, Ann Arbor  
8–10 Deacon Conference Camp Arcadia  
16 Urban Ministry Conference Camp Restore Detroit  
24–26 IIM Discernment & Continuing Education Conference Michindoh, Hillsdale  
27–29 Church Extension Fund Conference Auburn Hills Marriott, Pontiac

## OCTOBER

- 4 New Teacher Orientation District Office, Ann Arbor  
6–8 All Pastors' Conference Boyne Mountain Resort, Boyne Falls  
9–12 LEA Convention St. Louis, Mo.  
13 State Cross Country Tournament Oakland University  
14–18 District Presidents' Administrative Assistants Ann Arbor  
22 Board of Directors' Meeting CUAA Black Box  
25 School Committee Meeting District Office, Ann Arbor

## NOVEMBER

- 2–3 State Volleyball Tournament CUAA and St. Paul, Ann Arbor  
7 New Church Worker Orientation CUAA Black Box  
11 Veterans' Day  
22 Early Childhood Cabinet Meeting District Office, Ann Arbor  
28–29 Thanksgiving DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED

## DECEMBER

- 24 Christmas Eve DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED  
25 Christmas Day DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED  
31 New Year's Eve

## JANUARY 2020

- 1 New Year's Day DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED  
10–11 Pre-Retirement Conference Holy Cross, Flushing

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