



Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

People of Hope ... Vigorously Making Known the Love of Christ

2019 Christmas Appeal

Dear Friends in Christ,

In our present circumstances turmoil is rampant, anger toward and distrust of fellow man is at the boiling point, and reaching a consensus on just about any issue seems improbable. And I am not just talking about politics. These same issues are occurring in our communities, in our homes and, unfortunately, even at times in our churches.

One may ask: where then does our joy and peace come from? As people of faith, we are blessed to not only know the answer, but to have the answer in our hearts. It comes from the ONE Who never changes. It comes from Jesus, our **living hope** (1 Peter 1:3), who *“for ... you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”*

How richly blessed are we to have such an amazing, generous God of love, grace, mercy, and peace. This ever-present, unchanging God makes Himself known in the Holy Scriptures and the Sacraments, and allows His light to shine for us, in us, and through us!

Let us draw near to the newborn Savior where He is found! (Heb.10:25; James 4:8)

Through Michigan District mission and ministries, we strive to bring this same joy and peace we have in Jesus Christ to the many we serve who have not yet experi-

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The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days Caesar Augustus for a census should be taken of the whole world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And Joseph went with Mary, who was betrothed to him, from Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the child to be born. And so he had his firstborn son, a male child, and he wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

“So Joseph also went up from Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the child to be born. And so he had his firstborn son, a male child, and he wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”

Innovative Missional Ministries

Sharing the *Living Hope* with people in need.



Deb Ellinger and a volunteer pray with a woman in Detroit.

“God put it on my heart to help and serve women that no one else loved” (Deb Ellinger). In 2017, Deb founded **Elli’s House**, a Christ-centered 501(c)3 nonprofit serving homeless, runaway women involved in forced prostitution and human trafficking in the city of Detroit. Many of these women come from normal lives in the suburbs while others have spent their lives in foster homes or in dysfunctional families; they all find themselves in the worst possible situation. Elli’s House provides safe shelter, educational support, counseling, and medical services. They also offer a two-year plan that provides family problem solving, crisis management, and continued counseling and medical services, with family reunification as their primary goal.



enced His presence or who don't even minimally understand that He is with us always.

Along with our congregations, the Michigan District supports numerous Innovative Missional Ministries that serve the unchurched and under-churched in many urban and rural communities. These ministries—places like Elli's House, The Luke Project 52 Clinic, Franklin Avenue Mission, A2E Sports Camps, and other Innovative Missional Ministry efforts—respond to specific needs in their communities, meeting people where they're at in life. To learn more about these and others, visit michigandistrict.org/christmasappeal.

Dear friends, as you pray about and eventually make

your annual Christmas and year-end gift-giving decisions, would you please consider a gift in support of the many Innovative Missional Ministries of the Michigan District? By supporting these vital ministries through the ***Here We Stand*** campaign, you will significantly help the Michigan District in its efforts to fulfill the primary objective, which is to grow Christ's Kingdom. Your gift will make a difference for today (by helping someone find a job, or be fed or clothed, or find housing, etc.), and ultimately for eternity, as this person learns of life with Jesus now and forever.



Again, I humbly ask you to prayerfully and generously help us help others as we carry out our mission to reach the lost and disciple the saved. A response card (see below) and envelope are enclosed for your convenience.

Remember, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*. May the joy and peace of His birth be with you today, tomorrow, and forever.

Together with you and the Holy Spirit endeavoring to reach the lost, disciple the saved, and let our light shine for His glory,

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

P.S. The Michigan District Church Extension Fund will provide a 10% match to every gift received in our Annual Christmas Appeal as part of their gift-matching commitment to the ***Here We Stand*** campaign. Please be generous.

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Yes, President Maier, I would like to invest in Innovative Missional Ministry!

Enclosed is my tax deductible gift of : ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other _____

Please designate my gift to: ☐ Innovative Missional Ministry

The ***Here We Stand*** Campaign also has three other initiatives that would benefit from your support.

☐ Professional Church Workers Scholarships ☐ Endowment Fund ☐ International Ministry

Name _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____ Email _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Congregation/City _____

Please make checks payable to Michigan District, LCMS or provide credit card information below. Return completed form and check (if applicable) in the enclosed envelope.

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____
(MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, Diners Club)

Billing Address (if different from above) _____

Cardholder's Name (as it appears on the card) _____

Signature _____ Date _____
By signing this form, the card holder is authorizing the Michigan District, LCMS to debit their card.

Return to: Attn: Development Department
Michigan District, LCMS
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105