

February 2020

# michigan

## IN TOUCH

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



### HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

## Buckets Don't Fill Themselves

By Travis Grulke

There is a story told of a young boy who was picking blueberries with his family; everyone had their own pail to fill up on a beautiful summer day. Like many young boys his age, he quickly became distracted and passed the time running through the field, chasing squirrels, nibbling on blueberries, and napping in the shade. He was doing everything but filling his bucket.

Before he knew it, he heard his mom and dad yell it was time to leave. The young boy panicked. He didn't want to return with just a small handful of blueberries jostling around at

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Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
February 2020, Volume 19, No. 2  
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)  
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

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the bottom of his bucket. So he quickly took some dirt and moss and filled up his small pail putting a thin layer of blueberries along the top making it look like he had been working the whole day.

The next morning he awoke to the sweet smell of blueberry pie. He couldn't wait to sink his teeth into that first delicious piece. He raced downstairs to see his mom place a small freshly baked pie on the dining room table, and she lovingly told her son that she made this pie just for him. The young boy took the knife, and as he pushed through that top layer of blueberries, he soon realized the rest of the pie was just a clump of dirt and moss. The boy's smile faded; he didn't have to look at his mom to know he was probably not going to get any blueberry pie that morning.

Sadly, I can relate to this young boy. No, I didn't go blueberry picking with my family as a kid. (I don't even like blueberry pie.) But many times in my personal and professional life I have anticipated blessings or rewards, almost expected them, even though I knew my effort/work was lacking. Bless my children, Lord . . . as I selfishly neglect the quality time they need from their dad. Bless my marriage, Lord . . . as I refuse to forgive my spouse as Christ has forgiven me. Bless my work, Lord . . . as I find an excuse to stay in my office instead of building relationships with those You have called me to serve. Too many times I have looked to the Good Lord with my hands wide open waiting for His gifts to be poured out, knowing in my heart I haven't done much at all over the last few days, weeks, or months in order to fully receive those gifts.

God commands our ministries here in the Michigan District to stand on His promises and be bold in sharing the Gospel message. Paul reminds us in his second letter to the Corinthians that healthy ministries are sowing generously and giving cheerfully, trusting in God who *"is able to bless [them] abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that [they] need, [they] will abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).

So does God still bless us despite our sinful ways? For sure! There is no doubt that He *"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"* (Ephesians 3:20 NIV). Despite my sinful nature and not always listening to His will for my life, God has blessed me tremendously and has used me to be a blessing. We all learned in Sunday school about **mercy**—the things God doesn't give us that we do deserve—and **grace**—the things God does give us that we don't deserve. Praise God for His mercy and grace!

I know I forget this at times, and I believe our congregations and schools can forget as well. We desire all the promises God shares with us in His Word; however, our actions aren't always a reflection of what Christ has called His Church to do.

Yet, God never abandons us, and still accomplishes everything, sometimes even in spite of us. This article began with a startling illustration, one that is thankfully not real. Our help in every part of our work and service to the Lord and his Church is always found in our Heavenly Father, and it is always available when we ask! As Christ said, *"And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11:9–13 ESV). May the Holy Spirit work through us in mighty ways as God's love flows to us and through us. May He also give us those gentle reminders that there are plenty of buckets that need blueberries! ■

*Travis Grulke is the Assistant to the President – Superintendent of Schools for the Michigan District, LCMS.*



**Praise God for His**  
*mercy and grace!*



## Gifts of Love

By Jeff Heisner

This past Christmas, there was electricity and excitement in the air at St. John's Lutheran Church in Rochester. It didn't come from the children dreaming of what would be under their Christmas tree. Students at St. John's were overjoyed to place presents at the church altar. One kindergartener left clothes and a football for a 12-year-old boy and a My Little Pony™ toy for a 5-year-old girl. The altar was filled with wrapped presents.

These gifts went to at-risk children in Southeast Michigan. It was a small part of Gifts for All God's Children (GFAGC), a ministry started by Patti Jacques back in 1988. That year, 187 kids received Christmas gifts from the mission. Now it's grown to include a warehouse in Shelby Township for storage, shopping, and wrapping presents. A semi truck even delivers some of the presents to churches and organizations throughout metro Detroit. The total number of kids that were blessed by GFAGC this Christmas was more than 3,500.

*"When I see the gifts that come in, people are so generous for people they are never going to meet this side of heaven,"* Jacques said. *"We have seen miracles in this program year after year—how God just provides incredibly more than we can ever ask or imagine. It brings a lot of joy."*

As it's grown, Gifts for All God's Children has become a well-oiled machine thanks in large part to the volun-

teers. Volunteers are needed at the warehouse to help fulfill the children's wish lists. They are also needed at the drop-off sites to unload and distribute the gifts. Then there are the Christmas parties, where the volunteers celebrate Jesus' birth with the children who receive the gifts. Over 55 churches and organizations were blessed with gifts from GFAGC this Christmas.

St. John's Pastor, Rev. Marc Schwichtenberg, has seen the kids in his community step up to help make Christmas special to those less fortunate. He shares his perspective on what Patti has built and how this mission is making a difference: *"To know that those gifts are given in Jesus' name, to know that it goes beyond the gift itself, [that] it's the ultimate gift of Jesus and His love and the hope that it brings, that's what I think of when I see all these gifts up here."*

GFAGC is currently looking for a new location to continue its operations, since the cost to rent the current warehouse became prohibitive. The ideal location would have over 5,000 sq. ft. and be somewhere in Oakland or Macomb county. For more information, visit [giftsforallgodschildren.org](http://giftsforallgodschildren.org). ■

*Jeff Heisner serves as Video Journalist/Digital Media Director for the Michigan District, LCMS.*

# Who is my *neighbor* and why should I care?

By Randy Johnson

*“But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’” (Luke 10:29).*

In a world that has seemed to go off the deep end by not caring about others, the question “*Who is my neighbor?*” seems to be out of place. The world is saying to each of us: “*Take care of you and don’t worry about the rest of humanity.*” This is a very scary thought, especially when Jesus tells us plainly that our neighbor is not just the person who lives on the same block as us but everyone in the world. So what does this statement mean to you and me?

Let’s start off with the fact that we have the responsibility and the privilege to share some very important news with those around us. Yet, how do we share this valuable news with others? There are many ways to do this but not all have the best of results.

There is the *door-to-door salesman* technique. That type almost never works and, in a day and age when knocking on someone’s door might get you hurt, it is probably not the way the go. If you look at statistics of

each type of evangelism effort, you will find that door-to-door is one of the least effective ways to share the Gospel.

Then there is the type of evangelism I call *door-is-open evangelism*: “*The church’s doors are open and they can come in any time they want!*” I have heard this come out of more than one parishioner’s mouth and unfortunately I have also heard a pastor say it. Yes, that is very true, our doors are open, or at least appear to be open, to anyone. How many churches do you know that are growing with this type of evangelism? There are none that I am aware of.

So, what way *would* work the best? One of the most effective ways I know from experience is to make friends. This seems to be the most effective way to share your faith. Now, I want to be clear: It is not us who bring people to faith. Someone coming to faith is the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace. These means are the

Word of God and the Sacraments. Yet, as the Scriptures say, “*How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’*” (Romans 10:14–15). This Word of God is not only proclaimed from the pulpit in sermons but it is literally proclaimed as we go out into the world and speak of His truth with our neighbors whenever we share what God has done in our lives.

Taking the Word out of the church and into the community is needed as well. We—each one of us Christians—are needed to proclaim God’s Word. We are the hands and feet of God on earth. Make no mistake that we are to be out in the world letting it know who Jesus is and what He has done for all who believe in Him. The greatest impact we can have for the spread of the Gospel is when we become friends with people and then, when the opportunity arises, to proclaim Jesus crucified and resurrected for all.

There are many programs that teach various styles of friendship evangelism. The LCMS has one called *Everyone a Witness*. Also, the book *Joining Jesus on His Mission* by Greg Finke has a lot of valuable information.

Friendship is the key to any of these programs working for you, but it must be a genuine friendship. If your only motivation to become someone’s friend is so that they come to your church, or if you

plan to drift away from them after they come to faith, then you need to rethink why are you becoming their friend and why are you sharing Jesus with them in the first place. Friendship with someone should be a lifelong commitment, just as Jesus made a lifelong—even more than that, eternal—commitment to all who believe in Him and walk in His ways.

We all have made friends throughout our lives. Some are lifelong friends and others are really only acquaintances, not true friends. You see, becoming a friend to someone means more than just discussing the weather or having a cool drink with them on a hot summer’s day. True friendship shows up in your friend’s life when they need you most. A friend is there for the one who is going through a difficult time. I think about a friend of mine who was going through the loss of his wife. She was killed in a car accident. He would wake up in the middle of the night crying and couldn’t deal with the pain he was feeling. He would call me and talk to me on the phone at all times of the day or night. There were many times when I climbed out of bed, got dressed, and went over to his house and sat with him and listened to his pain. I lost many hours of sleep as he moved through this time of pain. But that’s not what was important. What was important to him and to me was that we were friends and friends are there for friends in any circumstance. My friend was not a Christian. He had heard about Jesus but never felt or believed that Jesus was for him. It took many visits in the middle of the night and many long conversations on many subjects before he ever got

around to asking me why I believed in Jesus.

So we know that friendship evangelism is the most effective way of sharing Jesus. But why should I care about evangelism? Why should I worry? It is a pretty simple answer, but the follow-through is not that easy. The answer is in Matthew 28:18–20: “*And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’*”

Jesus calls all who believe in Him to make disciples. Yet, some fall into the category of “believing in Jesus but it is not my responsibility or privilege to proclaim the Gospel.” Those who want to believe but do nothing miss out on a great privilege—seeing someone come to faith in Jesus. Standing on the sidelines was not Paul’s way of doing things. Paul was in a race—a race of time, a race for life. The race of time was the time he had left on earth to proclaim the Gospel. The race for life was about all the people who would be lost if he did not proclaim the Gospel to them. It was a race he was compelled to run, not because of fear but because of love. Love for all people in his world.

Let us run that race the same way with love, not fear. Love for all people. ■

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

FEBRUARY 2020

## How Your CEF Investments Will Help Enhance Security in Our Churches and Schools



*Church Extension Fund's new Security Enhancement Grant and Loan Program enables eligible ministries to enhance the security of their churches, schools, and day care centers.*



***“In the past five years, CEF has granted over \$2 million to these ministries. There’s a simple reason we’ve been able to accomplish this: the support of our investors.”***

**Jim Saalfeld**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Church Extension Fund

Far too often we read and hear about deadly shootings in our nation’s churches and places of worship. Making our heartbreak even worse is the realization that these tragedies happen in the very places where people look first for comfort and inspiration in their faith.

Sadly too, these violent intrusions represent only the most serious incidents of church security. There are many unpublicized cases of security breaches in our places

of worship, often with the potential for harm.

Think also of the security needs in our schools. Years ago our schoolchildren prepared for natural dangers like fire and tornadoes. Today, they must routinely perform frightening “lockdown” drills to help protect them from human wrongdoing.

“The threats are real, and we can’t deny them,” says Jim Saalfeld, CEO of Church Extension Fund. “Yet we shouldn’t live in continual fear.

There are steps we can take, proven in practice, to heighten the security of our Lutheran churches and schools.”

These measures require an investment. “It’s not just the time it takes to assess our current security systems and plan for improvements,” notes Andy Sohn, CEF’s Vice President of Marketing and Relations. “There’s also the monetary cost. With all the resources our ministries require for their spiritual work, the thought of having to spend additional funds on better security can seem overwhelming.”

### **CEF’s Security Enhancement Grant and Loan Program**

Thankfully, CEF is here to help. This year we’re offering special grant and financing opportunities to enable eligible ministries to enhance the security of their churches, schools, and day care centers. Our new Security Enhancement Grant and Loan Program has two parts:

- First, it provides a grant of up to \$2,500 to add security features in an existing church facility.
- Second, we’re offering a preferred loan rate—a full percent below our fixed rate—for security enhancements that may exceed what the grant will allow.

Churches can apply for the grants through October 2020,

while the security loans will be offered through January 2021.

You can learn more about the Security Enhancement Grant and Loan Program on CEF’s website. We’ve also provided churches with brochures detailing the program.



*To learn more about how you can help with the security of your church and community visit CEF’s website at: [mi-cef.org/about/grants](http://mi-cef.org/about/grants).*

### **Your Continuing Role**

CEF’s mission has been one of making resources available to churches and its members throughout its 119 year history. These resources come in many forms.

As Saalfeld explains, “Throughout CEF’s history, we’ve provided financing for Lutheran churches and schools across Michigan. In the past five years alone, we’ve granted over \$2 million to these ministries. There’s a simple reason we’ve been able to accomplish this: the continuing support of our investors.”

Sohn adds: “When you, as an individual, invest with CEF, you not only help prepare for your financial future, you also make critically needed capital available to congregations.

That’s especially important when we’re dealing with something as fundamental as the physical security of our church members.”

Let’s not allow the fear of violence from the outside prevent us from building God’s kingdom from within our churches and schools, and throughout our communities. As Paul writes in Philippians 4:6-7:

“Do not be anxious about any-thing, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guide your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”



**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

### A Tale of Two Fortresses By Rev. James Neuendorf

In 1521, while construction was concluding on the fortress of Juan Ponce de Leon, the Spanish governor of the new colony of Puerto Rico, Martin Luther was taking his stand before princes and kings at the Bishop's Palace at the Diet of Worms.

In both fortresses, events were underway which would shape the next 500 years of history. In Puerto Rico, the work began to strengthen the hold on the island and continent by the Spanish Crown and the Catholic Church. In Worms, Luther spoke those words that still reverberate across the world: *"Here I stand, I can do no other; God help me. Amen."*

500 years later, Lutherans in Michigan spoke those same words and made that same confession: *"Here we still stand!"* They gathered their offerings and, through the **Here We Stand** campaign, gave to support Lutheran missionaries who would go to that far-flung stronghold of Charles V and into the whole world. For 400 years, the Spanish crown forbade Lutherans from worshipping or teaching on the island of Puerto Rico. Pope Leo X even made Puerto Rico the headquarters of the "new world inquisition" to keep Lutheranism out!

Today, as your Lutheran missionaries to that same island, and on behalf of the fledgling Puerto Rican Lutheran Church, we would like to thank you for



© Stephanie Klepacky/Unsplash

standing with Christ, and with Luther, and for standing with us. God's Word which endures forever is going forth, by water and Word rather than blood and steel, and here in Puerto Rico we still stand!

Deaconess Christel and I are actively working to plant a new church in the city which is named after that first governor, Ponce. Already there are over a dozen people who share in your confession and communion! We are also active in sharing the love of Christ through works of mercy to those affected by hurricane Maria, poverty, and mental health crises as well as the more recent earthquakes. We are happily doing all the things Pope Leo X forbade for all those years in Puerto Rico: teaching and putting Bibles in the hands of the people, preaching the Gospel of justification by grace alone through faith in Christ, and confessing Christ crucified to everyone! Our teammates in Mayagüez are doing the same, and it is all because of your support. Thank you for standing with us!

To learn more about our work in Puerto Rico, visit [lcms.org/neuendorf](http://lcms.org/neuendorf).

If you would like to receive our newsletter, please write to us at: [christel.neuendorf@lcms.org](mailto:christel.neuendorf@lcms.org).



Photos courtesy of Christel Neuendorf

**Campaign Goal: \$10 million**



**Campaign Progress: \$6.3 million**

**Here We Stand**

(as of January 1, 2020)

**Participating Congregations: 157**

**Individual Contributors: 1,439**

**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)



## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

### Anchored in Jesus

The 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade, with the theme *The Power of Hope*, provided the opportunity for the Lutheran Hour Ministries' float to proclaim "*Jesus our Hope is the anchor for our souls*" (*Hebrews 6:19*). The anchor has long been considered the Christian symbol of hope. The anchor on our float was made into a Cross, with Jesus standing at the wheel, guiding and directing the course of life, providing stability—the solid cornerstone (*Isaiah 28:16*) in the unstable, shifting sands and troubled waters of daily life (*Matthew 8:23–37*; *John 14:1–6*). Just as a relatively small anchor secures a mighty vessel, so saving faith in Jesus Christ (*Ephesians 2:8–9*) provides security during all seasons of life—fair weather or tumultuous—and not only for this life on earth but for all time and eternity. Hidden on the float are Angel Fish (*Luke 1:26–28*; *Luke 2:8–20*; *Luke 24:1–8*), Chalice Coral (*Mark 14:23–25*), and Crown of Thorns Starfish (*Matthew 27:27–31*). Our hope, as the people of God, is built upon nothing less than Jesus' Blood and righteousness (*Acts 4:11–12*; *Romans 3:24*; *2 Corinthians 5:21*).

The float is a project of the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. 5,000

Petal Pushers® are needed each year to decorate the LHM float and others in the parade. For more information, visit [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org).



### 2020 LLL Convention

The 78th Michigan District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) Convention will be on Saturday, April 25, 2020. The program will be in the afternoon and will include an early evening banquet at the Bavarian Inn Lodge and Conference Center in Frankenmuth.

Guest speaker and presenter will be Ms. Dionne Lovstad-Jones, Lutheran Hour Ministries' Ministry Resources Manager. Lovstad is a workshop facilitator equipping the church for outreach; she is also a presenter, trainer, professional fundraiser, and lay leader.

Please visit [mi-lll.org](http://mi-lll.org) for additional details and registration information or contact [john.raffel@gmail.com](mailto:john.raffel@gmail.com) for more information.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

Turn in your Mite donations by March 31, 2020.

Send your donations to Sandy Maya, 6600 Constitution Blvd. #402, Portage, MI 49024.

# Let your HEARTS soar! So our MITES can roar!

Check out our web site for information about the  
2020 LWML Michigan District Convention in Gaylord.

Visit the LWML Michigan District  
web site for information about  
what we do & much more!  
<https://lwmlmichigan.org/>



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## Lutherans! Let's love on Detroit Again!



The week of June 21-27, 2020, is going to be one of the busiest for Camp Restore Detroit this summer. The Michigan District is recruiting 100+ volunteers to serve in all areas that are asking for Camp Restore Detroit's assistance.

Are you interested in a mission trip but do not want to travel far? Do you hear about service projects or mission trips and think *"I'm too old, I can't do anything to help them?"* Think again!! No matter what age you are, God can use you to restore hope in Detroit's 9th Precinct!

We need **YOU** for **THE BIG WEEK 2020** at Camp Restore Detroit! Over 100 volunteers of all ages, skills, and abilities are needed to fill volunteer positions

in Vacation Bible schools, an A2E Sports Camp, construction, blight removal, and more!

*"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 I will come back to help further God's work in Detroit."* —Young Adult Volunteer

Campers can stay overnight in dormitory-like housing or commute. You can work one or more days or all week—whatever works best for you!

For more information or to register, visit [camprestore.org/bigweek](http://camprestore.org/bigweek).



Photos by Elisa Schütz/Michigan District, LCMS

## The Lord Is My Helper in LCMS Rural and Small Town Mission

*"So we can confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?'"* (Hebrews 13:6)

Have you ever felt down or even depressed about the challenges facing congregations in rural and small-town America? It's altogether too easy to fall into that trap. Between the perceived shrinking populations, the aging congregations, and members with competing interests, it can seem difficult at best to carry out ministry, at least to carry it out the way we'd like to or have in the past. These factors often bring about a lack of hope and a sense of fear of the future. Yet, it's helpful for us to remember that the Lord of the Church always has work for us to accomplish.

There are so many opportunities for us in rural and small-town congregations. There is still an enormous mission field all around us. Out of 6,000+ LCMS congregations, some 3,136 are in rural and small-town settings. These numbers show us that there are nearly 17,000,000 people living in and around these congregations. With a conservative estimate of 50 to 60 percent of those folks being unaffiliated with a church or a faith of any sort, the

possibilities for outreach are most assuredly there. Not to mention that there are studies which show us that in many of these areas there is beginning to be a positive net in-migration of people and even a "Brain Gain" of sorts, where in the past it was mostly a loss.

Of course, we must deal with the realities of our age. But we simply cannot forget that the Lord of the Church has it all under control according to His will. Bear in mind what we are told at the close of Hebrews 13, *"Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."*

*Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter by the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Madison, Neb. and director, LCMS RSTM. For more information visit [lcms.org/rstm](http://lcms.org/rstm).*

## Greenwell to Lead New Medical Care Model

Photo courtesy of Wellspring Lutheran Services



This past December, Wellspring Lutheran Services named Dr. Mark Greenwell as its new staff physician and medical director for the Great Lakes Bay region. Dr. Greenwell will serve as staff physician of the Wellspring skilled nursing and rehab facility in Frankenmuth, Senior Living

Campus in Saginaw Township, and the Wellspring home health and hospice programs.

With this announcement, Wellspring also announces an innovative new medical care model that will serve elders for years to come. This change will allow Wellspring to deliver on-site medical services, coordinated with its own nursing and therapy staff, to assure elders are receiving the best in medical care. It will also assure continuity, as well as efficient, coordinated, accessible medical services that will benefit Wellspring clients.

In addition, Wellspring continues to be a leader in the emerging field of aging-supportive technology. By implementing several new technologies that will be beneficial in helping seniors become more proactive as they age, Wellspring continues its longstanding commitment to meeting the needs of seniors in the Great Lakes Bay area.



Photo courtesy of Faith, Prescott

The LWML of Faith, Prescott held its first Christmas Cookie Walk Fundraiser for mission in December 2019.

## Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like St. Paul's Lutheran, Milan.

*“CEF has been there every step of the way ... They told us that they saw no problem with funding our project, and then they helped us get the paperwork pulled together”*

- Chuck Goerlitz,  
Congregational Chairman  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Milan



Church Extension Fund

Office:

**800-242-3944**

24/7 Interest Rates:

**800-232-7313**

Website:

**[www.mi-cef.org](http://www.mi-cef.org)**



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# Calls and Roster Update

## ORDAINED

### Calls Accepted

Mr. Tyler Cronkright (Clinton Twp.) to SMP Family of God, Detroit  
Rev. Christopher Jung (Holland) to St. Paul Community, Pontiac  
Mr. David Miller (Wayland) to SMP St. Paul, Caledonia  
Rev. Dr. John Sproul (Ypsilanti) to St. Luke, Ann Arbor

### Change of Status

Rev. Daniel Flynn (Whitmore Lake) to Emeritus  
Rev. Norman Koy (Sterling Heights) to Emeritus  
Rev. Paul Schneider (Gaylord) to Emeritus  
Rev. Barry Sheldon (Lexington) to Emeritus  
Rev. David Ulm (New Baltimore) to Emeritus

### Transferred Into District

Rev. Christopher Jung (Northern Illinois)

### Transferred Out of District

Rev. Allen Lunneberg (Waterford) to English District  
Rev. Raymond Parent (Dearborn) to Southern District  
Rev. Lucas Witt (Auburn Hills) to Southeastern District

### Called Home

Rev. Bernhard Filbert (Louisville, KY)

## COMMISSIONED

### Calls Accepted

Baughman, Kristina (reinstated) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (Northwest)  
Haines, Renee (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Michael's, Richville  
Neumeyer, Paul (reinstated) to Immanuel, Macomb  
Steuernagel, Paula (Cq. Concordia, Seward) to Trinity, Saint Joseph

### Change of Status

Polk, Norma (Cross & Resurrection, Ypsilanti) to Candidate  
Scheiwe, Warren (St. John, Bay City) to Emeritus  
Witt, Sylvia (Lutheran Special Education Ministries, Farmington Hills) to Candidate

### Transferred Out of District

Schmidt, Nathan (LAMP, New Haven) to Northwest District

### Transferred Into District

Wright, Blake (SELC District) to Trinity, Clinton Township

### Reinstated to the Roster

Case, Kimberly  
Neumeyer, Paul

### Resigned From the Roster

Toth, Annalisa

### Called Home

Guenther, Vernon  
Sievert, David

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



**Michigan District**  
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

# GET EQUIPPED

FOR EFFECTIVE GOSPEL MINISTRY

- Start A Ministry
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- Resources
- Blog/Podcast
- Calls & Vacancies
- Stories & Highlights

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# Calendar of Events

## FEBRUARY 2020

- 1 Theological Conference  
Our Savior, Lansing
- 6-7 Lutheran School Administrators' Snow Tire  
Conference  
Martin Luther High School, Lansing
- 20-22 District Stewardship Leaders' Conference  
Tempe, Arizona
- 26 Ash Wednesday

## MARCH 2020

- 7-8 State Basketball Tournament  
CUAA and St. Paul, Ann Arbor
- 17 Board of Directors  
Mount Olive, Grand Rapids

## APRIL 2020

- 5 Palm Sunday
- 10 Good Friday  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 12 Easter Sunday
- 17-18 The Katie 2020  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City
- 22 Administrative Professionals' Day

## MAY 2020

- 4-5 North & East Pastors' Conference  
Garland Lodge, Lewiston
- 6-7 Circuit Visitors' Conference  
Garland Lodge, Lewiston
- 10 Mother's Day
- 12-13 South & East Pastors' Conference  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 13-14 Intentional Interim Ministry  
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 16 Regional Track Meets  
Trinity, Monroe; VLHS, Saginaw; LHN,  
Macomb
- 18-19 West Pastors' Conference  
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
- 21 Ascension Day
- 25 Memorial Day  
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 27 Board of Directors  
Location TBD
- 30 State Track Meet  
Frankenmuth High School, Frankenmuth

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