

March 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

## People Poured Out

by Ryan Tinetti

Sometimes you'll be reading the Bible and a word or phrase will arrest your attention and refuse to let it go. At least, that happens to me. It happened to me recently with the phrase "poured out." And I'm coming to see that the phrase has profound implications for the shape of the Christian life.

*continued on page 2*

**michigan**  
IN TOUCH

Official Periodical of the Michigan District  
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
March 2020, Volume 19, No. 3  
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)  
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President  
Debby Fall, Editorial Manager

Linda Ekong, Art Director  
Elisa Schulz, Staff Writer/Copy Editor

©2020 Michigan District, LCMS, Ann Arbor, Michigan. *Michigan In Touch* is published monthly by the Michigan District and inserted into *The Lutheran Witness* and distributed to subscribers 11 times a year. It is also available online at [www.michiganintouch.com](http://www.michiganintouch.com). Reproduction of articles is permissible with written permission of the Michigan District Communications Department and should give credit to *Michigan In Touch*. References to resources and websites for further information are included in *Michigan In Touch* for the potential use by individuals and congregations. Resources not associated with or published by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod or Concordia Publishing House® may contain helpful programmatic information but may vary in doctrine from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Please use discretion or consult your pastor on doctrinal issues. Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture is from the English Standard Version (ESV).



Michigan District, LCMS  
3773 Geddes Rd  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

888.225.2111  
[intouch@michigandistrict.org](mailto:intouch@michigandistrict.org)  
[michigandistrict.org](http://michigandistrict.org)

## Table of Contents

1	Healthy Congregations
3	Great Commission
4	Healthy Workers
6	Great Compassion
8	Church Extension Fund
10	Here We Stand
11	LLL, LWML
12	News and Events
14	Special Recognition
16	Calls and Roster Update
16	Calendar of Events

*continued from page 1*

The Scriptural origins of the phrase go back to the Old Testament sacrificial system. The priests are instructed that the blood of the sacrifices be “poured out” at the base of the altar (see Exodus 29:12, Leviticus 4:30, Deuteronomy 12:27, etc.). Picture a chalice being emptied of its contents on the ground.

Christ Jesus “empties himself,” is poured out for the sake of others ... This is the pattern of the Savior’s ministry. This is the character of God’s kingdom. And this is the revelation of the Father’s heart.

### The Pattern of the Savior’s Ministry

With that concrete basis in place, the phrase expands its range of meaning and is applied to the Messiah. For instance, in Isaiah 53, that classic passage predicting the Suffering Servant, the Lord says through the prophet, “*Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, because he poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors*” (Isaiah 53:12).

Jesus himself picks up on this language, interpreting His imminent death and instituting His sacred meal using that same language: “*This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins*” (Matthew 26:28).

And once more, in Philippians 2, though the phrase itself is not used, a similar concept emerges:

“*Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men*” (Philippians 2:5–7).

Christ Jesus “empties himself,” is poured out for the sake of others, like so much sacrificial blood spilled on the ground. This is the pattern of the Savior’s ministry. This is the character of God’s kingdom. And this is the revelation of the Father’s heart.

### Ministry That Mimics Jesus

Now, what especially grabs me about this phrase “poured out” is the way that it then resonates through the life of God’s people. This same pattern of self-

giving that marks the ministry of Christ also marks the ministry of His Body, the Church.

So, for example, Paul—fast on the heels of that marvelous passage about Jesus’ humility,—declares to the Philippians, “*Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all*” (Philippians 2:17). Paul’s ministry now mimics that of Jesus as he expends himself for the benefit of others.

So also for God’s people as a whole. God’s love has been “poured out into our hearts” through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). St. John, reflecting on the nature of that self-giving love, writes, “*He laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers*” (1 John 3:16).

And if we go back to the Old Testament, the same message holds true. “*If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,*” says Isaiah, “*then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday*” (Isaiah 58:12). Light pours forth as God’s people are poured out.

### A People Poured Out

“*A Gospel movement is marked by self-sacrifice,*” writes Rev. Michael Newman, president of the LCMS Texas District in his book, *Gospel DNA*. “*It is saturated with love—Jesus’ love.*”

Sacrifice suffuses our faith. Christ Jesus poured himself out for our sake; on the basis of His self-giving love we thus offer our own lives as “living sacrifices.” And when we as Christians pour ourselves out for the sake of others, people get a glimpse of God’s gracious kingdom at work and a picture of His heart for the world. ■

*Rev. Ryan Tinetti is the pastor at Trinity, Arcadia.*

This same pattern of self-giving that marks the ministry of Christ also marks the ministry of His Body, the Church.





## Faithful in all Seasons by Linda Nuechterlein

**B**ecause my husband and I are getting closer to those golden years of retirement, I often find myself thinking about what this new “season of life” will bring us. Just like the four beautiful seasons of the year, God orchestrates many changes, challenges, and blessings in our lives. What season do you find yourself in?

These are the thoughts behind the message of the 15th Annual Girls of Grace Worship Concert coming this spring. Through the artistry of interpretive dance, drama, media presentations, vocalists, personal testimony, and live art, *Faithful in All Seasons* will come alive on the stage on April 18 and 19, 2020, at 3 p.m. at the Temple Theatre in Saginaw, Mich. Almost 3,000 attend each year but, in the dancers’ hearts, they are always dancing for an audience of ONE. Won’t you join us?

*Faithful in All Seasons* beautifully narrates a message that weaves together these themes: seasons of Life, Holy Seasons—He is the Reason and, finally, what season of life do you find yourself in right now? Is God doing something for you, in you, or through you?

Life is always changing, but one thing remains constant: God is FAITHFUL. Come; be inspired by over 200 participants as they offer *Faithful in All Seasons*.

You will walk away renewed, refreshed, and filled with the love of God ... no matter what season of life you find yourself in at this time.

Tickets are \$15 for premiere seating and \$12 for regular seating. Call 877.754.7469 or visit [templetheatre.com](http://templetheatre.com) to purchase tickets. Please see display ad on page 13.

“Just like the four beautiful seasons of the year, God orchestrates many changes, challenges, and blessings in our lives.”

Girls of Grace is a Christian Dance Ministry within St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, dedicated to serving the Lord through worshipful, interpretive dance. This ministry is in its 18th year of service, and is made up of over ninety dancers from grade 4 through college. Girls of Grace participate regularly in worship and chapel services, perform at several events, rehearse regularly, conduct workshops, and are involved in a variety of service projects in the community. ■

*Linda Nuechterlein is the director of Girls of Grace Dance Ministry.*

# A Place to *Call Home*

by Justin Rossow

**M**y sister moved this last fall, and I got to help just a little. She and her family had been living in the same farmhouse my grandfather was born in, the same place I spent Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and Easter (and Labor Day and Memorial Day) almost every year growing up. A bedroom set from my great-grandparents needed to be moved into storage, and I was willing and able. I wish I could have helped more.

It was really great to be back at the farm one last time; to see the cornfields and the woods; to smell the farm dust in the garage that brings back so many memories. How is it that the dust of a place can smell so unique? I'm not sure, but opening up that door to the garage brought back all kinds of memories: wooden baseball bats and old leather gloves, a Dunkin' Donuts® Frisbee™ and a fiberglass bow, a forbidden workbench and a classic croquet set.

What a strange feeling to come home to a place that has changed so much! The tire swing is still there, though the rope and the tire have both been replaced, part of the tree is dead, and the rows of grape irises that used to perfume the air while we played have long since reverted to lawn. The kitchen window that overlooks the tire swing is still there, and although the window was upgraded years ago and the white lace curtains with bright red strawberries moved out in the 1980s, I can still see Grandma at the window and hear her voice calling us in to eat.

**The whole house is like that: *home, but not home.* The same place I know and love and hold in my heart, but not the same.**

## Home, But Not Home

The whole house is like that: home, but not home. The same place I know and love and hold in my heart, but not the same.

Returning to the family farm awakened in me a deep longing and powerful memories of what once was. The corner where Grandpa's recliner always sat is now empty; the stove where I remember my great-grandmother sautéing asparagus (that grew among the grape irises by the tire swing) with breadcrumbs and butter in a large iron skil-

let—that stove has been replaced, and in fact the whole wall is gone. The old barn, if left to its own devices, will likely fall down in a few years, as the granary did a few years back. For now, you can still read my family name in weathered letters above the broad barn doors.

Home, my home; but not the same, not what I remembered—though exactly what I remembered, just not the same...

A few days before I made what could be my last visit to the family homestead, I got to take my college freshman on a field trip to Eastern Market in downtown Detroit. Her class is studying Detroit City history, so we got some information on the neighborhoods that used to cover what is now a combination of highways and Ford Field (Go, Lions!).

So much history, so much change from the time when greats like Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, and Ethel Waters performed in local Paradise Valley theaters. The African American families who had come north for work in the automotive industry mixed with the whites in nightclubs and music halls before the race riots of 1943.

To stand on an overpass and take a picture (selfies are now assigned by college professors, it turns out) and to see the football stadium and lanes of highway where houses and music halls once stood is to remember home, a place of belonging that doesn't exist anymore, a history we can access by standing on that same ground and remembering what once was. Home, but not the same; the same place, but changed.

## Longing to Get Back Home

Those experiences of simultaneous homecoming and displacement remind me of a theme that runs throughout Scripture. From the time Adam and Eve left the Paradise Mountain that was Eden, we—their heirs—have been longing to get back home. And we catch glimpses of being home, with God, in the Land; but it's not quite the same. More than once in the history of God's people, we get back home only to find that the place is less than perfect, and the people leave something to be desired. And, soon enough, our sin brings another wave of exile. And God's grace once again calls us back and invites us home.

Peter writes his first letter to "God's elect" (that's us),



but he also calls them (that's us) "exiles" and "sojourners," strangers and foreigners in this world. Paul also tells us "*our citizenship is in heaven, and we eagerly await a savior from there*" (Philippians 3:20 NIV). We are not at home in this world the way God intended us to be.

But before we all start singing "Heaven is my home," let's remember that the Paradise God created as a place for Adam and Even to call home and live in His presence was not some non-physical dimension populated by angels and spirits. Adam and Eve (and you and I) were created as spiritual/physical beings placed in a physical Garden where God Himself dwelt by His Spirit. This physical creation is our home, the home we are longing for: just not the way it was, not the way it's supposed to be, not the way it is going to be.

It's like the longing I felt visiting the family farm, a pining for what was, except in this case, it is just as much a longing for what will be. The fond memories of a place to really belong are not just a way of looking back to how life used to be; we look forward to a time when it will be that way again.

Our citizenship, Paul says, is in heaven; and we eagerly await a savior from there, even the Lord Jesus, who will make our lowly bodies to be like His heavenly body. That doesn't merely mean He will take us to a spiritual place without physical bodies or physical existence (He'll do that, too, but the interim between death and resurrection is not our final destination). What Paul is talking about is the full hope of the story arc of Scripture:

*continued on page 15*







# You Shall Not Murder

by Paul Clark

In the vision that the Lord shows the prophet Ezekiel, God speaks to Ezekiel and says this regarding the house of Israel and their idolatry: *“They have defiled My holy name by their abominations that they have committed, so I have consumed them in My anger”* (Ezekiel 43:8).

In January, as we solemnly marked the 47th year since the Supreme Court legalized the murder of unborn children, there is no other way to describe what has taken place in this nation other than an *abomination*. There is no justification for the outright destruction of babies in the womb. We become numb to the statistics, we become distracted by other issues, we can be lulled into thinking that the issue of abortion really does not affect us on a

*the Gospel! Jesus saves!* The blood of Christ covers our guilt, washes away our filth, and restores us to a proper relationship with our God. God so loved us—yes, us sinners!—that He sent us His only Son, Jesus, to give us new life and to give it to us abundantly.

*But let us remember that rejecting or neglecting God’s Word of Truth is dangerous.* That certainly includes the Fifth Commandment, *“You shall not murder.”* This is not just some average political issue that we can compromise on. Abortion is genocide. Period. We must be bold. We must stand for Life. We cannot shirk our calling as God’s people who have been given the truth of His Word. We must speak and defend the innocent—the unborn, the aged, the dying.

God help us to continue to repent of our apathy, and to speak to truth in love. This is no time to sit on a fence of our own making. The issues are clear. This is about life and death. This is about God’s “little ones,” that they may be brought to Jesus in Holy baptism. These are our fellow human beings, who have a right to life, who have a right to be born. God give us courage to speak and act. God grant forgiveness where we have failed to do so, and give us compassion to reach out to those who have been burdened or scarred by abortion in the past. *O Lord, restore us! Restore our nation! Hear our prayer, for the sake of Christ Jesus! Amen.* ■

*Rev. Paul Clark has been the pastor of St. Paul, Fowler for 27 years. He serves on the Board of the Directors of Lutherans for Life of Michigan as the Pastoral Counselor, and is also the District Life Coordinator for the Michigan District, LCMS. Rev. Clark and his wife Elizabeth have been married for 35 years and have three children through the blessing of adoption.*

**O Lord, *restore us!* Restore our nation! Hear our prayer, for the sake of Christ Jesus! Amen!**

personal level—yet there is no way around it. Abortion kills babies. Abortion is an abomination. It defiles God’s holy name and arouses God’s righteous anger.

Of course, all sin separates us from a holy God, and we all sin. We confess, indeed, that we are poor, miserable sinners and cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. *But God, rich in mercy, has sent us His Son Jesus—the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In and through His holy and precious blood, we have the covering, the atonement, the forgiveness of all of our sins.* Here is the Good News for all sinners—including one who has had an abortion or one who has not been bold to stand against abortion—*Repent and believe*

# Trees!

by Amy Fanta

In December 2019, English Gardens in Metro Detroit ([englishgardens.com](http://englishgardens.com)) let Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) know that there were HUNDREDS of trees available and any that could not be used would be destroyed. CRD contacted several of its community partners to see if they would like a gift of trees and everyone was VERY EXCITED.

Next began the overwhelming task of figuring out how to pick up hundreds of trees, how to distribute them, and how they could be used on the CRD campus. Never was it more true that “we felt that we were in over our heads.” If not for the onsite CRD campers at the time, it would have been an impossible task. So many people came together to make this all work:

- Three individuals from CRD, two days’ worth of a truck and a minivan, along with 6 campers who had willing (and cold!) hands;
- Osborn Community Alliance in northeast Detroit provided a truck, flatbed, and a knowledgeable landscaper for two days;
- Mayfield Conservatory brought its minivan and knowledge;
- Mohican Regent community cheerleaders gave LOTS of encouragement when things seemed impossible;
- Detroit Arboretum ([arbdetroit.org](http://arbdetroit.org)) was willing to store or take whatever CRD could not give to other community organizations;

- Invest Detroit ([investdetroit.com](http://investdetroit.com)) even helped look for storage options!

## The Outcome

- 3 community orchards now exist in the middle of a food desert. This means many people in our community will have access to free fruit where before they had none!
- 1 family has added income, as they will give away what they can first, then sell the rest at Eastern Market to support their farm and family;
- 1 local start-up nonprofit nursery (run by local students) just got a huge boost to their number of trees;
- Detroit’s 9th Precinct will have more beauty in the middle of what seems bare, providing more hope for the community;
- CRD’s community garden received a huge boost getting underway;
- Many community nonprofits worked together to better the community!

## CRD Plan

English Gardens had a special in December that, if you bought a \$300 gift card, they would plan your landscaping for free. Knowing there was a \$300 donation sitting in the community garden funds, it was decided to utilize it to work with the very people that gave us the trees and will be leading the effort on that front. We have MANY, MANY campers coming in March and the community organizations will keep them very busy planting trees as the ground thaws. Your prayers are appreciated!

CRD wishes to thank everyone who played a role and especially English Gardens, as the total donation was worth \$50,000! God is SO good! ■

*Amy Fanta serves Camp Restore Detroit as its Ministry & Service Coordinator. CRD is a ministry of Mount Calvary, Detroit that provides housing, meals, and service project coordination to volunteers from around the country. These individuals help restore hope and share the love of Jesus with the people of Detroit’s 9<sup>th</sup> Precinct. To volunteer and/or learn more, see display ad on page 15 or visit [camprestore.org/detroit](http://camprestore.org/detroit).*

Photos courtesy of Camp Restore Detroit





MARCH 2020

## St. Lorenz Builds New Traditions with Worship and Event Center



*With the help of Church Extension Fund, St. Lorenz was able to build a Worship and Event Center for its popular Connect service. The center also serves as a space for the St. Lorenz community and town of Frankenmuth.*



*“By the time we got to building the new auditorium, we knew that CEF would be there for us with the financing we’d need at a reasonable rate.”*

**Reverend Mark Brandt**

Lead Pastor, St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School, Frankenmuth

Tradition abides at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and School in Frankenmuth. Given the congregation’s distinguished and proud heritage, that’s exactly as you’d expect it to be.

St. Lorenz (pronounced Lawrence) was the first Lutheran congregation to form upon the Franconians’ arrival in Saginaw Valley in 1845. Two years later, St. Lorenz became one of 14 charter congregations of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In the 175 years since,

St. Lorenz has thrived and grown. Well over 5,000 church members and more than 600 schoolchildren now call St. Lorenz their spiritual and educational home.

“Tradition provides a foundation here,” says Reverend Mark Brandt, Lead Pastor at St. Lorenz, “but it’s never an anchor holding us down. We continually adapt and innovate to meet the changing needs of our congregation and community.”



## Case in Point: A Commitment to Contemporary Worship

A little over seven years ago, St. Lorenz set out to upgrade its contemporary worship experience. Pastor Caleb Adams joined the church to develop its new *Connect* service, featuring modern sight, sound, and interaction. *Connect* was a hit from the start.

Initially, *Connect* services were held in St. Lorenz's school gymnasium, as the church's contemporary worship services had been for years. But *Connect*'s growing popularity soon called for a better-suited space, with all the needed capabilities and comforts. Congregation members, including those who continued to prefer the traditional services in St. Lorenz's classically beautiful church building, recognized the need for the new auditorium-style facility, and enthusiastically supported its construction.

Financial help came from a low-interest \$2.7 million loan from Church Extension Fund. This too represented a tradition of sorts at St. Lorenz. Pastor Brandt explains:

"When I arrived here in 1990, it was to a new set of church offices that had opened just a year before with the help of CEF financing. That same loan had enabled us to add a junior high wing to our school, and build a new adult education center."



*St. Lorenz has a proud 175-year history, and while the original church has seen several renovations and additions, the interior still retains its impressive and historic beauty.*



Then in 2003, St. Lorenz School used CEF financing to help construct an early childhood center for preschool and daycare, plus a new dining hall for the school overall.

Per Pastor Brandt, "By the time we got to building the new auditorium, we knew that CEF would be there for us with the financing we'd need at a reasonable rate."

### **For the Congregation—and for the Community**

St. Lorenz first considered building its new 800-seat auditorium—called the Worship and Event Center—near its traditional church building. But they soon shifted to the grounds of St. Lorenz School, about a half-mile away.

"Having the new facility attached by a hallway to the school simply made more sense," says Pastor

Brandt. "This way, along with *Connect*, it can serve double duty as the site of many school functions."

Make that triple duty. As Pastor Brandt notes, "We're also using the auditorium to hold events that reach beyond our congregation to the Frankenmuth community at large."

Since the Worship and Event Center opened this past October, it has hosted a sold-out Christmas concert. A Christian comedy team will perform this month. And coming soon is a concert by Keith and Kristyn Getty, the renowned modern hymn writers.

In all these ways, CEF's financial support is enabling St. Lorenz to extend its ministry with new traditions—a fitting celebration to help mark the church's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



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

The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.

### Here We Stand Campaign Helps Grow Endowment Fund by Ray Zavada

The *Here We Stand* (HWS) campaign has been blessed with phenomenal financial support since its beginning in the fall of 2016. One of the four campaign initiatives is the *Michigan District Endowment*. I pray that, as you read this brief article, you will be compelled to either support the Endowment Fund for the first time, or make an additional gift if you have previously supported the Fund.

A gift to the Endowment Fund is a *gift that keeps on giving* because the principal is never spent. Only a portion of the earnings are annually released to the Michigan District for spending on a variety of District ministries. The Endowment Fund is monitored by a multi-member Endowments Advisory Council, comprised of professionals in financial investing, which ensures the endowment's governing documents and investment policy are followed. This creates an environment conducive to maximizing the financial growth of the Endowment Fund and ultimately the total number of ministry dollars that become available each year for use.

Our Endowment Fund currently disburses funding according to the following percentages: 39% for Student Aid, 36% for Missions, 19% for special purposes, and 6% is non-designated.

Student Aid is a major recipient of Endowment Fund disbursements. In the 2019-2020 school year, \$253,050 scholarship dollars were given to future church work students from Michigan District congregations who attend one of the Concordia University System schools

and seminaries. Twenty-four Concordia University Ann Arbor students received

scholarships of \$2,800 each for this school year, totaling \$67,200 of the total distributed by the Michigan District. What a wonderful blessing these scholarships are for these future Kingdom workers. And how do we know this? It is from the many heart-warming cards and letters we receive from them in which they express their sincerest gratitude.

As you consider your gift-giving decisions in 2020, would you please consider a gift to the Michigan District Endowment Fund through the *HWS* campaign? Your gift will be a perpetual blessing to the mission and ministries of the Michigan District, perhaps even a future church work student from your family or congregation. (Please remember: your gift to the Endowment Fund through the *HWS* campaign will receive a 10% match from the Michigan District Church Extension Fund). Thank you for your consideration.

You may make your gift online at [herewestand.michigandistrict.org/donate](http://herewestand.michigandistrict.org/donate) or send checks payable to The Michigan District LCMS, 3773 Geddes Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48105 (memo line: HWS Endowment).



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

(through February 1, 2020)

\$6,327,515.30	Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
\$6,024,152.00	Cash received which includes \$500,000 CEF Matching Funds
\$241,683.08	Outstanding commitments (pledges)
\$1,297,125.90	Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
\$2,562,713.73	Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$ 985,897.16	Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$1,420,098.29	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**



## LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE



### Pastoral Advisor

Rev. Travis Downs of Trinity, Lansing has served the Michigan District of the Lutheran Laymen's League the past two years as its pastoral advisor. He was appointed to the position two years ago by LLL District

President Chuck Bennett.

The pastoral advisor serves the District as a spiritual counselor to the members. He also serves as liaison between the LLL District Board and other pastors in the Michigan District.

Pastor Downs will be the spiritual leader at the LLL District Convention on April 25, 2020, at the Bavarian Inn Lodge Conference Center in Frankenmuth. He can be contacted at 517.372.1631 or [g19t57@aol.com](mailto:g19t57@aol.com).



### LLL District Convention

The Michigan District LLL will be adopting its 2020-21 budget at its convention in this spring. District Treasurer Phillip Krauss will present the budget to LLL members.

At the convention, financial allocations will be decided upon for congregational outreach programs, projects being produced by Lutheran Hour Ministries, and the Russian Ministry. Contact Chuck Bennett at [imseebie@gmail.com](mailto:imseebie@gmail.com) for more information.

## LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

# They saw the Lord...

John 20:20b

## 2020 LWML Michigan District Convention in Gaylord Come & See what Vision the Lord has for the LWML!

July 10-12, 2020 @ The Ellison Place, 150 Dale Dr., Gaylord, MI 49735

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!



<https://lwmlmichigan.org>



Mite donations needed by March 31, 2020 to support grantees.

Send your donations to:

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

### Council of Lutheran Women Luncheon

The Council of Lutheran Women's 56th Annual Luncheon will be held at Burton Manor in Livonia on Tuesday, March 17, 2020. The guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Paul L. Maier.

Dr. Maier is emeritus professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University, a four-term vice president of the LCMS, and a much-published author of both scholarly and popular works. Maier received an M.A. in history from Harvard University, M.Div. from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and a Ph.D. from the University of Basel in Switzerland. He is the son of Lutheran Hour founder Dr. Walter A. Maier.

Dr. Paul Maier originated two new literary genres: the documentary historical novel and the theological thriller.

*A Skeleton in God's Closet* became the #1 national bestseller in religious fiction in 1994. His latest work is a new edition commentary on *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*, the famed best seller of the Reformation era. Dr. Maier lectures widely, appears frequently in national radio, television, and newspaper interviews, and has received numerous awards. He and wife his Joan live in Michigan and have four daughters.

The cost of the luncheon is \$29/person which includes a \$2 donation to seminarians and the council. For more information or to register, visit [clwmichigan.com](http://clwmichigan.com).



### Gifts for All God's Children

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



volunteers who help fulfill the children's wish lists, work at drop-off sites, unload and distribute the gifts, and host parties. Many congregations, schools, and organization are involved and there is always room for more helpers.

Tutors are needed throughout the year. You can make a difference in the life of a child in need. Serving two hours on a Tuesday and/or Thursday will help students achieve success in their studies. The results from last year's tutoring are in and they are spectacular. Report cards came in with A's, B's, and Honor Rolls. Test results show that 93% of GFAGC students moved at least one full grade in reading and vocabulary and two students moved two full grades! Contact [jackiew@giftsforallgodchildren.org](mailto:jackiew@giftsforallgodchildren.org) to sign up.

There are many other ways to get involved with GFAGC. Upcoming annual events include the Easter Basket assembly and distribution, summer camps, and Christmas in July. To learn more, visit [giftsforallgodchildren.org](http://giftsforallgodchildren.org).

### The Majesty of Baroque

The annual concert of early music is always anticipated by the Macomb Symphony Orchestra audience. The smaller sized orchestra offers an intimate listening experience not available with a full symphony orchestra. If the names of Bach, Handel, and Vivaldi whet your appetite, you'll find their music here.

A concert of baroque music will be presented at Trinity, Utica on Sunday, March 15. Joining the Chamber Orchestra will be the Macomb Chamber Choir from Macomb Community College. For more information, contact the church office at 586.731.4490.

### Detroit Lutheran Singers Spring Concerts

This year marks the 52nd year of the Detroit Lutheran Singers! The DLS strives to promote excellence in the performance of sacred choral music in the Detroit Metropolitan area. To that end, Director Christopher Hall selects programs of sacred music ranging from the old masters to present-day composers. This ecumenical group enjoys singing a variety of styles, including cantatas, spirituals, and favorite anthems.

The DLS spring concert, under the theme *Journey: Our Pilgrimage in this Life to the Next*, will be held in four locations, including St. Paul's, St. Clair Shores (3/21) and St. Paul, Royal Oak (3/29). For more information, visit [detroitlutheransingers.com](http://detroitlutheransingers.com).





For further information, please contact:  
Karen Reincke  
586.405.7244  
reincke5@sbcglobal.net

## EXPERIENCE THE HOLY LAND

### 9-DAY BIBLICAL TOUR OF ISRAEL

Travel Dates:  
**December 26, 2020 - January 3, 2021**

Hosted by:  
**JOHN & KAREN REINCKE**

**\$4,267.00 FROM DETROIT, MI**

(Price includes: \$595 US & Intl. departure taxes/fuel & \$145 gratuities)  
Additional departure cities available upon request.

Register Online:

**RegisterNow.ittworld.com**

Tour Code:

**Reincke20**



15TH ANNUAL WORSHIP CONCERT

**APRIL 18 & 19, 2020 @ 3:00 PM**

TICKETS: RESERVED SEATING, \$12 & \$15  
**TEMPLETHEATRE.COM / 877.754.SHOW**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH

**Ywellspring**  
LUTHERAN SERVICES

**THE TEMPLE**  
THEATRE  
AT THE SHARON  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

## 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



Church Extension Fund

Office:

**800-242-3944**

24/7 Interest Rates:

**800-232-7313**

Website:

**www.mi-cef.org**



The information provided here is not an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy CEF securities. The offering of CEF securities is made solely by our Offering Circular. CEF will offer and sell our securities only in states where authorized. The securities are subject to certain risk factors as described in our Offering Circular. CEF investments are not insured by the FDIC, SIPC, or any other governmental agency.



## Special Recognition

### Cronkright Ordained and Installed

Rev. Tyler Cronkright was ordained on January 5, 2020 at Christ Our Savior, Livonia and installed as Associate Pastor (SMP) at Family of God, Detroit on January 12, 2020. Pastor Cronkright is a Concordia University Ann Arbor graduate in Family Life and Social Work. He started his practicum at Family of God in 2013 and hasn't left since.

During the service, newly installed Pastor Cronkright baptized two individuals (pictured right): a sister (10 years old) and brother (15 years old). He remarks, *"That was hands down the best part!"*

Family of God is a non-profit Lutheran ministry committed to bringing the transformative power of the Gospel to the lives of those living in Southwest Detroit. They strive to bring hope to the hopeless by showing its community the love and compassion that Jesus Christ has for everyone.

Rev. Cronkright and his wife, Brandi, reside in Clinton Township. Brandi is a Kindergarten teacher at St. John, Rochester.



Photo by Elisea Schulz/Michigan District, LOMS



Photo courtesy of Roger and Christina Heath

### St. Luke, Ann Arbor Installs New Pastor

In January, Rev. John M. Sproul (pictured center) was installed as senior pastor of St. Luke, Ann Arbor.

Rev. Sproul was born into a family which for generations has dedicated numerous sons and daughters to the work of the church as pastors, educators, musicians, and dedicated disciples. His family's home church is Atonement, Dearborn, which supported his education at Atonement School and later Lutheran High West in Detroit.

Rev. Sproul served congregations in Illinois, Texas, Nebraska, and Arizona. He was an Intentional Interim pastor in Michigan. His wife, Linda, is Director of Donor and Alumni Relations for Concordia University Ann Arbor.

The Sprouls have four grown children and live in Ypsilanti. They are honored to be a part of leading the vision God has for his Church in the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti community.



Photo courtesy of St. Luke, Ann Arbor

### Jung Installed

In January, St. Paul Community, Pontiac installed its new pastor, Rev. Christopher Jung (pictured center). It was a beautiful ceremony attended by family, friends, and members of several area congregations along with the members of St. Paul. Rev. Dr. Robert Kasper gave the sermon and Rev. Matthew Schuler was the officiant. Blessings were given by ten pastors along with Pastor Chris's father, Rev. David Jung from Pinconning, Mich.

St. Paul Community is very blessed to welcome its new pastor and his wife Amanda.



Photo courtesy of St. Paul, Pontiac



## A Place to Call Home continued from page 5

the Day of the Lord, when God will restore both our bodies and our home, so that in resurrection bodies we might enjoy the New Creation, a physical existence even better than Eden, because this time around the Creation will bear the marks of the crucified and risen Jesus.



Photo courtesy of Justin Rossow

### Longing for Something Future

We long for something past, but even more, for something future. This is our home, but not the home it used to be; and even more, not yet the home it will be again. We are foreigners and sojourners, but foreigners and sojourners who are already living in the Land of Promise, just not the way it is going to be when the Land of Promise is ours the way God fully intends.

In that sense, I think Abraham is a great example of our longing for a future home. Abraham received a promise from God, and Abraham believed God's promise. God said, "Go!" and Abraham went. Abraham was a foreigner and alien and sojourner ... but the place of his wandering was already the Land of Promise. The Land was his, but only by faith; he was a foreigner in his own country. He was home, but not yet home; and he longed not merely for

the past but for the future fulfillment of the promise.

I may not have an excuse to go back to the family farm ever again. My memories of the farm will endure, though they will never be as strong as when I stand on that particular plot of land. I remember that place and those people with longing: not just longing for the past, but longing for the future. The barn will rot; the tire swing will decay; the old farmhouse will not stand forever.

But the Grandpa who always sat in that corner, the Grandma who called to me out of that window, the Great-grandmother who fried asparagus in the kitchen, and who taught me to play euchre, and who sat in her rocker by the front window and let me jump over her cane—those people I remember and love and long for will one day stand again, not on that old farmland, but in the New Creation.

And I ache, and weep, and long for that day.

Come quickly, Lord; I need a place to call Home. ■

*Rev. Dr. Justin Rossow writes, presents, teaches, and preaches at the intersection of Scripture, culture, and metaphor theory. Justin is the founder of Next Step Press and The Next Step Community, both designed to help people delight in taking a next step following Jesus. Read more at [community.FindMyNextStep.org](http://community.FindMyNextStep.org).*



**Lutherans! Let's Love on Detroit!**

**June 21–27, 2020 | Camp Restore Detroit**

**Many volunteers are needed! Sign up today!**

**[michigandistrict.org/camprestore](http://michigandistrict.org/camprestore)**

# Calls and Roster Update

## ORDAINED

### Calls Accepted

Mr. James Pearl (Battle Creek) to St. Johns, St. Johns

### Change of Status

Rev. Scott Eberlein (Ann Arbor) to Candidate

### Transferred Into District

Rev. Tyler Cronkright (Clinton Twp.) to SMP Family of God, Detroit

Rev. David Miller (Wayland) to SMP St. Paul, Caledonia

Rev. James Pearl (Battle Creek) through Colloquy to St. Johns, St. Johns

### Transferred Out of District

Rev. John Mackowiak (Trenton) to Ohio District

Rev. Robert Wurst (Maple City) to LERT, St. Louis

### Called Home

Rev. Steven Essenburg (Clinton Twp.)

## COMMISSIONED

### Calls Accepted

King, Carole (Concordia Lutheran Ministries, Cabot, PA) to St. Luke, Clinton Township

Stange, Jessica (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (North)

Swazey, Angela (St. John, Fraser) to St. Michael, Wayne

### Change of Status

Zimmerman, Anna (Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township) to Candidate

### Transferred Out of District

Case, Kimberly (Reinstated) to Missouri District

Fahlsing, Gloria (Emeritus) to Indiana District

### Transferred Into District

King, Carole (Eastern District) to St. Luke, Clinton Township

### Called Home

Pankow, Shirley

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

# Calendar of Events

## 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
- 17-19 The Katie 2020  
DoubleTree by Hilton, Bay City
- 22 Administrative Professionals' Day
- 30 Danielson Training  
CUAA North Building

## MAY 2020

- 4-6 North & East Pastors' Conference  
Garland Lodge, Lewiston
- 6-7 Circuit Visitors' Conference  
Garland Lodge, Lewiston
- 10 Mothers' 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
- 16 Seasons of Change  
TBD
- 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

## JUNE 2020

- 5-7 Junior High Youth Gathering  
Bavarian Inn Lodge, Frankenmuth
- 21-27 The Big Week  
Camp Restore, Detroit
- 22-26 A2E Sports Camp East  
Location TBD
- Jun 28- Jul 1 Senior High Youth Gathering  
Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island

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

