

May 2020

michigan

IN TOUCH

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



GREAT COMMISSION

The Lost Coin

by Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier

“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents” (Luke 15:8–10 ESV).

The first of Jesus’ parables in Luke 15 is that of the lost sheep. One is lost, has strayed, and is missing while the 99 are still back in the fold. Interestingly, in his book entitled *You Lost Me*, Barna Research President David Kinneman lays out his research regarding young adults, ages 18-30. 59% of them have stopped

continued on page 2

© Inbetween/Lightstock, LLC

michigan

IN TOUCH

Official Periodical of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
May 2020, Volume 19, No. 5
ISSN: 1538-8115 (print)
ISSN: 2331-8619 (online)

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier, President
Debbly 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. 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
michigandistrict.org

Table of Contents

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

continued from page 1

attending church after being regular churchgoers. Why is that? In terms of Jesus' parable of the lost sheep, Kinneman makes it clear that the strays are leaving in large numbers **because of** the 99. They say the 99 are over-protective, shallow, antagonistic to science, out of touch with sexuality, unnecessarily exclusive, and unfriendly to those who doubt.

The 99, of course, are discussing the research. They wonder, "*Can we change? How can we change and still be faithful to the Scriptures? Can we become more creative? Can we listen? Can we partner with young and old together in spiritual formation and service?*" These are all good questions that need to be discussed.

Nonetheless, the 99 are also trusting that the Good Shepherd who does not sit idly by is out there seeking the young, the restless, the wandering ones, the addicted (no sheep ever says "I want to be addicted" to whatever the addiction).

But this Good Shepherd, who lays down His life for the 99 as well as the one—indeed for **ALL**—continues to search for them, and His desire is to do that **through us**.

So, Jesus tells the story of the lost coin. It's interesting that Jesus' story now moves to an inanimate object. Let's say the coin was worth a day's wage. The woman had a total of ten of them. Unlike a sheep, a coin has no "will" of its own. A coin cannot contribute to its being found the way a sheep might bleat out in terror and get a shepherd's attention. If the coin is to be found, it will only be because of the woman's persistence. Again, here repentance is totally dependent on being found by God.

What's more, a coin's value remains the same, lost or found. It is no less valued because it is lost. A lost sheep may be injured, break a leg, damage its wool, but a lost coin retains its value. In fact, think about it: anyone who's lost a coin or ring or watch or whatever, knows how the lost item can become even more valuable to the one seeking it, even in its lostness. Jesus is once again asserting the value of a lost soul to God, worthy of every effort and of all love.

Please notice what the woman does—what we should be inspired to do as well. At that time in Israel, the house might only have had a single window and a doorway. No electricity, no light switches to turn on when you walked into a room, no LED flashlights. It was a very dark place. The oil lamp the woman lights to search for the coin was likely about the size of the palm of her hand. She would hold the flame close to the dirt or stone floor, shedding light on its nooks and crannies.

Jesus is imploring His listeners to know that everyone is valuable to Him and that He looks for us in the dark corners of our lives. That it is an all-out search by Him. As Jesus tells it, the woman's broom swept the house, reaching places she couldn't see. She was intentional, diligent, and determined. It took effort, all her own. Again, coins are inanimate, they don't shout out, "*Here I am. Help me!*" Her broom would gather no small amount of dirt along with other unexpected treasures, and thankfully, that treasured little coin.

There is no finding Him; He finds us. As His love and care and searching bring light to our darkness of sin, we repent and are restored as His. The "sweeping" work of Jesus Christ includes His amazing teaching of perfect obedience, atoning death, and victorious resurrection. His relentless pursuit of sinners—then and now—entails a sweeping thoroughness ... an "***It is finished!***" all for our sake, and the sake of every soul that has lived, is living, or is yet to be.

What is our response? We have been found! Let us rejoice, be thankful, and celebrate!

But it cannot stop there ... especially as we reflect on what takes place at the end of Holy Week. We must not only worship and thank a gracious and loving God, but in prayer and faithful study of God's Word—where the Holy Spirit will guide, guard, direct, and lead us—we will be inspired to view every soul as precious to God; to pursue every soul in the Name of Jesus even though they may not know their value, their worth to God ... or how

continued on page 15

There's no finding Him;
He finds us.

Dining Room Sanctuary

by Valerie Matyas

In March, when we embarked on Round 2 of social distancing at home worship, I admit, the first Sunday was rough. Don't get me wrong—I am grateful for live streaming capabilities; I am blessed to have the Word of God preached to me during a time when I cannot gather with my visible church family. But this home worship business is tough for a pastor's wife of four kids.

As a mothering achievement, I had finally reached the coveted, highly-sought-after normalcy and expectation of *"We are in God's House, I expect you to behave"* behavior for which all moms of

meals, and video chatting with relatives, we added a bit of color to our dining room window to remind us (all 6 of us) that church is not a building; it is a people, and we are the people of God.

Using washi tape and inexpensive watercolor paint, our 10-, 8-, and 7-year-olds helped to transform a normal window into a makeshift stained-glass window. It shines brightest at sunset, reminding us all that tomorrow is a new day.

And although the future may be filled with unknowns, we can be certain that God's love remains steadfast (Psalm 136:1) and it will

... although the future may be filled with unknowns, we can be certain that God's love remains steadfast.

young children aim. Being out of the building, away from the pew, it was maddeningly difficult to convince a 5-, 7-, 8-, and 10-year-old that the dining room table is now a place to be still and listen to dad. They don't always listen to him when he's in the house, let alone on a screen.

I wasn't mentally prepared for the challenge.

My expectations were unrealistic. I lost my temper, I lost my patience, I lost a bit of my withdrawal. So, in between triage home-schooling, normal chores,

be a day in which we can rejoice (Psalm 118:24), a day filled with our Heavenly Father's mercies awaiting new for us (Lamentations 3:23).

I long to return to my extended church family. I want to sit in our "family pew" and greet our familiar "pew neighbors." I want to join my voice in a song with hundreds of believers. I want to be united in prayer, Scripture, and the preached Word. I eagerly anticipate seeing, visiting, meeting, and laughing with them again. Lord willing, soon.

But while I wait, I can't help but realize my longing is a tangible

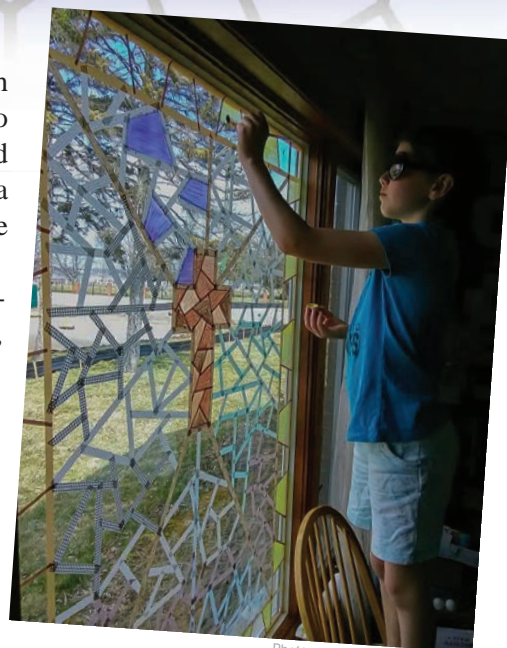


Photo courtesy of Valerie Matyas

anticipation that echoes the yearning I have for the New Creation, the meeting of the saints triumphant, and the joys of the kingdom to come. My longing to worship in my local church is but a small taste of my longing to worship in perfect unity with my Redeemer.

So the next Sunday, when we once again attended church in our dining room, I came prepared with a thankful heart, a pocketful of patience, and a joy that cannot be shaken. ■

Valerie Matyas is the Educational Development Consultant for Visual Faith Ministry. She lives in Bay City with her clerical-wearing husband, Dennis, and their four children.



Spirit Animals

by Richard Schumacher

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble at its swelling” (Psalm 46:1–3 ESV).

Take a moment and go back with me to a time when life was simpler. Back when toilet paper was in such plentiful supply, we would use it to decorate the trees of our enemies. Back when social media was being utilized for its originally intended purposes: narcissism and political fights. Ah yes, those good old days that we all call ... February.

It’s been two long months.

I hope you will forgive my humor. I don’t mean to make light of the situation. I only wish to point out that, not too long ago, our thoughts, plans, and priorities were vastly different. So, while social media has transitioned a bit into a community of people sharing information, humor, and compassion for others, I would enjoy our world returning back to normal and allowing us to go back to online quizzes telling us which member of the cast of a TV show we are based on our birth month and first letter of our last name, or which critter is our spirit animal.

That said, perhaps we should look at the spirit animal question more closely.

A spirit animal is a metaphor. We choose them based on perceived character traits that the animal has that we emulate or admire. Are you athletic and fast? You might choose a cheetah. Are you determined and persistent? You could be a turtle. Are you intuitive and wise? You would likely pick an owl. Finally, if you demand constant attention and frequent feedings, you’re a dachshund (sorry, personal observation based on a four-legged member of my family).

Why discuss all of this? It’s because at this moment in history I think we as Christian educators can all relate to two animals whose traits would serve us well: the chameleon and the leopard.

Why a chameleon? I think that’s easy. Chameleons have a unique defense mechanism of changing the color of their body to blend in with their surroundings. This adaptability reflects the mood of the chameleon, and it also helps to protect it from predators.

Why a leopard? Well, it has less to do with the leopard than it does with the common phrase associated with it: *“A leopard never changes its spots.”* People say this about the leopard to demonstrate how, deep down, we cannot change who we are inside.

So, what do you get when you combine a chameleon and a leopard? A ridiculous contradiction! True, but let me explain.

Right now, teachers have had to act like a chameleon. They have adapted to a rapidly changing educational landscape.

Online platforms, video conferencing, and mailing packets of work have suddenly replaced classrooms and desks. At least they had a day or two to prepare! Teachers have accomplished a tremendous amount in a short time, and they will continue to adapt because students’ needs demand it. I thank God for these teachers and their dedication to the ongoing success of their students, no matter what the world throws at them.

But more important than being an occupational chameleon is the need to be a faithful leopard. In a time of travel

Despite the challenges that we face, God’s love for us remains constant and unchanging.

restrictions, supply shortages, a volatile economy, and shelter in place orders caused by the coronavirus, we must stand firm in the knowledge that God remains in control. Our faith in Him and His promises does not waver. Despite the challenges that we face, God’s love for us remains constant and unchanging. As we adapt to the rapidly changing world in which we live, we cling to the firm foundation that is our God.

May our Father send us all the extra measure of strength and perseverance needed to face each day with renewed faith and purpose, now and always. ■

Richard Schumacher serves Lutheran Special Education Ministries as its director and oversees program services.



© KP Bodenstein/Unsplash

Come, Enter
by Alicia Winget

What beautiful, welcoming words are “enter” and “come.” They invite us, and most of us love receiving an invitation—that special envelope that appears in our mailbox (or email)—a bright flower nesting among the weeds of bills and junk mail.

In these days of commitment to isolationism and social distancing, thinking about invitation and come and enter wafts in like a spring breeze.

Events accompanied by invitations are, generally speaking, limited by either available space, budget, or relationship—or all three. Otherwise, it would just be “y’all come.”

God has issued an engraved invitation to each of us to come to Him. He is not limited by space; He has more space than we could ever begin to visualize and, furthermore, if things should become tight, He could always create more, right?

God is not limited by budget; He owns all things. “*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it, for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters*” (Psalm 24:1 NIV).

God does, however, limit His gracious invitation by relationship. He does not deal with the complexities you and I do as we create lists of invitees. For instance, if we invite sweet Aunt Peggy and her children, does that mean we also must invite grumpy Uncle George who won’t want to come anyway? No, God keeps it simple. He invites all His children to enter.

In the days prior to the flood by which God would destroy all life, He issued an invitation to Noah and his family to enter into His shelter, the ark. “*By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith*” (Hebrews 11:7 NIV). Would Noah have had concerns, fears? Likely, he did; Noah was no more perfect than any other person. How often might he have wondered at the end of a hard, frustrating day on the job if maybe, just maybe, the scoffers were right. Maybe he was acting like a foolish man. What if he made some errors in the construction? What if a flood (whatever that is) never did come? But Noah placed his full trust in God and His Word, and his faith led him to action. He was obedient and worked on the construction of the ark for 120 years.

During all those years while building the ark, Noah endured the scoffing and ridicule of his neighbors as he warned them of the impending doom, to no avail. “*For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark*” (Matthew 24:37–38 NIV). Genesis 7:11b–12 tells us “... *on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth and the floodgates of the heavens were opened.*” When they entered the ark, they certainly weren’t at a loss for things to do; their life was like a zoo! I’d be very surprised if, during all those months, tempers did not at times flare; if they didn’t at times grumble about cleaning out the stalls AGAIN; if

they didn’t sometimes argue over who’s cooking today. Meantime, God protected Noah and his family, carrying them safely through the waters. For Noah and his wife, his three sons and their wives, the quarantine was over a year. Finally, the waters receded and God

invited Noah and his family to enter into this new world. Noah built an altar and worshiped God.

We all face doubts and fears. But Noah’s first action upon leaving the ark shows us his lifestyle: he worshiped God. He must have felt the words each day that would so many years later be penned and recorded in Lamentations 3:22-23: “*Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.*”

As we face so many unknowns, may we place our trust firmly in our Lord, looking to Him to invite us to enter His ark—Jesus Christ, who will carry us safely through the rough waters. ■

An avid student of the Bible and history, Alicia Winget has published devotional materials in Portals of Prayer and in The Secret Place. She has also published the books Out of the Rubble, From World War II Chaos to American Entrepreneurship, and What If... a devotional poem. Alicia is a member of Grace Lutheran Fellowship, Romeo and has served on boards of many organizations.

“**Because of the Lord’s great love, we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.**”

May 2020

Investing with CEF, a Win for You—and a Win for Lutheran Ministries



CEF offers investment products for all different kinds of needs; from tax-advantaged IRAs, to educational savings accounts, to rebate programs and more. CEF can find a way to help build the Kingdom and your future.



“We are the primary source of building capital for congregations across the state. There’s a CEF product for practically any investing need.”

John Bates
President
Church Extension Fund

Throughout CEF’s nearly 120-year history, it has served the Michigan District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in two main ways:

First, CEF offers a wide selection of investment products that earn competitive rates of return for its investors and Lutheran churches.

Second, CEF uses the funds received from these investments to create the financial base needed to provide low-interest loans, as well as grants, for building and remodeling projects at Lutheran churches and schools.

“We are the primary source of building capital for congregations across the state,” notes John Bates, CEF’s President. “In the past few years, we’ve helped finance everything from a new sanctuary at Trinity Lutheran in Fenton, to a new 800-seat Worship and Event Center at St. Lorenz Lutheran in Frankenmuth.”

Other recent CEF loans have helped fund new kitchen facilities at East Ida Immanuel Lutheran in Monroe, and Bethany Lutheran in Detroit. “We’ve also helped Camp Arcadia hold back the rising waters of Lake Michigan with a

new shorefront retaining wall,” he says. “And you should see the beautiful new childcare center at St. Michael’s in Richville.”

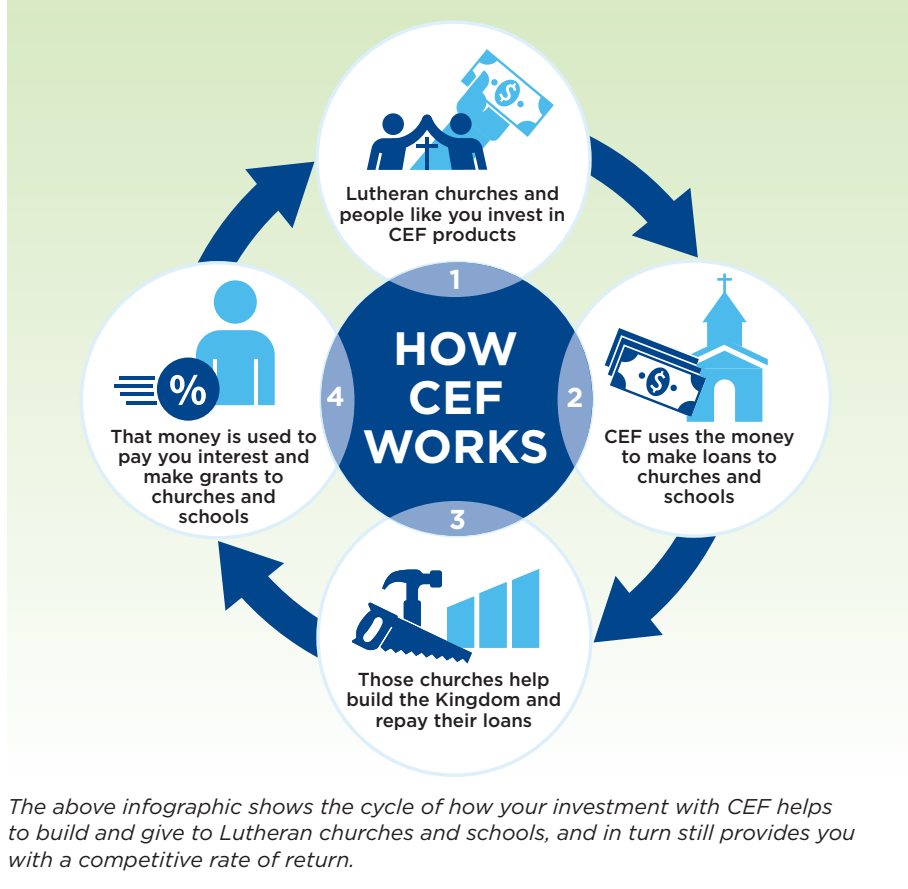
These are just a few of the major building and improvement projects that CEF loans have made possible for Lutheran churches, schools, and other ministries.

The More You Invest, The More You Help

While supporting CEF lending and grant-making, church members use CEF investments to help achieve important goals in their personal lives. “There’s a CEF product for practically any investing need,” says Bates. “We offer a range of tax-advantaged IRAs to help save for retirement. Or, for short term needs, you can use our dedicated savings accounts and fixed- and variable-rate notes.”

There’s also the Coverdell Education Savings Account to help pay the tuition of a child or grandchild. Plus, with CEF’s Excel in Giving program, church members can make regular, automatic contributions to their churches with secure online convenience.

“The more you invest with CEF,” says Bates, “the more you can help your church.” He points to CEF’s Investment Rebate Program, which rewards a congregation whose total CEF investments from the church and its members reach qualifying levels. “Your church can earn cash back of thousands of dollars per year,” he says. “Think of how that money can go to new ministries



The above infographic shows the cycle of how your investment with CEF helps to build and give to Lutheran churches and schools, and in turn still provides you with a competitive rate of return.

and programs that reach deeper into our communities!”

There’s another way your CEF investments add value: “You’re helping us maintain our exceptionally strong financial base,” says Bates. “I hesitate to get into financial jargon here, but the fact is that CEF’s strong capital ratio helps us ensure the safety and security of your investments with CEF.”

A Legacy to Build On

Investments from generations of Michigan’s Lutheran faithful have enabled CEF to serve our ministries so successfully. “It’s a proud legacy,” says Bates. “Now it’s up to the next generations to help

us continue supporting the growth of our churches and schools.”

As Bates puts it: “Yes, having more investments is important. But what may matter even more is getting new investors. Let’s keep alive the tradition of investing with CEF as a key component of what it means to be a Lutheran church member in Michigan.”

Bates adds: “Helping yourself while helping to spread the Word of Jesus—that’s the win-win of investing with CEF.”

Like to get started? Interested in investing more? Please call 800-242-3944 or visit www.mi-cef.org. We’ll provide the information you need.



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
 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.

Praying “*Thy Will Be Done*” for Our Pastor

by Kimber Walsh

God bids us to come and pray. Actually, He invites us, which is so much sweeter. In any and every circumstance, whether we are happy or mad or have so many mixed emotions we cannot even begin to sort them out, He still invites us. By far the most difficult prayer to pray is the one that Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane—“*not my will, but Yours be done.*” We are terrible at the submission of the will. We never grow out of our toddlerselves insisting that things be done our way or else we’ll have a complete and utter meltdown. We might have graduated from the actions of throwing ourselves on the floor while kicking and screaming, but our attitudes have not matured at all.

Recently, when our congregation first learned that our pastor had received a call to another congregation, the reaction was pretty typical—some were open to God’s calling of our pastor wherever that would be and some were indignant, saying that he must stay because we love him and he’s our pastor.

Our pastor communicated that the best thing the congregation could do was pray. I heard a couple comments immediately: “*I’ll just pray he stays*” and “*I don’t even know what to pray.*” And because I’ve walked through the call process many times and from many different perspectives—as a pastor’s kid, as a church worker myself, as a call committee member and as a member of a congregation—I knew we all might need some help to pray “*not my will, but Yours be done, God.*”

I still remember the first time

I learned what a call was. I was in elementary school and one of our teachers had a call to another school. They announced it in worship and I asked my parents later what that meant. They told me that we needed to pray for the teacher to serve where God would have them serve. Being part of a large congregation and school with about 22 called church workers—both commissioned and ordained—that process became familiar to me. And so did that prayer.

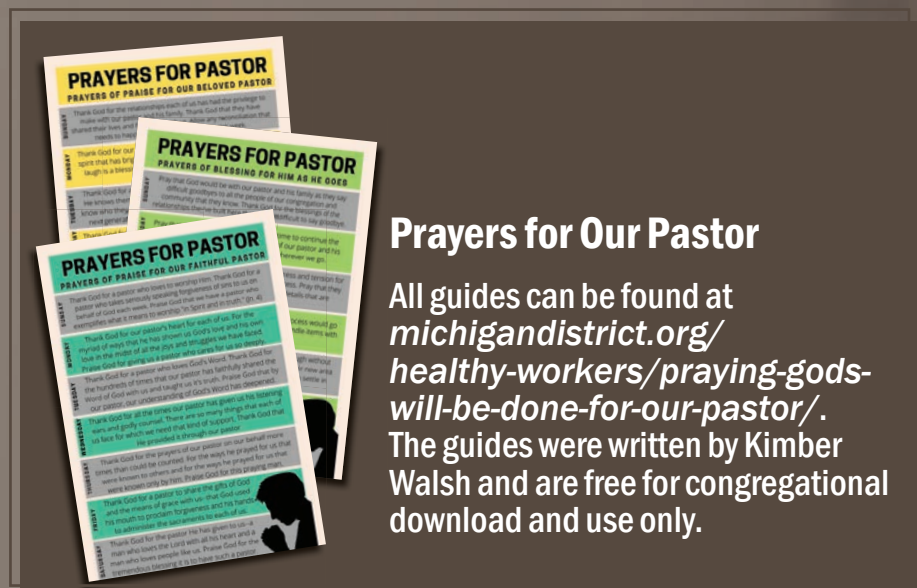
I’m still not always good at it. Submission of my will to God’s will is still hard when it comes to people we’ve grown to love. So I decided to write a prayer guide to guide the congregation in praying for our pastor. And to guide myself too.

God’s will for our pastor and our congregation was that our pastor would accept His call to another congregation. Our staff and leadership decided to keep providing prayer prompts for our people. Deb Fall, our Worship Director,

said, “*We prayed for our pastor to come; we should pray for him as he leaves.*” Our congregation Chairman, Andy Biegner, shared the sentiment by saying, “*Let’s love our pastor out the door.*” So, three additional guides, Thanksgiving, Praise, and Blessings were drafted to continue guiding our prayers. The Thanksgiving and Praise prayer guides can be utilized by congregations anytime they’d like to focus their prayers on giving thanks for their pastor. The Blessing prayer guide is specifically for after a pastor has announced he is taking another call.

In the mingled mix of emotions that come with a pastor deliberating and accepting a call to serve elsewhere, may we always pray “*God’s will be done.*” And when we’re left feeling like we don’t know what to pray, may the Holy Spirit intercede for us. *Soli Deo Gloria.* ■

Kimber Walsh is the Director of Family Life Ministry at Redeemer, Jackson.



Prayers for Our Pastor

All guides can be found at michigandistrict.org/healthy-workers/praying-gods-will-be-done-for-our-pastor/. The guides were written by Kimber Walsh and are free for congregational download and use only.



“ We *prayed* for our pastor to come; we should *pray* for him as he leaves. ”

Thank You!

Every year we publish an updated listing of the congregations that have already participated, or are currently participating, in the *Here We Stand (HWS)* campaign. The congregational phase of the campaign is now approximately halfway through year 4 of the five-year emphasis. Listed below are 159 congregations that have been a blessing to the campaign to this point. On behalf of the Michigan District Board of Directors, staff, and the many who have been blessed by the generosity of these congregations, please accept our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful partnership in the ongoing and future mission and ministries of the Michigan District.



Here We Stand

Addison, Lutheran Church of the Lakes
Adrian, St. John
Alpena, Immanuel
Ann Arbor, Peace
Ann Arbor, St. Luke
Au Gres, St. John
Bad Axe, Our Savior
Baldwin, Grace
Battle Creek, St. Mark
Battle Creek, Redemption
Bay City, Faith
Bay City, Immanuel
Bay City, Zion
Belding, Holy Cross
Belleville, Open Arms
Birch Run, St. Martin
Birmingham, Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Birmingham, Our Shepherd
Bloomfield Hills, Cross of Christ
Brighton, Shepherd of the Lakes
Britton, Emmanuel
Brooklyn, St. Mark
Bruce Twp. (Romeo), Grace Lutheran Fellowship
Buchanan, Trinity
Burton, Pilgrim
Cadillac, Emmanuel
Caledonia, St. Paul
Canton, Grace
Carson City, Calvary
Cass City, Good Shepherd
Centreville, St. Paul
Charlotte, First
Cheboygan, St. John
Chelsea, Our Savior
Clio, Messiah
Colon, St. Paul
Conklin, Trinity
Coopersville, Grace

Davison, Trinity
Dearborn, Atonement
Dearborn, Guardian
Detroit, Historic Trinity
East Lansing, Ascension
Eastpointe, St. Peter
Eastpointe, St. Thomas
Engadine, Bethlehem
Fenton, Trinity
Flat Rock, Community
Flint, Calvary
Flint, Lamb of God
Flint, St. Mark
Frankenmuth, St. Lorenz
Fremont, Redeemer
Gaylord, Trinity
Germfask, Grace
Glen Arbor, Bethlehem
Grand Blanc, Faith
Grand Haven, St. John
Grand Rapids, Immanuel
Grand Rapids, St. James
Grand Rapids, St. Matthew
Grayling, Mount Hope
Greenville, Mount Calvary
Hamburg, St. Paul
Harrison, St. Luke
Haslett, St. Luke
Hawks, Faith
Hemlock, Zion
Highland, Faith
Hillman, St. John
Hillsdale, St. Paul
Holland, Christ Our Savior
Holland, Zion
Howell, Heart of the Shepherd
Hudsonville, New Hope
Interlochen, Redeemer
Jackson, Trinity
Jenison, Holy Cross

Jenison, St. John
Kalamazoo, Immanuel
Kalamazoo, Zion
Kentwood, St. Mark
Lansing, Good Shepherd
Lansing, Our Savior
Lansing, Trinity
Lapeer, St. Paul
Leland, Immanuel
Lewiston, Bethlehem
Lincoln Park, Calvary
Linden, Hope
Livonia, Christ Our Savior
Ludington, St. John
Macomb, Immanuel
Macomb, St. Peter
Mancelona, St. Matthew
Marysville, Light of Christ
Mesick, Faith
Midland, Our Savior
Midland, St. John's
Milan, St. Paul
Milford, Christ
Minden City, Trinity
Monroe, Grace
Monroe, Trinity
Muskegon, Trinity
New Baltimore, Christ
New Boston, St. Paul
Newberry, Trinity
Newport, Christ Our Shepherd
Northville, St. Paul
Nunica, St. Luke
Onaway, Holy Cross
Oscoda, Trinity
Otisville, St. Timothy
Petoskey, Zion
Pinckney, Trinity
Pinconning, St. John
Pontiac, St. Paul

Port Hope, St. John
 Port Huron, Trinity
 Portage, St. Michael
 Redford, Hosanna-Tabor
 Reed City, Trinity
 Richmond, St. Peter
 Richville, St. Michael
 Rochester, Living Word
 Rochester, St. John
 Rochester Hills, Crown of Life
 Rochester Hills, Gethsemane
 Rockford, St. Peter
 Rogers City, Peace
 Roseville, Bethlehem
 Saginaw, Bethlehem

Saginaw, Good Shepherd
 Saginaw, Immanuel of Frankentrost
 Saginaw, St. Mark
 Saline, Christ Our King
 Scottville, Our Savior
 Sebewaing, Immanuel
 Shelby Township, Peace
 South Lyon, Cross of Christ
 Southgate, Christ the King
 St. Joseph, Trinity
 Stevensville, Christ
 Sturgis, Trinity
 Taylor, St. John
 Trenton, St. Paul
 Troy, Faith

Utica, Trinity
 Walled Lake, St. Matthew
 Warren, Hope
 Waterford, Peace
 Wayne, St. Michael
 Wellston, Beautiful Savior
 West Bloomfield, St. Mark
 West Branch, St. John
 Westland, St. Matthew
 Whitehall, Faith
 Wyandotte, Trinity

If your congregation is not on this list, we pray 2020 is the year it becomes a financial partner in supporting one or all of the important initiatives of the **HWS** Campaign. Please contact Ray Zavada, **HWS** Campaign Director, at 734.213.4264, or Linda Ekong, Campaign Administrative Assistant, at 734.213.4265 with your questions or to request campaign materials, resources, or support. You can also visit our campaign website at herewestand.michigandistrict.org.

*Every effort has been made to publish an accurate listing as we continue to work remotely at the time of this writing. Please notify us if an error is observed so a correction can be made for future publications.

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

(through April 6, 2020)

\$6,901,365.37	Total campaign gifts, pledges, and goals
\$6,628,277.55	Cash received which includes \$600,000 CEF Matching Funds
\$211,407.60	Outstanding commitments (pledges)
1,451	Total Contributors
1,292	Individual Contributors
159	Congregations Contributing
44.1%	% of Michigan District Congregations currently participating
\$1,335,509.33	Total given/pledged for Professional Church Worker Scholarships
\$2,867,705.01	Total given/pledged for Innovative Missional Ministry
\$1,020,244.72	Total given/pledged for Michigan District Endowment
\$1,616,226.10	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



Here We Stand

LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

Lutheran Hour Ministries Resources and Bible Studies

Lutheran Hour Ministries provides numerous resources to congregations to assist them in their ministry.

Utilizing Barna Group data, Lutheran Hour Ministries has produced *Households of Faith*, a four-session video study to help households apply three core habits that foster a spiritually vibrant household. These core habits are:

- 1) applying spiritual disciplines
- 2) extending hospitality; and
- 3) engaging in spiritual conversations.

Called is a four-session Bible study based on Ephesians. Individual sessions look at how one is called by God, called to faith, called to service, and called to share. Lutheran Hour Speaker Rev. Dr. Mike Zeigler gives a video introduction to all four sessions. Reflection questions are included.

In *Nurturing Your Faith, Called to Share*, consider how a calling from God translates into lives of outreach to others—both by what is said and done. From ancient times to modern, God is on the lips of His people who share His love in word and deed, especially the promise of salvation in His Son Jesus. But sharing one's faith doesn't take place only by speaking.

Lutheran Hour Ministries offers two workshops on spiritual conversations in the digital age: the first, *Eager*

Conversationalists, offers insights to help one become more intentional—more eager—to engage in spiritual conversations with others.

The second, *The Spiritual Conversation Curve*, offers help in getting past conversational hurdles. This is possible when one focuses on someone's "spiritual posture," so as not to impose a conversation that's forced or ill-timed.

The Bible study *Nurturing Your Faith: Prayer* is a four-session series exploring the role of different types of prayer in the believer's life. Prayers of intercession, gratitude, confession, and praise are considered in various scriptural settings by highlighting a particular prayer's context, who offered it, and why.

A Man Named Martin - Part 3: The Movement. From Luther's 95 Theses in 1517 to the Peace of Westphalia in 1648, God was at work in the Reformation. Fierce debates over Scripture, church doctrine, and late medieval church practice led to theological positions articulating salvation as God's grace in action, with man being left to add nothing to his own salvation. In this Bible study, viewers will see how the Reformation transformed European society.

To access these resources, go to lhm.org/studies.



LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE



Love one another as I have loved you. JOHN 13:14

Peace be **W**ith you. JOHN 20:19

My words will never pass away. MARK 13:31

I am with you a**L**ways. MATTHEW 28:20



**In this time of uncertainty, we can Look to the Lord; See and Rejoice.
As we go to print, we are uncertain what will be happening at convention time.
Information will be sent to Zone Presidents. Please continue to register.**

Convention at The Ellison Place, 150 Dale Dr., Gaylord, MI 49735



Be Filled!
Romans 15:13

Michigan District Women's Retreat
Saturday, August 15, 2020 Save the Date!
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

michigandistrict.org/awr20

The Lost Coin *continued from page 2*
much they are loved.

This is a supreme privilege in which God allows us to take part. Hear well the *“It is finished,”* of Jesus on Calvary’s final altar. People may not know their value right now, but they do know fear, and bewilderment, and hesitancy because of the unknown. Nonetheless, God is still working in this pandemic—through His Word in you AND THROUGH YOU.



© Inbetween/Lightstock, LLC

Who are you praying for today? With whom will you be sharing a word of Scripture today over the phone that they might begin to see the sweeping love of Jesus for them?

A time of celebration is coming ... a time when this pandemic has been settled enough to “release us” so that we can express our thanksgiving and praise together in worship. What a celebration will also erupt in heaven if, when we gather again, more repentant sinners join in that celebration thanks to the Holy Spirit working through the Word that you’ve shared! ▀



In Jesus’ Name, who is Light and who sweeps the sins of the world away. Amen.

Rev. Dr. David P. E. Maier serves as president of the Michigan District, LCMS.

Your Investment Builds Churches

When you invest with Church Extension Fund your investment helps to renovate and build churches and schools, just like St. Michael, Portage.

“I would highly recommend any congregation work with CEF for funding. They use their resources for the Great Commission.”

— Pastor Paul Naumann,
St. Michael, Portage




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.

Calls and Roster Update

Calendar of Events

ORDAINED

Calls Accepted

Rev. Jeffrey Burgess (Mancelona) to St. Paul, Hamburg
Rev. Mark Schumm (Oneida, WI) to Prince of Peace, Farmington Hills

Change of Status

Rev. Peter Burfeind (English District) to Dual Parish Agnus Dei, Marshall (English District) and Our Savior, Union City (Michigan District)
Rev. Thomas Dunseth (Highland) to Candidate
Rev. Jonathan Trinklein (Shelby Twp.) to Candidate
Rev. Bradley Yops (Ann Arbor) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Rev. Christopher Dodge (Minnesota South) as Candidate

Transferred Out of District

Rev. Michael Geml (Jackson) to Southeastern District

COMMISSIONED

Calls Accepted

Ball, Rebecca (Immanuel, Bay City) to St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth
Bartlett, Krista (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to Immanuel, Macomb
Bringold, Levi (Trinity, Reese) to St. John, Fraser
Burgess, Julie (St. Paul, Ann Arbor) to LCMS Foundation, St. Louis, MO
Cashmer, Leah (Lutheran HS of Indianapolis) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (Northwest)
Eifert, Mary (Ascension, Fort Wayne, IN) to Immanuel, Sebawaing (Christ the King)
Kolusk, Diane (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to St. Michael, Wayne
Mandziara, Nicole (Cq. Concordia, Ann Arbor) to LHSA, Rochester Hills (North)
Nimtz, Elizabeth (Concordia, River Forest) to Our Shepherd, Birmingham
Rupe, Dawn (Christ Our King, Saline) to St. Matthew, Walled Lake
Wagner, Erin (Candidate) to St. John, Fraser
Weiss, Andrea (Chapel of the Cross, Saint Peters, MO) to Immanuel, Macomb

Change of Status

Genig, Dennis (Candidate) to Emeritus
Pidsosny, Mary (Candidate) to Emeritus

Transferred Into District

Marsh, Benjamin (Texas District) to Shepherd's Gate, Shelby Township

Removed From Roster

Jordan, Sharon
Klamer, Melissa

Called Home

Mills, Ellen

A complete up-to-date listing of Calls and Vacancies can be found at michigandistrict.org.

Please check the District website for the latest updates and detailed information as COVID-19 concerns continue.
michigandistrict.org/events.

MAY 2020

- 16 Seasons of Change
District Office, Ann Arbor
- 21 Ascension Day
- 25 Memorial Day
DISTRICT OFFICE CLOSED
- 27 Board of Directors
Concordia University Ann Arbor

JUNE 2020

- 21-27 The Big Week
Camp Restore, Detroit
- 22-26 A2E Sports Camp East
Messmer Park
- Jun 28- Jul 1 Senior High Youth Gathering
Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island

JULY 2020

- Jun 28- Jul 1 Senior High Youth Gathering
Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island
- 4 Independence Day
- 5-9 Special Friends Camp
Camp Copneconic, Fenton

AUGUST 2020

- 3-5 Principals' Summer Conference
Higgins Lake
- 9-11 Board of Directors Retreat
Great Wolf Lodge, Traverse City
- 12 Early Childhood Conference
Shepherd of the Lakes, Brighton
- 15 All Women's Retreat
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth

SEPTEMBER 2020

- 21-23 Intentional Interim Conference
Michindoh, Hillsdale
- 23-35 Best Practices Heartland
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth



Michigan District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

GET EQUIPPED

FOR EFFECTIVE GOSPEL MINISTRY

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

Visit us today at
michigandistrict.org