



# Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

June 2020

Dear Deacons, Deacon Students, Ministry Assistants, Ministry Assistant Students, and newly ordained SMP's,

Joy is yours as you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and completer of our faith (Hebrews 12).

As you might imagine, ministry throughout our Michigan District has been a bit chaotic in general, and probably specifically for each of us, during these last many weeks of pandemic isolation and the anxiety and change that has come with it. Nearly all our gatherings have been cancelled or rescheduled/postponed, or been attempted virtually.

BUT... what about the Deacon/MAP Continuing Education Conference at Camp Arcadia, September 13-15? Here's what we know:

- We are still in conversation with Camp Arcadia's staff. They want us to come, but we need to be considerate of some limitations and health concerns as we plan, etc. Just what this will look like, we do not yet know completely.
  - We may need to stagger our dining by groups.
  - We may need to limit the number of attendees to only "active" deacons and Ministry Assistants and their spouses.
  - We may...??? We will know more by August 1, 2020.
- Our speaker, Rev. Dr. John Sproul, is geared up and ready to lead us in an engaging topic centered on our worship of our great God!
- Some of you have communicated personal concerns about coming to camp for health reasons and we respect that.
- We still need to have our annual interviews with each of you and our CDQ members.
- We still need to provide continuing education as required for all Deacons and Ministry Assistants.
- We still need to have updated paperwork for each of you to keep your files current as a "Credentialed" or "Licensed" Deacon.
- We all really want to have the fellowship that our conference delivers.

## Here's what we're doing and how we want you to respond:

- The conference is a "GO" in some way, shape, or form at Camp Arcadia (unless we are hindered by state-wide directives, etc.) Note that the schedule may be adjusted, but then so would be the cost. We will know more by August 1, 2020.
- The content from our speaker(s) would be live streamed and/or recorded so that everyone can obtain the continuing education benefits from the presentations.
- We want you to **register right now!** The registration fee is \$50 (Non-refundable).
  - This fee will get your name on the list of attendees.

- You will automatically be in line for when full registration opens up for the “at camp” conference.
- You will have access to all materials and content presentations virtually.
- You will meet your continuing education requirement after completing a brief evaluation of the viewed presentations.
- After August 1, 2020, we will communicate with all those registered and explain the additional costs required for our time together at Camp Arcadia and just what that will look like. The cost will be very similar to previous years.
- You will then have a choice on whether you will be joining us in person at Camp, or only through the virtual encounter.

We hope this provides some clarity and direction for you. We thought it best to open up the registration now at this level rather than waiting until we have all the answers to all of our questions. Our final decisions are still very fluid, except that there will be a 2020 Deacon/MAP Continuing Education Conference in September, and for that we praise God!

On behalf of the Commission on Deacon Qualifications,

Rev. Dr. Rob Kasper