



Here We Stand

Psalm 71

¹⁷O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. ¹⁸So 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.

Here We Are

A Message From The President

Perhaps the most referenced single statement of the Reformation is ascribed to Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms (April 18, 1521), when he refused to recant his belief that Jesus, Son of God, Savior and Lord, had done everything necessary for the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation on Calvary's blood-stained cross and Easter's open tomb.

“Unless I am convicted by Scripture and plain reason ... my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and I will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise, God help me. Amen.”

Luther was not merely defending the truthfulness and clarity of the Scriptures, but also their central teaching of **justification by grace through faith**. What this particular truth, this Good News, means is that when anyone believes that Jesus is Lord, that God raised him from the dead for the forgiveness of sins, and trust themselves to the God who has done this, they are assured in the present time that they are part of God's family, their sins have been removed, and they are “right” with God through Jesus. This truly is a gracious message, a life-changing power of God.

Martin Luther's noble words at Worms have the same ring to them as the Apostles Peter and John's famous defiance of the Sanhedrin in Acts 5: *“We must obey God rather than men!”*

May God grant us the same living relationship with, and confidence in, our Savior Jesus that emboldened Peter and John, and motivated and assured Martin Luther, **that in this generation and in the years to come** our faith and life demonstrate our Christ-centered, faith-filled, Bible-believing convictions; allowing us to share in love what we believe, teach, and confess: that Jesus is Lord and Savior.

HERE WE STAND ... secure in God's love and grace ... ready, eager, and equipped to GO forward with the eternal, life-giving message of the Gospel for this generation ... and for future generations ... so that all whom the Lord our God calls to Himself may experience eternity with our Savior.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Rev. David P. E. Maier

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



Campaign At A Glance

<i>Initiative</i>	<i>Goal</i>	<i>Page</i>
Professional Church Worker Scholarships	\$3,000,000.00	5
Innovative Missional Ministry	\$3,000,000.00	7
Michigan District Endowment	\$3,000,000.00	9
International Ministry	\$1,000,000.00	11
Total	\$10,000,000.00	



Here We Stand

Mark Your Calendars
**Michigan District-wide
 Reformation Worship Service**
Sunday, October 15, 2017

Breslin Center
 at Michigan State University
 2 p.m. Concourse Displays Open
 4 p.m. Pre-Service Concert
 5 p.m. Celebration Worship

michigandistrict.org/500

The chart below describes the scale of gifts needed to reach these goals

\$10,000,000 Gift Table

Gift Size	Number of Gifts Needed	Total	Cumulative Total
\$1,000,000	1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
\$500,000	2	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000
\$250,000	5	\$1,250,000	\$3,250,000
\$100,000	10	\$1,000,000	\$4,250,000
\$50,000	20	\$1,000,000	\$5,250,000
\$25,000	50	\$1,250,000	\$6,500,000
\$10,000	100	\$1,000,000	\$7,500,000
\$5,000	200	\$1,000,000	\$8,500,000
< \$5,000	Many	\$1,500,000	\$10,000,000

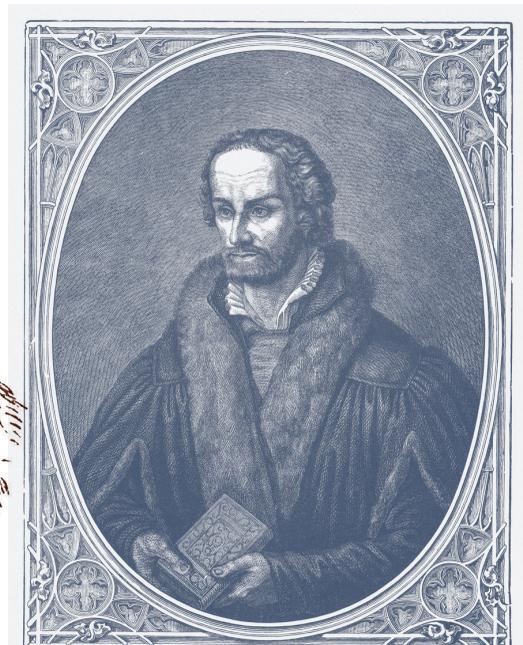
Who We Are

Martin Luther found no peace with God in the rituals through which the medieval church taught him to seek divine favor by means of his own actions. As a professor of the Bible, he discovered instead that God is a merciful, loving God of conversation and community—the Creator who re-creates by giving sinners trust in the forgiveness won for them by Christ’s death and resurrection. Luther believed that all Christians are called in their baptisms to be God’s conversation partners and His agents for continuing the conversation, as the Holy Spirit gives the baptized the opportunity to witness to the saving work of Christ on the cross and in His



resurrection. Luther’s colleague at the University of Wittenberg, Philip Melancthon, defined what the Christian faith is in biblical terms in the Augsburg Confession (1530), and that document became the foundational statement of Lutheran belief and practice. Luther cultivated the confession and daily life of his followers through his catechisms (1529), which have been used around the world to nurture life in Christ ever since.

Conceived in the lecture halls of the university and born in the national legislative assembly at Augsburg, the Lutheran church took an active interest in promoting learning and influencing public policy throughout its history. Already in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Orthodox Lutherans began to bring the Gospel to those outside the faith in other lands: Swedish Lutherans in Lapland and North America, Danish Lutherans on the West-African coast, and Latvian Lutherans in the Caribbean and West Africa. The first





Erik M. Lunsford/The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



and its witness to biblical truth in organizing the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1847. Dedicated to public witness of the faith, the Synod became the largest church body among German Protestant immigrants, and in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries has reached out to bring the Gospel of life in Christ to many, many others.

Written by Rev. Dr. Robert A. Kolb

International Research Emeritus Professor, Institute for Mission Studies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

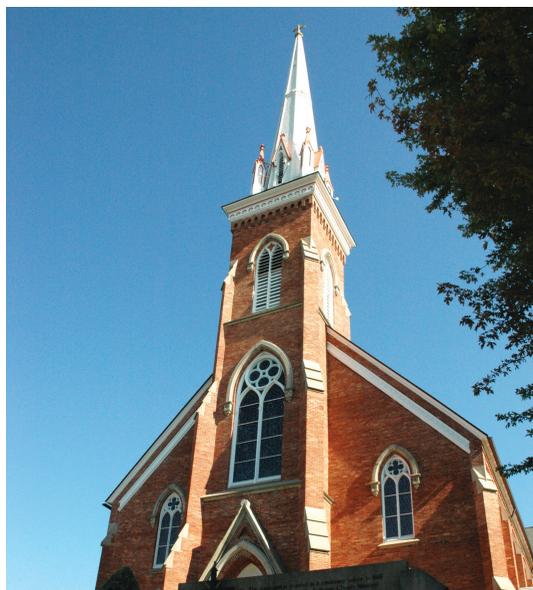
successful Protestant “foreign” mission effort began in India in 1706, when the Danish king sent German Lutheran “pietist” missionaries to Tranquebar. Throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Lutheran theologians continued the effort begun at Augsburg to give testimony to the Wittenberg confession of the truth of Scripture in conversations with other Christians. At the same time, in parts of Central and Eastern Europe, Lutherans resisted persecution from the Counter-Reformation. When pastors were sent to the galleys, the lay people took Bibles, catechisms, and hymnbooks and worshipped in secluded forests, at the risk of imprisonment and execution themselves.

Immigrants from Lutheran lands carried their faith to Australia, South Africa, Russia, and the Americas in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and founded there churchly cultures that adapted to new societal and cultural conditions. Friedrich Schmid began ministering to scattered German immigrants in Michigan in 1833, and one of many Lutheran mission organizations, that headed by Wilhelm Löhe in Neuendettelsau, sent lay and ordained missionaries to bring the Gospel to Native Americans in the Saginaw Valley beginning in 1845. These communities joined with other Lutherans committed to the Book of Concord



▲ Trinity, Port Huron, date unknown

▼ St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth



Here We Send

Professional Church Worker Scholarships

Initiative Goal: **\$3,000,000.00**

Matthew 9

³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod has a long history of sending well-trained professional church workers into our congregations and schools to preach the Gospel, equip the saved, reach the lost, and educate our children. These core values of our church would not have occurred throughout our storied history—nor will they occur in the future—without a strong emphasis on equipping those who serve so faithfully in our congregations and schools. Concordia University Ann Arbor, the Michigan District’s very own school, and all of the Concordia University System schools and seminaries, are dedicated to achieving these outcomes.

The cost of attending a school of higher

“Every year there are students who have to make the difficult decision of selecting the second choice for their schooling because of cost considerations. A contribution toward church work scholarship directly impacts the number of pastors who will serve the church and the quality of their training.”

– Rev. Prof. Charles R. Schulz, Pre-Seminary Director, CUAA

education continues to increase annually, and we want to financially support and encourage professional church work students so that they may follow our Lord’s call and go out into the harvest field. Students who attend a Michigan District congregation, are enrolled full-time in a CUS university or seminary, and have made a commitment to serving Christ’s Church are eligible to receive a financial scholarship from the Michigan District to assist them in meeting the costs of completing their education.

The 500th Anniversary Celebration Campaign will help provide the funding for substantial scholarships given to those students who have committed their lives to serving the Church as professional church workers.



Here We Stand



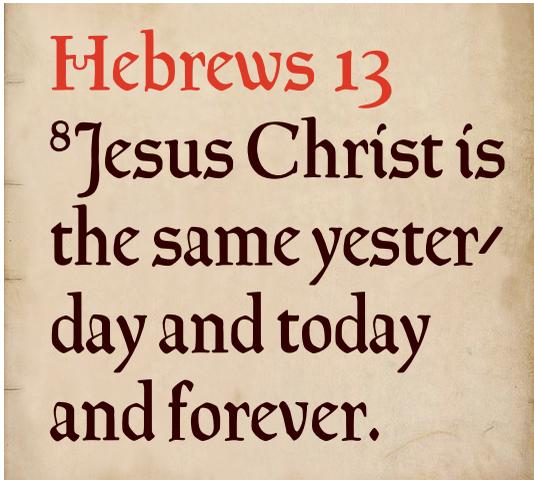
Professional Church Worker Scholarships, Number and (Dollar Amount)

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Seminary Students	52 (\$111,320)	42 (\$91,310)	44 (\$99,680)
Concordia University Ann Arbor Students	41 (\$73,600)	44 (\$77,280)	40 (\$76,800)
Other Concordias	56 (\$75,900)	50 (\$66,240)	36 (\$54,900)

Here We Care

Innovative Missional Ministry

Initiative Goal: **\$3,000,000.00**



The congregations of the Michigan District minister to, and meet the needs of, the communities they serve. They have historically done so as they responded to an ever-changing society. Congregations have continually adapted to changing demographics, new and expanded forms of communication, advances in technology, economic challenges, varying worship styles, and a multitude of other influences; and they have done this without compromising the valued theology of the LCMS or the sacred and powerful words of Scripture.

It is through this ability to react and respond with “Witness, Mercy, and Life Together” missional ministry that we have remained relevant to the generation in which we live. While what we experience as LCMS Lutheran Christians

“In our culture today, very few un-churched people start out looking for a church service. They are, however, longing for a place to feel cared for, and a place where they can care for others. When they meet Jesus there, it all makes sense.”

– Rev. Mitch Vogeli, Chesaning, MI

today may not have been what those who came before us experienced, we know it represents the same theological and Scriptural foundations of our forefathers. Throughout the generations, new and innovative missional ministries have been developed in order to help congregations prepare for, and meet, the spiritual and social ministry needs of their communities. These ministry initiatives have allowed congregations to continue to deliver the Gospel in an ever-changing society which requires that we disciple the saved and reach the lost.

To support and encourage Innovative Missional Ministry development in the Michigan District congregations and schools, the 500th Anniversary Celebration Campaign will provide funding assistance to those entities that create, develop, and implement innovative mission and ministry opportunities which meet the objective of this initiative, which is to grow Christ’s Kingdom.



Here We Stand

Here We Imagine

Michigan District Endowment

Initiative Goal: **\$3,000,000.00**

1 Chronicles 29

14^b Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand.

Preparing for future mission and ministry in the Michigan District is as important as providing current ministry. We all understand that carrying out ministry requires funding—substantial funding—whether it is in the congregational setting or at the Michigan District level. Doing so requires us to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to us, which includes excellent planning and proper spending.

As careful and diligent as we are in managing our resources, however, we cannot predict when the next significant economic downturn may occur. We all experienced just such an occurrence a few short years ago. The long and arduous recession that hit the state of Michigan greatly impacted our ability as congregations and as a

“I think of our family, and the need for them to stay true to the Lord and their faith. I really pray for generous donors, who will continue to support the church; because it’s our family’s future...and we want them in heaven with us.”

– Mrs. Barbara Hoesman, Frankenmuth, MI

District to provide for ministry the way we were accustomed to. Through those challenging times, we learned to make ends meet by making sacrifices and adjusting ministry. At the Michigan District we also learned the importance and value of having resources available through our endowment funds, which helped substantially fill the gap and allowed ministry to continue.

Continuing to grow the Michigan District Endowment Funds remains an important part of preparing for future District ministry. This is true if another economic challenge presents itself; but also now, during relatively stable economic times, when ministry may be expanded. To help accomplish the goal of increasing funding available through Michigan District Endowments, the 500th Anniversary Celebration Campaign will designate a portion of received contributions for this purpose.

Michigan District Endowment Allocations

Student Aid 39% To provide scholarship aid to individuals preparing at a Concordia University System school or seminary for service to the Church as a Professional Church Worker

Missions 36% To provide distributions to aid mission and ministry work of the Michigan District (i.e., new mission congregations, expansion of existing missions, or new ministry opportunities)

Special Purposes 19% To make gifts to specific missions and ministries (i.e., Lutheran Hour Ministries, urban ministries, named congregations) as determined by the fund's restrictions

Non-Designated 6% To support Great Commission, Great Compassion, Healthy Congregations, and Healthy Church Worker outcomes of the Michigan District

* The percentages listed reflect the allocation of the assets of the Endowment Fund as of 2014. Gifts through *Here We Stand* to the Endowment Fund will be allocated to the Non-Designated Fund.

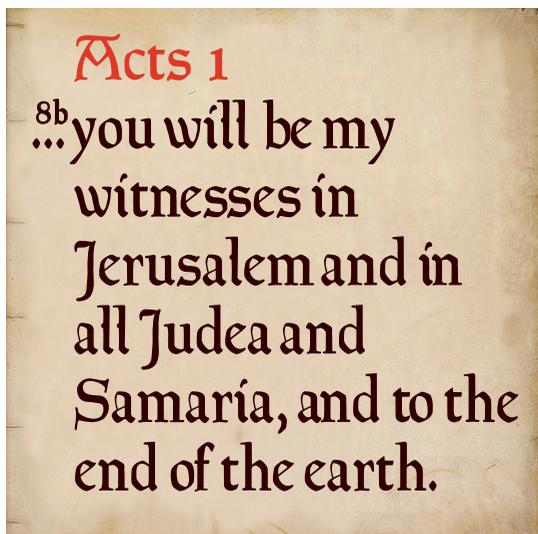


Here We Stand

Here We Share

International Ministry

Initiative Goal: **\$1,000,000.00**



“You may not preach like Paul; you may not pray like Peter; but you can assist someone to do it. And one day, when we all come to glory, when we all assemble in the heavenly places, you’ll be able to see those who will be thanking God because of you.”

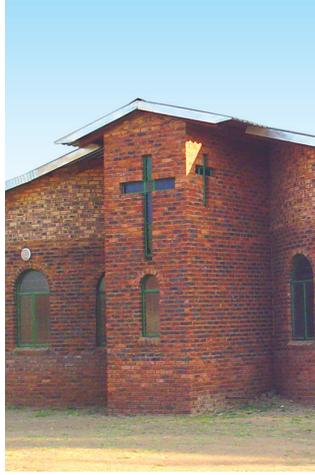
– Rev. Mandla Khumalo, St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in South Africa

The words of Acts 1:8b clearly state that our responsibility to share the Gospel goes well beyond our immediate community. This responsibility is, in fact, far greater than the Michigan District. People who live in every corner of the world have the same need to hear the eternal, life-giving Good News of the Gospel. It is our responsibility to help those workers who are out in the harvest field through the means in which we can; by encouraging, supporting, praying for, and financially equipping them.

The Michigan District has identified St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in Middelburg, South Africa, to be a recipient partner of a designated portion of the campaign proceeds.

In addition to St. Peter Confessional Lutheran Church in South Africa, the Michigan District will also continue its support of LCMS International Missionaries from Michigan and other mission efforts as we seek to fulfill our goal to share the Gospel throughout the world.





Here We GO

Your role in our partnership

Matthew 28

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

In grateful thanksgiving for the multitude of blessings given by our gracious and merciful God, the Board of Directors and staff of the Michigan District, LCMS ask you, the members and congregations of the District, to prayerfully consider your faithful and generous investment in the future of our Church.

The Lutheran Church has truly been a blessing to millions of people through its first 500 years. Without doubt, heaven is filled with people who were drawn during past generations to the eternal truth of the Gospel, spoken in countless communities through the congregations of the Lutheran Church. We thank those who came before us, from the early days of the Church through recent generations. Through their love of God, they built the foundation on which the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod stands today. We give great praise and adoration for their willingness to listen to, and act upon, God's voice speaking to them during their time in the history of the Lutheran Church.

From them we have received a great and wonderful gift—the gift of our Church, and now it is our turn to continue to build, strengthen, and prepare our Church for the generations that will follow. Simply stated, it is our turn to pass on this great and wonderful gift.

That is what the Here We Stand campaign is all about: preparing our Church to pass on to the next generation the life-saving message of the Gospel while growing the Kingdom today. To accomplish this, your help is needed and we are respectfully making these requests of you:

- Regularly pray for the ongoing work of the Michigan District and its congregations as they diligently work to disciple the saved and evangelize the lost through the four initiatives of this campaign.
- Seek out ways within your family, church, and community in which you may assist the Michigan District in its efforts to reach the goals that have been summarized in this booklet.
- Prayerfully consider the level of generous and sacrificial gift you can make over a 3 to 5 year period to help in the accomplishment of the campaign's four initiatives.

Please remember the words of Psalm 71:17-18 as you prepare your heart to make a gift/pledge commitment to the Here We Stand Campaign. Thank you for your prayers and faithful participation. May God be praised for what He has done, and will continue to do through the congregations and families of the Michigan District, LCMS.

Commitment Form



NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

HOME CONGREGATION _____

OCCUPATION AND EMPLOYER _____

I wish to remain anonymous. Thank you.

In consideration of my/our commitment to the Initiatives of the Michigan District, LCMS 500th Anniversary Celebration Campaign, I/we hereby promise to contribute the following amount over the next 3 to 5 years:

Total commitment \$ _____ over ____ years

Initial gift with this form \$ _____

Balance to be contributed \$ _____

I will fulfill my pledge: Annually Semi-Annually Quarterly Monthly

Beginning Date: _____

SIGNATURE _____ Today's Date: _____

- Please use my gift to support:
- All Four Campaign Initiatives
 - Professional Church Worker Scholarships
 - Innovative Missional Ministry
 - International Ministry
 - Michigan District Endowment

Gifts can be in the form of: • Cash/Checks • Stocks • Credit Card (Please contact District office)

- I am interested in information concerning electronic funds transfer
- I am interested in information concerning estate and charitable gift planning
- Please contact me, I have a question.





Here We Stand

Pledge Options

Pledge	Annual Installment 3 year / 5 year pledge	Semi-Annual Installment 3 year / 5 year pledge	Quarterly Installment 3 year / 5 year pledge
\$1,000,000	\$333,333 / \$200,000	\$166,667 / \$100,000	\$83,333 / \$50,000
\$500,000	\$166,667 / \$100,000	\$83,333 / \$50,000	\$41,667 / \$25,000
\$250,000	\$83,333 / \$50,000	\$41,667 / \$25,000	\$20,833 / \$12,500
\$100,000	\$33,333 / \$20,000	\$16,667 / \$10,000	\$8,333 / \$5,000
\$75,000	\$25,000 / \$15,000	\$12,500 / \$7,500	\$6,250 / \$3,750
\$50,000	\$16,667 / \$10,000	\$8,333 / \$5,000	\$4,167 / \$2,500
\$25,000	\$8,333 / \$5,000	\$4,167 / \$2,500	\$2,083 / \$1,250
\$20,000	\$6,667 / \$4,000	\$3,333 / \$2,000	\$1,667 / \$1,000
\$15,000	\$5,000 / \$3,000	\$2,500 / \$1,500	\$1,250 / \$750
\$10,000	\$3,333 / \$2,000	\$1,667 / \$1,000	\$833 / \$500
\$7,500	\$2,500 / \$1,500	\$1,250 / \$750	\$625 / \$375
\$5,000	\$1,667 / \$1,000	\$833 / \$500	\$417 / \$250
\$2,500	\$833 / \$500	\$417 / \$250	\$208 / \$125
\$1,000	\$333 / \$200	\$167 / \$100	\$83 / \$50

All gifts to the Michigan District, LCMS are tax deductible according to IRS guidelines



For more information, please contact

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Michigan District

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

Please mail gifts/pledges to:

Michigan District, LCMS
Here We Stand Campaign
3773 Geddes Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-3098

or online at:

herewestand.michigandistrict.org

or by calling 734.213.4265

or 888.225.2111