



## Here We Stand

*O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hair, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come.*

*Psalm 71:17-18*

HAVE QUESTIONS or need to meet to discuss participation? Would you like to have a presentation at your church? Call Ray or Linda at 888.225.2111.



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# Michigan District, LCMS Here We Stand Update

March 2021

## Church Extension Fund Has Impacted *Here We Stand* From the Beginning

by Ray Zavada

When the ***Here We Stand (HWS)*** campaign completes its fifth and final year of the Congregational Phase in December 2021, there will have been many congregations and individuals who have partnered with the Michigan District to make ***HWS*** a huge success.

Each financial partner is a blessing to the campaign, and every partner has helped the Michigan District take another step forward. I humbly appreciate and treasure the financial investment of each and every donor partner to ***HWS***. However, please allow me to publicly thank one specific partner who has been with us from day one and continues to stand by ***HWS*** nearly five years later: the Michigan District Church Extension Fund (CEF).

The Michigan District and CEF have a very special partnership. You may already know that our two offices share the same building, although on different floors. So not only are we working daily “alongside” friends and colleagues, but we work together for a common ministry purpose—to serve members and congregations of the Michigan District.

John Bates, President of CEF, talks about our partnership in this way: *“The mission of CEF is to make resources available for members and churches of the Michigan District to carry forward the Great Commission. While CEF is known primarily for its lending program, our grant program is also an important part of our ministry. Providing a match grant incentive for the *Here We Stand* campaign has hopefully encouraged members to contribute to the campaign that has provided substantial funding for these important ministries. We see God at work through this campaign and are privileged to have participated with our ministry partner.”*

The match grant incentive is the commitment CEF made to match 10% of every donation made to ***HWS***. To date, \$600,000 has been given to ***HWS***. What a blessing! The 10% match is avail-

able through the end of the campaign.

CEF has also impacted ***HWS*** in other substantial ways, such as giving a \$350,000 grant prior to the onset of the campaign to cover all campaign expenses. Because of their generosity, you can be assured that every dollar given to ***HWS*** goes to the campaign initiative(s) each individual donor or congregation has chosen to support.

One additional way CEF has impacted the ***HWS*** campaign was by sponsoring the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation Worship Service at the Breslin Center in East Lansing in October 2017, which also served as the “official” kick-off of the ***HWS*** campaign. Through a grant of \$100,000 CEF made it possible for us to hold the memorable worship service at no cost to the attendees.

Through the generosity CEF has faithfully extended to the ***HWS*** campaign, they have truly had a major impact on current and future ministry. We praise God for placing such faithful ministry partners in the Michigan District. Beginning with Ron Steinke, who was the leader of CEF when ***HWS*** began, to Jim Saalfeld, CEO, and John Bates, President, who provide leadership today, we thank them for their faithful and generous partnership with the Michigan District and the ***HWS*** campaign, plus numerous other ways they advance the work of the Church in the Michigan District.

To learn more about the ***HWS*** campaign, or to become a financial partner for the first time or again, please contact Linda Ekong at 734.213.4265 or Ray Zavada at 734.904.2773 or visit [herewestand.michigandistrict.org/](http://herewestand.michigandistrict.org/)

To learn more about the ministry of CEF, please contact them directly at 800.242.3944 or visit their website at [mi-cef.org](http://mi-cef.org).

## Campaign Progress

**Over \$7.23 million in gifts, pledges, and congregational goals to date.**

## Congregation Highlights

We would like to thank St. John, Cheboygan; and Holy Cross, Jenison for their most recent gifts to the campaign.